

2018 Annual Report



L.I. Against
Domestic Violence

Prevention. Support. Healing.





Domestic violence is a pattern of abusive behaviors used by one person in order to exert power and control over someone else within the context of an intimate partner or family relationship. Domestic violence can involve physical, mental, emotional, financial or sexual abuse.

It can involve threats, intimidation or withholding necessities.

Domestic violence impacts people of all ages, races, sexual orientation and socioeconomic status. Unfortunately, domestic violence is prevalent in all communities on Long Island.

Domestic violence is, in many ways, a silent epidemic.

It occurs often: ***1 in 4*** U.S. women will experience it in her lifetime; ***1 in 3*** adolescent girls is a victim of physical, emotional and verbal abuse from a dating partner.

It affects both genders: men are victims of nearly 3 million domestic physical assaults in the U.S. and it strikes everywhere, regardless of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation or income.

Yet, domestic violence remains one of the most chronically under-reported crimes. And, because most people are not trained to recognize the signs, domestic violence is very often under-identified.

At ***L.I. Against Domestic Violence***, we are working to prevent domestic violence and to support the women, men and children who have been victimized toward healing the physical and emotional wounds.

42 Years of Prevention, Support and Healing

First and foremost, let us begin by saying thank you!

Thank you for your ongoing support of the mission of L.I. Against Domestic Violence. Without you, our staff could not help to foster positive changes in the lives of victims of domestic violence and their children.

2018 marks 42 years of our work toward Prevention, Support and Healing. L.I. Against Domestic Violence was founded in 1976 to help survivors of domestic violence gain safety and healing. Over these past 42 years, we've had the great privilege of seeing survivors find their strength, reclaim control over their lives and bravely face the often long road to healing. We aim to raise awareness, work to change societal attitudes and work with our partners in law enforcement and the criminal justice system to build a more responsive and trauma informed response. All to get to this moment. A moment when there is international attention on these issues; #MeToo is here to stay, and domestic violence offenders are being held accountable by their peers. Mass mobilization against domestic and sexual violence, is eroding the two biggest barriers to ending domestic violence and sexual abuse: the disbelief and the dehumanization of its victims.

L.I. Against Domestic Violence provides lifesaving and life changing services. There is no single answer to meet the complex needs of victims and survivors and to cultivate effective prevention efforts. And that is why as an organization, we are nimble and meet each person where they are. This would not be possible without our Board of Directors who continue to ensure the organization's growth and our dedicated staff and volunteers, who amaze me every day through their dedication and passion.

This year's Annual Report provides a snapshot of the more than 6,200 survivors that L.I. Against Domestic Violence reached during 2018 and brief highlights of several initiatives underway as we set the course for the future. This is only possible because of the incredible support and partnerships from people like you. Thank you for standing with L.I. Against Domestic Violence for the past 42 years, now and into the future.

Colleen Merlo, LMSW
Executive Director

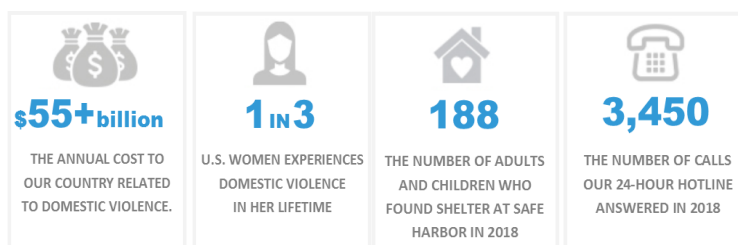
Eric Fishon
Board President



Highlights

- ◆ In 2018, L.I. Against Domestic Violence provided services to 6,202 survivors and reached 5,786 students and professionals through prevention and training. That means we touched the lives of 11,988 people in our communities.
- ◆ The Suffolk County High Risk Response Team continued to have strong results. In 2016 over 1,000 victims of domestic violence were provided with an enhanced response; including home visits made in partnership with the SCPD Domestic Violence Unit. The Suffolk County Probation Department monitored offenders and the Suffolk County Sheriff's Office confiscated an increased number of weapons from offenders where an Order of Protection was in place.
- ◆ L.I. Against Domestic Violence has expanded our education and preventions efforts. While we have always provided Teen Dating Violence to many area high schools we have implemented additional presentations focusing on Cyber Abuse and Consent.
- ◆ L.I. Against Domestic Violence educated the Suffolk County Legislature about the high correlation between the presences of guns in a home and domestic violence related homicides. This effort was to support laws to protect victims while upholding individual rights and choice to own a gun.
- ◆ The staff of the Counseling Department implemented innovative practices to enhance client safety and well-being; a new video counseling pilot was started to assist clients who otherwise could not participate and have typically been at very high risk for increased violence. The department also continues to expand the use of EMDR (Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing), an innovative technique that enables people to heal from the symptoms and emotional distress that are the result of domestic violence.
- ◆ Through TD's Paws for a Cause Dog Fashion Show, three rescued dogs found their forever homes, and the event promotion reached thousands of individuals via social and digital media expanding our reach.
- ◆ L.I. Against Domestic Violence was the recipient of a Mary Kay Foundation grant aimed at expanding our services to assist families ensure the safety of their pet when violence is present in the home.
- ◆ We helped over 80 local families celebrate the holidays through our holiday drives.
- ◆ Our staff received in-depth training on the most up to date best practices working with the LGBT Community. As such, our outreach department participated in multiple local pride events to reach further into that population.

Thank you to everyone who helped to support the lifesaving services that L.I. Against Domestic Violence provides.



Highlights



 **TAKE A
STAND**
AGAINST
DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE



 **L.I. Against
Domestic Violence**
Prevention. Support. Healing.



L.I. Against Domestic Violence's Programs & Services



24-Hour Hotline: (631)666-8833

The 24 hour/ 7 day a week, hotline provides support and crisis management. Our trauma-informed hotline counselors provide crisis intervention, safety planning, information on options, referrals, and access to all of our services. The hotline is often the first point of contact with a client. Through the language line, we provide support in over 120 languages.

The Hotline responded to **3,450 calls**, with an average of 18 calls each day.

"From my initial call to the hotline....all the way through, I felt safe, cared for and listened to for the first time in a long time."



Safe Harbor Shelter

The Safe Harbor Shelter provides a safe haven exclusively for victims and their children who are fleeing their homes to escape domestic violence. Our compassionate staff work to secure physical and emotional safety and provide comprehensive support services with the goal of permanent housing and lifelong healing.

188 residents stayed at the shelter in 2018.

"I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for everything you have done for me and all the other women!"

Ensuring Safety, rebuilding lives

L.I. Against Domestic Violence's Programs & Services



Precinct Advocacy

The Advocacy program places a trauma informed advocate in each of the Suffolk County Police precincts and makes vital victim services available immediately following a violent incident. Advocates provide information about options, assist in developing a safety plan, and link clients with our court advocacy, shelter and other support services at L.I. Against Domestic Violence and within the community.

Precinct Advocates helped

783 survivors;
providing **1,062 services.**

"[The Advocacy Staff] always provided me with a complete picture of what I could expect and helped me to understand my rights. I'm not sure what would have happened without [them]."



Court Advocacy

The Court Advocacy program provides accompaniment to survivors at Family Court, District Court and Supreme Court, to provide support and direct assistance in obtaining orders of protection and linkage to other needed resources.

1,286 survivors
were served by the Court Advocacy program; providing over **5,716 services.**

"I didn't think I could walk into that court room and have to face him. Knowing the process and having [the advocate] there with me, gave me the strength to do it... and having the Order of Protection has given me such a piece of mind."

Ensuring Safety, rebuilding lives

L.I. Against Domestic Violence's Programs & Services



Counseling Services

Our licensed counselors help survivors of abusive relationships reduce the traumatic impact of past events and gain healthy coping skills. Individuals and group modalities are offered to help individuals overcome the obstacles in their lives.

189 clients

worked toward healing through counseling.

"I don't think I could have gotten through this hard time without your support. I am so thankful for L.I. Against Domestic Violence. Counseling has taught me great coping techniques and methods."



Legal Services

Pro bono representation is provided to eligible clients in Family Court to help with securing child custody, visitation and support orders and orders of protection.

346 services of free legal representation were provided.

"L.I. Against Domestic Violence helped me stay alive. My attorney helped me when I was at my weakest. She was my voice, while I learned how to speak again. I can't image what would have happened to my kids if she was not standing next to me."

L.I. Against Domestic Violence's Programs & Services



Vocational Training & Financial Literacy

The Vocational Training and Financial Literacy Program helps survivors gain the skills necessary to achieve economic independence to live a life free from abuse. Through hands-on services, we help individuals to enhance their skills to enter or re-enter the job market. The program provides tools to remove financial barriers and helps each client to develop an individualized plan for financial success.

94 survivors

participated in the Vocational Training Program.

"I wanted to thank you for your support in helping me find my new position. Please know I appreciate all of the attention you have given me over this stressful past year. I never felt alone during the interview process".



Education and Prevention

Our education department offers age appropriate education to youth and adults to reduce the incidence of dating and family violence.

Our community educators are in schools, civic-associations, health care facilities, day-cares, places of workshop and beyond, delivering vital information.

Over **5,786 people** reached through presentations.

"I wanted to thank your agency for the excellent presentations to my classes. [The Educator] had a wonderful ability to have the class join in the discussion and I know that they learned a great deal."

2018 Executive Leadership/Board of Directors

Executive Director

Colleen Merlo, LMSW

Fiscal Manager

Karen Malvone

Associate Director

Wendy Linsalata

President

Eric S. Fishon

Board Members

Nancy Mion

Michael A.H. Schoenberg, Esq.

Christina Obremski

Gayle Rosenblum, Esq.

Secretary

Michelle Safarian

Treasurer

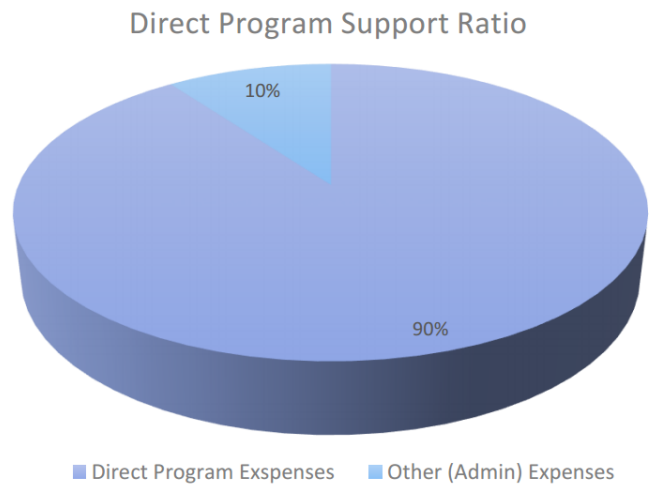
John Paniccioli



2018 Financial Highlights

Expenses

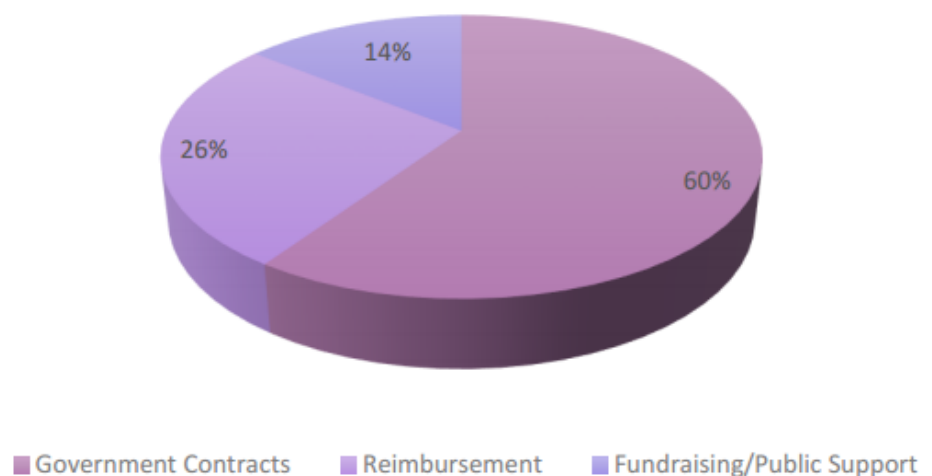
Program	\$1,824,778
Administration	\$146,811
Fundraising	\$57,065
Total	\$2,028,654

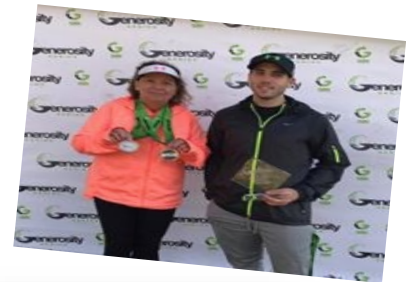


Revenue

Government Contracts	\$1,245,616
Reimbursement	\$549,766
Fundraising/Public Support.....	\$297,206
Miscellaneous	\$2,487
Total	\$2,095,075

Revenue Sources





L.I. Against Domestic Violence
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Central Islip, N.Y. 11722
(631) 666-7181
info@liadv.org
Liadv.org

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