

Annual Report July 1, 2020- June 30, 2021

The mission of WOMANSPACE is to **Prevent Abuse**, **Protect Families**, and **Change Lives** through empowerment and a safety net of supportive services.



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### Lessage from the President and Executive Director







Patricia M. Hart, M.S.W., LCSW

#### Friends:

We all know that these past months since March, 2020 have presented us with never before challenges. If we look back to that date who could have imagined life would still be upside down for us all. With a two-day window, Womanspace had to close our offices, prepare our clinicians for remote access to clients, create safe space in our Safe House facilities for staff and clients and ensure that no one was without critical services. There was no toilet paper, cleaning supplies were missing from every shelf and who would have ever thought we would be needing hundreds of masks? While we were busying ourselves with managing that immediate agenda, we honestly believed that it would be a matter of weeks, and all would return to normal.

Well, surprise that was not to be. Unbelievably the COVID-19 pandemic raged on, and we all struggled with its impact. This message is not to continue a rant about the awfulness, it is to recognize that it was the support, the collegial connections, the hard work, the team here at Womanspace and our partners in the community moved us through. We never felt like we were in this alone. There has been a need for so many layers of response in this past year and we all came together to help one another.

It has been a challenging and humbling year for us all. So, if there are days that you are not sure if it is Wednesday or Friday, if today is an office day or a "work from home day", if getting out of bed feels like too much, if you can't sleep or sleep too much, remember to give yourself a break. Call a friend, take a walk, watch the sunset or if you are like me, the sunrise. It's ok to turn on Netflix and lose yourself for a while. Right now, as you read this, think of something for which you feel grateful. These confusing, upside-down feelings are the effects of living through worry and trauma for the last year. If you need to talk to a counselor, remember you are not alone...this is happening to all of us. No one can predict the end of this virus, or when life will be restored to normal but what we can do is follow safety guidelines and keep ourselves and those around us safe. And because of an amazing community of support, Womanspace will be here for whomever needs us 24/7, 365. Take good care.

Womanspace Staff and Board would like to again recognize the amazing support from the following: The Department of Children and Families (DCF) who told us that "no staff member goes unpaid", the Office of the Attorney General who provided a two-year grant for permanent housing for our families, the Division on Women (DOW) who funded our premier Antiracism Project: A New Vision for Womanspace: Dismantling Racism and Realizing a Just Organization, strengthening our agency's commitment to ensure everyone who comes to us is served with respect and dignity. We thank the NJ Coalition to End Domestic Violence and the NJ Coalition Against Sexual Assault who support our work through their advocacy on our behalf and sharing invaluable resources. And we thank you, the community that has been our biggest cheerleader and support.

With enormous gratitude,

Patricia M. Hart, M.S.W., LCSW Executive Director

Matthew Rhodes, PsyD. President Womanspace Board of Directors

Remember Family is Family and everything else is just everything else. Thank you for being a part of the Womanspace family.



### WOMANSPACE, INC. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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### WOMANSPACE FOUNDERS:











BARBARA BOGGS Sigmund

ELLEN BELKNAP

VALORIE CAFFEE

MARY ANN CANNON DEBORAH METZGER

Womanspace, Inc., founded in 1977, is a non-profit corporation providing comprehensive services to individuals and families impacted by domestic and sexual violence. In response to information gathered by the Alercer County Commission on the Status of Women identifying the need for services for battered women and their children, Womanspace opened the first publicly supported emergency residential facility in New Gersey in Pebruary 1978. From the beginning, our goal was to serve victims beyond the initial crisis. That goal has become a reality as our services continue to grow to assist clients facing complex situations due to the violence in their lives.

### OUR MISSION

The mission of Womanspace is to Prevent Abuse, Protect Families, and Change Lives through empowerment and a safety net of supportive services.

### Our Vision

Womanspace, Inc. condemns racism and deplores the impact that historic, deeply rooted, and systemic inequities have on survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault, our workforce, the communities we serve, and our nation.

Our mission mandates us to be essential to survivors and to offer excellent survivor-centered care, that results in empowered survivors who experience their agency. We cannot be essential if we remain silent in the face of an issue that so profoundly impacts so many survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault, as well as our employees of color who serve and act on the behalf of survivors. We will provide a just employment experience as we address the pervasive inequities that are often insurmountable barriers to both survivors and employees of color alike. In the face of these historic and systemic issues it is not enough to not be a racist organization. We must be an anti-racist organization.

Womanspace commits to enact sustained organizational change and to pursue bold anti-racist policy action that is beyond rhetoric. We will enact anti-racist policies that lead to anti-racist ideas, attitudes and behaviors and practices to create a racism free environment. Survivors must and will have a critical role and a vital voice on committees focused on the organizational change process.

We will commit to a management and program staff that is reflective of the client demographics.

We will work to build the highest level of trust and confidence in our organization by engaging with communities of color to understand the service and access needs.

Programs will reflect and reinforce our commitment to our ethnic and economically diverse community.

Organizational education and training curriculum will be driven by our anti-racism principals.

We will provide training and support to systems that interface with marginalized survivors, including justice, housing, and welfare, to eliminate systemic barriers to assistance and to do no further harm.

### Our Three-year Strategic Plan (2018 – 2021)

### Strategic Initiative I: Strengthen Existing Client Support Services

Create, strengthen and maintain a range of client services to effectively support the process of healing from the trauma of domestic violence/sexual assault and to foster the ability to sustain healthy relationships.

### Strategic Initiative II: Increase Access to Services

Increase access to services, including multicultural, multilingual services and services to persons with disabilities.

### Strategic Initiative III: Strengthen Organizational Capacity

Strengthen the organization's infrastructure and capacity to support current and future growth.

#### Strategic Initiative IV: Commitment to Excellence

Ensure quality services through continuous quality assurance and evaluation.



Womanspace clients come from all geographic, socio-economic, cultural, racial and religious backgrounds and present a diversity of needs.

Womanspace has a new vision that aligns with our anti-racism project. (see page 4)

Listed below are the activities from the year 2020/21 that helped us reach our goals in serving the community.

EMERGENCY SERVICES, available 24 hours a day/7 days a week, are designed to assist victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and Human Trafficking immediately following a crisis.

Emergency Services added the use of the Hotel Aggregator. The hotel aggregator enables Womanspace to place people seeking safe house services at a hotel temporarily. We use the Hotel aggregator when the safe house is full, and also when there is a safety issue or a need for accessible accommodations. The program is funded by DCF.

Started involvement in Homefront's Diaper Challenge program. Homefront provides diapers to us on a monthly base to distribute to our clients.

COUNSELING AND SUPPORT SERVICES (CSS) are provided to adults and children by professionals who are specifically trained in the fields of domestic violence and sexual assault. Advocate services are also available on site at Family Court, Municipal Courts and Department of Child Protection and Permanency (DCP&P). Services are available regardless of ability to pay. Spanish speaking counselors are available for all services provided by this program.

- Uninterrupted provision of counseling services through the pandemic.
- · Adapted to new ways of providing services using new virtual platforms that were both HIPAA and VAWA compliant.
- Expanded ways in which our clients could receive counseling services that met their needs during the pandemic.
- Family Court personnel, working remotely, continued to utilize Womanspace Court Advocates in Restraining Order hearings.
- Hired and trained 3 fulltime counselors and one intern through this time.
- Conducted the first virtual TES (Trauma, Education and Skills) Group.
- Promoted and assisted in clients accessing vaccines through Womanspace's Vaccination Clinic and beyond.
- Kicked off Womanspace's Anti-Racism Project with our Summer 2020 Book Club study of Kendi's "How to Be an Anti-Racist."

NEXT STEP & BARBARA'S HOUSE transitional housing services provide an essential stabilizing influence for families who have experienced domestic violence. Womanspace housing programs foster independence and selfsufficiency for victims of domestic violence and their children.

Barbara's House continued providing some in person Transitional Housing Group Meetings, despite the pandemic. Thank you to the kindness and ongoing support of volunteers from the Stony Brook Garden Club; They provided us with a beautiful and serene space and have continued to care for and update the garden where we were able to hold our Transitional Housing Group outside, while social distancing. After months of only being able to meet virtually, clients were happy and grateful to be able to come together in person. 2020 was the year that we had our first Movie Night at transitional housing. In keeping with the theme of social distancing, we hosted a movie in our parking lot, where everyone was able to enjoy a movie outside and 6 feet apart. The event included a red carpet photo opportunity, concession stand and a Premier showing of Disney's Moana.

SEXUAL ASSAULT SUPPORT SERVICES & DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & SEXUAL ASSAULT RESPONSE TEAMS – Provide extensively trained and carefully supervised volunteers (24/7) who respond at the time of crisis to support victims and their families.

Completed a full 80 hour virtual training in November of this year. There were 10 community members who graduated. Due to COVID restrictions their ability to respond was limited but both the Domestic Violence Response Team (DVVRT) & Sexual Assault Response Team. (SASS) Teams continued to meet and work on skill building throughout the year. In September our SASS advocates began responding for SART activations with PPE provided by Womanspace. Began recruitment for a Young Adult Advisory Council in the Spring. The goal of the group which consists of young adults ages 14-22 years old is to work towards educating other young people on topics related to consent, sexual assault, bystander intervention, drug facilitated sexual assault, sexual harassment and any other connected topics. By partnering on these subjects' young adults will gain experience working at a local non-profit, learn valuable skills, and help educate peers. These young adults support the Womanspace mission and spread awareness to other young people through social media and other avenues.



#### DEVELOPMENT, PUBLIC RELATIONS AND MARKETING

- Unfortunately, due to Covid -19, we were forced to postpone our annual Barbara Boggs Sigmund Awards Event to May 12, 2022. We will
  be honoring Elizabeth Smart, A child abduction prevention advocate and victim of childhood abduction at the Princeton Marriott.
- Annual Appeal raised \$112,246 thanks to individuals, foundations, and corporations.
- Communities of Light honorary Chair was Paula Sollami Covello, Mercer County Clerk, raised more than \$34,000 and for the first time
  ever, we live streamed our lighting with New Jersey BUZZ and Womanspace aired live from each municipality. It was an amazing way to interact
  with others as much as we could during the pandemic.

GRANTS – We are grateful to our longstanding corporate and private foundation grantmaking partners for their continued support. Many grantmaking cycles have been interrupted due to Covid-related challenges, so we are particularly appreciative this year.

- The Merancas Foundation, our largest private funder, generously increased their support to \$100,000 in unrestricted funding this year. This grant gives us the flexibility to fill in budgetary gaps in some of our most critical programming.
- The NJ Pandemic Fund, administered by the Community Foundation of New Jersey, made an additional contribution of \$20,000, in addition to their investment of \$25,000 last year. Womanspace is proud to be among 140 nonprofit organizations identified by the Fund as among the best positioned to provide services and support to communities in greatest need due to Covid-related challenges.
- Bristol Meyer Squibb granted Womanspace \$21,000 for general operating costs. We are grateful for this longtime partner who truly invests in the Central Jersey communities where their headquarters and other offices reside.
- Church & Dwight, another locally headquartered company, has contributed \$10,000 to our general operating expenses.
- The NextGen Giving Circle at Princeton Area Community Foundation awarded Womanspace \$10,000 in general operating support. NextGen giving Circle was created in 2017 as a way to help millennials sinterested in philanthropy gain valuable experience with the charitable giving process.
- Lawrence Township Community Foundation granted a total \$6,000 this year over two grant cycles. These grants supported counseling services for children exposed to domestic violence in the home, as well as grocery store gift cards for our clients experiencing food insecurity.
- The MacMillan Family Fund gifted Womanspace with \$7,500. This generous family has supported our work for over two decades.
- The Starbucks Foundation awarded a \$2,000 grant to Womanspace through its Neighborhood Grants program. This initiative helps build sustained local impact and supports grassroots efforts by inviting Starbucks employees to nominate a local organization to be a grant recipient.
- Wells Fargo has supported our Safe House with a \$15,000 grant through their affordable housing initiative.
- Janssen Pharmaceuticals, a long-standing partner, has also contributed \$8,500 to the operations of our Safe House.
- Our good friends at Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Princeton have contributed \$1,000 through their Social Justice Outreach Grants. This gift was intended to help us with unforeseen Covid-related expenses.

Womanspace is grateful for the generous support from each of these partners. We are inspired by their commitment to ending domestic violence and sexual assault, and humbled by their faith in us.

Our Volunteer Coordinator attended numerous community events throughout the year with an obvious decrease due to the pandemic. These events both build awareness for Womanspace and help raise funds. (see more on Volunteer page 21)



#### **ADMINISTRATION**

- This year brought staff and clients back into the building on a staggered schedule with much care and continued wearing of masks in all
  common areas for staff and for all clients.
- Henry J. Austin Health Center generously sent three incredibly well organized and efficient nurses to our offices to make vaccination available
  to all staff, clients and family members. We are so grateful for the commitment collaborative spirit of HJA in keeping everyone safe.
- The state of NJ continued to support the enhanced needs of victims and survivors of interpersonal violence by providing funding for hotel/motels when the Safe House was full or when the circumstances dictated an alternative placement.
- Womanspace partnered with other non-profits in Mercer who serve survivors to share the availability of the housing resources that were made
  possible by the Attorney General's two- year housing grant. We hosted a zoom meeting of all agency partners who might be able to benefit
  from the funding.
- Two Womanspace Advisory Council Meetings were held over the past year. The meetings bring together friends and supporters of Womanspace. The latest agenda discussed the new Young Adult Advisory Council with a goal of involving young people in the mission of Womanspace.
- Our newest project is our Antiracism Project entitled "A New Vision of Womanspace: Dismantling Racism and Realizing a Just Organization."
  This project is funded by the Division on Woman and is all encompassing, involving all staff and Board and will be integrated into all future training of the organization. The goal is to ensure that our organization is inclusive and accessible to everyone and welcoming of the diversity of our community and our world. We are grateful to the Division on Women for this amazing opportunity to ensure that Womanspace is partnering in dismantling racism and helping to create a just organization that serves all.

WOMANSPACE STAFF COMMITTEES – For many years Womanspace has engaged the skills, commitment and expertise of staff in creating committees that drive much of the work of the organization. Only an amazing staff would volunteer to spend extra time beyond the responsibilities of their positions to participate in the operations of the agency. Womanspace has the good fortune to have that kind of staff composition. This year we are thrilled to be changing up our committees a bit while pivoting with the time and aligning with our anti-racist position.

• The TEACH Committee – This committee is a combination of the previous Education and Training Committee and the SOUP Committee.

#### This committee has several objectives:

- I) To plan four (or another number to be determined) in-service trainings throughout the year which evolve from topics that are timely to the educational growth of staff.
- 2) Activities in recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM) and Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM).
- 3) Special activities around "Stand Against Racism" and the Summer Film Festival...other recognitions can be added as the committee determines.
- 4) Assisting the Coordinator as needed in responding to requests from the community for presentations.







Thank you to the Running Man of Hopewell for your support and donation to Womanspace.



Our director of counseling, Susan victor, showing us important traits of a counselor.



Thank you to Mt. Sinai Seventh-Day Adventist Church for a donation of \$6,626 & Gift Cards for our Safe House. Thank you to Pastor Corey Johnson.



Thank you to our favorite Girl Scouts for your donation!



Thank you to Janssen employees for helping sort donations at our Safe House for Janssen Cares  $\hbox{\rm Day!}$ 



Thank you to the Mercer County Education Association for their donation of food supplies during the pandemic to our Safe House. They also continue to provide dinners once a month for our Safe House and Barbara House Clients and their children. We really appreciate their donations at this time and really helps our clients to not think about making dinner once a month.



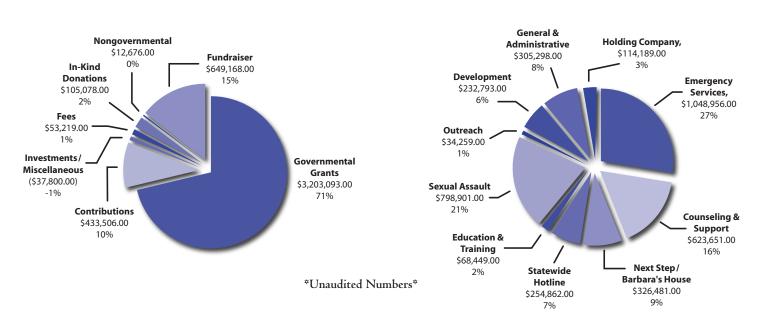
### FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021

### SNAPSHOT OF PEOPLE SERVED

Women	10,105
Children	581
Men	496
Non-Binary	6
Hotline Callers	.9,021
Total People served in FY 2020	11,188
Community Members Educated & Professionally Trained	. 1,510

#### REVENUE FY 2021

#### EXPENSES FY 2021



### STAFF MANAGEMENT TEAM

Patricia M. Hart – Executive Director Joshua Duncan – Domestic Violence Victim Response Team Coordinator

Kay Lory – Associate Executive Director Susan Adams – Volunteer & Community Outreach Coordinator

Lauren Nazarian – Director of Development

Nathalie Nelson – Director of Human Resources & Operations

Susan Victor – Director of Counseling & Support Services

Cassius Lawson – Fiscal Manager

Reyna Carothers — Director of Emergency Services Johnny Tarkpah — Bookkeeper

Alison Daks – Director of Victim Support & Prevention Services Erin Hartshorn – Grants & Contracts Manager



### **EMERGENCY SERVICES**

The Emergency Services program assists victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking, following the initial crisis, by providing round-the-clock access to the safe house, hotlines and advocacy services.

### SAFE HOUSE PROGRAM

Womanspace's Safe House provides secure, temporary emergency housing in a secure, confidential location, where survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking and their children can begin to recover and plan for a violence-free life. The program opened its doors—in this very location—nearly forty one years ago, in 1978, and was filled immediately. It continues to be the only short-term residential program of its kind in Mercer County.

The Safe House is a warm and welcoming environment, staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Staff members support families in working through the immediate crisis. Clients receive individual counseling, case management, and ongoing advocacy, and have access to a weekly array of support groups that explore themes of safety, empowerment, living skills, healing from crisis, and the importance of building a support network. Advocates are available to assist clients in setting goals based on individual and family needs; these goals may include identifying viable safe housing options and other community resources—such as childcare, child supportive services, counseling, job training, legal assistance, substance abuse treatment, and medical and mental health providers. Safe House clients also have a full scope of services available to them at Womanspace's Counseling and Support Services office in Lawrenceville, as well as access to the agency's non-denominational chaplain.

Our Children's Program offers information about the effects of domestic violence on children, as well as support for mothers on how to talk to their kids about their current situation. Children also receive individual case management, counseling, and support during their stay with us. Daily, curriculum-based activities; help with homework; open playroom time; and recreational activities give moms some respite. The Children's Program also offers a bi-weekly mommy and me and a bi-weekly mother's support group.

The Child Advocate assists mothers in linking them to childcare or to a nearby school system, medical services, counseling, and other agencies in the nearby community. Safe House staff also offers supervision and support around parenting and communal living issues, by assessing needs, nurturing relationships, and offering positive guidance. In 2008, Emergency Services began a homeschooling program that provides Safe House clients an additional educational option for their children. Five experienced teachers volunteer their time to make this program a resounding success. Womanspace is very proud to say that it is the only domestic violence agency in New Jersey to offer homeschooling.









### Emergency Shelter FY 2021 Statistics:

### TOTAL SHELTER CLIENTS SERVED: 151

Women
Children
SHELTER SERVICES PROVIDED
Hotel Placements:
Women
Men
Children
Total Hotel/Motel Clients Served
Advocacy
Counseling:
Individual Sessions 6,977
Children's Individual Sessions
Support Counseling - 4 groups per week:
Group Participants210
Children's Group Participants0
Family Counseling
Children's Educational and
Recreational Activities
Home School Educational Sessions0
Home School Educational Hours 0
Children's Home School Participants0
Elementary School Students
Middle School Students

### CLIENT SURVEY FEEDBACK, FY2021:

### Question:

"What do you think you would have done if the shelter didn't exist?"

"I don't know where I would be without the safe house."

"To be honest, I would still be where I was, I had no other way out, I was scared."

"Lived in my car."

### Question:

"When you decided to come here, what did you think the shelter would do for you?" 91% of safe house clients used the words, safe and protection to answer this question.

"Help me get my life back on track."

"Help me relocate and give me counseling."

"Keep me safe."

"Protect me."

"Thank goodness It's so welcoming here and safe."

\*\*Home School option is a choice Womanspace is able to offer to mothers and their school-aged children residing in shelter, during the school year.

ETHNICITY (ADULTS)

African American	38	. 48%
Caucasian	II	. I4%
Latino	25	. 31%
Asian	. 4	5%
Biracial	. 2	3%
Other	. 0	0%
AGE		

### Children

0-4	4I	 58%
5-9	13	 18%
10-14		
15-18	5	 7%
4.1.1.		

### Adults

I9-24	. I7	. 21%
25-34	. 30	. 38%
35-44	. I6	. 20%
45-59		, -
60+		



Womanspace Safe House Staff 2021



The Crisis Hotlines are operated by Womanspace, Inc. 24 hours a day, 365 days a year at the Safe House. Staff members respond to calls from victims of domestic violence, human trafficking, and sexual assault, their families, friends, and human services professionals. Spanish-speaking counselors are always available, as is access to a language line for those needing interpretation in languages other than English and Spanish.

In 2015, Womanspace, Inc. added the following texting hotline for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing survivors: (609) 619-1888.

The local *Mercer County Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Hotlines* assist victims of trauma in often lifethreatening situations, by offering options for immediate safety that include the protective and supportive Emergency Services program, as well as access to the agency's countywide assistance at area hospitals, courts, police departments, and health clinics. People in crisis receive immediate and confidential assistance from trained and experienced staff. For safe house or emergency assistance in Mercer County call (609) 394-9000.

The Emergency Services program of Womanspace also operates the *New Jersey Statewide Domestic Violence Hotline*—an information and referral service, helping victims, and community members identify appropriate supportive programs or services in their respective counties. For safe house services or referrals/information anywhere in New Jersey call I-800-572-SAFE (7233).

BedFinder, an Internet-based website/application, was originally piloted in 2013 with Womanspace and other agencies in New Jersey, to simplify the process of finding human trafficking survivors emergency placement at domestic violence shelters and residential programs throughout the state. The Safe Shelter Collaborative, as this collective of human services agencies is known, eventually began to use BedFinder to locate safe house services for domestic violence survivors, too. The re-traumatizing effects on survivors of multiple safe house assessments, as well as the onerous task on staff of placing multiple telephone calls has been replaced with a simple, single request seen and responded to quickly by all participating programs.

### HOTLINES FY 2021 STATISTICS: TOTAL HOTLINE CALLERS SERVED: 9,021

MERCER COUNTY - DOMESTIC VIOLENCE		Total
Victim Crisis Calls		2,834
Information Support Calls		I,077
Female Calls		
Male Calls		
Total Calls		
Mercer County – Sexual Assault		
Female Calls		
Male Calls		
Other-Non-Binary		
Total Calls		
New Jersey Statewide – Domestic Violence	Female	MALE TOTAL
Victim Crisis Calls	3,323	57 3,380
Information Support Calls	1,282	86 I,368
Total Calls	4,605	143 4,748

### Chaplaincy Program

Womanspace's Chaplaincy program offers non-denominational pastoral care and spiritual counseling to clients of all faiths. The goal of our Chaplaincy program is to offer compassion and non-judgmental spiritual support as clients create a safe and sacred space for themselves. The role of the chaplain is to help clients draw on their faith and beliefs to recognize their own individual value and worth and to be empowered to make lifeenhancing choices for themselves. We recognize that spiritual beliefs are held differently by each person, which impacts how they manage a time of crisis in their lives. Often the fear of violating religious beliefs, or confusion and misunderstanding of religious teaching, keeps people stuck in abusive relationships. Sometimes a person's faith and spiritual beliefs can be a vital source of strength and comfort in difficult times. In keeping with Womanspace's commitment to supporting our clients holistically, our staff chaplain is available to meet with clients at any of our programs.

Womanspace provides field education opportunities to seminary students. Over a year-long placement, seminary interns work closely with staff and clients, supervised by Womanspace's chaplain to learn how theological education can be practically used to provide comfort and care to those in crisis. Networking with area congregations and clergy is another way that Womanspace establishes and strengthens a safety net of caring community partners that clients can turn to for support and comfort. Through education and dialogue, faith communities can grow to be truly safe sanctuaries and healing places for those affected by trauma as they learn about the impact of domestic violence and sexual assault on individuals, families and the larger community.



Rev. Susan Victor, Th.M, MSW, LCSW Director of Counseling and Support Services

The Chaplaincy program also runs groups at the safe house and at the counseling office, as the need arises. The "Reflections Group" is facilitated by the chaplain intern at the safe house. It allows women whose lives have intersected because of similar traumatic experiences, to have the opportunity in a safe, spiritual and compassionate forum to share and reflect on their circumstances and what it means to them. All safe house clients are encouraged to participate in this group when it is offered. As the need arises, a "Spirituality Group" that is a time limited, closed group is offered at the counseling office. This group is focused on examining the intersection of trauma and what it means to be a person of faith in the midst of a world turned upside down.

### 

### Domestic Violence Victim Response Teams

Begun as a model program for New Jersey by Womanspace in 1998, the Domestic Violence Victim Response Teams (DVVRT) are comprised of volunteers who undergo extensive domestic violence training to prepare them to provide support, information and referral to victims. These committed, specially trained volunteers are called to the police station at the time of a domestic violence incident in order to intervene at a time of crisis. The services the team members can offer victims are difficult for the police to provide, given their responsibilities at the time of the incident. This vital partnership has allowed for the thorough training of both law enforcement agencies and Womanspace personnel.



Celebration with our response team volunteers and some staff to celebrate Heidi Muellers retirement after 15 years at Womanspace.

#### AN INVITATION TO A BRAVE SPACE

Together we will create brave space
Because there is no such thing as a "safe space"

We exist in the real world

We all carry scars and we have all caused wounds.

In this space

We seek to turn down the volume of the outside world.

We amplify voices that fight to be heard elsewhere,

We call each other to more truth and love

We have the right to start somewhere and continue to grow.

We have the responsibility to examine what we think we know.

We will not be perfect.

It will not always be what we wish it to be

But

It will be our brave space together,

And

We will work on it side by side.

by Micky Scottbey Jones

### DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIM RESPONSE TEAMS FY 2021 STATISTICS:

### DVVRT VICTIMS AND SIGNIFICANT OTHERS TOTAL SERVED: 307 Victims Served.

victims Served	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •		
Women	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •		
Men		• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	
C1:11 1			

## Sexual Assault Support Services Program

The Sexual Assault Support Services (SASS) Program uses a comprehensive, multiprogrammatic approach to address the needs of victims in Mercer County, with the primary goal of providing services to all sexual assault victims. We assist victims of acute sexual assault through both the medical and legal processes and provide individual and group counseling to support victims in healing from the effects of the trauma of sexual violence. Our program structure includes direct service staff and volunteers who support victims and collaborate with law enforcement and medical professionals to promote healing through a victim centered response to sexual assault.

In addition to services for victims, Womanspace provides counseling, support and education to spouses, partners, parents, children and siblings of victims. These co-victims are closely attached to the person who is suffering from trauma. Counseling is provided through our Counseling and Support Services Program. The quality of life for survivors and their families is increased consequent to this support and they are better able to participate and contribute to their community.

Another important aspect of the program is providing education about sexual abuse throughout Mercer County. The staff educators regularly seek out a variety of groups in the community, including students from middle school age through college, educators, helping professionals, faith communities, law enforcement and court personnel to increase the awareness of the serious nature of this crime and educate the public regarding the services available to victims. Education for professionals includes information to assist in identifying and supporting possible victims. Untreated sexual assault trauma is crippling both for the victim and the community, and healing is necessary if both are to progress.

### SEXUAL ASSAULT SUPPORT SERVICES FY 2021 STATISTICS:

### SEXUAL ASSAULT SUPPORT SERVICES PROGRAM TOTAL SERVED: 456

Telephone hotline calls	362
Telephone hotline calls  Accompaniments  Victims Served	29
Victims Served	24
Women	21
Women	3
Men	0
Significant Others Served	4
Women	3
MenSignificant Others Served	I
Counseling:	
Individual Counseling Clients Served	40
Victims Served38,	Significant Others Served2
Women Children	9
Men	2
Men	576
Family Counseling Sessions	0
Family Counseling Sessions Support Group Clients Total Support Group Sessions	26
Total Support Group Sessions	16

### PROGRAM SUCCESS OUTCOMES (MEASURED BY PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK SURVEYS):

- I00% of the callers reported that they received appropriate support, information and referrals.
- Victims and their significant others routinely reported that the counseling, support, information and referrals they received were tremendously helpful to them.
- The educational presentations conducted this year were consistently rated as outstanding.

"Susan is really helping me to become more independent and overall a

better woman."

Client feedback 2021

### Counseling and Support Services

Womanspace counselors are trained to understand and identify the intricate dynamics of domestic and sexual violence so that everyone who seeks our services - men, women and children - are offered support and resources in their journey toward healing from trauma. Our clients find us in a myriad of ways: on the internet, referred by a friend, a former client, the court system, the police, through other agencies or just by word of mouth. Services are provided to those in crisis, regardless of their ability to pay. All those who seek help are screened to determine how we might best serve them. We understand that just ending a relationship does not result in an end to violence, threats or harassment. Individual counseling, available in both English and Spanish, focuses on increasing safety and reducing isolation. Our goal is to help our clients determine the best options in their particular situation, whether they are trying to make sense of what they are living through in a relationship marked by domestic or sexual violence, or are trying to make a decision about what to do about their relationship. Counseling and Support Services are provided at the Barbara and Herb Goodfriend Counseling Center, located in our ADA compliant Womanspace office.

2020 has been unlike any year we have lived through, with a global pandemic endangering the health and safety of everyone. In March 2020, the Counseling office shut its doors, along with the rest of the country, expecting it to stay closed for a week or two at the most. As it quickly became evident that we were in for the long haul, new systems were put in place to find ways to safely provide on-going services to former and new clients. It became our goal to provide telehealth service to those who needed us most. By July 2020, our offices reopened, but for the health and safety of all, we continued to offer both in-person or virtual individual counseling sessions.



Other advocacy services include our Family Court advocates, volunteer attorneys who staff our Legal Clinic, our Homeless Victims Specialist and our Domestic Violence Liaison to DCPP. Our advocates seek to provide assistance to those impacted by domestic violence and sexual violence in varied areas and venues. We believe that in partnering with community agencies and volunteers, we are able to provide support and expand our reach to greater numbers of people.

Womanspace Counseling clients are at different stages of healing from trauma. The overall consensus of all or our clients is that Womanspace helped them tremendously.

- "I enjoy sharing and learning from others and being with people who don't judge but can relate to me and listen."
- "I desperately need understanding and thankfully found this in abundance."
- "Safety for myself, safety for my kids; just a safe space."
- "A huge blessing to have people understand and not blame me, and learning to hear the positive messages and allow them to change my self perception."

### Counseling & Support Services FY 2021 Statistics

### Counseling & Support Services: Total Clients Served: 1,342

Counseling and Support –DV Services	Support Counseling- 4 Groups per week
Counseling (Female)	Group participants72
Counseling (Male)9	Individual Counseling Sessions
Counseling (Children)9	Individual Children's Sessions
Counseling DV Clients Total Served	Family, Parenting, Sibling Sessions
<u> </u>	Children's Groups0
SA Counseling:	Advocacy
Individual Counseling Clients	•
Victims Served	ADULT COUNSELING CLIENTS:
Significant Others	AGE
CSS Total DV Clients + SA Clients	15-18 Adult
Family Court	18-24
Court (Female)	25-34
Court (Male)	35-44
Family Court Legal Services Provided	45-59
Tailing Court Legal Services Florided	60+94%
Outreach to Homeless Survivors	ETHNICITY
Homeless Survivor Groups	African American
Individual Sessions and Advocacy	Caucasian
Total Homeless Survivors Served	Latino
Legal Clinic	Asian 8 4%
Legal Chilic	Biracial
Domestic Violence Liaison (Clients- Adult) 196	Other
Liaison (Female)	CHILDREN COUNSELING CLIENTS:
Liaison (Male)	AGE
DV Liaison (Clients- Children)	0-4
Trenton Municipal Court (Clients) 0	5-9
Trenton Municipal Court (Chents)	10-143
Trenton Municipal Court (Male)0	15-180%
Hamilton Municipal Court (Clients)0	
Hamilton Municipal Court (Chents)	
1 ,	
Hamilton Municipal Court (Male)0  "Courts were closed due to Covid."	
Courts were closed due to Covid."	

To a Womanspace Counselor:

"Womanspace gave me someone looking out for me, for once in my life."



HOUSING SERVICES provide an essential stabilizing factor for families who have experienced domestic violence. Statistics indicate that 50% of homeless women and children are homeless as a result of domestic violence. The Womanspace housing programs foster independence and self-sufficiency for victims of domestic violence. The housing services of Womanspace address a number of different issues facing women as they carefully plan to find safety and protection from abuse.

### TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAM

Transitional Housing provides individual and group counseling, financial education and assistance with budgeting, linkage to community resources, and career assessment and direction. The selected clients who enter the program are committed to attaining self-sufficiency but need affordable housing and additional support to reach their goals. The individual and group counseling assists survivors in recovering from the trauma of the abuse they suffered. Additionally, the work done with the mothers regarding parenting is aimed at helping the children understand what happened in their family and nurturing the parent/child bond. Through this process the children can express their feelings and also heal from the effects of the violence. Another crucial component of the program is connecting clients to needed services in the community and strengthening their support system. Womanspace provides the only transitional housing program in the county designed specifically for domestic violence survivors. The program is unique in that it recognizes that leaving a shared dwelling and a relationship does not guarantee safety and that the assertion of independence often increases the potential for violence. Thus, safety planning is an ongoing activity with mothers and their children throughout the duration of their time in the program. The desired outcomes of the program are for each client to experience an increased sense of safety for themselves and their children; to achieve individualized goals while in the program; to develop a safety net of services and supports on which to rely; and to achieve financial self-sufficiency by the time they graduate from the program.

Our Barbara's House Next Step Transitional Housing Program, provides clients with housing and support services in an agency-owned apartment building. The clients in the program receive services and support from staff onsite, as well as the support of the other survivors in the program.







### Transitional Housing - Barbara's House and Next-Step

### TOTAL SERVED 23 WOMEN AND CHILDREN

Women	AGE Children
Children I4	0-4
Individual Sessions	5-9 4 29%
Group Participants	10-147
Advocacy	15-18
ETHNICITY	Adults
African American4	I8-2400%
Caucasian	25-347
Latino22%	34-44
Biracial	60+ I I1%
Other 0 0%	
Covid Housing Rent.	al Assistance Project
Women	44
Men	I
Children	60
SAEE HOUSE RENITAL	Assistance Program
	20
Transitional Housing	_
	7
	3
	4
RAPID RE-HOUSING:	
	8
Children	II

"I appreciated a safe place to go when my life was in imminent danger."

"To feel safety and comforted, that was a good feeling."

### Education and Training Program

The Education and Training program works to create a coordinated community and systems response to domestic violence and sexual assault. The program utilizes community education, professional training and technical assistance in order to build public awareness and provide tools to the community that can be helpful in the response to domestic and sexual violence. Collaborative partnerships play a key role in the success of the program. Voices of victims and survivors, and a strong commitment to cultural competency, help to frame all aspects of our work. Womanspace professionals rely on the most accurate information, reliable research and best practice models in sharing critical information.

Our innovative primary violence prevention initiative, New Mexico Media Literacy Project, has continued to impress. We have worked with groups of children attending programs at Villa Victoria Academy, Y Scholars of Princeton YMCA, Girl Scout Troop 61283, Heart of NJ Council, YWCA Princeton Summer Camp and YMCA Trenton Summer Camp. Additionally we completed one cycle of presentations with Urban Promise, a mentoring and after school program in Trenton. With this group, the prevention educator worked with the older teens who act as mentors to the younger students. The project addresses how the media shapes our culture. Designed for students ages II - I5, this curriculum empowers individuals to better determine their own values and to make personal choices for their individual well-being. It meets multiple core curriculum standards for Wellness, Integrated Skills, Drugs and Medicines, Human Relationships and Sexuality ensuring its position as a valuable tool for all educational venues. This year, the Media Literacy Project will continue to expand services. Womanspace additionally trains teachers, counselors or other school/program staff in order to build and sustain the successes of the curriculum.

Training programs on a variety of topics including: The Dynamics of Abuse and Control of Domestic Violence; Sexual Assault Dynamics; Domestic Violence Effects on Children; Dating Violence; Elder Abuse; Objectification of Women in the Media; Healthcare and Domestic Violence; Human Trafficking; Safety in the Workplace; Stalking; Technology and Violence; are available to professional audiences and community education speakers are provided for those agencies, businesses, associations or organizations who request a Womanspace advocate or specially trained volunteer to speak about agency programs and services at a meeting or event.

### AGENCY-WIDE EDUCATION AND TRAINING SERVICES FY 2021 STATISTICS:

### **EDUCATION CATEGORY PARTICIPANTS**

Professional Training and Education Services	288
Community Education Services	932
Total Community Members Educated and Professionally Trained	1,501
Community Events	
DV/SA Response Team Training.	290

### Community Education/Professional Training & Media Literacy Feedback:

- "I really like that I can express myself."
- "I can vent with confidence."
- "It made such a strong impact on my life."
- "I learned that the red flags can start very early on but they may seem unnoticeable."
- "I learned the differences between abusive and dysfunctional relationships and how to identify them."



We are very fortunate to have a very active Volunteer Program, comprised of over 400 generous individuals and organizations who contribute their time and expertise to assist the agency and our clients. Some of the volunteer opportunities include response team members for domestic violence and/or sexual assault victims, home schooling, computer and technical assistance, community education, legal consulting, fundraising, community events and holiday projects. The agency newsletter "Womanspace News" helps to keep volunteers informed of the activities within the agency. These dedicated volunteers are our most active supporters.

### Volunteer Hours July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021

Internships - 852 hours

Administrative Services

Administration - 172 hours Events – 478 hours

Committees - 327 hours

**EMERGENCY SERVICES** 

Residential Services - 57 hours

BARBARA'S HOUSE

Special Projects - 3 hours

YOUNG ADULT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Training – 4I hours

Counseling & Support Services

Legal Clinic – 3 hours Municipal Courts – 270 hours Client Support – 28 hours Education & Training - 6

SEXUAL ASSAULT

Accompaniments – 67 hours

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIM RESPONSE TEAMS

Callouts – 225 hours

COMBINED SEXUAL ASSAULT & DVVRT TRAININGS

Training – 1,501 hours

Total Volunteer Hours Reported – 3,760 Hours –

### SCHOOL & COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER GROUPS

ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA LAWRENCE HIGH SCHOOL RIVER HORSE BREWERY BARNES & NOBLE PRINCETON THE LAWRENCEVILLE SCHOOL RUTGERS UNIVERSITY **BLO-OUT HAIR SALON** McCaffrey's Princeton & West Windsor **RWJ** FOUNDATION BRISTOL-MYERS SQUIBB MERCER COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**BWN**ICE MERCER COUNTY EDUCATION ASSOCIATION CHRISTINE'S HOPE FOR KIDS Mt. Sinai Church, Trenton

Church & Dwight MUSIC FOR ALL SEASONS THE COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY NASSAU PRESBYTERIAN

DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE Novo Nordisk

DELTA GEMS OF DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY Notre Dame High School

Drum & Dance Learning Center ONE-EYED TURTLE

GLORIA NILSON REALTORS - ROBBINSVILLE & PAYMENT MANAGEMENT PRINCETON

PENNINGTON QUALITY MARKET Hamilton Square Presbyterian Church PRINCETON UNITARIAN CHURCH HOPEWELL VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

PRINCETON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH JANSSEN PHARMACEUTICALS PRINCETON UNIVERSITY SHARE OFFICE J. KNIPPER & COMPANY

RIDER UNIVERSITY

St. George's Greek Church - Philoptochos SOCIETY

St. James Church Pennington

St. Mark United Methodist Church

Sandoz SHISEIDO

SOUTH BRUNSWICK COMMISSION ON WOMEN

STUART COUNTRY DAY TERHUNE ORCHARDS

TRINITY CATHEDRAL, TRENTON WHAT'S MY NAME FOUNDATION Weidel Realtors – Princeton

WEST WINDSOR PLAINSBORO HIGH SCHOOL

NORTH & SOUTH



### A NEW VISION OF WOMANSPACE: DISMANTLING RACISM AND REALIZING A JUST ORGANIZATION

Womanspace was awarded a grant from the Division on Woman (DOW) to create and implement a comprehensive Antiracism Project. A timely award as our Strategic Plan goal included such a project and the pandemic had put plans on hold for a while. With the support of DOW we had the ability to revisit our plan this year. Our first step was to hire an expert to help lead us in achieving our goals. Sandra Ewell, founder of Common Ground Institute and expert in the field of Diversity, Equity Inclusion and Accessibility (DEIA) became our partner and guide in the process.

We launched our project in March 2021, inviting our community partners, Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault agencies and all Womanspace staff and Board to join us for a two-hour workshop featuring Professor Ibram X. Kendi, author of "How to be an Antiracist" and Dr. Michelle Harper, author of "The Beauty in Breaking". The event was attended by 140 colleagues. Our belief is that sharing resources and coordinating with our community can result in a more just environment and lead to more opportunities for equality and accessibility. Our primary goal is to ensure that Womanspace and all our services are welcoming and accessible to everyone who contacts us or walks in our door.

Since the launch event, all staff have participated in a workshop by Colsaria Henderson, Board President on the Partnership to End Domestic Violence in California and a recognized expert in the juxtaposition of antiracism and the provision of services to victims and survivors of interpersonal violence. In addition, all staff have participated in small group experiences, led by Sandy Ewell where their own stories and experiences in the area of racism were heard and validated. The leadership team also met with Colsaria to explore the critical issue of policies and procedures that set the stage for equity and antiracism. Sandy met with program specific leadership to explore current procedures and begin to shift any current process that doesn't elevate the importance of equity for both staff and clients.

Working with the leadership team, Sandy helped us to craft our first Antiracism Position Statement which will be prominent in our official agency materials, such as our Annual Report and all agency Policy and Procedure Manuals. We will use social media to share our position with our followers just as this article will introduce our position to our supporters.

We presented our Action Plan to the Division on Women, outlining our plan to project the Antiracism Project well into the future of Womanspace and to make our position on antiracism clear integral in all we do. Upcoming in the plan is to continue with small groups for agency leaders, facilitated by Sandy. In the Fall, Sandy will facilitate a retreat for the Board of Directors focused on our Antiracism Project and the Board's key role in keeping our position in the forefront of agency activity. Our Fall Advisory Council meeting will also feature aspects of this project and Domestic Violence Response Team training and all future trainings will include antiracism in their content.

Adopting an Antiracist Position is critical in making a public statement of our intent to prioritize a fair and just organizational perspective. The impact is far reaching and underscores our intent to meet the needs of clients, staff, Board, volunteers and our supporters. Personnel issues, hiring, recruitment for Board and volunteers, screening of clients...everything is impacted by a position that understands and respects the uniqueness of each of us.

As we plan into the future we will include activities like book discussions, film festivals, in-service trainings that both engage and teach. We are grateful to the Division on Women for providing this opportunity and to the all the experts and teachers from whom we will continue to learn. But as is always true, we learn from you, from our clients, from each other. It is the openness with which we approach our work and the willingness to listen to each other that allows for the best learning opportunities. We are committed to that ongoing learning process. The antiracism work goes on and will be integrated into all our operations. Watch for aspects of the Antiracism Project in all we do.

And if you care to join us on this journey, a list of books is below, both non-fiction and fiction that may challenge your ideas about what it means to be antiracist. The list is not all inclusive by any means...feel free to do you own research and find the learning process that works best for you. Drop us an email at info@womanspace.org and let us know what you think of your book(s).

A final thank you to the Division on Women, to the Board of Directors of Womanspace and all the Staff and Volunteers who have taught us and who support us. This has been and continues to be a complete team effort.

### SOME SUGGESTED READING ON THE TOPIC OF ANTIRACISM

How to be AN ANTIRACIST, Ibram X. Kendi

BEAUTY IN THE BREAKING, Dr. Michelle Harper

THE BLUEST EYE, Toni Morrison

THE ABSOLUTE TRUE DIARY OF A PART TIME INDIAN, Sherman Alexie

THE HELP, Kathryn Stockett

HIDDEN FIGURES, Margot Lee Shetterly

White Fragility (why its so hard for white people to talk about

RACISM), Robin Diangelo

NEVER LOOK BACK, Lillian Rivera

BORN A CRIME, Trevor Noah

WOMEN OF BREWSTER PLACE, Gloria Naylor

THE NEW JIM CROW, Michelle Alexander

# Communities of Light











### 1977-2021 Serving Mercer County

Women	99,882
Children	15,860
Men*	7,062
Hotline Callers.	299,803
Total People served 1977-2021.	402,654
Community Members Educated & Professionals Trained	150,815

All numbers include sexual assault statistics beginning in 2002

\*Statistics for male victims beginning in 2001



Womanspace, Inc.
www.womanspace.org
Like us on Facebook
Follow us on Twitter @WomanspaceInc
Follow us on Instagram: WomanspaceInc

#### ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

Crisis Intervention Teams, Education, Outreach & Training 1530 Brunswick Ave., Lawrenceville, NJ 08648 Phone: I-609-394-0136 Fax: I-609-396-1093

> BARBARA AND HERB GOODFRIEND COUNSELING CENTER I 530 Brunswick Avenue Lawrenceville, NJ 08648

> > I-609-394-2532

MERCER COUNTY 24-HOUR HOTLINES

Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault I-609-394-9000

Womanspace is friendly to the Deaf community. Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals please text us 24/7 at (609) 619-1888

> New Jersey Statewide Domestic Violence Hotline I-800-572-SAFE (7233)

For more information, or to make a gift in any amount, contact us:

Lauren Nazarian, Director of Development

I-609-394-0136

lan@womanspace.org

Womanspace affirms its commitment to cultural competency. We recognize and value the ethnic, religious and racial richness of our communities, and encourage mutual respect and understanding among all people. True excellence in our organization and communities results from identifying, serving and enlisting the participation of all people who represent this rich diversity.

Womanspace is a member of the New Jersey Coalition against Sexual Assault, the National Coalition to End Domestic Violence and the New Jersey Coalition Against Human Trafficking.