

Our history

In 1976, a landmark meeting was held in Chicago to address the crisis of abused women. The result of this meeting was the formation of a task force that ultimately became Chicago Abused Women Coalition — now known as Connections for Abused Women and their Children (CAWC).

A year after this historic meeting, our organization established the first domestic violence hotline in Chicago. In 1979, we opened the first shelter for battered women and their children.

Throughout the '80s and '90s, we expanded our programs to include community-based outreach services in Humboldt Park, and at Stroger Hospital and Haymarket Center.

We also added specialized services for children who've witnessed domestic violence. And we've been providing educational programs on domestic violence to schools, faith-based groups and others in the community, as well as training for professionals and volunteers. CAWC also hosts a monthly cable TV call-in show on CANTV.

Today, CAWC is a leader in addressing domestic violence in the Chicago area by providing life-saving support, education and advocacy to more than 3,600 victims and their children each year.



Hospital Crisis
Intervention Project (HCIP)
1901 W. Harrison St.
312.433.2390

Humboldt Park
Outreach Program (HPOP)
1116 N. Kedzie, 5th floor
773.489.9081

Greenhouse Shelter
24-hour Hotline:
773.278.4566
24-hour TTY Hotline:
773.278.4114

CAWC
Administration
1116 N. Kedzie, 5th floor
Chicago, IL 60651
773.489.9081
www.cawc.org

If you or someone you know needs help, call our 24-hour Hotline.

Connections for Abused Women and their Children (CAWC) believes that all people have a right to violence-free lives. We believe that abusive acts are acts of power and control that the victim does not provoke, enjoy or deserve. We believe that all people have the right to be treated with dignity and respect. We believe that victims of abuse can regain control of their lives through appropriate support services, information and referral to community services.

Rebuilding Lives, Renewing Hope.



Understanding domestic violence

Each day, in every Chicago neighborhood rich or poor, within every ethnic group and culture, women and their children are being victimized by domestic violence.

Some people think that, for domestic violence to take place, a woman must be slapped, punched or kicked. But physical assault is just one example of domestic abuse.

Domestic violence happens when one person seeks to control or dominate another. This can include making threats, name-calling,

preventing contact with family or friends, withholding medication or money, stalking and forced sex.

In addition to the impact of this violence on women, domestic violence is especially damaging to children who witness the abuse. Not only is their own personal safety threatened, but this exposure affects their ability to learn, establish relationships with others, and cope with stress.



“For the first time in years, I was able to sleep through the night knowing we were safe.” Abrill Jones, age 17

How CAWC helps

CAWC is committed to ending domestic violence. Using a self-help, empowerment approach, we provide counseling, advocacy, and a 24-hour Hotline for people affected by domestic violence, including a shelter for women and children. We work for social change through education, service collaboration and institutional advocacy.

To help abused women and their children, our bilingual and culturally diverse staff provide help through a variety of programs and confidential services, free of charge. Victims of domestic violence can receive:

- Individual and group counseling
- Life skills training in goal setting, budgeting and safety planning
- Housing, income, employment and educational information
- Legal advocacy including court orders and immigration
- Specialized services for children who have witnessed domestic violence to help break the cycle of violence in families

Our programs

Greenhouse Shelter

Our shelter provides a safe and supportive home to women and their children (up to the age of 18) of many different cultures, speaking many different languages. Stays at Greenhouse are up to 120 days.

Humboldt Park Outreach Program (HPOP)

This domestic violence program in Humboldt Park is available to women and their children by appointment or through walk-ins. On-site counseling services are also provided to women at Haymarket Center.

Hospital Crisis Intervention Project (HCIP)

Housed at Stroger Hospital, HCIP provides crisis intervention, counseling, advocacy and referrals for domestic violence victims seeking health care at the Hospital. Referrals are made through health care providers. We also train medical professionals on how to identify and assist patients who are being abused.

How you can help

Helping our clients

CAWC is an approved Illinois Certified Domestic Violence Professional training site and conducts 40-hour domestic violence training for social service professionals and potential volunteers. We offer training to people who want to work directly with victims of domestic violence, either in person or through our 24-hour Hotline. To learn more, please call CAWC's Volunteer and Education Coordinator at 773.489.9081, ext. 22.

Donations

We always welcome individual, memorial and planned giving. We also encourage companies to help through event sponsorships, in-kind donations and matching gifts. Companies and organizations can also help by sponsoring a particular program or family. To view our "Wish List" of needed supplies, donate online or Adopt-A-Family, visit www.cawc.org. For more information, please call 773-489-9081 ext. 21 to speak to our Development Department.

CAWC is a 501(c)(3) organization. Contributions are fully tax-deductible to the amount allowed by law. CAWC enjoys a broad base of support from government, corporations, foundations, United Way and individual contributions.