



CAWC

Connections for Abused
Women *and their Children*
Rebuilding Lives, Renewing Hope.

ANNUAL REPORT 2022



GREETINGS FRIENDS OF CAWC,

Celebrating milestones is always a great time for reflection. **CAWC commemorates 45 years of providing domestic violence services to adults and children in the Chicagoland area.** Occasions like this are inspiring and uplifting.

Since 1977, we have marveled at what started as a kitchen table conversation about what could be done to help women and children, is now an organization that has expanded in numerous ways to meet the complex needs of victims/survivors of domestic violence. **For 45 years we have made an impact on how Chicago addresses domestic violence through our unique and forward-thinking programming.** Our history and reputation speak for themselves as CAWC continues to be a leader in this field.

The lofty goal of our mission to end domestic violence can feel overwhelming, but we are proud to be making a tangible difference in the lives of the people we serve. **It is inspiring to witness their strength, determination, and drive – it is what keeps us working hard towards our goal.**

Many thanks to our dedicated CAWC staff, both client-facing and those working behind the scenes. We are honored to have you on our team to do this important work!

We THANK each donor for being on this journey with us. While most aspects of pre-pandemic life are slowly beginning to return to “normal,” the need for domestic violence services continues to increase. CAWC is there for those who need us in their most challenging times, and we couldn’t do so without your continued support of our life-saving services.

Sarah Krauszer, CAWC’s Board President, and I are proud to showcase this year’s CAWC Annual Report filled with success stories and program highlights. **We look forward to our continued partnership through gifts of time, expertise and advocacy, and in-kind and financial donations on behalf of CAWC clients. We thank you and our clients thank you.**

Warm regards,

Stephanie Love-Patterson
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Sarah Krauszer
BOARD PRESIDENT

45 YEARS OF ADVOCACY



Stephanie Love-Patterson and Sarah Krauszer

For 45 years, we have made an impact on how Chicago addresses domestic violence through our unique and forward-thinking programming. Our history and reputation speak for themselves as CAWC continues to be a leader in this field.

Throughout our history, CAWC has been a consistent advocate for domestic violence victims, ensuring our legislators hear the voices of those affected by one of our country's most dangerous public health crises. In FY 2022, we were active in many ongoing legislative measures necessary to protect victims and survivors of domestic violence.

September 2021

Gabby Petito is reported missing and later found dead. CAWC calls for better domestic violence training for police forces after body cam footage is released.

March 2022

CAWC works with senator Dick Durbin to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act and to include necessary gun violence protection legislation.

February 2022

CAWC advocates for higher Illinois budget funding for domestic violence programs.

May 2022

Roe v. Wade is overturned. CAWC begins advocating for national abortion access protection.

OUR MISSION

Connections for Abused Women and their Children (CAWC) is committed to ending domestic violence. Using a self-help, empowerment approach, we provide a shelter for adults and children, counseling, advocacy, and a 24-hour hotline for people affected by domestic violence. We work for social change through education, service collaboration, and institutional advocacy.

OUR HISTORY & IMPACT

In 1976, a landmark meeting was held by a community of Chicago residents to address the rising crisis of abuse. In response, this community organized a task force that ultimately became the domestic violence agency known today as Connections for Abused Women and their Children (CAWC). After securing not-for-profit status in 1977, **we became the first domestic violence agency in Chicago and in FY 2022, we celebrated our 45th anniversary.**

As an organization committed to ending domestic violence, CAWC understands that the most effective way to influence change is to heal the cycle of violence at its core – that is why we have innovative domestic violence services to break systemic barriers in the justice system, healthcare system, and other social programs. Now, CAWC's services can be accessed across the Chicagoland area through our multiple outreach programs and emergency services, allowing us to provide victims with necessary resources at critical points of healing.

On average, it takes a victim of domestic violence seven attempts to successfully leave an abusive relationship. Each of our programs works to make this journey to safety easier, providing access to trauma-informed therapy, children's services, legal support, safety planning, life skills classes, and more, for clients experiencing abuse. One of our essential goals is to help empower clients and build their self-esteem to succeed in rebuilding their lives.

*Thank you so much! I appreciate all of your dedication to me and will never forget all of the guidance you have given me! I am so grateful for all of the resources and help with my [order of protection] case.
I am very proud of myself!*

– CAWC Client

FY22 IN REVIEW

Over 3 million victims of domestic violence are estimated to live in Illinois.

according to The Network: Advocating Against Domestic Violence.

CAWC in FY22:

1,024

clients served

852

adults served

172

children served

24,803

hours of direct service

3,084

community members received professional or public domestic violence education

In FY 2022, through our four programs – Greenhouse Shelter, the Hospital Crisis Intervention Project, the Humboldt Park Outreach Program, and Domestic Violence Services at Haymarket Center – and Children’s Services, CAWC was able to reach over one thousand victims as well as educate thousands of community members.

All our work was made possible by our donors.

Though the need is high, we are grateful to partner with you to ensure our doors remain open for each victim in need.



Buddy’s HELPERS | April 2022

OUR PROGRAMS

All our services are free, confidential, trauma-informed, and client-led.



Humboldt Park Outreach Program (HPOP)

Located in the heart of Humboldt Park, HPOP provides core, comprehensive services to victims of domestic violence on a walk-in or appointment basis. **CAWC takes pride in the community that we serve,** ensuring we provide culturally sensitive, bilingual (Spanish/English) services that are inclusive and accessible for many victims in need.

As one of the few **providers of comprehensive bilingual and bicultural core domestic violence services in Chicago,** our staff are well-equipped to advise clients about their options at any stage of healing.

Whether a client is looking for counseling and group therapy, a legal order of protection, or is just beginning their journey to safety, our counselors and legal advocates have the skills and resources to help fulfill their goals and empower them through recovery.

4,532

hours of service

74

orders of protection

*Court went good this morning! Got unsupervised visits with my baby!
I would like to continue DV counseling even though I completed my
sessions. I appreciate your help!*

– CAWC Client



Greenhouse Shelter, Emergency Shelter Program, and Multi-Disciplinary Team for Victims of Domestic Violence



Greenhouse Shelter, Chicago's first domestic violence shelter, is also one of the largest in the city. **With 42 beds, CAWC houses almost 30% of available shelter beds in Chicago. There is rarely a day when beds are empty.** Providing safe refuge and a welcoming home for adults and children experiencing abuse, Greenhouse Shelter staff partner with our residents to help support them toward a life free from violence.

Like our Humboldt Park Outreach Program, Greenhouse Shelter houses multilingual and multicultural services for broader accessibility and sensitivity to personal experiences. Group therapy, individual counseling, and life skills classes help residents develop the knowledge and skill sets necessary to heal their trauma and work towards self-reliance.

As a result of CAWC's services and assistance during their residency, **98% of adult clients and 92% of children increased their safety by being able to identify safety strategies to protect themselves in a domestic violence situation.**

provided **14,871**
nights of safe housing

answered **2,400**
emergency hotline calls



Children's Services

Children's development is very fragile – witnessing or experiencing abuse not only affects their day to day, but also shapes their views of relationships as they age. Domestic violence, whether targeted at a parent or the child themselves, can also impact their ability to learn or deal with stress.

CAWC's children's services are housed at HPOP and Greenhouse Shelter locations, while remaining available for our other programs. There, **Family Trauma Therapists and Children's Advocates meet with children to provide critical individual or group counseling services** to appropriately address beliefs and behavioral issues caused by domestic violence **as well as introduce safety planning techniques for future incidents of violence.**

Greenhouse Shelter also has an Art Therapist on staff to help explore children's emotions in safe, productive ways.



95% of children receiving HPOP services reported understanding that the abuse is not their fault

The Family Trauma Therapist provided trauma treatment services to **40** children residing in Greenhouse Shelter



Domestic Violence Services at Haymarket Center

Domestic violence intersects with many other public health issues, including substance abuse. CAWC's Domestic Violence services at Haymarket Center, one of the largest substance abuse treatment centers in Illinois, intervene to support clients with comprehensive care so they don't have to choose which issue to address. Because of the high need for our services at Haymarket, CAWC welcomed a new Counselor Advocate to address this growing issue.

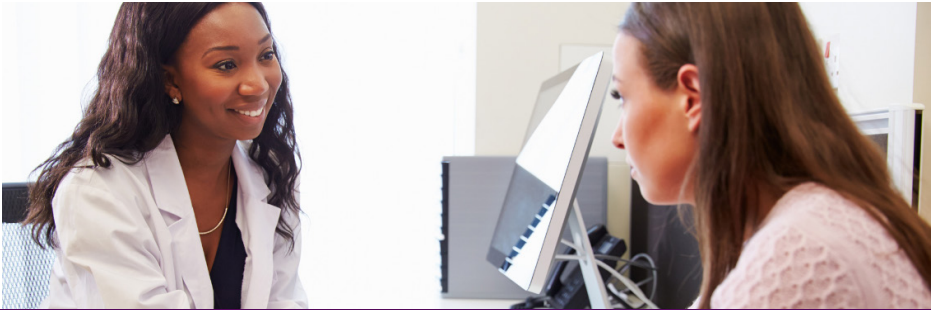
Our Haymarket team supports residents with weekly education groups and appropriate counseling to address the linked patterns of domestic and substance abuse, teach them how to foster healthy relationships, and empower them towards a healthier, safer life. Our team also conducts education for Haymarket staff to ensure they are well-equipped to meet all residents' psychosocial and rehabilitative needs.

106
clients served

98% of adult clients reported that they learned strategies for keeping themselves safe during future incidents of violence

*The kids and I moved out of the recovery home and into an apartment!
And I'm a couple weeks away from being a year sober! Thank you for
being part of my growth and recovery!*

– CAWC Client



Hospital Crisis Intervention Project (HCIP)

Located at John H. Stroger Hospital and Northwestern Memorial Hospitals, **HCIP staff work towards a domestic violence-informed healthcare system by educating healthcare providers about domestic violence and providing quality direct service to patients experiencing domestic violence** at the critical time they reach out for care.

Healthcare providers learn how to screen for domestic violence, assess the situation, and refer patients to appropriate resources. HCIP Counselor Advocates are there, on site, to provide our quality services bedside or by appointment. Among these services and public outreach programs, HCIP plays a major role in our mission to end domestic violence.



Provided domestic violence services to **149** patients who screen positive for domestic violence and are referred to our program

Provided public education to **2,513** patients, healthcare providers, and community members

CLIENT STORY

Sandra, a Nurse Practitioner in the OB/GYN Clinic at Northwestern Memorial Hospital, reached out to CAWC's HCIP Counselor Advocates to consult about a patient she suspected was experiencing domestic violence in her intimate relationship. Sandra explained **the patient's partner always attended the appointments in-person, making it impossible for her to properly screen the patient for domestic violence and provide appropriate resources as needed.**

The HCIP counselor then worked with the OB/GYN Medical Team and Northwestern's security personnel to determine a safe plan to escort the patient to a safe, private location where the counselor would be waiting to screen her for domestic violence. **Once safely escorted to the counselor, the patient, Mariana*, disclosed that she was experiencing physical and sexual violence** at the hands of her intimate partner, pregnant with her second child, and prohibited from working by her abuser so she had no income or resources. **Mariana informed the counselor that she was ready to flee the relationship.**

The counselor and Northwestern's team securely brought Mariana to HCIP's private offices without her abuser knowing she left the appointment. Mariana worked with the counselor to complete the intake process for a placement at CAWC's Greenhouse Shelter and to coordinate a safe meet-up with her babysitter to bring her eldest child before going together to the shelter.

Once **Mariana and her child arrived at Greenhouse Shelter**, she was greeted by the warm and welcoming Greenhouse team, offered essential items from donations, **and connected with a Domestic Violence Counselor Advocate who provided her with regular counseling, psychoeducation, resources, and connection to a transitional housing program.**

After three months at the Greenhouse Shelter, **Mariana had secured a new job and moved into her new apartment with her daughter where they created a safe and warm environment for her and her children to thrive in together.**

**Client's name has been changed to protect confidentiality.*



YOU MADE IT POSSIBLE

Annually, CAWC holds our **Adopt A Family Program** where our donors grant three holiday wishes for a client and their children! Check out the before and after of 2021's amazing turnout!

BEFORE



AFTER



By getting involved with CAWC, you make it possible for us to support every victim of domestic violence that comes to our door or calls our hotline.

Whether you are interested in monetary contributions, in-kind donations, or direct service volunteering, we would love to connect with you.

Please call 773.489.9081 or email info@cawc.org to learn more.

Family Donation | November 2021

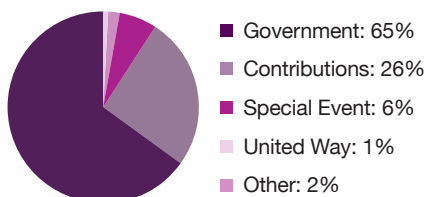
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

CAWC is a financially stable nonprofit organization thanks to the generosity of our donors, a diversified funding base, and diligent efforts to keep overhead costs low. CAWC maintains a 6-month cash reserve. Our \$1 million endowment provides additional income and liquidity. This fiscal year, 79% of CAWC's expenses were for programs to serve domestic violence survivors.

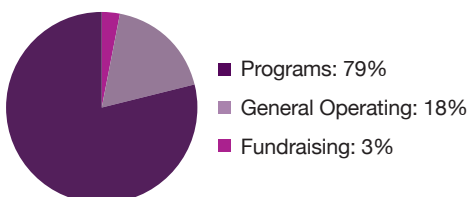
As of June 30, 2022

ASSETS	Unrestricted	Restricted	2022
Current Assets:			
Cash & cash equivalents	\$ 735,793.84	\$1,817,371.04	\$2,553,164.88
Investments	\$1,267,849.61	\$ 26,899.90	\$1,294,749.51
Grant & contract receivable	\$1,048,269.39		\$1,048,269.39
Prepaid & deposits	\$ 129,437.57		\$ 129,437.57
Total Current Assets:	\$3,181,350.41	\$1,844,270.94	\$5,025,621.35
Fixed Assets	\$ 153,668.31		\$ 153,668.31
Total Assets:	\$3,335,018.72	\$1,844,270.94	\$5,179,289.66
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	Unrestricted	Restricted	2022
Current Liabilities:			
Accounts payable	\$ 69,768.14		\$ 69,768.14
Accrued expenses	\$ 104,902.01		\$ 104,902.01
Total Current Liabilities:	\$ 174,670.15		\$ 174,670.15
Net Assets:			
Unrestricted	\$1,892,498.96		\$1,892,498.96
Board designated	\$1,267,849.61		\$1,267,849.61
Unrestricted		\$1,844,270.94	\$1,844,270.94
Total Net Assets:	\$3,160,348.57	\$1,844,270.94	\$5,004,619.51
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$3,335,018.72	\$1,844,270.94	\$5,179,289.66

REVENUE: \$3,472,559.94



EXPENSES: \$3,748,540.08



OUR DONORS OVER \$500

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GOVERNMENT AND UNITED WAY

Alliance of Local Service Organizations (ALSO)	Illinois Department of Human Services
- CAWC Collaboration for a Safer Humboldt Park Project	The Network - Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding
Chicago Police Department 14 District CAPS	U.S. Department of Homeland Security - Emergency Food & Shelter Program
Department of Family & Support Services - City of Chicago	U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD)
Illinois Attorney General	United Way of Metropolitan Chicago
Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence	

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