

We are pleased to present the REACH  
annual report for fiscal year 2020

Truly a (fiscal) year like no other.

As we approach the launch of our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, we look back on 12 months of loss, learning, pain, progress, and pivots. Back in July 2019, we viewed FY20 as a year of opportunity. Lots of good work had been done toward our strategic goals, and we looked ahead to initiatives and events that would continue to move our work forward in innovative ways, drawing on the strengths of survivors and communities.

In FY20, the *Reach for the Stars* gala was a tremendous success. In that grand ballroom at the Park Plaza, we heard the voices of volunteers, community partners, supporters, and survivors, all sharing what REACH and their own work to prevent and end domestic violence means to them. We hosted a boisterous holiday gathering for families and, with the help of so many, provided personalized gifts for almost 300 families.

In March, the world changed. Since then, we have hosted virtual meetings and fundraisers, and our holiday gift program featured envelopes full of gift cards – still such a meaningful expression of love and belief in a brighter tomorrow.

Through it all, the work continued. And so did your commitment to ensuring that it did. Individual donors and corporate sponsors, community foundations and faith communities – you all continued to support reaching beyond domestic violence.

We believe that change is possible and that we are in this work together. This work is about healthy relationships and dismantling imbalances of power; it is about racism, heterosexism, transphobia, ableism, sexism, ageism – working with and toward the kindness and respect we want to see in the world. And this is why how we do our work matters. Every day.

Thank you for reaching with us.

Laura R. Van Zandt  
Executive Director

Stephen B. Reed  
President, REACH Board of Directors



Photo: Kelly Sikkema



REACH serves more than  
7,000 people annually,  
including women, men, people of all  
races and ethnicities, survivors of all  
ages, and people who are LGBTQ.

Board of Directors as of 4/1/2021

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Nancy Teeven  
Vilma Uribe  
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Thank you to the following individuals for their  
Board Service during FY20

Barry Guryan  
M'Baye NDiaye  
Jordan Walder *Board Fellow*

Senior Management Team

Laura R. Van Zandt *Executive Director*  
Jean Doliber *Director of Development*  
Deborah Heimel *Associate Executive Director*  
Maria Pizzimenti *Director of Advocacy*  
Jessica L. Teperow *Director of Prevention Programs*

We acknowledge the legacy of **Henryce Jackson-Gumes**,  
our Director of Residential Programs, who passed away  
in September 2020. Her work will live on in our hearts.



Communities  
served in 2020:

ACTON	CONCORD	WALTHAM
ARLINGTON	DEDHAM	WATERTOWN
BEDFORD	LEXINGTON	WAYLAND
BELMONT	LINCOLN	WELLESLEY
BILLERICA	LITTLETON	WESTON
BOXBOROUGH	MAYNARD	WILMINGTON
OUGH	NEEDHAM	WINCHESTER
BURLINGTON	NEWTON	WOBURN
BROOKLINE	READING	
CARLISLE	SUDBURY	



Photo: Syre for Ebony



# REACH

Beyond Domestic Violence | Annual Report FY2020

Creating Space for **Refuge**, **Education**, **Advocacy**, and **CH**ange

Photo: Jean David





# OUR VALUES

We are all in this together.

We care for ourselves and one another.

How we do our work matters.

We believe change is possible.

**At REACH, we believe** that social norms and individual behaviors can be changed through education and practice, at individual and community levels. Over the past year, and for the past 40 years, we have risen to meet the moment.

Our organizational values include the statement that became a mantra around the world: **We are all in this together.** During FY20, we lived this value before the pandemic and as it erupted. For almost the first three quarters of fiscal year 2020, we engaged with you — in ballrooms and boardrooms, in churches, temples, public safety buildings, and offices. We were in classrooms, in court, at housing authorities, in attorneys' offices, and in health centers. Standing with survivors, partnering with communities, doing this work together. Last March, everything changed. As we stood in the lobby of our wonderful office, we hoped that we would be back soon. We didn't know then that "soon" would last for more than a year.

Closing our physical office hasn't prevented us from continuing our work. During that challenging 4th quarter of FY20, we were able to:

- Provide our **training virtually** and create **educational videos** that are accessible and easy to share
- Launch an **online chat** so survivors and family members can still access support even if it is not safe for them to make a phone call
- **Deliver supplies** such as gift cards, backpacks, food, toiletries, and diapers to survivors in a safe way
- **Facilitate support groups virtually** so survivors can remain connected during such an isolating time
- **Move the guests** in our shelter to hotel rooms that are more conducive to social distancing

Your ongoing generous support enabled REACH to take several bold moves in response to the pandemic and the growing dangers faced by survivors and families working with us. Thank you.

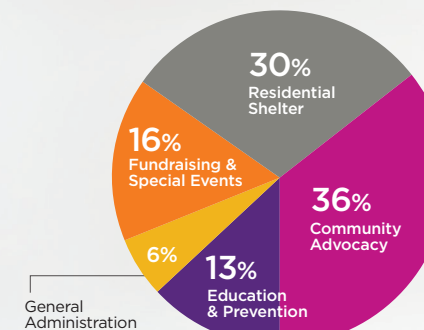
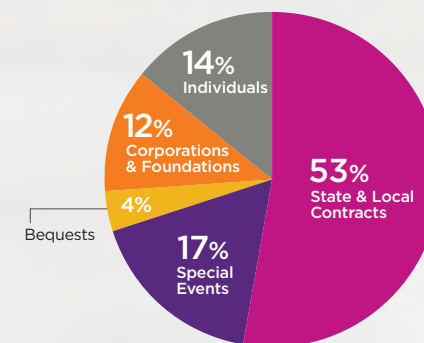
## FY2020 Highlights

### Revenue

State & Local Contracts	\$1,395,828
Special Events	\$442,667
Bequests	\$100,000
Corporations & Foundations	\$399,739
Individuals	\$383,639
Other	\$564
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$2,722,437</b>

### Expenses

Community Advocacy	\$976,215
Education & Prevention	\$347,826
General Administration	\$156,962
Fundraising & Special Events	\$542,827
Residential Shelter	\$818,802
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$2,842,632</b>



Donor support helped REACH to:

Provide **5,344** bed nights at our emergency shelter

Answer **1,385** hotline calls

Accompany **178** individuals to court, providing legal advocacy and safety planning for survivors of domestic violence

Facilitate **1,596** trainings with adults in the community

Advocate with and provide support for **301** adults

Lead healthy relationship workshops with **4,402** students

All of this and more is made possible with the generosity and support of our partners and donors. Thank you.

To view a complete list of donors, please use the camera on your phone to scan this code.



## A HISTORY OF CHANGE 1963-2021

**1963:** Betty Friedan authors *The Feminist Mystique*

**1971:** Women's Advocates, the first known domestic violence consciousness raising group, is founded in Minnesota

**1972:** The first domestic violence shelters open in California, Arizona, and Minnesota

**1974:** First Boston area domestic violence programs open (Transition House, RESPOND Inc., and Casa Myrna Vasquez)

**1976:** Nebraska is the first state to make marital rape a crime

**1978:** National Coalition Against Domestic Violence is established and the Massachusetts statewide coalition founded

**1981:** Waltham Battered Women Support Committee, Inc. (WBWSC) is founded by a committed group of volunteers who saw the need for domestic violence services in the western suburbs of Boston

**1981:** First annual Domestic Violence Awareness week

**1982:** National Coalition Against DV holds a second annual conference where race, class, and homophobia were central themes

**1983:** WBWSC opened its first shelter facility, providing a safe haven for victims of violence

**1984:** Lenore Walker writes *The Battered Women's Syndrome* discussing the "learned helplessness" theory

**1988:** The "battered women's syndrome" is first used as a defense for a lesbian killing her partner

**1989:** We become known as The Support Committee for Battered Women (SCBW)

Our shelter landlord goes bankrupt and auctions off the house without notifying residents or staff, publicizing the shelter's location and forcing residents to move out of state

**1992:** With the help of SCBW's co-founders, *The Second Step*, a transitional living program, opens its doors

**1993:** Marital rape is now a crime in all 50 states

**1994:** SCBW becomes a founding member of the Boston Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and/or Transgender Domestic Violence Coalition (GLBTDVC)

The SCBW hotline becomes toll-free

**1994:** Congress passes the Violence Against Women Act which funds rape and domestic violence services

**1997:** October is proclaimed Domestic Violence Awareness Month

**1998:** The Waltham Police Department secures \$215,000 from the state to implement domestic violence prevention initiatives, allowing us to hire a part-time SCBW advocate

**Late 1990s:** Immigration and Naturalization Services begins to recognize domestic violence as grounds for asylum in the United States. President Clinton signs an anti-stalking law, which makes interstate stalking and harassment a federal offense

**Late 1990s:** SCBW starts accepting women with teenage sons into shelter

**2001:** In Massachusetts, legislation is passed that allows victims of violent and sexual crimes to give testimony at parole board hearings

**2002:** SCBW starts serving LGBTQ survivors and creates the Hope Project to look at the intersection of domestic violence with mental health, substance use, and transactional sex

**2003:** SCBW launches a \$2.5M capital campaign to fund a new shelter and community advocacy programs

**2004:** Our name is officially changed to REACH Beyond Domestic Violence (an acronym for Refuge, Education, Advocacy, and CHange)

**2005:** REACH launches our Peers Against ViolenceE (PAVE) program, providing in-class health education and leadership development to youth in an effort to prevent dating violence

**2005:** The Violence Against Women Act is reauthorized

**2010:** REACH completes renovations on our new shelter, doubling our support capacity

**2013:** Provisions are added to the Violence Against Women Act that address the specific needs of women of color, immigrants, and LGBTQ folks

**2015:** REACH receives a \$100,000 challenge gift from the New England Patriots Foundation. We work with various partners to create a Coordinated Community Response team (CCR) to handle cases of elder abuse in Waltham

**2016:** REACH is selected by the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office to serve as one of six domestic violence/sexual assault agencies in the state for their "Game Change" partnership with the New England Patriots to address teen dating violence

**2017:** REACH moves into a new office space, increasing our space by 6,500 square feet

**2018:** REACH launches a new strategic plan to support our long-term sustainability

REACH joins Congresswoman Katherine Clark to help pass the PAWS Act, which "expands federal domestic violence protections to include protection for the pets of domestic violence victims"

**2019:** We receive significant funding from Jane's Trust to expand our prevention and community engagement work. With their support, we hired a Volunteer Program Coordinator and developed a strategy for deepening community skill building in five communities

**2019:** The Violence Against Women Act is reauthorized and closes the "boyfriend loophole" by prohibiting those convicted of abusing, assaulting, or stalking a current or former dating partner from owning a firearm

**2020:** REACH adapts to the coronavirus pandemic by going remote and launching an online chat for survivors, as well as a webinar series to help educate our community

# 2021