



# ANNUAL REPORT 2023



REFUGE | EDUCATION | ADVOCACY | CHANGE

December 2023



Our FY23 annual report reflects a year of change for REACH Beyond Domestic Violence. Following frequent, thoughtful discussion and planning with internal and external stakeholders, we moved into the post-pandemic world with purpose. Our team transitioned smoothly back into the field. We warmly welcomed several new faces, new positions, and new leadership following Laura R. Van Zandt's inspiring and steadfast 18-year tenure.

Throughout it all, survivors have come first, with uninterrupted commitment. We are proud of everything we have accomplished this past year and are especially proud of our dedicated, compassionate team, who continue to support each other and meet survivors where they are—something at which REACH has always excelled.

We are immensely grateful to all the individual donors, corporate sponsors, foundations, community partners, faith communities, and many others that have played an invaluable role in keeping REACH programs accessible to the over 6,000 domestic violence survivors and community members whose lives we touched this past year.

In the year ahead, we will continue to institute change thoughtfully and with intention. As communities evolve, it is important for our team to evolve along with them. That means building our language capacity, broadening our areas of specialization, and bolstering our direct service teams, who have seen a significant increase in hotline calls and intakes.

We have already begun by creating new positions to:

- strengthen our clinical programs for children,
- adapt the successful Latinas Know Your Rights program to more communities, and
- provide increased legal support for survivors in the court system.

Our community partnerships and foundation grants have helped make these initial steps possible. We have more to do, and with your continued support, we will succeed in finding innovative ways to expand our reach.

We are also excited to announce that on Saturday, April 6, 2024, we will be celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our wonderful *Reach for the Stars Gala*. We hope you will attend! In the meantime, we have a strong board, a dedicated team, and a solid foundation as an effective service provider, advocate, and change agent in our communities. With determination, flexibility, and patience, there is no end to what we can accomplish together.

Thank you for reaching with us.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amarely Gutiérrez Oliver".

Amarely Gutiérrez Oliver  
Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen B. Reed".

Stephen B. Reed  
President, REACH Board of Directors





“Real change – *enduring change* –  
happens one step at a time.”

– Ruth Bader Ginsburg





# FY2023 Milestones

*At REACH, we believe change is possible –*  
**and it certainly was a year of change for us!**



Over the past 40+ years, we have worked with and supported communities to change social norms and individual behaviors through education and practice, at both the individual and community levels. We are proud of the tireless staff who have worked daily to support survivors and their families and to help bring this change to pass.

## Executive Director

After 18 years at the helm of REACH as Executive Director, **Laura R. Van Zandt transitioned out of her role in January 2023.** The board, working with the search firm Isaacson Miller, conducted a nationwide search, and **Amarely Gutiérrez Oliver was selected and joined the organization as the new Executive Director in March.**

## People and Culture Team

To continue the work in our strategic plan and our value of caring for ourselves and one another, the **People and Culture Team was formed to build out more support of our human resources efforts.**

Lauren Nackel transitioned from her work as Community Engagement Specialist to the Learning & Development Manager role with the goal of supporting both new and current staff in learning opportunities.

## Prevention & Education Team

**Shanice Douglas, Director of Prevention Programs and Sydney Carter, Community Engagement Coordinator, both started at REACH in October 2022.** They join Molly Pistrang-Gomes on the Prevention and Education team.

Molly has a new title — *Youth Education Program Manager*, with a new set of responsibilities. She is taking the lead on educational partnerships — pulling outward to develop strategies with schools around policies, social-emotional learning, skills teachers need, and what resources could be available.

Molly is also developing ways to incorporate measurement throughout what we do in the schools and use that measurement approach to design programs.

## Legal Representation Secured

One of the many things our Community and Shelter advocates do when working with survivors is going to court with them — for restraining orders, child custody and visitation, and so much more. We have needed and wanted to bring on a staff attorney for many years and with the generosity of the Cummings Foundation, Middlesex Savings Foundation, and the Boston Bar Foundation, we have entered into a **partnership with The Second Step and their Steps to Justice program** to provide an attorney who will work with our clients. This is a game changer to have legal representation for a survivor as they have often faced their abuser and the courts all alone.

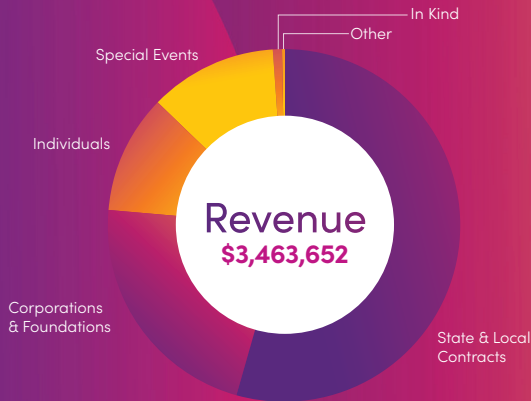
## Support Groups Return

After hosting support groups on Zoom during COVID, many of these groups came back in person in FY23. We started a new Parenting Journey group, a **12-week group that helps parents relieve stress, build support networks, and improve family outcomes.**

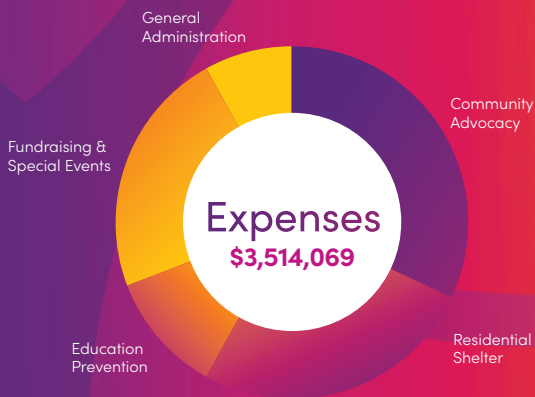


# FY2023 Financials

July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023



State & Local Contracts	\$1,891,532
Corporations & Foundations	\$760,323
Special Events	\$405,807
Individuals	\$370,456
In Kind	\$26,440
Other	\$9,094
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$3,463,652</b>



Community Advocacy	\$1,129,543
Residential Shelter	\$912,237
Fundraising & Special Events	\$799,295
Education & Prevention	\$391,407
General Administration	\$281,708
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$3,514,069</b>

# FY2023 Highlights



**1,604**

hotline calls answered



**4,256** bed nights at our emergency shelter provided



Led healthy relationship workshops and trainings with **3,789** adults and youth.



Advocated with and provided support for **310** adults.



**386** trainings facilitated with adults in the community



**82** adults and children attended support groups



**293** individuals received court accompaniment by our advocates

All of this and more is made possible with the generosity and support of our partners and donors. We can't thank you enough.

To view a complete list of our donors, please scan the code or visit [www.reachma.org](http://www.reachma.org)





## Board of Directors *(as of 12/31/23)*

Stephen Reed, Esq., *Chair*  
Elisa Filman, Esq., *Vice Chair*  
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Stephen R. Langlois  
Daniele Levy, Esq.  
Tony Martin  
Calah McQuarters, *Heller Board Fellow*  
Nancy Teeven

## Thank you to the following individuals for their Board Service during FY23

Ashleigh Hala  
Geraldine Gruvis-Pizarro  
Leann Sullivan

## Senior Management Team

Amarely Gutierrez Oliver, *Executive Director*  
Shanice Douglas, *Director of Prevention Programs*  
Maria Duffy, *Director of Development*  
Deborah Heimel, *Associate Executive Director*  
Pam Jordan, *Director of Community Advocacy*  
Isabel Rivera, *Director of Residential Programs*

**REACH serves more than 6,000 people annually, including women, men, people of all races and ethnicities, survivors of all ages, and people who are LGBTQ+.**

## Communities served in 2023:

Acton	Concord	Sudbury
Arlington	Dedham	Waltham
Bedford	Lexington	Watertown
Belmont	Lincoln	Wayland
Billerica	Littleton	Wellesley
Boxborough	Maynard	Weston
Burlington	Needham	Wilmington
Brookline	Newton	Winchester
Carlisle	Reading	Woburn

