

# WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER TO END DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



## HISTORY

In June of 1985, Gwendolyn Grimmette was working with the DeKalb County District Attorney to protect herself from an abusive ex-husband. Upon his release from jail, her former husband immediately tracked her down. One morning as she was leaving for work, he shot and killed her in the presence of their eleven-year-old son. That same month, Commissioner Sherry Schulman established the DeKalb County Domestic Violence Task Force to investigate the issue in our county. After several months of study, the Task Force determined a need for additional domestic violence resources, system changes, and a greater emphasis on community education. To meet that need, the county granted \$10,000 to create a victim service agency and the Women's Resource Center was born. Gwendolyn's daughter later grew up to be Pulitzer Prize-winner and former US Poet Laureate Natasha Trethewey, who remains a passionate supporter of our work.

## MISSION

Our mission is to create a society in which domestic violence no longer exists. We strive to meet the immediate and long-term needs of the diverse community of battered women and their children with programs that promote safety, compassion, connection, advocacy, and prevention.

WRCDV provides *compassionate* services to survivors of domestic violence and their children. We help families improve their *safety* and form *connections*, which serve as an essential support system. Our *advocacy* for survivors of domestic violence works to change the culture that allows abuse to thrive. And *advocacy*, coupled with our powerful work with children, facilitates *prevention* and ending domestic violence altogether.

## SERVICES

Each year, WRCDV provides direct services to more than 5,000 survivors of domestic violence. This includes:

- 4,700 calls to our domestic violence hotline
- 2,200 individuals provided with legal advocacy
- 800 individuals provided with community-based services, including safety planning
- 130 guests served in our emergency safe house
- 57 children enrolled in Camp PEACE
- \$481,253 provided in financial assistance to DV survivors
- 53 families provided with supervised visitation or safe exchange of children at Nia's Place
- 9 families receiving transitional housing support for up to three years
- 2,900 individuals reached with information about domestic violence through community education campaigns

## FUNDING

WRCDV receives public funding through grants from the US Department of Justice, Georgia Criminal Justice Coordinating Council and DeKalb County. Other sources of funding including support of our Cheers to Champions virtual fundraisere, individual and corporate support, private foundation grants and in-kind donations. Our funding is broken down as follows:

- Public Funding - 77%
- Special Events - 8%
- Individual & Corporate - 9%
- Private Foundations - 6%
- In-Kind Donations - 2%

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## PROGRAMS EMPOWERING WOMEN

Our Safe House for Survivors Program provides secure and confidential temporary housing for women and children. We help domestic violence survivors reclaim their personal strengths, work toward their goals for the future and transition into a safe and stable living situation. Our services are trauma-informed and focused on building resiliency in families and communities.

Women entering our safe house who are at risk of homelessness after their shelter stay may receive continuing services through our transitional housing program for up to two years. Transitional housing services include intensive support and case management, financial assistance with rent and basic needs, childcare, and trauma-informed services for adults and children to address the effects of PTSD, depression, anxiety, emotional distress and social isolation. These concentrated services over a two-year period allow families more time to recover from the effects of financial abuse, gain the skills and supports necessary for long-term financial security and address competing life issues that may make them more susceptible to future violence or financial uncertainty.

## DENISE'S STORY

Emerging from an abusive relationship, Denise wanted her three children to leave that life behind, too. And giving them the resources they need to help them avoid the same path in their own lives was just as important. Enter Camp PEACE.

"My kids still talk about it today," said Denise, whose children attended the camp for two years. "The number one thing they got out of it was learning to have compassion for other people — learning how actions affect everyone around you."

Her children aren't just talking about the Camp experience, they're living it, Denise says. Meditation skills help them through tough days, as do breathing techniques. The children wear their Camp PEACE t-shirts, use the meditation CD and share photographs from the Camp.

"I never thought meditation could have such a positive impact on kids," Denise said.

Denise credits Women's Resource Center and the Camp with more than the impact on her children's lives. It's not only good for the kids, it gave Denise no-cost childcare for the whole summer and peace of mind that her children were learning and engaged.

"For me, Camp PEACE is knowing that my kids are learning something that I can't really teach them, such as meditation and farming," Denise said. "These are areas I don't know about. It gives me peace to know that they are learning things I never learned as a child."

Learn more at [www.wrcdv.org](http://www.wrcdv.org)