



## 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

Celebrating 10 Years of Domestic Violence Advocacy



### THANK YOU

#### FOR SUPPORTING US!

Dear friends,

When we started ten years ago as a small, but mighty team of Advocates, I had every hope that we would become a leader in the fight to end domestic violence in Washington, DC. I did not expect it to happen so quickly! But with your support, we have become the primary entry point for domestic violence services in the District, now serving nearly 10,000 survivors every year.

Since we incorporated, we have robustly increased our capacity to meet the ongoing need. We developed and continue to expand our crisis intervention services, which now include SAFE Space, the only crisis shelter in the city that can place survivors and families in housing immediately following a domestic violence incident, at any time of the day, on any day of the year.

I am so proud of all that we have accomplished together, expanding access to vital services that not only help save lives, but also help rebuild them. Thank you for your foundational and continued support of our mission to ensure the safety and self-determination of survivors in Washington, DC.

Ana Natalia Otero
Co-Founder & Executive Director

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### **OUR STORY**

#### ... SO FAR

DC SAFE began as a project of the DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence in 1997 with just a few Advocates providing court-based advocacy. In 2007, we started operating as an independent nonprofit organization, and we immediately began developing our robust crisis intervention services, which are now the foundation of our work with survivors.

From the beginning, we have been committed to survivor-defined advocacy, in which we recognize that survivors are the experts in their lives and should be empowered to make their own decisions. We are proud to be a leader in this service model, providing support for empowerment for thousands of survivors each year.



We are passionate about using best practices and we have a proven track record of working strategically to implement them in our community to better support survivors.



### We are EFFECTIVE

We are dedicated and hard-working Advocates who do whatever it takes to ensure safety for survivors. We know how the system works and we are able to get results for our clients.



We know that a coordinated community response to domestic violence is the best approach, and we take the lead on building city-wide partnerships that improve the system for survivors.



### And we are CARING

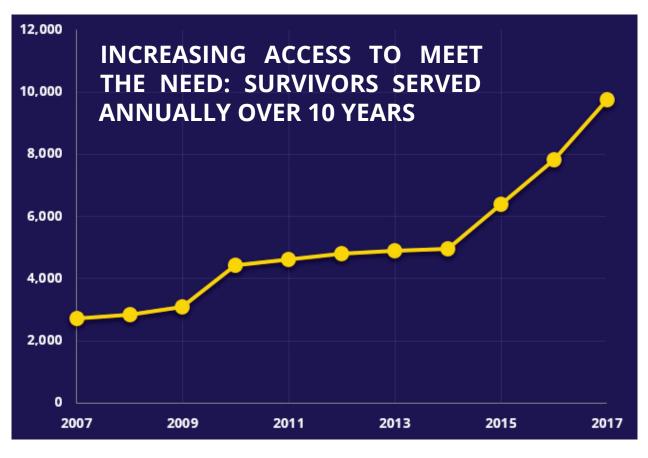
Survivors are at the center of our work. We acknowledge and admire their strength—the strength to survive the abuse, to break free of it, and to create a new life free from violence.

## BUILDING CAPACITY

From the beginning, we have known that the key to expanding services is increasing access. Think of the old saying, "If you build it, they will come," and then some. Our team has spent the past decade forging relationships with community partners and building trust with various survivor communities. This outreach has resulted in a number of transformative city partnerships and even a specific project for Latinx survivors known as the ACCION: La Línea de Emergencia.

In 2007, we served 2,712 survivors. Since then, through intentional community building and program development, we have increased access and now support nearly 10,000 annually. This represents over a 200% increase in our client base over ten years. Yet, with more than 35,000 domestic violence calls made to the police department last year, the need remains staggering.

We continue to expand our reach to meet this ongoing need, and we're proud to share what we've accomplished throughout 2017 in this report. Some information is based on our fiscal year, which ran October 1, 2016 to September 30, 2017.



### DUR PROGRAMS

#### **CRISIS RESPONSE TEAM**



**SUPPORTIVE** 

**SAFE SPACE** CRISIS SHELTER







Our crisis response team provides 24/7 bilingual assistance on the phone or in person to survivors immediately following domestic violence incident.

This team provides support and guidance for survivors obtaining Civil Protection Orders, as well as referrals to counseling, legal representation, and other services.

SAFE Space is the only shelter in DC that can place a surivor and their family in housing 24 hours per day. It is Housing First and familycentered.

#### **LETHALITY ASSESSMENT PROJECT**

All DC SAFE clients are screened using a validated Lethality Assessment tool, which is a national best practice in identifying survivors at the highest risk for reassault or homicide. Survivors who score High Risk and give consent for participation are paired with a specialized team of Advocates to receive expedited and enhanced services across all of our programs, as well as other city agencies such as the US Attorney's Office and the Department of Human Services.

#### **OUR AGENCY IN NUMBERS**



**PASSIONATE** STAFF & **ADVOCATES**  10

STRONG YEARS OF 24/7/365 SERVICES

**GOVERNMENT** & COMMUNITY **PARTNERSHIPS** 



NATIONAL AWARDS FOR **EXCELLENCE** 

## CRISIS RESPONSE TEAM SAVES LIVES

Our Crisis Response Team is uniquely positioned to provide support and tangible assistance to survivors 24/7, every day of the year. They can be dispatched to meet survivors in the community, such as at a police station or hospital, and/or they can provide information and arrange for services over the phone. They can also coordinate immediate placement in our crisis shelter, or in a hotel if the shelter is full or the location is unsafe. Below is a snapshot of their impact during FY 2017.

12,196 534 417

CLIENTS REFERRED EMERGENCY TAXIS ON-CALL DISPATCHES

**188 157** 

POLICE RIDE-ALONGS EMERGENCY HOTELS LOCK CHANGES



## PARTNERSHIP WITH POLICE DEPARTMENT

One area of focus over the last year has been our relationship with the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD). As some of the primary first responders in the city, MPD has long been a vital partner in our work. During FY 2017, we strengthened our partnership by addressing the following issues:

#### **IMPROVE REFERRAL QUALITY**

We began the year seeing a significant up-swing in referrals from MPD. While we were happy to see a greater commitment to referring survivors to services, we also experienced a higher number that were outside the scope of our mission and capacity. Thus, we have worked to ensure that we are reaching those experiencing interpersonal violence.

#### **ENHANCE COMMUNICATION**

We have also worked to enhance communication around our High Risk clients. Better communication between Advocates and detectives allows us to play an instrumental role in the quick resolution of criminal cases against domestic violence offenders.

#### **DEVELOP VOLUNTEER PROGRAMMING**

Finally, we worked closely with MPD's Office of Volunteer Coordination to develop the Domestic Violence Liaison Program. Volunteer Liaisons participate in ride-alongs with patrol officers to provide on-scene information and referrals to our services, which greatly increases our capacity to reach all victims who reach out to MPD for help.

## PROMOTE JUSTICE

During FY 2017, we continued to expand the reach of our supportive advocacy services offered in both of the city's Domestic Violence Intake Centers. We are proud to continue to provide these essential city services that make both the civil and criminal justice systems more accessible for survivors.

3,342 SURVIVORS RECEIVE SERVICES

1,912 survivors received services at the NW Domestic Violence Intake Center, and 1,530 at the SE Office. Services include information, referrals, and direct assistance pursuing a Civil Proection Order.

- 52% HIGH RISK CLIENTS

  1,786 clients, or 52%, were identified as High Risk for reassault or homi-
- cide based on their Lethality Assessment Scores. These clients received expedited and enhanced services across all of our programs.

  2.894 PETITIONS FILED
- Our Advocates helped write and file 2,894 petitions for Civil Protection Orders, and most importantly they helped guide survivors through the process.
- Our Advocates accompanied survivors to a court hearing 3,039 times during FY 2017, providing in-person support and taking note of trends in the system.
- 1,550 LEGAL REFERRALS PROVIDED

  We offer all of our clients legal referrals to our partners at Bread for the City, Legal Aid, Ayuda, and more. In FY 2017, we provided 1,550 referrals.

Overall, the Supportive Advocacy Services program offered by DC SAFE is incredibly important. We continuously work in partnership with judges, clerks, lawyers, and social service providers to ensure that our clients are getting the assistance they need and deserve. Being part of an intersecting team with our crisis responders allows us to meet clients where they are and advocate for them as they engage with systems that are otherwise very stressful and confusing.

Carolyn Hoffmann Supportive Advocacy Services Coordinator



## RESTORES HOPE

#### FY 2017 HIGHLIGHTS



SAFE SPACE WILL HAVE A NEW HOME IN 2019!

This June, we purchased a property that will undergo demolition and reconstruction in 2019. The new building will double our capacity

285

574

FAMILIES HOUSED CHILDREN HOUSED

5,626

SHELTER NIGHTS PROVIDED

174

SINGLE ADULTS HOUSED

#### **CORINA'S STORY**

with 30 apartment style units!

When we first met Corina, she was in pretty bad shape. She had on a ripped, oversized t-shirt, shorts and a pair of socks that the hospital had provided since she had no shoes. Her hair had all been cut off by her abuser, who had been prostituting her throughout homeless encampments across the District, and she was five months pregnant.

Taylor, one of our On Call Advocates, met Corina at the hospital where she was able to assess her needs and risk. She arranged for Corina to stay at our SAFE Space Crisis Shelter that night.



The next day, Corina went to a Domestic Violence Intake Center where she was able to file for a Civil Protection Order, and obtain a referral for legal representation with the Legal Aid Society, who could appropriately respond to the many legal issues in her case, including sex trafficking and child custody for when the baby was born.

Corina then spent the next 14 days working with her SAFE Space Advocate, Kiana, who went above and beyond to help her get home to her mom and sister in Southern California. Kiana found funding for Corina to buy a bus ticket across the country and Corina was able to make the journey home. When Corina arrived, her mom called us to say thank you. Corina recently gave birth to a baby boy, says she is excited to return to her church, and wants to go back to school.

Corina's story is just one among many of the life-changing impact of our SAFE Space Crisis Shelter. It truly can help survivors transition from crisis to safety and beyond.

### SYSTEMS REFORM

#### HIGH RISK DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INITIATIVE

In 2015, the City Administrator and the Mayor's Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants tasked DC SAFE with coordinating a community-wide task force aimed to (1) proactively review high risk domestic violence cases to determine the most effective interventions; and (2) address trends and gaps in services for survivors, as well as opportunities for data sharing to improve a coordinated system response. This year, we expanded the initative by launching the Domestic Violence System Review Team, which has been conducting regular bi-monthly case reviews since January 2017.

#### **CRIME VICTIMS GUIDE**

This year, we participated in the development of DC's first ever <u>Crime Victims Guide</u>, a comprehensive guide for victims of crime navigating the justice system here in Washington, DC. We participated on a Steering Committee with other victim service providers, government agencies, and community members to develop the manual, which was sponsored and printed by the Council for Court Excellence. We hope to see this guide make justice more accessible for survivors of domestic violence.

#### **EXPANDING PARTNERSHIPS**

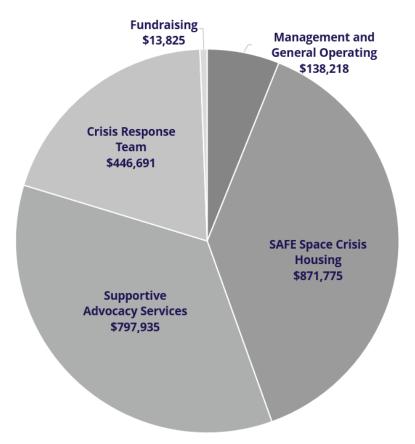
We continue to expand our network of nearly 50 partnerships in the community, always seeking to create collaborations that will better serve survivors. This year, we started working with Community Family Life Services to secure long-term housing options for survivors. Our clients can receive priority placement in their housing program, which also includes access to intensive case management and other support services. This year, we also furthered our relationship with the DC Forensic Nurse Examiners by co-locating! This co-location will continue when our new shelter is constructed in 2019. For a complete list of our partners, please visit our website.

#### LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

DC SAFE takes an active stance on local and national legislation impacting survivors of domestic violence. The following bills are still under DC Council review, but we were proud to submit testimony in support of them during FY 2017, and we hope to see our legislators make them law as they will further protections for survivors in our community.

- ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR IMMIGRANTS ACT OF 2017
- SEXUAL ABUSE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS ELIMINATION AMENDMENT ACT OF 2017
- SEXUAL ASSAULT VICTIMS' RIGHTS AMENDMENT ACT OF 2017
- VICTIM SERVICES OMNIBUS AMENDMENT ACT OF 2017
- VOTER ADDRESS CONFIDENTIALLY AMENDMENT ACT OF 2017

### FY 2017 EXPENSES



#### FINANCIAL NARRATIVE

Our commitment to survivors is also evidenced by our financials. During FY 2017, 93% of our expenses were program related. Additionally, we hired our first dedicated Development Team to help raise specific dollars for our Survivor Fund, which is used to provide emergency financial assistance for our clients.

The Survivor Fund is used to help provide emergency shelter, transporation, and food. Moreover, it can be used to pay for specific needs our clients face, such as medical or dental work, relocation expenses, or even first month's rent at a new apartment. It is our goal to continue to expand this program so that we can ensure all of our clients have a cushion to rely on as they transition to safety and work towards self-sufficiency.

Our Development Team is also working towards diversifying our current funding by focusing on private and corporate foundations, as well as an individual giving program. Since coming on board in the spring of 2017, the Development Team applied for 14 new grants, which has yielded \$83,500 in brand new revenue so far. With the addition of this new team, we are more committed than ever to ensuring the sustainability of our programs and allowing for continued growth.

\*Please note that the expenses shown above are based on unaudited financial statements. We will post our FY 2017 Audited Financial Statements to our website when the audit is completed.

## ENDING VIOLENCE AS A COMMUNITY



We are so proud to be a part of such a vibrant city filled with such passionate, hard-working people who care about the safety of our community. We take every chance we get to work collectively to end domestic violence at a local level. Here are some of the highlights of our community involvement during 2017.

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH 2017

Throughout the month of October, which is recognized across the country as Domestic Violence Awareness Month, we participated in a series of briefings for DC Councilmembers and their staff. Organized by the DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the briefings were centered around various issues impacting survivors in DC. Our Executive Director, Ana Natalia Otero, was a panelist on two topics, including Housing and the Legal Response to Domestic Violence in DC.



We also participated in Paint the Town Purple and Purple Thursday, two days of visibility during Domestic Violence Awareness Month. And we once again attended La Marcha y Vigilia Contra La Violencia Doméstica, or the Latina March and Vigil Against Domestic Violence, to show our solidarity with and support of Latinx survivors of domestic violence who continue to face increasing barriers to safety. Finally, we made it a priority to invest in our staff, with two key trainings to expand our knowledge, including Mental Health First Aid training and a culturally specific training from The Person Center focused on African immigrant survivors.

## ADVOCATES IN TRAINING EDUCATION & OUTREACH

We are trusted experts in the community and conducted trainings for 27 different organizations during FY 2017. Our staff trains on any number of topics, including Domestic Violence 101, Civil and Criminal Legal Remedies, and Survivor-Focused Advocacy. We also attend community outreach events in order to increase awareness and access to our services.



#### TRAININGS CONDUCTED

America Works Workforce Development Program

American University Law School Azerbaijani USAID partners British Embassy

Buenos Aires Council of Magistrates Cesar Chavez High School Parkside Community Family Life Services Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency

DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence: DC Core Competency Advocate Training

DC Department of Human Services

DC Housing Authority

DC Office of the Attorney General

DC and National Victim Hotline Domestic Violence Wears Many Tags **Donaldson Group** Homeless Children's Playtime Project Housing UP La Clinica del Pueblo Metropolitan Police Department National Center for Victims of Crime OASIS: Office of Adocacy Services for Interpersonal and Sexual Violence at American University Pakistani Legislative Fellows **US Park Police** Virginia Williams Wendt Center for Loss and Healing 91of Us



## OUTREACH EVENTS ATTENDED

Beat the Streets Ward 4
Beat the Streets Ward 7
Briya Charter School Know Your Rights Fair
Howard University Awareness Event
Immigrant Legal Justice Mixer
Latina March and Vigil
Safety Fest at American University
Paint the Town Purple

## NOTEWORTHY STAFF & PROGRAMS



#### **EXCEL AWARD**

Our Executive Director, Ana Natalia Otero, was recongized as a winner of The Gelman, Rosenberg & Freedman Excellence in Chief Executive Leadership (EXCEL) Award. The award recognizes and spotlights outstanding leadership among Washington-area nonprofit executives. Sponsored by the Center for Nonprofit Advancement, it recognizes leadership achievement in the areas of innovation, motivation, community building, ethical integrity, and strategic leadership.

#### LEADERSHIP APPOINTMENTS

This year, Jenny Wesberry, our Director of Operations, was officially sworn into her role as a member of DC's **Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board**. The Fatality Review Board plays an extremely vital role in our community through their work to prevent domestic violence homicides by learning from past cases and improving the response of individuals, the community, and government agencies to domestic violence.

Additionally, our Executive Director, Ana Natalia Otero, was appointed to serve on the **Crime Victims Compensation Program (CVCP) Advisory Committee**, which is tasked with providing technical assistance to the Courts, publicizing the program, and advising the DC Council of deficiencies in the program. The CVCP is an important partner in our work. They provide legally guaranteed benefits in real time to survivors for medical expenses, housing, and more.

## OUR ANNUAL GALA KEEP DC SAFE 2017

This year marked our 6th annual Keep DC SAFE event, and it was the best yet! We were honored to have three DC government officials give remarks, including Councilmember Charles Allen, Councilmember Kenyan McDuffie, and Deputy Mayor HyeSook Chung.

Additionally, we recognized **Janese Bechtol**, Chief of the Domestic Violence Divison for DC's Office of the Attorney General, with the Laura Banks Reed Award for Community Service to Victims of Domestic Violence. Janese has been a friend of DC SAFE from the beginning, and we are all continuously inspired by her commitment to survivors. We also awarded **Marvin "Ben" Haiman**, Director of Volunteer Coordination for the Metropolitan Police Department, with the DC SAFE Innovation Award. We were impressed by Ben's creativity and initiative in creating the Domestic Violence Liaison Volunteer Program this year.

We are dedicated to ensuring that Keep DC SAFE remains an important event in our community to raise awareness about domestic violence in Washington, DC.









## VOLUNTEERS



More than 100 community members volunteered this year. Some volunteered on our Response Line, others helped with our annual event, and several took the initiative to host in-kind drives!





### IN-KIND DONATION DRIVES

This year, over 30 different individuals and groups hosted donation drives, collecting critical items for our clients like food, toiletry and other household items, and even holiday gifts!



#### **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LIAISON PROGRAM**



This year, we partnered with the Metropolitan Police Department in the development of a new and innovative citizen volunteer program. This opportunity allows volunteers to ride along with patrol officers and provide victims of domestic

violence with resources and information about DC SAFE's services. Volunteers receive 20 hours of specialized training from our staff. The first class of volunteers began the program this fall. If you're intrested in becoming a volunteer, please email marvin.haiman@dc.gov.

# OUR SUPPORTERS INVESTING IN PUBLIC SAFETY

#### FY 2017 GRANTS

- Boeing Employees Community Fund
- Executive Office of the Mayor of the District of Columbia, Office on Latino Affairs, Latino Community Development Grant
- Executive Office of the Mayor of the District of Columbia, Office of Victims Services and Justice Grants, Grants to Encourage Arrest and Prosecution Program
- Executive Office of the Mayor of the District of Columbia, Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants, LOCAL Fund
- The Greater Washington Community Foundation, The City Fund Safer, Stronger DC Community Opportunity Grant
- The Mary Kay Foundation
- The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation

#### FY 2017 INDIVIDUAL & INSTITUTIONAL DONORS

\$5,000+	\$100+	Katherine Baczewski
Building Partnerships, LLC	Adam McMahon	Kathryn Krepp
Kaiser Permanente	Alex & Ani	Kelsey Carter
Katten Muchin Rosenman,	Amber Goodwin	Krissi Jimroglou
LLP	Amber Taylor	Laila Leigh
Lisa Lally	Amy Martin-Ziegenfuss	Laurel Glassman & Audrey
	Angela Shaw	Neff
\$1,000+	Anu Saxena	Lauren Vaughan
Allen Mattison	AT&T	Lisa & Bob Aramony
American Hospital Association	Bethany Owens	Lisa Raymond
Devon Leppink Staren	Caroline Thomas	Lorraine Peoples
Helen Mathis	Charles Richard Hunter	Mandy Wampler
Judah Ariel & Robyn Swirling	Christina Walrond	Marc Schofield
Masson Family Fund	Cortney Fisher	Mark Fucello
Samantha Lasky	Crime Solvers of Washington,	Mary Murphy
	DC	Melissa Buck
\$500+	David Karp	Michael Molineux
Abe Ahern	Erin Owens	Molly Brune
Amy Hunter	Eve Sheedy	Monica Christman
Charles McLean	Ferial S. Bishop	Nathan Gottfried
Dembo Jones	Goulston & Storrs	Paul Mozzocci
Katherine Harlow Warminsky	Howard Katz	Pew Employee Matching Gifts
Michelle & Douglas Rathbun	Ingrid M. Schroeder	Rachel Snyder
Sage Hulsebus	Jeffrey Levin	Robert Murphy
United Healthcare Services	Jessica Ebersole	Sarah Potter
United Way of the National	Johnny King-Marino	Stand as Ten Thousand
Capital Area	Jonathan Banks	Stephanie Grasmick
WUSA9	Jonathan Jones	Stephanie K. Blackwood

#### **INDIVIDUAL & INSTITUTIONAL DONORS CONT'D**

\$100+ Cont'd

Susan and Larry Weinstock The Philadelphia Foundation

Tierney Hunt Victoria Stanley William Faust Yeva Avakyan

\$50+

Alexis McLean Andrea Gleaves Andrew Benckart Anne Corbett

Audrey Mirsky-Ashby

Barbara Eller Beth Becker Beth Lindley Caleb Erikson Colleen Gallopin

David Aylward & Teresa

Petrovic

Deborah Rogers Diane Douglas Dorothy Scheeline Elizabeth Durray Elizabeth Quigg Emily Dennis

Erica Moody-Hankerson

Erika Sinofsky Erin Gibbs

Fred & Phyllis Lasky Fred Rosenberg Gabrielle Alfonso Gary Owens

Heather Moldofsky Jessica Knight Henry

John Muir

Johnson & Johnson Jonathan Reed Joy Courtney Julia DeAngelo Juliet Dulles

Karen Barker Marcou

Karrah Dillman Kim Alfonso Kim Leister Kimberley Jutze Kimberly Lawrence Kristin Donovan Lisa Cuomo Lisa Davis

Marion Kaufmann Marion Robinson

Mary Frances Daly

Mary Ryan

Michael Goodwin Michael Hardman Michelle Fantone Michelle Garcia Minia Makael Moira Birss Nadine Soplop Nancy Moldofsky

Natalie M Revord Nyesha Bailey Princess McDuffie Rachel Ballard Klein Rachelle Simon

Robin Wilkerson Rocket Bar Rose Mary Neal Sara Moldofsky Sasha White

Schuyler Armstrong Shayna Rudick Stacey Goldberg Sue Williams Tamara Fucile Tameka Bess Tiffany Tinch

Wells Fargo Customer Yanira van den Broeck Zeynep Darendeliler

\$1-\$49

Abby Fenton
Aishwarya Raje
Alana Landey
Allen Chester, Jr.
Allison Bohr
Allison Smith
Amanda Rae Fisher
Amazon Smile
Amber Fernie
Ann Lauber

Ann Milstead Warricle

Anna Corrales
Anne Brent
Anthony Atkinson
Anthony Saddic
Anthony Washington

**April Watts** 

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Caroline Egrie
Caroline Quaglio
Christina Dumas
Christine Hanebury
Christine McDade
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Eileen Reilly
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Elizabeth Roden
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Erica Levy
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Former Assistant State's Attorney, Montgomery County, Maryland

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#### **Lisa Raymond**

Independent Consultant

Anu Saxena

Hilton

**Kate Wesley** 

Beveridge & Diamond, PC

**Ana Natalia Otero** Ex-Officio





If you or someone you know is in danger, please call 911. To speak with an Advocate, you may visit or call us at a location listed below.

#### DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INTAKE CENTER, NW

DC Superior Court 500 Indiana Avenue, NW, Room 4550 Washington, DC 20001 Phone: 202-879-0720 Fax: 202-879-1191

Hours: Monday - Friday 8:30am-4:00pm

#### DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INTAKE CENTER, SE

United Medical Center 1328 Southern Avenue, SE, Room 311 Washington, DC 20019 Phone: 202-561-3000 Fax: 202-561-3093

Hours: Monday - Friday 8:30am-4:00pm



PO Box 7412 • Washington, DC 20044 202-506-2901 • donations@dcsafe.org

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