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Communities  
Stronger  
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Accountability  
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Georgia Coalition  
Against Domestic Violence  
**2012 Annual Report**

## MISSION OF GCADV

The Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Inc. (GCADV) brings together member agencies, allied organizations and supportive individuals who are committed to ending domestic violence. Guided by the voices of survivors, we work to create social change by addressing the root causes of this violence. GCADV leads advocacy efforts for responsive public policy and fosters quality, comprehensive prevention and intervention services throughout the state.

**Collaborate. Advocate. Educate. Empower.**

### Overview of Georgia domestic violence during FY 2012:

**30,177** victims served in Georgia's 46 certified DV programs.

**Victims staying longer** in shelter due to lack of employment opportunities.

**3,391** unmet requests for shelter due to lack of space.

**DV programs struggling financially** due to budget cuts and decline in charitable giving.

**Georgia ranks 10th** in the United States at the rate at which men kill women in single victim homicides.

# STRONGER FOCUS



Dear Friends of GCADV,

For over 30 years GCADV has been Georgia's leading representative of domestic violence agencies, advocates, allied individuals and survivors. During that time, we have worked to bring our shared voices together and this year was no different.

Collectively we are tremendously powerful. Our success in working together to ensure that victims and advocates have their communications protected through HB 711 is a resounding example of that unified strength. Our collaboration with a broadening and diversifying membership continues to add to our collective voice and increases our effectiveness, such as engaging the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community for our new Disabilities Project. And, our focus on improving the domestic violence response of programs and communities throughout Georgia continues to be a focal point of the Georgia Fatality Review Project.

We would like to recognize that the work done during the timeframe of this report was under the leadership of Nicole Lesser as GCADV Executive Director and Michele Bedingfield as GCADV Board President. Although Nicole has since moved on, she was able to build upon the foundation of her predecessors and GCADV is stronger due to her passion and hard work. Michele Bedingfield has remained on the Board of Directors in the role of Board Secretary and we are grateful for her continued leadership and contributions to GCADV.

In Peace,



Jan Christiansen  
Executive Director



Amy Weaver  
President, GCADV Board of Directors



# STRONGER ADVOCACY

## House Bill 711



**A**dvocates working at domestic violence and sexual assault programs are sometimes subpoenaed by attorneys representing the abuser in both criminal and civil cases. Their intent is to uncover any bit of information they can in order to discredit the victim and take the focus off the abuser.

During the 2012 session of the Georgia General Assembly, GCADV partnered with the Prosecuting Attorneys Council of Georgia (PAC) to craft and introduce House Bill 711, which gives advocates and volunteers working at Georgia's domestic violence and sexual assault centers privilege in their communications with victims and eliminates the spousal privilege in domestic violence criminal cases. The significance of this new law for advocates and the victims they serve cannot be overstated. This law will give advocates and the programs for which they work the legal standing to have such subpoenas quashed, thereby keeping victim information safe.

This bill was GCADV's first piece of proactive legislation passed since 2004 and sought to address two key issues: the protection of the unique advocate-client relationship between domestic violence and sexual assault centers and the victims they serve, and the ability of prosecutors to introduce into evidence the key testimony they need in order to successfully prosecute abusers for their crimes, which had been stymied by a recent Supreme Court decision limiting use of such testimony.

Through its partnership with PAC and GCADV's mobilization of advocates and other concerned allies throughout the state, GCADV was able to see House Bill 711 through to successful passage, with the bill passing both the House and Senate nearly unanimously. The bill was signed into law by Governor Nathan Deal and took effect January 1, 2013.

Since passage of the new law, GCADV has conducted web-based trainings for advocates all across the state of Georgia to educate them on the advocate privilege provisions of the new law and its implications for their day-to-day work with victims. GCADV has also been working with prosecutors to develop and conduct trainings for prosecutors throughout the state on best practices around use of victim testimony. This is a true testament to the newfound partnership between advocates and prosecutors as they work to create a coordinated community response to domestic violence in their communities.

# STRONGER INITIATIVES

## Disabilities Project

**T**hrough an award from the United States Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women, GCADV began a new program that focuses on Deaf and hard of hearing domestic violence victims. GCADV is partnering with the Georgia Council for the Hearing Impaired (GACHI), the statewide organization providing services to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and Tools for Life, Georgia's Assistive Technology Act Program that operates out of Georgia Tech.

The collaboration's mission is to increase the capacity of domestic violence and disability professionals throughout Georgia to provide safe, comprehensive and responsive services for Deaf, hard of hearing, deaf blind, and late deafened individuals experiencing domestic violence.

Research over the past twenty years documents the correlations between hearing loss, poverty, oppression and discrimination as it relates to violence against women. Moreover, serious gaps exist in the accessibility and services for Deaf survivors of domestic violence with hearing loss. Many domestic violence and disability service providers are not prepared or trained to address issues involving both domestic violence and individuals with hearing loss. As a result, survivors who contact domestic violence programs for assistance often experience serious communication barriers or lack of understanding of Deaf culture that impedes their ability to receive vital services. Additionally, survivors who seek help through disability service providers often find staff are untrained or ill-equipped to address the violence they are experiencing and the unique safety risks.

Over the next two years, the collaboration will conduct needs assessments, strategic planning, cross training and influence interorganizational capacity building around domestic violence and Deaf and hard of hearing survivors.

The collaboration strives to create sustainable, systemic change within the organizations involved that will result in exceptional services for domestic violence survivors who are Deaf, hard of hearing, deaf blind, and late deafened.



“This project will give much needed attention to the unique needs, realities and safety concerns of victims of domestic violence from the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community. GACHI is excited and honored to be a part of this groundbreaking work!”  
**Sondra Rhodes-Johnson**  
**Executive Director, GACHI**

# STRONGER COMMUNITIES

## Fatality Review

### Eight critical trends emerged in Fatality Reviews 2004-2011:

Victims were leaving or making plans to leave the relationship in almost every case. Leaving an abusive relationship is dangerous and safety planning at all points of contact with survivors is vital.

Gunshot was the leading cause of death (56%), twice as many as the next highest cause which was stabbing (26%), and more than all other means combined.

Perpetrators attempted suicide prior to the homicide in 38% of the reviewed cases.

Over one quarter (30%) of victims were teenagers when they began their relationship with the person who eventually killed them.

Victims were employed outside the home in 75% of the cases. However, the majority of employers in Georgia do not have a domestic violence policy.

Only 17% of victims had contact with a domestic violence program or “shelter” in the five years prior to the homicide.

Victims who belong to a faith tradition are more likely to turn to their faith community for help than to reach out to any other system regardless of whether they disclose the abuse.

Children witnessed the homicide in 19% of the reviewed cases. Child survivors of a homicide rarely receive specialized trauma and grief counseling or other necessary wraparound services.



The Georgia Domestic Violence Fatality Review Project is a statewide, collaborative initiative of GCADV and the Georgia Commission on Family Violence to examine deaths in Georgia that have resulted from domestic violence, to identify gaps in policy, practice, resources, training, communication and collaboration and make recommendations for change.

Since 2004, the Project has focused on developing resources for local communities to use when training law enforcement, working with faith communities and engaging local businesses in the work to end domestic violence.

Each annual report contains aggregate data with charts, case narratives, topical essays and a summary of key findings and recommendations. Each report builds upon the findings, recommendations, conclusions and resources contained in previous years reports.

# STRONGER PARTNERSHIPS

“The true beauty of collaboration was exhibited in our **Faces & Shades of Domestic Violence Workplace Initiative Breakfast**

which took place in October of 2011. Representatives from the business community, law enforcement and other organizations that are committed to addressing violence in the workplace were on hand to share their experiences. The speakers presented tangible, practical ways to address workplace domestic violence. We are appreciative for the accomplishments of the day.”

Veda Brown  
Founder/Executive Director  
Sisters Empowerment Network, Inc.



In 2011, as a result of Fatality Review findings, GCADV launched the Domestic Violence in the Workplace Initiative partnering with numerous corporations and businesses to raise awareness that many domestic violence victims are employed outside of their home.

## Advocacy Partners—Mary Kay Day

Mary Kay representatives stood with GCADV and our member programs at the Georgia State Capitol. We worked together to advocate the legislature to restore crucial funding for services and legislation to protect victims in Georgia.

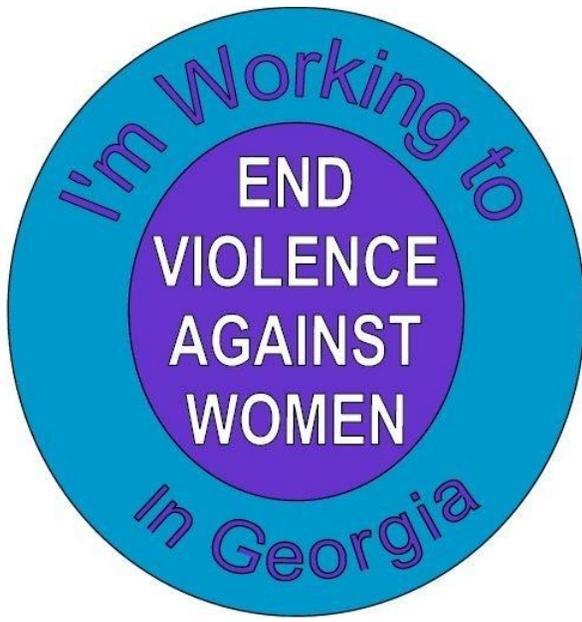
## Training Partners—Sisters Empowerment Network

GCADV partnered with Sisters Empowerment Network to train local employers on how to recognize and respond to domestic violence when it affects the workplace.

## GCADV Corporate Partners



# STRONGER TOGETHER



**S**top Violence Against Women Day, an annual event, brings together hundreds of advocates and allies from all across the state. 2011 marked the fourteenth year of raising awareness about domestic and sexual violence against women and advocating for laws and policies to enhance safety and promote justice for survivors.

This invigorating event gives attendees an opportunity to get connected with each other and with the larger movement combating violence against women and to raise their collective voice against domestic and sexual violence. It also gives them an opportunity to foster relationships with their legislators in order to inform them of how domestic and sexual violence is impacting the lives of their constituents and their communities.

Stop Violence Against Women Day is a joint event sponsored by GCADV, the Georgia Commission on Family Violence, the Georgia Network to End Sexual Assault, Men Stopping Violence and Raksha.



“I come every year to Stop Violence Against Women Day and I’ve been coming for over a decade. I come because it’s our opportunity as a united group to tell legislators that we care about this issue and we want their support on the things that matter. Things like proper funding and appropriate laws that help victims and hold perpetrators accountable. When legislators see us come together from all over the state to tell them we care about this issue... they listen...and they care too.”

- Dee Simms, Executive Director  
Crisis Line & Safe House of Central Georgia

# STRONGER RESULTS

## Highlights of our year:

### Community Resources and Outreach

- Coordinated Vice President Biden's Regional Town Hall Meeting at Morehouse College on dating violence and the role of men in reducing domestic violence and sexual assault.
- Organized and spoke at Verizon's Journey of Hope Bus Tour.
- Partnered on three events with Clark Atlanta University during the "Call to True Beauty Campaign" to generate awareness around teen dating violence among college students.

### Legislative Advocacy

- Attended the signing of House Bill 711 by Governor Nathan Deal, which provides for confidential communications between advocates at Georgia's domestic violence and sexual assault centers and the victims they serve and eliminates the spousal privilege in domestic violence criminal cases.
- Mobilized member programs and allies to contact their members of Congress to advocate for the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA).

### Training

- Delivered over **9,700** hours of training to over **2,800** advocates and allies on topics such as Serving Male Victims and Survivors With Teen Boys, Helping Survivors Access Child Support, Danger Assessment and Safety Planning and many more.

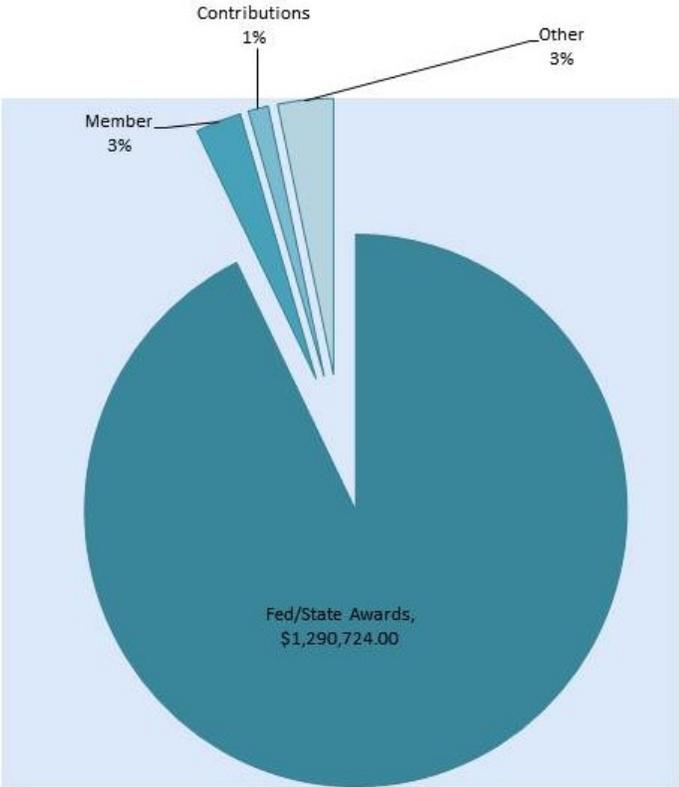
### Project Connect

- Participated in Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) Working Group lead by the Georgia Department of Public Health.
- Conducted the 2011 HIV and DV Conference, sponsored by the US Office of Women's Health.
- Presented DV and Women's Health webinar to over 150 medical students at the Philadelphia College of Medicine – Georgia Campus.
- Participated in Feminist Women's Health Center's annual Black Women's Wellness event.

**“Your team provided valuable information to our associates that we know will be very beneficial to them. GCADV's presence really made a difference.”**

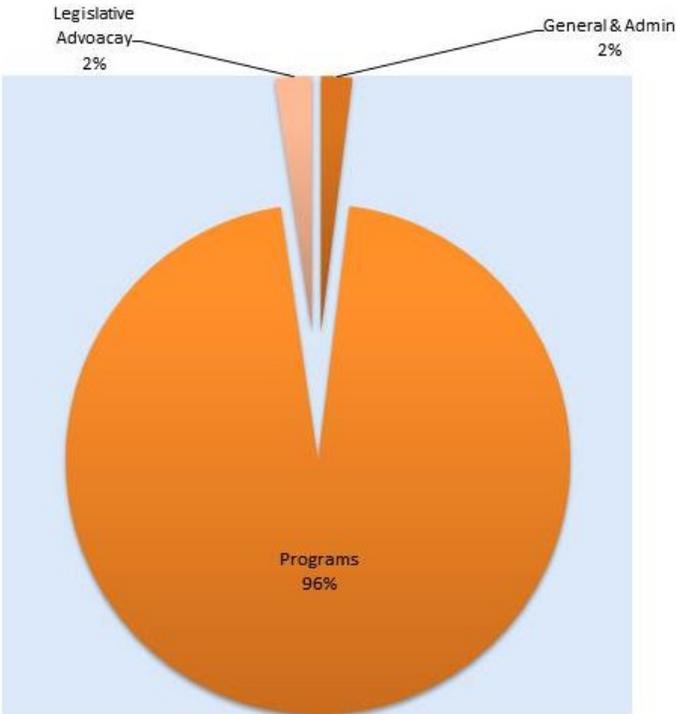
- Corporate participant after DV in Workplace training

# STRONGER STEWARDS



### Income

<b>Fed/State Awards</b>	\$1,290,724
<b>Membership</b>	\$38,100
<b>Contributions</b>	\$16,740
<b>Other</b>	\$46,077
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$1,391,641</b>



### Expenses

<b>General &amp; Administrative</b>	\$26,894
<b>Programs</b>	\$1,293,304
<b>Legislative Advocacy</b>	\$32,000.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,352,198</b>

“You are really working so diligently for us. We all appreciate it so much! It’s great having you in our corner. It makes me feel secure.” - GCADV Member

## 2011/2012 Board of Directors

President:	Michele Bedingfield, Executive Director, Harmony House, LaGrange
Vice President:	Amy Weaver, Executive Director, Hospitality House, Rome
Treasurer:	Lisa Volentine, Atlanta Airport Marriott, Atlanta
Secretary:	Anna Blau, Executive Director, International Women's House, Decatur
Member:	Aparna Bhattacharyya, Executive Director, Raksha, Atlanta
Member:	Maiysha Clairborne, MD, MBS Wellness, Inc., Atlanta
Member:	Stephanie Davis, Executive Director, Georgia Women for Change, Atlanta
Member:	Heidi Day, Executive Director, Chayil Inc., East Point
Member:	Dr. Meshia Ellis, Morehouse School of Medicine, Atlanta
Member:	Maya Gupta, Executive Director, Ahimsa House, Atlanta
Member:	Matthew Levy, Abacus Management, Atlanta
Member:	Joel London, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta
Member:	Jasmine Miller, VP of Programs, Partnership Against Domestic Violence, Atlanta
Member:	Shannon Willis-Clark, Executive Director, Peace Place, Winder

## 2011/2012 Member Programs

Ahimsa House, Atlanta	NE GA Council on DV - Heart Haven, Hartwell
Awake, Inc., Alpharetta	Northwest Georgia Family Crisis Center, Dalton
Beverly Cunningham Outreach Program, Decatur	Partnership Against Domestic Violence, Atlanta
Center for Pan Asian Community Services, Atlanta	Peace Place, Winder
Chayil Inc., East Point	Polk County Women's Shelter, Cedartown
Cherokee Family Violence Center, Canton	Project Safe, Athens
Christian League for Battered Women, Cartersville	Promise Place, Fayette Co. Council on DV, Fayetteville
Circle of Hope, Cornelia	Raksha, Atlanta
Circle of Love Center, Greensboro	Refugee Family Services, Stone Mountain
Columbus Alliance for Battered Women-Hope	S.A.F.E., Blairsville
Harbour	Salvation Army Safe House, Warner Robbins
Community Welcome House, Newnan	Securus House, Morrow
Crisis Line and Safe House of Central GA, Macon	Serenity House, Moultrie
DeKalb Co Solicitor, Victim Ass. Prog., Decatur	Shalom Bayit, Jewish Fam. & Career Services, Atlanta
FAITH - Fight Abuse in the Home, Clayton	Shepherds Rest Ministries, Dallas
Family Crisis Center of Walker, Dade, Catoosa, & Chattooga, Lafayette	Sisters Empowerment Network, Riverdale
Flint Circuit Council on Family Violence - Haven House, McDonough	SW Jud. Circuit Fam. Violence Council, Americus
Forsyth County Family Haven, Cumming	Spalding County Sheriff's Department Victim Services Unit, Griffin
Georgia Commission on Family Violence, Atlanta	Stronghold Atlanta, Atlanta
Georgia Latinos Against DV, Loganville	Tifton Judicial Circuit Shelter - Ruth's Cottage, Tifton
Harmony House DV Shelter, LaGrange	Tri-County Protective Agency, Hinesville
Hospitality House for Women, Rome	United 4 Safety, Atlanta
International Women's House, Decatur	Wayne County Protective Agency, Jesup
Liberty House of Albany, Albany	Women in Need of God's Shelter (WINGS), Dublin
NOA's Ark, Inc., Dahlonega	Women's Resource Center to End DV, Decatur
North GA Mountain Crisis Network, Blue Ridge	YWCA of Northwest Georgia, Marietta



24-Hour Statewide Hotline: 1800-33-HAVEN (1800-334-2836) V/TTY

GEORGIA COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

114 New Street, Suite B

Decatur, GA 30030

404-209-0280 p

404-766-3800 f



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