

— FY2020 ANNUAL REPORT —



Alaska Network on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault

MISSION STATEMENT


*We are a
collective movement
to end violence and oppression
through social change.*

Dear Friends,

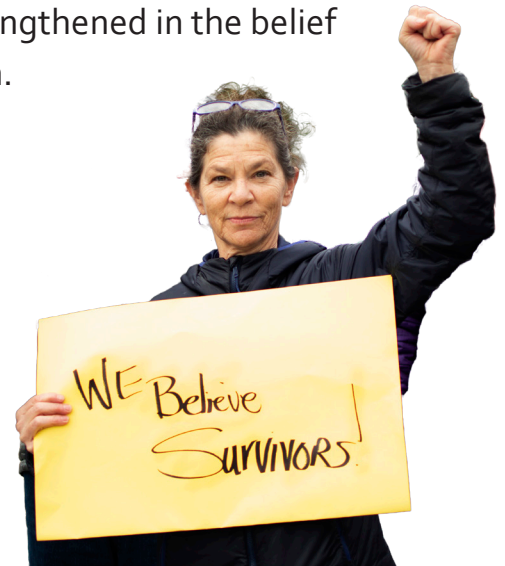
The past year has presented us with unthinkable challenges and brought to light both stark inequities and the generative power of relationships and collective action. Thank you for your continued response to the emerging needs of victims, survivors, and their families. Thank you for the support you have provided in communities across Alaska. Thank you to all the advocates and direct service providers who continue to show up, listen up, and work with survivors to identify new strategies that can help people be safer and find housing and shelter when it is needed.

ANDVSA reaffirms our commitment to do everything we can to support you, listen to you, and advocate on your behalf. We are strengthened in the belief that our collective actions create the world we envision.

Be well, friends.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Carmen Lowry". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Carmen" being more prominent than the last name "Lowry".

Carmen Lowry
Executive Director



ANDVSA MEMBER PROGRAMS

AVV | Advocates for Victims of Violence

Valdez | 907-835-2980

AWAIC | Abused Women's Aid in Crisis, Inc.

Anchorage | 907-279-9581

AWARE, Inc.

Juneau | 907-586-6623

AWIC | Arctic Women In Crisis

Utqiagvik | 907-852-0261

Bay Haven

Hooper Bay | 907-758-4711

Becky's Place

Haines | 907-303-0076

BSWG | Bering Sea Women's Group

Nome | 907-443-5491

CFRC | Cordova Family Resource Center

Cordova | 907-424-5674

EWS | Emmonak Women's Shelter

Emmonak | 907-949-1443

HOPE | Helping Ourselves Prevent Emergencies

Craig | 907-443-5491

IAC | Interior Alaska Center for Non-Violent Living

Fairbanks | 907-452-2293

KWRCC | Kodiak Women's Resource and Crisis Center

Kodiak | 907-486-6171

The LeeShore Center

Kenai | 907-283-9479

MFCC | Maniilaq Family Crisis Center

Kotzebue | 907-442-3724

SAFE | Safe and Fear-Free Environment

Dillingham | 907-842-2320

SAFV | Sitkans Against Family Violence

Sitka | 907-747-3370

SeaView Community Services

Seward | 907-224-5257

SPHH | South Peninsula Haven House

Homer | 907-235-7712

STAR | Standing Together Against Rape

Anchorage
907-276-7279

TWC | Tundra Women's Coalition

Bethel | 907-543-3444

USAFV | Unalaskans Against Sexual Assault & Family Violence

Unalaska | 907-581-1500

WAVE | Working Against Violence for Everyone

Petersburg | 907-772-9283

WISH | Women in Safe Homes

Ketchikan | 907-225-9474

Thank you to the member program directors who served on ANDVSA's governance board during FY20. Your service is appreciated.

As a statewide coalition, ANDVSA relies on the contributions and collaboration of member programs. In 2020, ANDVSA welcomed Becky's Place, HOPE, Bay Haven and Emmonak Women's Shelter as members of the network and ANDVSA's operating board. These programs operate in rural Alaska providing critical advocacy and support services. Welcome to the new members and thank you for your important work to serve survivors in your communities!

CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE

Coronavirus may have cancelled events and closed doors, but domestic and sexual violence continues despite the pandemic. The work of advocacy programs and shelters continues as well. Throughout the spring of 2020, ANDVSA worked closely with direct service provider programs, partner organizations and state agencies to ensure that services remained open and accessible for survivors.

INFORMATION HUB

To streamline the flow of information, ANDVSA set up a resource page on the andvsa.org website and a weekly email briefing with the latest news, recommendations and resources. ANDVSA Legal also started hosting weekly Office Hours to allow legal advocates to call in, ask questions and learn about COVID-19 impacts on the court system.

TRAINING FOR ADVOCATES

Many domestic violence and sexual assault (DVSA) programs experienced staffing shortages or scheduling challenges due to COVID-19. To support the on-boarding of new volunteers and employees, ANDVSA held a virtual training, "Introduction to Advocacy", which oriented participants to the world of DVSA services, including safety planning, advocacy-based counseling and current and emerging thinking on how to support survivors.

ANDVSA'S KEY STATEWIDE COORDINATION AND SUPPORT

1

Weekly calls between DVSA programs to discuss COVID-19 impacts and response.

2

Listening sessions with programs and key decision makers, including Senator Lisa Murkowski, Dr. Anne Zink and other public health experts.

3

Coordination with the Alaska Native Women's Resource Center and the Council on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault weekly to report program issues and concerns and better coordinate agency responses.

4

Distribution of supplemental funds to purchase equipment and supplies for remote advocacy work.

HIGHLIGHTS

VICTORIES IN THE COURTS

In FY20, the ANDVSA Legal Program prevailed in two cases before the Alaska Supreme Court.

EDNA K. V. JEB S.

This decision confirmed that a superior court **MUST** consider past evidence of domestic violence and sexual assault in making a child custody decision, even if the parties entered into a custody agreement with the help of counsel after raising those issues of domestic violence in the trial court. If a trial court has never made actual findings that the violence did or did not happen, these incidents can subsequently be raised in litigation between the parties.

“We took on this case because so often we see survivors enter into agreements where the history of DVSA is not adequately addressed for many reasons including the financial cost of litigation, emotional exhaustion, trauma, frustration, etc.. This opinion means that they and their children will not be prejudiced later on if they want the court to consider the full history of violence that occurred.”

-Christine Pate, ANDVSA Legal Program Director

ANGELA C. V. JONATHAN C.

This decision affirmed that parents have a right to petition for termination of parental rights if the child was conceived as the result of sexual assault. This decision and related legislation state that the decision to terminate rights should be in the best interest of the child and may consider the need to protect a sexual assault survivor from having to co-parent with her abuser.

2020 DIALOGUE

In January of 2020, ANDVSA convened the 3rd annual dialogue with the Alaska Native Women's Resource Center, Healing Native Hearts Coalition, Yup'ik Women's Coalition, Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, Sitka Tribe of Alaska and the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.



Facilitated by the Idaho Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence, the Dialogue created space for deeper connection and reflection on how to be in relationship with one another.

HIGHLIGHTS

BUILDING FOUNDATIONS FOR PREVENTION

ANDVSA introduced two new supports for prevention work in member programs and Alaskan communities: weekly cohort calls with prevention practitioners and a “Grounding in Prevention” training series. The “Grounding in Prevention” series strengthened prevention knowledge and

skills through peer-to-peer learning, drawing connections between DVSA prevention and societal inequities and oppression. The weekly calls further explored this topic, shifting from an initial focus on prevention in the time of COVID to anti-racism and root causes of violence.



INTEGRATED SERVICES FOR SURVIVORS

ANDVSA worked with the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) to support the development of integrated services in Ketchikan, Kodiak and Nome. The second year of this project brought together DVSA, mental health, and substance use disorder programs to learn from each other, developing a “no wrong door” approach. The goal is for each community and service to end the stigma and discrimination toward survivors who struggle with substance use, which can be up to 90% of shelter residents.¹ Survivors who struggle with substance use are not separate from the work—they are the work.

1 Department of Health and Human Services (2019). Information Memorandum: The Intersection of Domestic Violence, Mental Health, and Substance Use"

SUPPORTERS

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VOLUNTEER ATTORNEYS OF THE MONTH

Dedicated volunteer attorneys provide critical, life-changing services to victims and their families. ANDVSA spotlights volunteer attorneys throughout the year with recognition for their generosity and commitment to ending violence in Alaska. Our FY20 honorees are:

Cam Leonard

Jon Katchen

Tali Birch Kindred

Judith Conte

Jessica Winzinger

Christine Oberholtzer

Allen Bailey

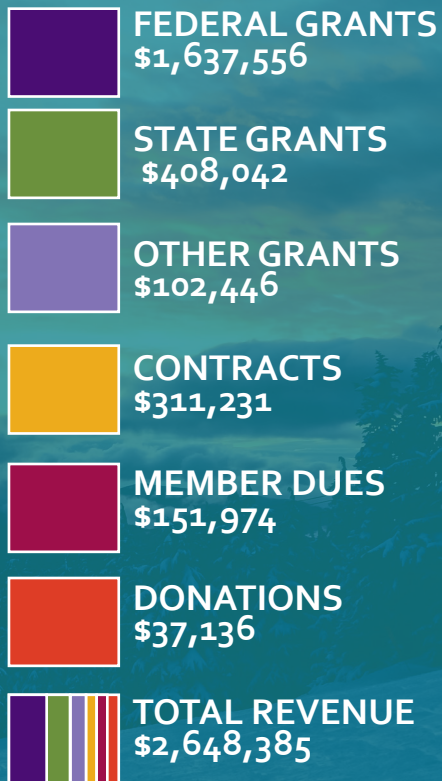
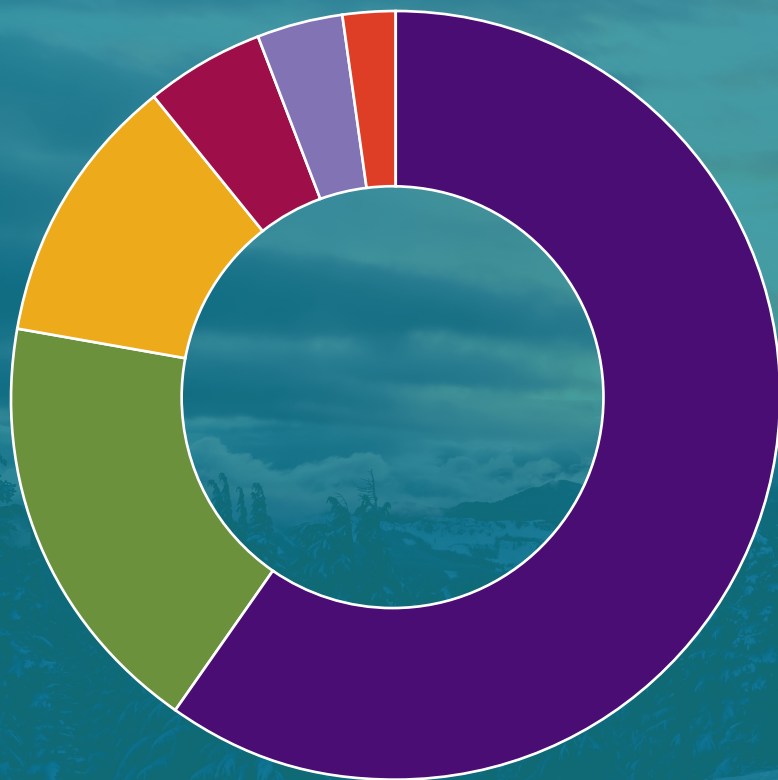
Brett Watts

Charlotte Rand

Chris Slottee

Megan Rowe

FINANCIALS



Funding Sources

United States Department of Health and Human Services: Family Violence Program

United States Department of Health and Human Services: CDC Domestic Violence Prevention

United States Department of Justice: Office of Violence Against Women

State of Alaska: Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

State of Alaska: Department of Health & Social Services

Foundations and Major Donors

Rasmuson Foundation

Alaska Community Foundation

Alaska Bar Foundation

Sealaska Corporation

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"We Define Ourselves, We Shape the Future" – 2019 LeadOn



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