30 years of inspiring, changing, & leading

2011 Annual Report
In 2011, the Action Alliance proudly marked 30 years of energy, dedication and hard work building Virginia’s capacity to end sexual and domestic violence.

Thirty years ago, victims of sexual and domestic violence in Virginia had few options for finding safety and resources. Since 1981, members of the coalition have built a network of services, support and safety that now includes more than 55 community-based agencies dedicated to responding to sexual and domestic violence.

We have led the way on major changes to Virginia’s laws—expanding protections, designing new remedies and guiding effective community responses. We have become a national leader in designing and implementing innovative initiatives to stop violence before it starts.

Thank you to all of the survivors, advocates, and activists who have made this work possible and share our belief that everyone deserves to live a life free from violence.

Virginia’s leading voice on sexual and domestic violence.

Virginia Sexual & Domestic Violence Action Alliance
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We are Virginia’s leading voice on sexual and domestic violence.

As an advocacy organization, we provide the expertise needed to ensure an effective response.

As a service provider, we offer people resources for making informed choices.

As a membership organization, we build diverse alliances across the state.

Advocacy
Our public policy work builds relationships with key decision makers to strengthen state laws that help make victims safer and hold offenders accountable.

Sweeping changes to Virginia’s Protective Order laws
We also worked with a multidisciplinary group of professionals (including courts and law enforcement representatives) to draft a proposal to expand eligibility for Protective Orders to all victims of intimate partner violence, not just those who fall under the category of “family or household member” in Virginia. The proposal, which expanded protections to include teens, victims who identify as LGBTQ (lesbian, gay bisexual, transgender, and/or queer), dating partners, and victims of sexual violence was offered as a bill in the 2011 General Assembly, and subsequently adopted!

New booklet explains Protective Orders
In the wake of significant changes to Protective Order laws in Virginia during the 2011 General Assembly session, the Action Alliance worked swiftly to completely revise our Protective Order booklet to reflect the 2011 legislative changes. Within 3 months, we distributed more than 10,000 copies to crisis centers and victim service agencies across Virginia.

Governor’s Domestic Violence Prevention and Response Advisory Board
Action Alliance staff worked with the Governor’s Domestic Violence Prevention and Response Advisory Board to promote recommendations to benefit survivors in all communities across Virginia. We served on the Board and four subcommittees (relating to Protective Orders, enhancing campus safety, improving services for children and youth, and expanding services for victims in later life/victims with disabilities). Based on the work of the subcommittees, we prioritized action steps that would benefit survivors and worked to ensure that these actions would be considered as priorities in the full Advisory Board. The full report and recommendations are available at: http://www.publicsafety.virginia.gov/Initiatives/DV/DVPrevention-Response-2011-Report.pdf.

Our fresh ideas and effective tools address root causes of violence and recognize that violence will always exist where oppression is present.

Women of Color Network: Expanding Leadership for Underrepresented Groups Project
This year, the Action Alliance entered into a partnership with the WOCN/FVPSA Expanding Leadership for Underrepresented Groups Project to enhance, support, and promote the presence of leaders of underrepresented groups and promising aspiring allies within the anti-violence movement. As part of our role in this project, Action Alliance staff helped create curricula for the Leadership Academy and Aspiring Allies Project. Several Action Alliance staff members have made 18-24 month commitments to participate in the Leadership Academy and Aspiring Allies Project.
We train professionals and ensure that Sexual & Domestic Violence Agencies across Virginia meet standards that safeguard quality responses to survivors.

Project Connect: 
Joining forces with health care professionals

The Action Alliance strengthened its partnership with Virginia Department of Health by joining “Project Connect” this year, a ground-breaking, multi-state initiative to develop comprehensive models of public health prevention and intervention that can lead to improved health and safety for victims of sexual and domestic violence. As part of this federal initiative, clinicians and advocates are now asking women about reproductive coercion and pregnancy pressure to promote safety and prevent unplanned pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections resulting from abuse.

Action Alliance Training Institute

In 2011, the Action Alliance produced an astounding 24 training events for 624 participants with the goal of preparing front line workers and other professionals to better respond to and prevent sexual and domestic violence in Virginia, including:

• Three “Directors’ Dayz Out” for Sexual and Domestic Violence Program Directors;
• An Immigration Advocacy Technical Assistance Project multi-disciplinary training;
• An Annual Child Advocacy Conference;
• A 2-day Advanced Prevention Training on Working with Diverse Communities;
• A 3-day training retreat for 140 participants, featuring Connie Burk of the Northwest Network of Bisexual, Trans, Lesbian and Gay Survivors of Abuse in Seattle, WA;
• The 8th Annual Women of Color Conference;
• Monthly Technical Assistance Calls bringing guest experts on a variety of topics to advocate desks across the Commonwealth.

Community Solutions website

We continued our collaboration with the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services, the Virginia State Police, the Office of the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court of Virginia, and the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner as part of the Grants to Encourage Arrest and Enforcement of Protective Orders (a.k.a. “Community Defined Solutions”). This year, the partnership launched an interagency web-site as a clearinghouse of information and resources for professionals working to address and prevent sexual and domestic violence in Virginia, called “Community Defined Solutions for Virginia.” www.communitysolutionsva.org
Building Healthy Futures Fund

We established a new Building Healthy Futures Fund this year to support statewide and local efforts to prevent domestic violence and sexual violence. The first initiative of the fund is a special interest license plate! The “Peace Begins at Home” license plate will help fund domestic violence and sexual violence prevention initiatives. After the first 1000 plates are sold, $15 from the sale of each plate will go into the Fund—and will be distributed to local Sexual and Domestic Violence Advocacy Agencies taking part in the Fund.

Building Healthy Futures III Conference

The Action Alliance sponsored the 3-day Building Healthy Futures III prevention conference in August for 109 professionals working on primary prevention of sexual and domestic violence in Virginia and beyond. The conference showcased innovative primary prevention projects from across the U.S., and highlighted many instances of promising practices in Virginia.

Participation in Center for Disease Control & Prevention’s DELTA Program

The Action Alliance and 4 local DELTA partners (sexual and domestic violence agencies) completed comprehensive evaluation plans for their primary prevention programming. This effort is funded through a collaborative project between the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance. DELTA (Domestic Violence Prevention Enhancement and Leadership Through Alliances) seeks to prevent first time perpetration of intimate partner violence by building protective factors and reducing risk factors at each level of the social ecology.

Advocacy

Our prevention work promotes healthy communities and relationships so that violence doesn’t happen in the first place.

Neil Irvin of Men Can Stop Rape, presented a keynote about “Embracing Innovation for Primary Prevention”

Building Healthy Futures Fund launch event featured the Secretary of Health and Human Resources, Bill Hazel; Delegate John O’Bannon; and Steve Clementi from Verizon Foundation. During the event, participants could vote on 2 license plate designs, part of the first initiative of the BHF Fund.
10,000
Number of new Protective Order booklets the Action Alliance distributed in 2011.

24
Number of training events the Action Alliance held in 2011 to strengthen Virginia's response to sexual and domestic violence.

6,633
Number of survivors of sexual violence who contacted a Virginia Sexual Assault Crisis Center in 2011, including 1,889 children.

556
Average number of adults and children staying in Virginia Domestic Violence Program on any given night in 2011.

2011
by the numbers

6
Percentage increase in demand for sexual assault crisis services between 2009 and 2011.

18
Percentage increase in demand for domestic violence services 2009 and 2011.

64,877
Number of hotline calls received by Virginia’s Sexual & Domestic Violence Agencies in 2011.

624
Number of professionals who received training by the Action Alliance Training Institute in 2011.

24,497
Number of calls answered by the Virginia Family Violence & Sexual Assault Hotline on behalf of local programs in 2011.

20,044
Number of survivors of domestic violence who contacted a Virginia Domestic Violence Program in 2011, including 4,839 children.

13,320
Approximate number of people who saw our Art of Surviving and Beating Hearts exhibits in 2011.
We operate the Virginia Family Violence & Sexual Assault Hotline, where trained advocates provide a lifeline to survivors so they can reclaim their lives.

**Virginia Family Violence & Sexual Assault Hotline**

This year, the Virginia Family Violence and Sexual Assault Hotline responded to 4,910 Hotline calls (averaging 321 per month, 69% of them related to family violence) and 24,497 calls (averaging over 2,000 per month) on behalf of local Sexual and Domestic Violence Agencies during the time the Hotline was serving as back-up to 30 local domestic and/or sexual violence agencies throughout Virginia.

The Virginia Family Violence & Sexual Assault Hotline also maintained 2 full-time Spanish-speaking Hotline advocates in 2011, who responded to 838 hotline calls related to working with Spanish-speaking survivors (253 of those calls were directly from Spanish-speaking callers).

We develop resources for Virginia communities, and offer support and information to people in crisis, friends and families, and professionals.

**New brochure:**

Kids and Sexual Violence

We produced Spanish and English versions of a new brochure: “Kids and Sexual Violence: A look at sexual violence from a kid’s perspective and what we can do to help keep kids safe”. The brochure offers information for those working with children affected by sexual violence.

**The Red Flag Campaign:**

New men’s element

We introduced stadium cups to The Red Flag Campaign in 2011, with the goal of encouraging men to “say something” when they see a red flag for dating violence. The cups feature a QR code, which will direct the user to an online prevention survey when scanned with a smart phone.
30 years. 30 milestones.
Virginia’s Accomplishments in the Sexual & Domestic Violence Movement

1. 1974
   First Rape Crisis Center opens in Norfolk.

2. 1976-1981
   Virginia Crime Commission State Task Force on Criminal Sexual Assault overhauls the entire criminal code for sexual assault.

3. 1977
   First Domestic Violence Shelter opens in Radford.

4. 1980
   Virginians Aligned Against Sexual Assault (VAASA) is founded.

9. 1987
   The first Domestic Violence Awareness Month is recognized.

10. 1990-1992
    Attorney General Mary Sue Terry’s Task Force on Domestic Violence is created, and introduces legislation to make assault & battery against a family or household member a crime.

11. 1992-1993
    Virginia Commission on Sexual Assault is formed and brings major changes to Virginia’s child sexual abuse laws.

12. 1994
    The Virginia Family Violence & Sexual Assault Hotline is established to provide 24-hour support and information.

17. 1996
    The Training Institute is established to promote a consistent community response across Virginia.

18. 2000-2002
    VAASA creates the Men of Vision campaign to honor and involve men in the movement.

19. 2001
    The first Sexual Assault Awareness Month is recognized.

20. 2002
    The first Domestic Violence Awareness Month is recognized.

21. 2002
    Virginia becomes one of the first states in the country to enact stalking laws.

26. 2006
    Virginia Commission on Sexual Violence is convened by Governor Kaine, increasing prevention work in Virginia.

27. 2007
    The Art of Surviving exhibit of survivors’ artwork and poetry is launched to promote understanding of and healing from sexual violence.

28. 2007
    The nationally-recognized Red Flag Campaign launches to encourage college students to “Say something” when they see red flags for dating violence in their friends’ relationships.

29. 2010
    Action Alliance membership commits to becoming an anti-racist coalition.

21. 2002
    Silent Witness exhibit is created to honor Virginians who have lost their lives to domestic violence.
These accomplishments are the result of hard work and dedication of a multitude of survivors, advocates, local sexual assault and domestic violence agencies, community partners, and policy leaders all working with a shared vision of a world where relationships between people are respectful, healthy and safe.
We create an inclusive network of agencies, individuals, task forces and caucuses to speak in a unified and powerful voice.

New Latin@ Caucus and Latin@ Task Force

In early 2011, the Action Alliance Governing Body approved the formation of both a Latin@ Caucus and a Latin@ Task Force. Caucus and Task Force members began meeting regularly in 2011 for the purpose of networking, sharing resources, and creating a 2012 budget and work plan.

Both groups will help ensure representation of Latina/Latino voices and interests in the Action Alliance’s work.

What is a caucus? What is a task force?

Caucuses are collectives of individuals who share a traditionally oppressed and/or marginalized status in the Action Alliance or society and work to address areas of concern related to their common status.

Task Forces are collectives of individuals sharing a particular area of concern who work to accomplish goals relevant to addressing that area of concern.

Action Alliance Caucuses and Task Forces are busy!

Here are a few more examples of accomplishments of Action Alliance task forces and caucus in 2011:

• The Child Advocacy Task Force (CATF) held its fourth annual full-day conference in April 2011, attended by approximately 41 professionals. The conference, “We are the Village: Protecting Today to Empower Tomorrow”, included workshops focusing on: legislative advocacy, teen dating violence prevention, bullying prevention, Social Security and children, and basic positive discipline for parents and care givers.

• The Survivor Caucus held its annual Camp Mabon, a camping experience that focuses on incorporating nature and meditation in the process of healing from violence.

• The Queer Caucus led workshops at our Spring Training/Retreat and held regular meetings in conjunction with the Virginia Anti-Violence Project.

• The Women of Color Caucus coordinated the 8th Annual Women of Color Leadership Conference for 30 advocates and activists who are women of color.

• The Wild Women of Wisdom Task Force organized a special 30th anniversary celebration presentation at our Spring Training/Retreat to honor the work of advocates over the past 30 years.
We are survivors, advocates, attorneys, law enforcement, health professionals, educators, and community members.

Alba Jaramillo, new Action Alliance Co-Director

2011 brought the arrival of a new Co-Director to the coalition! The field of candidates for this position was strong.

We selected Alba Jaramillo, an attorney from Arizona who has most recently worked on immigration law, with experience working in a local crisis center as a victim advocate and prevention specialist. Alba joined the Action Alliance staff in April 2011 to co-direct the coalition with Kristi VanAudenhove.

Sexual and Domestic Violence Agencies: Documenting Our Work

In 2011, Virginia’s more than 50 Sexual and Domestic Violence Agencies (SDVAs):
- Responded to 64,877 hotline calls;
- Provided 274,222 hours of face-to-face services to 20,044 victims of domestic violence (including 4,839 children), and 6,633 victims of sexual violence (including 1,899 children).

In the past two years, we have seen a 6% increase in the demand for sexual assault crisis services and an 18% increase in the demand for domestic violence crisis services across Virginia.

Domestic Violence Agencies provided emergency shelter to 6,609 women, children, and men. On an average night in 2011, there were 556 people staying in a domestic violence shelter; a 12% increase over the past two years.

In addition to an increase in emergency shelter, Domestic Violence Agencies reported providing transitional housing to 174 families in 2011. Transitional housing programs provide essential support for victims of domestic violence and their children as they transition from emergency shelter to independent living.

Last but certainly not least, 2011 brought the arrival of our newest office baby (and hunk of sunshine), StaggerLee Birdy Musgrave. Here she is working with her awesome mama, Quillin Drew Musgrave.

We are stronger because of our diversity, and we believe in one principle: everyone deserves to live a life free of violence.
In 2011, the Action Alliance celebrated our 30th year of working to end domestic violence and sexual violence.

This momentous occasion called for celebrating all of the advocates, activists, and visionaries who helped make this milestone possible. At our annual December gala, we honored “30 Voices for 30 Years”, 30 Virginia luminaries who have moved forward the work to end sexual and domestic violence over the last 30 years.

Congratulations. Thank you.
And onward.
2011 Organizational Members and Contributors

We are grateful to the following organizations for your support.

Abuse Alternatives
ACTS/Turning Points
Advanced Data Tools, Inc.
Alexandria Office on Women
Arlington County Violence Intervention Program
Alexandria Victim Witness Assistance Program BPSOS, Inc.
Amelia Archer Massage Therapy, Inc.
Avalon: A Center For Women And Children
Bedford County Domestic Violence Services
Bon Secours Health System
Books A Million
Bowl America
Buffalo Wild Wings
Buy Olympia
Cabot Creamery
Cafe International
CARES, Inc.
Center for Sexual Assault Survivors
Central Virginia Task Force on Domestic Violence in Later Life – VCOA
Charlottesville Victim/Witness Assistance
Chesterfield County Domestic and Sexual Violence Resource Center
Children’s Museum of Richmond
Choices: Council on Domestic Violence for Page Co.
CJH Educational Grant Services, Inc.
Clinic Valley Community Action, Inc.
Coalition for the Treatment of Abusive Behaviors (C-TAB)
Collins Center
Community Foundation of Richmond
Crisis Line of Central VA: Sexual Assault Response Program
Diamond Springs
Domestic Violence Intervention Project
Dominion Resources Services, Inc.
Doorways for Women and Families
Eastern Shore Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Electronic Systems
Emporia Family Violence Prevention Program
Empower House (formerly: Rappahannock Council on Domestic Violence)
Fairfax County Domestic & Sexual Violence Services
Fairfax County Police Department/Victim Services Section
Family Crisis Support Services
Family Resource Center, Inc.
Family Violence and Sexual Assault Unit
Fauquier Domestic Violence Services
Fauquier Faith Partners, Inc.
First Step: A Response to Domestic Violence
Freddie Mac Employee Fund
Freddie Mac Foundation
Fort Lee Army Community Services (Family Advocacy Program)
Franklin County Family Resource Center
Genieve Shelter
Godiva Chocolate
Goya Foods
Hanover Safe Place
Harmony Place
Haven Shelter & Services, Inc.
Help and Emergency Response
Hohner, Inc.
Hope House of Scott County
IBM
Ingleside Vineyards
Ironbridge Nursery, LLC
James House Intervention/Prevention Services
Jill McGregor Memorial for Moms with Breast Cancer
Korean Community Service Center of Greater Washington
Laurel Center Intervention for Domestic & Sexual Violence
Laurel Shelter, Inc.
Lexcor
Lanikai Ukuleles, LLC
Loudoun Citizens for Social Justice/LAWS
Massage Envy Spa
MCV Foundation
Music Makes U Happy
New Directions Center, Inc.
Newport News Victim/Witness Assistance
Norfolk Victim/Witness Program Membership
NOVACO, Inc.
ODU - Women’s Center
Petra Foods
People, Inc. of Virginia
Pittsylvania County Victim/Witness
Powhatan County Department of Social Services
Prince William County Area Agency on Aging
Project Hope at Quin Rivers
Project Horizon
Qdoba Mexican Grill
Rappahannock Council Against Sexual Assault
Red Door Spas
Response Sexual Assault Support Services of YWCA
Response, Inc.
River City Roller Girls, Inc.
Safe Harbor
Safehome Systems
Salvation Army Turning Point
Samaritan House
Services to Abused Families (SAFE)
Sexual Assault Resource Agency
Sexual Assault Response and Awareness
Sexual Assault Victim’s Advocacy Service
Shades of Light
Shelter for Help in Emergency
Shelter House, Inc./Artemis
Soroptimist International of America
Southside Center for Violence Prevention (Madeline’s House - Piedmont Crisis Center)
Stone Financial Group, Inc.
Survivors of the Lions Den Corp
Taylored Printing
Total Action Against Poverty - Women’s Resource Center
Transitions Family Violence Services
Tri-County Community Action
University of Virginia Women’s Center
US Silk Flowers
Verizon
Virginia Anti-Violence Project
Virginia Commonwealth University Women’s Health Institute
Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services
Virginia Synodical Women’s Organization
Virginia Tech - Women’s Center
WAWA # 657
Wintergreen Resort
Women’s Resource Center of the New River Valley
York-Poquoson Co. Victim/Witness Program
YWCA Domestic Violence Prevention Center
YWCA Women in Crisis Program
YWCA Women’s Advocacy Program
2011 Individual Members and Contributors

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**Income**

$2,466,050

83% State and federal grants and contracts

17% Private funding (includes grants, memberships, fees and contributions)

**Expenses**

$2,432,795

48% Training, technical assistance and resources

18% Direct services

9% Management and Development

13% Prevention

8% Pass through awards to local Sexual & Domestic Violence Agencies

4% Public policy
Virginia’s leading voice on sexual and domestic violence.