30 years. 30 milestones.

Virginia’s Accomplishments in the Sexual & Domestic Violence Movement

1. 1974
   First Rape Crisis Center opens in Norfolk.

2. 1974-1981
   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
   First Sexual Assault Prevention Education Conference is hosted and introduces legislation to make assault & battery against a family or household member a crime.

5. 1981
   Virginians Against Domestic Violence (VADV) is founded.

6. 1982
   Marriage License Tax Bill passes to support domestic violence shelters and child abuse programs.

7. 1986
   Marital sexual assault is made a crime for the first time in Virginia.

8. 1986
   Protective Order legislation is created.

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.

13. 1994
    Virginians Aligned Against Sexual Violence (V AASA) is founded.

14. 1994
    V AASA and VADV work to assure passage of the groundbreaking Violence Against Women Act, which provides $1.6B to states to address domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking.

15. 1994-2000
    VADV is founded.

16. 1996
    The Virginia Commission on Family Violence Prevention is established, and introduces omnibus legislation to standardize and improve the response of law enforcement in family violence.

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

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

19. 2001
    VAASA creates the Men of Vision campaign to honor and involve men in the movement.

20. 2002
    Virginia becomes one of the first states in the country to enact stalking laws.

21. 2002
    Silent Witness exhibit is created to honor Virginians who have lost their lives to domestic violence.

22. 2004
    Break the Silence is launched, Virginia’s first statewide public awareness campaign focusing on domestic violence in the African-American community.

23. 2004
    Virginia Sexual & Domestic Violence Victim Fund is established and provides $2.4M annually to prosecutors, law enforcement and victim services agencies.

24. 2004
    V AASA and VADV merge to enhance the effectiveness of our work, becoming the Action Alliance.

25. 2005
    We receive federal funding from Health & Human Services to research and develop best practices for children exposed to domestic violence.

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.

30. 2011
    Major legislative overhaul of Protective Orders provides equal access and equal levels of protection for victims of dating violence, sexual assault and stalking.

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.