ADVOCACY WORKS

Research shows that advocacy enhances the safety and well-being of people affected by violence.¹

Survivors of violence who receive advocacy services...

- **Report enhanced mental and physical well-being**
- **Strengthen their social support networks**
- **Have a reduced risk of experiencing abuse again**
- **Have increased access to vital community services**

Survivors consistently tell us that sexual and domestic violence agencies help them build trust and restore hope.²

- **97%** felt supported by staff in determining their pathway to healing
- **93%** know about more ways to plan for their safety
- **92%** know more about community resources & how to access them
- **94%** feel more hopeful about their lives
- **85%** feel their children are having more positive interactions with others

Virginia launched the statewide project, documenting our work, in 2009 to collect data on the range of services provided by sexual and domestic violence programs and the impact these services have on survivors and communities statewide. This is what survivors told us.

“*I’ve never been so happy in my life and neither has my son.*”

“*These services changed my life, helped me to be more open, and I grew from hearing the experiences of others.*”

Number of surveys collected from survivors 2010 - 2015

13,360
ADVOCACY WORKS

VIRGINIA’S 62 SEXUAL AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGENCIES ARE THE COMMUNITY’S FRONT LINE RESPONSE TO VIOLENCE.

132,037
ADULTS AND CHILDREN SERVED

405,428
CALLS TO HOTLINE ANSWERED

34,588
ADULTS AND CHILDREN SHELTERED

87% RECEIVED HELP MEETING BASIC FINANCIAL NEEDS
79% RECEIVED HELP FINDING SAFE/AFFORDABLE HOUSING
87% RECEIVED HELP ACCESSING MEDICAL SERVICES
90% RECEIVED HELP WITH THE LEGAL SYSTEM
88% RECEIVED HELP WITH TRANSPORTATION
92% RECEIVED HELP WITH IMMIGRATION CONCERNS
94% RECEIVED HELP ADDRESSING EMOTIONAL NEEDS
94% RECEIVED HELP WITH THE IMPACT OF VIOLENCE ON RELATIONSHIPS WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS

“I FEEL THAT I’M ABLE TO WORK AND CAN NOW EMOTIONALLY AND FINANCIALLY CARE FOR MY 13 YEAR OLD DAUGHTER. I CAN SEE MYSELF ACTUALLY SUPPORTING US AND HAVING A NORMAL LIFE. THANK YOU!”

“I’M VERY FORTUNATE THAT I FOUND A PLACE WHERE I WAS ABLE TO GET THE SERVICES I NEEDED. THE SHELTER HAS PUT ME IN TOUCH WITH THE COMMUNITY RESOURCES THAT ARE HELPFUL TO ME AND HAS GIVEN ME HOPE TO START ON THE JOURNEY TO A BETTER LIFE.”

132,037 adults and children served
34,588 adults and children sheltered
405,428 calls to hotline answered

87% received help meeting basic financial needs
79% received help finding safe/affordable housing
87% received help accessing medical services
90% received help with the legal system
88% received help with transportation
92% received help with immigration concerns
94% received help addressing emotional needs
94% received help with the impact of violence on relationships with family and friends

ADVOCACY WORKS, AND IT’S HAVING A HUGE IMPACT IN OUR COMMUNITIES STATEWIDE.

PEOPLE SERVED BY SEXUAL AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGENCIES 2010 — 2015

NOTES:
3. Ibid.