



**Annual Report
2015**

**Breaking the cycle
of domestic violence
and building a
community
free of abuse.**

9,866

Individuals served during fiscal year 2015

Table of Contents

About Us	5
Executive Letter	6
Programs and Services	
Crisis Intervention and Support Services	7
Prevention and Education Programs	8
Financial Report	9

About Us

Established in **1986**, Between Friends is a nonprofit dedicated to breaking the cycle of domestic violence and building a community free of abuse.

Over the last 28 years, the organization has evolved to serve the needs of individuals, families, and communities in **Chicago** and the surrounding suburbs. Today, we employ **22** full-time staff members.

To break the cycle of domestic violence, we offer crisis intervention and **support** services that include a 24-hour crisis line, court advocacy, and counseling.

To build a **community** free of abuse, we offer comprehensive prevention education programs for youth and adults.

Executive Letter

Dear Friends,

The Board of Directors of Between Friends proudly announced Yesenia Maldonado as the Executive Director on December 1, 2014. Yesenia served as interim Executive Director from July 1, 2014 until her appointment in December. Throughout her leadership of the agency this fiscal year, Yesenia has maintained the excellent level of service that the clients and community have come to expect from Between Friends.

For the last 29 years, Between Friends has given hope to clients, students, nurses, doctors, police officers, teachers, parents, friends, families, and survivors. We have educated more than 100,000 youth in the city and suburbs, advocated for clients in two county courthouses, supported thousands of callers on our crisis line, and counseled survivors and their families in four languages, free of charge. Because of our community's sustained support, we change the lives of individuals, families, and entire communities every day. We continue to do so because of the generosity of our supporters.

This past year, our Prevention and Education Programs comprehensive training efforts increased the program outcomes. The adult programming reached more individuals than anticipated this year and led to 100% of teachers and parents surveyed to stating that they feel better equipped to respond to teen dating violence. The Community Education Program offered hundreds of workshops for adults in neighborhood organizations, churches, and schools. Our Healthcare Education Project trained a program high of 506 healthcare professionals. Next year, the program will be expanding to Swedish Covenant Hospital.

The Crisis Intervention and Support Services also sustained a strong level of success last year. Many new clients were introduced to our counseling services through the continuation of our summer family program, Camp Connections, as well as through referrals from court advocates. The Court Advocacy Program expanded to a staff of five advocates. This addition allowed for 2 full time advocates to service the Chicago Domestic Violence Courthouse five days a week. The program served 560 new clients during the 2015 fiscal year. Our networking agreements with immigration law attorneys and Elgin Community Crisis Center allowed us to meet client needs in specialized legal clinics on child support and immigration issues. Our services continue to examine and combat the root causes of abusive relationships and promote the constructs to ensure the development of healthy relationships.



Nancy Bonner, President, Board of Directors

Programs and Services

Crisis Intervention and Support Services

Crisis Line

1-800-603-HELP: A 24-hour, toll-free statewide hotline staffed by trained volunteers and employees. Callers can receive referrals to our programs as well as supplemental services, including shelters and employment assistance.

Court Advocacy

Advocates serve victims in the Chicago and Rolling Meadows courthouses, to explain victims' legal rights, accompany them to court, and assist in navigating the complexities of obtaining Orders of Protection. Assistance is offered in English and Spanish.

Counseling

A clinical team of Masters-level counselors provides evidence-based individual counseling, Child and Parent Psychotherapy, group therapy, financial literacy education, and childcare. Services are offered in English, Spanish, French and Arabic.

Program Highlights

- 100% of all survivors served reported an increase in knowledge of strategies for enhancing their safety.
- 94% of caregivers increased their understanding of the effects of domestic violence on their children.
- 91% of child participants demonstrated a reduction in trauma-related behavioral problems.
- 99% of individuals stated they gained knowledge of their legal rights as a victim of domestic violence going through the justice system.



1,865 crisis line calls answered.

546 clients assisted by our advocates.



278 survivors and **36** families received counseling.

Programs and Services

Prevention and Education

REACH

Relationship Education: A Choice for Hope (REACH) is our comprehensive teen dating violence prevention program. Instructors work with middle and high-school aged students, their parents, and teachers to promote healthy relationships and eradicate abusive ones through the acquisition of knowledge and skills.

Healthcare Education Project

Established in 2002, this program prepares health care professionals to safely and sensitively respond to the needs of domestic violence victims in the healthcare system. The program reached many more training participants than anticipated during 2015. We have agreed to expand this program to Swedish Covenant Hospital for fiscal year 2016.

Community Education

Staff members conduct domestic violence workshops and trainings with area health and human service providers, law enforcement, criminal justice officials, educators, clergy, and other members of the community. An integral aspect of building a support for ending the cycle of domestic violence.

Program Highlights

- 90% of REACH participants reported a willingness to use healthy conflict resolution in relationships.
- 86% of youth reported knowledge of appropriate ways to help someone in an abusive relationship.
- 100% of Healthcare Education Program participants reported knowing the dynamics of domestic violence and that they feel better equipped to screen and respond to victims in the healthcare system.



382 community workshops held throughout the Chicagoland area.

Trained **506** healthcare personnel.

Financial Report

Assets

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$469,704
Grants and Contracts Receivable	\$164,753
Contributions Receivable	\$42,447
Prepaid Expenses	\$13,618
Unemployment Reserve	\$17,179
Fixed Assets, Net of Depreciation	\$153,168

TOTAL ASSETS **\$860,869**

Liabilities and Net Assets

Accounts Payable	\$9,486
Accrued Expenses	\$69,457

TOTAL LIABILITIES **\$78,943**

Unrestricted Net Assets	\$666,500
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	\$115,426

TOTAL LIABILITIES and NET ASSETS **\$860,869**

Revenue

Contributions	\$535,528
Government Grants	\$620,362
Special Events (Net of Direct Costs of \$31,256)	\$28,505
Donated Goods and Services	\$113,976
Other Revenue	\$478

TOTAL REVENUE **\$1,298,849**

Expenses

Program Services	\$1,030,339
Management and General	\$135,702
Fundraising	\$146,608

TOTAL EXPENSES **\$1,312,649**

Change in Net Assets	(\$13,800)
Net Assets, Beginning of Fiscal Year	\$795,726
Net Assets, End of Fiscal Year	\$781,926



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