Between Friends

ANNUAL REPORT

FY2021
OUR MISSION
Between Friends is dedicated to preventing domestic violence and ending the cycle of abuse by equipping our communities with the tools necessary for everyone to feel safe and equal in their relationships.

OUR VISION
We envision a society free from domestic violence and abuse.

OUR HISTORY
In 1986, Between Friends was founded by volunteers and friends from the National Council of Jewish Women and the Junior League of Evanston/North Shore as a small grantmaking body dedicated to raising funds for local domestic violence programs. Between Friends began to expand our efforts in 1991, by providing direct crisis intervention services for individuals and families.
Dear Friends,

When I became Executive Director of Between Friends in the summer of 2020, I was determined to ensure that we do everything to keep our staff safe from COVID-19 while at the same time providing consistent, reliable support to our clients.

That hasn’t always been easy, but the need is essential. In 2021, the Illinois Domestic Violence Hotline heard from more than 32,000 individuals seeking assistance — an eight percent increase from 2020, which was already a record-breaking year.

The support Between Friends provides to domestic violence survivors comes in many forms. Sometimes it looks like counseling or court advocacy, sometimes like direct financial support or referrals to other services. It comes in the form of the education we give to young people in Chicago Public Schools, as well as to their parents and to a range of professional adults.

In the following report you’ll learn more about what that support looks like, and how we’re working towards our vision of a society free from domestic violence and abuse.

Yours,

Sandy T. Williams
Executive Director
Our Strategic Plan

The Board of Directors’ Strategic Planning Committee, with input from Between Friends employees and other nonprofit professionals, has created a strategic plan for 2022 to 2024.

The Strategic Plan outlines how, over the next two fiscal years, Between Friends will develop our programs to establish ourselves at the forefront of the movement to eradicate domestic violence. Our main program development strategies will include:

- We will strengthen our A Night Out program using institutional support and community partners, to create events that encourage socializing and promote a sense of security, community, and personal empowerment.
- We are studying the potential to launch an expanded counseling service program that will fill the long-term needs of our clients.
- We will certify the curriculum for our teen dating violence prevention program, REACH, while also growing the REACH team with new educators to take the program into new Chicago neighborhoods.
- We will also be launching a new curriculum of continuing education programs and trainings, devised by Between Friends, for domestic violence professionals and social workers.
- We are looking into options to enhance our court advocacy program in order to address the Chicago metro area's lack of legal aid clinics dedicated to domestic violence.
SERVING OUR CLIENTS, SERVING OUR COMMUNITIES

Our survivor services provide truly essential support to people who are either in an abusive relationship right now, or who need help to heal and grow after experiencing domestic violence.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, our counseling team has found ways to ensure clients feel less isolated, like the “Connected While Apart” collective collage art project created by participants in a Between Friends counseling support group.

Our court advocacy team worked with Family Rescue, Sarah's Inn, and Metropolitan Family Services to create a legal advocacy helpline which, since April 2020, has helped thousands of callers who might otherwise have struggled to navigate the court system. Callers described the helpline as “a ray of light in this super traumatic time” and “incredibly supportive and nonjudgmental.”

More than $30,000 in grant opportunities, public funding, and individual donations made it possible for Between Friends to provide direct client assistance to 60 clients and their families during FY21. During this economically challenging time, this program has provided financial assistance to survivors as they become independent from their abusers, enabling them to pay utility bills, rent, medical costs, and living expenses.

“If I had to rely on the court system alone, myself and my children would not be thriving. Between Friends helped us survive our abuser, and then they helped us survive the justice system.” - Court Advocacy Client
The Survivors for Economic Empowerment (SEE) project is a survivor-led, peer-to-peer endeavor. Participants work with each other and with community institutions to build relationships and skills that lead to long-term economic freedom.

The REACH (Relationship Education: A Choice for Hope) program addresses the need to talk to young people at an early age about relationships and abuse. Since 1995, REACH has served tens of thousands of young people. During the last two years, we’ve taught the REACH curriculum to hundreds of Chicago students in-person and remotely. Now we are expanding the size of the REACH team to six Prevention Educators, to serve the West Side as well as the North and South Sides of Chicago.

Our adult education and training work continues apace, both online and in-person: Last year, we held 47 trainings for 826 professionals and 8 community awareness events reaching 1,743 people.

After taking necessary time off during the pandemic, our A Night Out program has made a triumphant return. A Night Out lets clients experience fun and safe organized group outings. We began winter 2021 with a trip for survivors and their families to see the Lincoln Park Zoo Lights!

“Financial abuse was a tactic used by my partner to control me. Thanks to the SEE project, I learned how to make my own decisions independently.... I empowered my family, my community, and myself with knowledge and resources.”

- SEE Project Participant
FOUNDATION AND CORPORATE SUPPORT

AbbVie
Accuity
Alphawood Foundation
Amita Health St. Francis
Walter J. & Edith E. Best Foundation
Bright Funds
Fred J. Brunner Foundation
Calmoseptine, Inc.
Cantigny Golf
CARE Yoga Teacher Training
CBIZ
Chicago Foundation for Women
Chicago House & Social Service Agency
Susan Crown Exchange, Inc.
Crown Family Philanthropies
DLA Piper
Egerter Family Foundation
Flora Blahnik Real Estate
Givinga Foundation
The Greer Foundation
Havenga Family Charitable Fund
Interior Define
JLL
Evon D & Jack H Keck Foundation
Fourth Presbyterian Church
Irving Harris Foundation
Lavelle Law Charities
The Reva & David Logan Foundation
Ernest & Sally Micek Family Foundation
Mutual of America
Polk Bros. Foundation
Michael Reese Health Trust
S&C Electric Company Fund
Tito's Handmade Vodka
VNA Foundation
Wines For Humanity
Wintrust Bank Rogers ParK
Despite the significant challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, from FY2020 to FY2021 Between Friends increased our revenue in all major areas (individual giving, foundations and corporate giving, and government grants), overtaking our expenses to create greater financial stability for the agency.

### Revenue

#### FY2020
- Individual Giving: 5.8%
- Misc.: 4.8%
- In-Kind: 3%
- Government Grants: 42.8%
- Management and General Operating: 29.3%
- Foundations and Other Organizations: 43.6%
- Fundraising: 11.3%
- Survivor Services: 43.1%
- Prevention and Education: 16.2%

#### FY2021
- Individual Giving: 5.8%
- Misc.: 4.8%
- In-Kind: 3%
- Government Grants: 42.8%
- Management and General Operating: 29.3%
- Foundations and Other Organizations: 43.6%
- Fundraising: 11.3%
- Survivor Services: 43.1%
- Prevention and Education: 16.2%
Our Board of Directors

Daniel Hernandez (President)
Principal and Managing Attorney
NextLevel Law

Norman Jones
(President-Elect)
Director, Diversity and Inclusion, JLL

Jim Javorcic (Treasurer)
Director, CBIZ

Cathy Carmody
(Secretary)
Retired Principal Owner and Consultant
Declaire Associates

Arthur Beredjick
Reporting & Compliance Lead
Allies for Community Business

Dejanae Byrd, LCPC, CPP
Clinician
Centers for New Horizons

Erin Ryan
Senior Vice President
The Night Ministry

Jennifer Splinter
Immigration Manager, Facebook

Michele Cohen (President Emeritus)
Senior Director, Revenue Management
Choice Hotels International

Our Advisory Council

Bonnie H. Chan*
H + K International

Rev. Charles Dahm, OP
Archdiocese of Chicago

Noeleen McGrath
McGrath Comm.

Caroline Moellering*
@properties

Diana Palomar
ABC7

Anne P. Ray*
Markel Insurance

Michele Weldon
Northwestern University

*Board Member Emeritus
Our Leadership Team

Sandy T. Williams
Executive Director

Verda Bhatti
Director of Prevention and Community Education

Tonya H. McDonald
Director of Finance

Bernard Mariano
Chief of Staff

Fawn O'Brien
Director of Development

Nancy Toncy
Director of Survivor Services

All photos copyright Between Friends 2022 unless otherwise stated

Pages 1-2: Staff and Board members at the Light Up The City vigil 2021, by Aaron Cynic.

Page 4: Clients, staff, and volunteers visit Medieval Times as part of A Night Out.

Page 5: Director of Survivor Services Nancy Toncy (far left), Executive Director Sandy T. Williams (far right) and other members of the Between Friends team.

Page 6: Participants in the Survivors for Economic Empowerment program at a "Money Tree Decorating" holiday-themed event.
Between Friends
P.O. Box 608548
Chicago, IL 60660

www.betweenfriendschicago.org

1-800-603-4357
24 Hour Help Line

773-274-5232
General Business Line