



Between Friends

# IMPACT REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2022





## 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.



# FY23 OUTCOMES

Between Friends served **7,105 individuals** through Crisis Intervention & Support Services and Prevention & Education Programs and reached an **additional 682 community members** through awareness raising during Fiscal Year 2022.

## Crisis Intervention

The Counseling and Support Services program supported **151 adults** and **58 children**. The Court Advocacy Program supported **410 survivors** of domestic violence. Between Friends assisted **2,262 callers** seeking support on the Crisis Line and achieved the following outcomes:

- **91%** of adult clients reported increasing their knowledge of strategies for enhancing their safety.
- **91%** of children identified two things they learned to do when they don't feel safe.
- **96%** of clients stated that they learned their rights as victims of domestic violence going through the justice system.

## Lisa's Story



Lisa (name changed to protect client confidentiality) and her two sons are enrolled in the family counseling program in FY22. With the support of their Between Friends Counselor, Lisa and her sons are addressing anger, jealousy, and fear expressed within the family. During one session in particular, Lisa shared that she was feeling frustration towards her sons. Recently, her sons had expressed anger and hostility towards

Lisa's male friends and acquaintances. Lisa felt hurt that her sons did not trust her decision-making ability. In response, Lisa's sons shared during the session that they were afraid these new men would hurt Lisa like their father had. Lisa was able to listen and validate their fears while also re-establishing herself as the reliable family protector. By enrolling in the Between Friends family counseling program, Lisa's family conquered the difficult work of distributing healthy family roles and compassionate communication.

# FY23 OUTCOMES

## Prevention and Education

Between Friends continues to be a community leader in providing evidence-informed prevention and education programs to youth and adults across Chicagoland. REACH educated **3,122** young people across **15 Chicago Public Schools** with the following outcomes:

- **89%** of youth reported knowing the warning signs and dynamics of abusive relationships.
- **87%** of youth reported knowledge of appropriate and healthy ways to help someone who is experiencing an abusive relationship.

Our Adult Education Program trained 1,102 healthcare providers, social service providers, educators, parent/caregivers, first responders, clergy, etc. In addition, Between Friends staff provided various trainings and awareness raising events around domestic violence to 682 community providers and community members with following outcomes:

- **98%** of adults reported knowledge of the warning signs of domestic violence.
- **98%** of adults reported that they felt more confident in responding to domestic violence.

## Kevin's Story

After his first REACH session, Kevin (name changed to protect the youth's confidentiality) approached the Prevention Educator and shared, "I am sorry, but I just don't see how men can be victims of abuse. I can't see it happening." Over the next eight weeks, Kevin learned all the different ways that intimate partner violence can occur within a variety of relationships. Kevin continued to ask questions and engage in conversations with his peers during sessions.

Overtime, Kevin began to change his perspective. By the end of the program, Kevin shared that he now had a better understanding of different forms of abuse and how it could happen to anyone. Kevin's story exemplifies the overall goal of the program which is for young people to recognize the patterns and behaviors that can be attributed to dating violence.



**On behalf of the young people and adults we  
serve, thank you for supporting Between Friends.  
Your investment is critical to our work of  
breaking the cycle of domestic violence and  
building a community free of abuse.**



**Between Friends  
P.O. Box 608548  
Chicago, IL 60660**

**[www.betweenfriendschicago.org](http://www.betweenfriendschicago.org)**

**1-800-603-4357**

24 Hour Help Line

**773-274-5232**

General Business Line