BECAUSE GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE NEEDS TO STOP NOW.
Gender-Based Violence (GBV) is a common, complex, and consequential public health epidemic that encompasses sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking. As a public health epidemic, it significantly impacts our region’s economic stability, our workforce’s productivity, as well as our children’s and families’ safety, health and well-being.

For the past 44 years Women Helping Women has been serving all survivors of gender-based violence, regardless of their gender identity.

Women Helping Women (WHW) prevents gender-based violence and empowers all survivors.

WHW believes that a world without gender-based violence is possible and that all members of our caring community can live in a world of equality, health and vitality.
Gender-based violence is an epidemic in our community. We can’t simply ignore the problem and hope it goes away.

The reality is 1 in 3 women will be impacted by gender-based violence in their lifetime. That’s a sobering statistic, and it’s only getting worse. In the past two years, domestic homicides have skyrocketed 70% in Hamilton County. The need for sexual assault services has risen with awareness brought to the surface by the #MeToo movement. And Hamilton County has the unwelcome distinction of ranking 5th among Ohio’s 88 counties in the number of rapes reported to law enforcement.

As gender-based violence has increased, we have expanded services. In 2017, our sexual assault responses rose nearly 40%. Our therapy services more than doubled. In a record-breaking year, our agency provided more than 16,500 crisis response services to nearly 6,000 survivors, and thousands of prevention services to nearly 4,400 youth.

Our advocates are among the first to respond, providing help and hope. We meet with rape survivors in the ER to lend support, provide information and even offer a toothbrush or change of clothes. We assist victims of domestic violence with one-on-one crisis interventions to help them deal with the immediate after-effects or emerging memories.

When a survivor calls our hotline, our advocates answer, any time of day. We are dispatched to the scene, to the courts, to campuses, to the hospitals—wherever and whenever survivors need us. We walk with them and work with them, helping to empower all survivors. And while much gender-based violence takes place away from public view, the truth is it has devastatingly widespread effects.

What happens in the home, flows onto the street and walks into our workplaces. That is unacceptable. Not in our caring community. It’s time to stand up for all survivors.

While delivering intervention services is essential, it’s not enough. Collectively, we must work strong to provide solutions.

There is reason to be encouraged. In this report, we highlight a few innovative approaches designed to help prevent violence from happening in the first place.

With your help and support, we can stop gender-based violence. Together, we are far more powerful than violence will ever be.

Kristin Smith Shrimplin
President & CEO
Women Helping Women

2017 Clients Served
11,296 Clients
- Survivors - 5,792
- Youth in Prevent & Empower Education - 4,356
- Community & Professional Training - 1,146

Survivor Response Spikes:
This past year marked a steep increase in intervention services:
- 82% increase in Protection Order Paperwork Assistance
- 33% increase in Individual Crisis Intervention Sessions
- 205% increase in Trauma-Informed Therapy Sessions
- 36% increase in Sexual Assault Support Group Advocacy

Overall, Advocates showed up and responded to survivors to provide 16,590 services:
- 9,606 Hotline Calls
- 2,765 Support Group Contacts
- 1,398 Individual Crisis Intervention Services
- 503 Trauma-informed Therapy Services
- 204 Hospital Accompaniments
- 343 Criminal Court Accompaniments
- 550 Protection Order Hearing Accompaniments
- 173 Protection Order Paperwork Assistance
- 1,048 Client Assistance and additional resources provided

Women Helping Women serves any, every, all survivors.
That’s why we successfully expanded outreach to underserved populations:
- 83% increase in Latina survivors accessing services
- 48% increase in LGBTQ survivors served

2017 Income
Private Grants & Allocations, $159,398
Government Grants, $450,800
Contributions, $253,484
Special Events, $140,758
Program Services fees, $144,479
Investment Earnings, $24,923
In-Kind Contribution, $75,491
Other $4,822

2017 Expenses
Management and general, $172,363
Fundraising, $98,961
Program Services, $1,293,843

Total Assets, $908,080
Net Income: $163,574
Gender-based violence is happening in homes...

Through more than a decade of abuse, Clarissa had never called the police before. Her abuser was powerful, successful, controlling. On the night she called, he had attacked her with a knife. When the police arrived in response to Clarissa's call, they came with a Women Helping Women DVERT advocate.

DVERT is providing a 24/7 solution

Launched in February in collaboration with City of Cincinnati Police, DVERT (Domestic Violence Enhanced Response Team) provides an on-call, on-scene response to domestic violence survivors to avert gender-based violence and to prevent children from growing up in violent homes.

The DVERT advocate worked with Clarissa to determine steps to safely leave the relationship, despite everything that her abuser had put in place to prevent that from happening.

Our advocate talked with Clarissa each day following that first call. She went to court with her 13 times. She secured funds to get Clarissa her own apartment. She helped Clarissa get a job. And thanks to Changing Gears, she helped Clarissa get a reliable car to get to work.

That's the power of investing in solutions like DVERT. This bold program, a first in the region and one of a few models in the country, drew an invitation for our CEO to meet with leaders from the New York City Mayor's Office, where a similar advocate response program is being considered.

While off to a strong start, there is still much work to do, and DVERT services need to be expanded to keep any survivor from falling through systems cracks.

- 275+ DVERT calls responded to.

Gender-based violence flows onto our streets...

Alcoholic drinks and the exuberance of young people can be an unpredictable combination. And while alcohol consumption is not a direct cause of violence, it can be a contributing factor of bar-related gender-based violence.

IT'S ON US BAR TRAINING is providing an innovative, frontline solution.

We believe a bar shouldn't be an uncertain setting, and that no one should feel unsafe when enjoying a night out on the town. We developed It's On Us Bar Training as a breakthrough, preventive solution to train bar staff to identify red flags and develop sexual violence intervention skills that enable them to stop a problem before it occurs.

Since the launch of It's On Us Bar Training, a number of progressive, community-minded establishments have made our program a standard part of their training. The program continues to be enhanced and expanded, and our hope is to make bar settings safe for everyone.

- 5 bars certified, 2 re-certified
- 247 bar staff trained at Queen City Radio, Taft's Ale House, Rhinegeist Brewery, Northside Yacht Club, Aster on Fourth

Prevent and Empower raises student awareness, offers solutions. We have also partnered with 25 area schools to educate more than 4,400 young people through the evidence-based Prevent and Empower education program. Designed for schools and organizations serving youth, the 5-day and 10-day programs explore signs of healthy and unhealthy relationships, sexual assault and sexual harassment, including the growing misuse of social media and technology.

Young people learn about bystander intervention, are given resources to help a friend or loved one, and develop communication skills to promote healthy relationships. One participant reported, "I loved the discussions and the topics helped me realize that I need to step in more."
Gender-based violence walks into our workplaces...

When an employee experiences gender-based violence, there is a direct impact on their work productivity, their contribution to company culture, and the company bottom-line. In fact, the cost is more than $5.86 billion each year in medical and mental health care services, as well as productivity losses, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

But beyond the economic impact is the impact on the survivor. Nearly three-fourths of survivors are harassed by their partner while at work, causing 56% of them to be late for work at least five times per month, 28% to leave early at least five days per month, and 54% to miss at least three full days of work per month.4 Many lose their jobs at least in part to the domestic violence.


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WorkStrong™ is providing an innovative, bottom-line solution

With the power of the #MeToo campaign, many business leaders are increasingly aware of the scope of the problem and want to support employees and ensure a safe working environment for all.

We developed the WorkStrong™ Certification program to provide a comprehensive package that companies can proactively use to increase corporate social responsibility and their bottom-line, while decreasing employee turnover and lost productivity.

WorkStrong™ Certification helps companies evaluate where they are succeeding and where they see the need for assistance. Employees are trained on identifying and helping to prevent gender-based violence.

Women Helping Women further supports certified companies by serving as a resource that employees can call for free, confidential support services.

This program was developed based on research and the depth of experience serving survivors whose work life has been deeply impacted by violence.