

# Cherokee Family Violence Center 2015 Annual Report



**cfvc**

**Cherokee Family Violence Center**

**help, hope, heal**

## Executive Summary

Dear Friends of CFVC,

I am pleased to share with you the accomplishments and challenges of the Cherokee Family Violence Center for 2015. CFVC has been providing assistance to victims of domestic violence and stalking since 1986. We continue to address our mission to enhance the safety of victims of intimate partner violence and their children by providing a 12-bed emergency shelter, offering crisis intervention services through both our English and Spanish 24 hour crisis lines, operating a 72-unit housing complex, providing legal advocacy, case management and multicultural programs, age-appropriate children programs, support groups and individual counseling, and by developing community partnerships and institutional awareness of domestic violence issues.

As you will see from this Annual Report, 2015 was a year in which we saw unprecedented growth in the number of victims that we served. To answer that growth, we have expanded services to victims. In the pages that follow you will see graphic illustrations of the programs that we offer and how these programs assist the victims we serve. You will also see that we are respectful of the money contributed to our agency, with almost 94 cents out of every dollar going directly to serving victims in our community. We also trust you will see how the community partnerships we have developed enrich the lives of survivors and make Cherokee County a safer community in which to live – one with no domestic violence homicides during 2015.

In the coming years, CFVC along with our supporters, allies and stakeholders hopes to expand the services we offer to children who have witnessed domestic violence by establishing a Children's Center. We hope to strengthen our work for families living in our Housing Program as they heal from the abuse, strengthen their economic situation and develop a path to safe, affordable housing. We also plan to continue our work with immigrant victims of domestic violence through our statewide Spanish language crisis line, ensuring that access to safety does not depend on the language that you speak. We look forward to having your continued support in 2016 and beyond, as we carry on this vital work in our community.

Sincerely,

*Meg Rogers*



Meg Rogers, Executive Director  
meg@cfvc.org  
(770) 479-1804

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## About Cherokee Family Violence Center

### Our Vision

We envision a community that values women and girls, where all women can be safe and that is free from intimate partner violence.

### Our Mission

The mission of the Cherokee Family Violence Center is to enhance the safety of victims of intimate partner violence and their children through culturally and linguistically competent crisis intervention services. Through longer term advocacy, housing and support that empowers survivors. And through systems change advocacy that holds batterers accountable and promotes a community standard of zero tolerance for violence in the home.

### Our Values

- Provide services based on best practices which are focused on safety and delivered with integrity in the best interest of the client.
- Provide services that are client-centered and strength-based.
- Embrace diversity in all that we do.
- That system change is integral to victim safety.
- That volunteers and community partners are vital to the work that we do.



## Board of Directors

Judy Battles – Chair, January-November

Kathleen Thompson – Chair, December

Sherie McNeal – Vice Chair

Rex McInvale – Treasurer

Portia Brooks

Betty Flagle

Alice Gamble

Will Gordon

Christine Kell

Kara Kiefer

Amanda Locke

Debra Murphy

Abby Roach

David Simmons



Judy Battles, Chair (Jan-Nov)



Kathleen Thompson, Chair (Dec)

## Staff Members

### Transitional Housing

Teresa Millsaps – Housing Program Director  
Cecil Davison – Family Advocate  
Ingeborg Harris – Van Driver  
Elexia Kitchens – Family Advocate  
Brooke Larson – Family Support Coordinator  
Bob Lemeshka – Van Driver  
Sheila Lundquist – Family Advocate  
Peggy Mills – Van Driver  
Candace Pranger – Family Advocate  
Autumn Weidman – Family Advocate

### Shelter Program

Wendy Cash – Shelter Operations Manager  
Jessica Garcia – Shelter Operations Manager  
Pat Carman – Life Skills Advocate  
Taylor Foerst – Family Advocate  
Charlotte Lathem – Shelter Advocate  
Charlotte Robinson – Shelter Advocate

### Multicultural Program

Pilar Sarmiento – Multicultural Program Director  
Norma Mendoza – Multicultural Program Director  
Maria Alfaro - Spanish Hotline Advocate  
Erika Bernal - Spanish Hotline Advocate  
Lorena Jacobo – Multicultural Outreach Coordinator  
Vivian Keller – Multicultural Advocate  
Maria Martinez-Garcia - Spanish Hotline Advocate  
Guadalupe Paredes - Spanish Hotline Advocate  
Mercedes Sherman - Spanish Hotline Advocate  
Reina Watt – Spanish Hotline Advocate

### Legal Program

Thomasina DeGonzague – Legal Program Coordinator  
Niki Lemeshka – Legal Advocate  
Lyndsey Little – Legal Advocate

### Administration

Meg Rogers – Executive Director  
Kathie Amspacher – Administrative Director  
Megan Graham – Volunteer Coordinator  
Maggie Jackson – Program Support Director



## Domestic Violence In Cherokee County During 2015



3,496

- Domestic Violence related calls were made to Cherokee 911



1,383

- Calls were received by CFVC's 24-hour hotline



1,195

- Victims received face-to-face services from CFVC



1,611

- Community victims received legal and crisis services



0

- Domestic Violence related deaths in Cherokee



19

- Countries of origin were reported by immigrant victims served by CFVC



126

- Victims resided in CFVC's emergency shelter



221

- Victims resided in CFVC's Transitional Housing

## Sophia's Story

*Sophia is a courageous survivor who shared her story at our Candlelight Vigil this year. Her story highlights issues that many immigrant victims experience, but certainly the fear she experienced in response to her abuser's power and control extends to all victims, regardless of their culture. We appreciate Sophia sharing her story and honor her, and all of the survivors we met with in 2015, through our work.*

In 1999, while I was still living in Guatemala I met a man who was wonderful, such a gentleman, he would treat me well and he loved me; we even had a child together. He came to this country to look for a better opportunity and to give us a better life. In 2005 I came to this city to reunite with him. It surprised me that now he was a very jealous man, violent and he would hit me. He was not the man that I fell in love with. He would not let me go out and he would tell me that in this city, generally the police would walk on the streets or in their cars, and that if they see you and suspect that you were undocumented they would arrest and deport you. I always believed him and that is the why I would not try to leave the house; I was very scared.

There was an episode where he wanted to force me to have sex with him and I did not want to. He was very mad and he told me that if I was not his I was not going to be someone else's. He grabbed me by the neck and threw me towards the bed. He placed a pillow on my face and sat on top of me. I felt that I could not get air and that I was going to die, while he would scream, "die!" The neighbors knocked on the door because they heard loud noises and that was what saved me. He later apologized and once again, I believed in him.

There was another episode when he was very mad, he took his tennis shoe off and he started to hit me with it. I was trying to get away, but finally he locked me inside a closet and he did not let me out. I tried to get out of the closet. I would hit the door and cried so much that I fell asleep for two hours inside. A lady that lived in the same house heard me and was able to get me out of the closet. She recommended me to talk to the priest from my church. The priest told me that I had to forgive my abuser for everything he had done because he was the father of my child, and once again, I did.

My family always told me that I had to stay with my first companion, my abuser, because women who separate from their companions, or the father of their children, they become bitter, sad and lonely -- that no one will look at those women and want to have a relationship. They always told me that I had to forgive. I always believed, because they are my family, and I would always forgive him.

As time passed, he started to drink and use drugs. He was always out of control, very aggressive, always rude with me, and he would hit me still. Without telling me, he would invite friends over to drink and do drugs. He caused me to suffer severe depression. I would always feel sad and felt there was no point in living. So, I just continued experiencing his violence.

A friend of mine shared with me there was an organization that would help domestic violence victims, which was CFVC. There were several times that I went by their office and other times I would just stay outside CFVC's building because I was afraid that CFVC would be an organization run by the government or that police were there to arrest me or deport me. It was a surprise that in 2009 my abuser abandoned me.

On one side, it was a relief to not have to go through his abuse, but on the other side I was scared because I was all by myself, and by then I had my second child. At that moment, I decided to go to CFVC and speak with a case manager. She explained to me my rights, the resources and services that were available for me. Nevertheless, I did not believe much of what she had said. So I just started to participate by going to Spanish Support Group, which helped me a lot to know and realize the types of abuse out there. To also realize that I am not the only woman who lived domestic violence, and that many of those survivors, are now strong women, independent, happy and eager to have healthy relationships. CFVC gave me the strength and the tools to become independent and to move forward.

I was able to start working. I started a new relationship. And had a child with him, who always respected me and loved me. It was then, when my abuser found out that I was pregnant, he came back to harass me by threatening me over the phone.

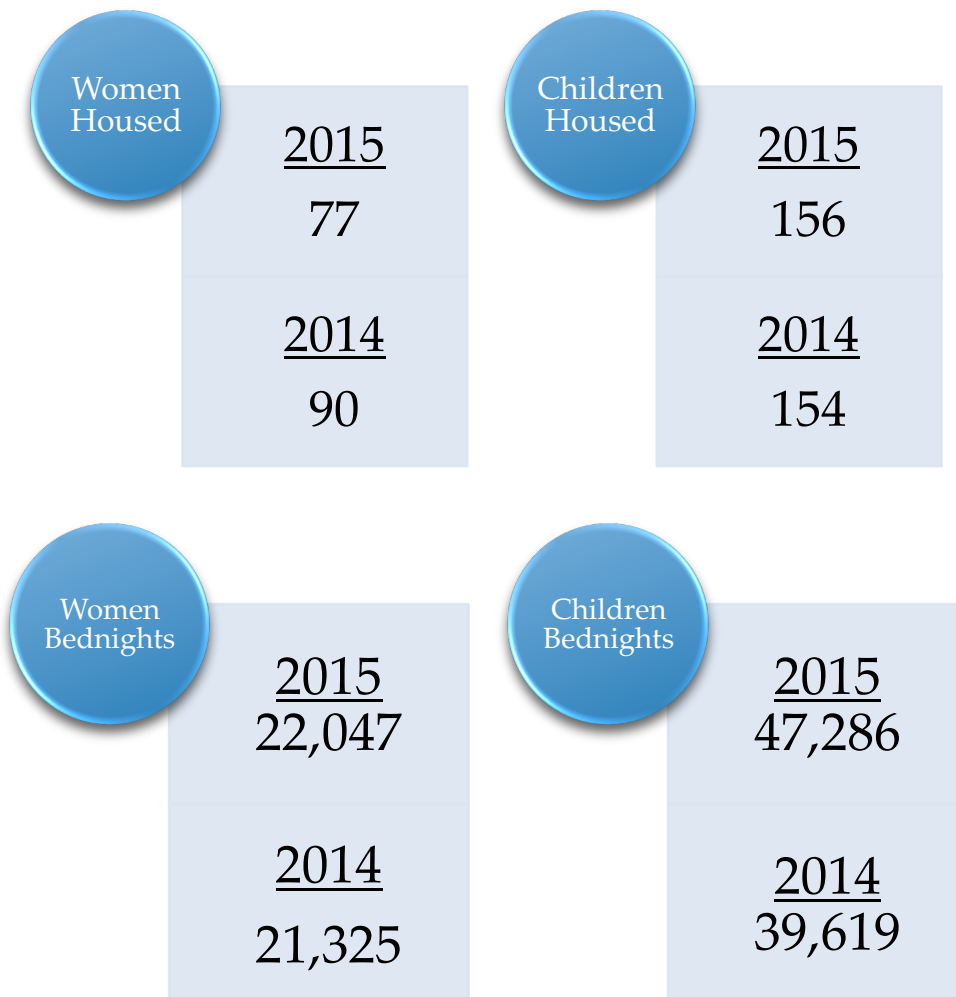
There was an incident when he asked me to spend two hours with my daughter and I let him to spend that time with her. Eight hours had passed and I was worried because he would not give me my daughter back. I called him several times but his phone was off. The police intervened and were able to get my daughter back. I know he was arrested and deported thanks to the collaboration the police and I had. CFVC helped to obtain a U-Visa, and address my immigration status issues.

I am very grateful to CFVC and all their staff. Thanks for them, I now feel more secure, independent, strong, and with no fear. I now have a driver's license, social security number, a stable job, am learning the English language, and I have recently graduated as a health promoter [through the LLVI program, detailed on page 7]. I still continue to participate in some of CFVC's activities, and I feel like they are family to me.



## Transitional Housing

It is difficult to overstate the crucial role affordable housing plays in victims' ability to free themselves and their children from Domestic Violence. With this in mind, the Cherokee Family Violence Center developed the Supportive Housing Program, Hearthstone Landing. Our gated apartment community is comprised of two, three and four bedroom apartments, an activities center, free after school program, a swimming pool and playground, as well as a comprehensive array of onsite supportive services. Each of our 53 units has an intruder alarm system and comes equipped with all appliances, including a washer and dryer. Rent is based on household income and the property hosts a mix of Section Eight, Income Tax Credit subsidies and market rate rentals. For victims who qualify for Section Eight subsidies, one of the innovative features of this project is that, upon completion of our three year program, they receive a Section Eight Community Voucher to take with them into the community. This option provides victims a path to permanent, affordable housing where they can reside free from abuse with their children.



2015 marks our 10<sup>th</sup> year of providing supportive housing to victims and their children and Hearthstone Landing remains one of the largest programs of its type, in the nation.

One of our greatest successes as an agency has been providing victims a permanent escape from an abusive home, through our housing program. During 2015, 58 victims completed their stay at Hearthstone Landing and had obtained permanent housing. In contrast, only seven victims left the program without having established permanent housing for their family.



## 2015

- Permanent Housing With Voucher: 39
- Permanent Housing Without Voucher: 19
- No Permanent Housing: 7



## 2014

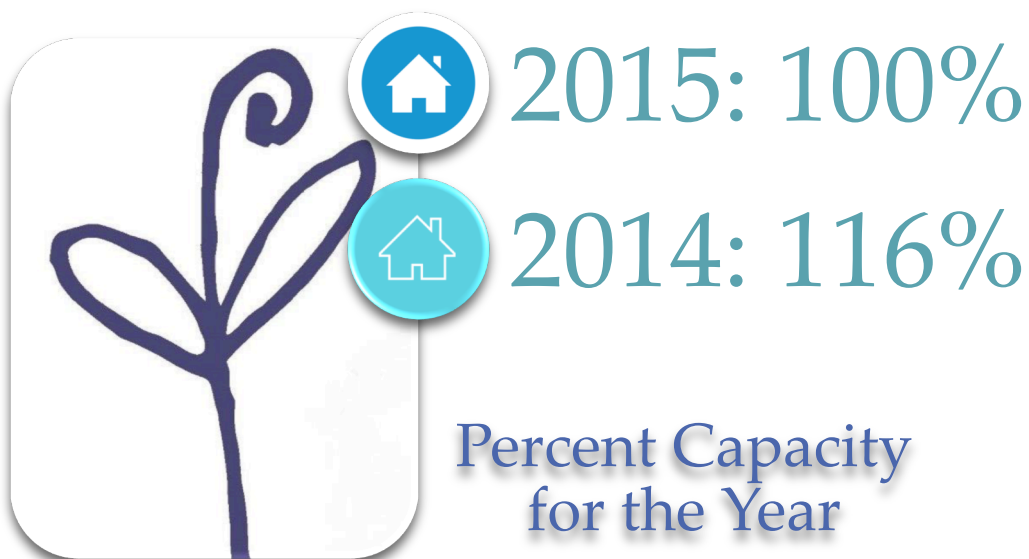
- Permanent Housing With Voucher: 37
- Permanent Housing Without Voucher: 4
- No Permanent Housing: 0

Demand remains high for apartments in Hearthstone Landing. During 2015, the waiting list reached up to twelve months for some victims seeking supportive housing.

## Shelter Program

The Cherokee Family Violence Center's Emergency Shelter provides a 12 bed, homelike location for families who have been victims of Domestic Violence. Our 24-hour staff assist our residents in finding safety, support and resources. We center our work on being client focused and supportive of victims' needs. These values are what drive our staff to assist families and help them achieve goals that can seem distant during trying times. Food, shelter, transportation and unwavering support all come at no financial cost to the victims for whom we provide temporary housing.

Women Sheltered	Men Sheltered	Children Sheltered	Women Bednights	Men Bednights	Children Bednights
2015 67	2015 1	2015 58	2015 2,374	2015 7	2015 1,980
2014 56	2014 0	2014 46	2014 2,494	2014 0	2014 2,613



**IT COSTS \$910.87 PER DAY TO RUN CFVC'S  
EMERGENCY SHELTER.**

## Multicultural Program

Cherokee Family Violence Center has a long history of commitment to, and advocacy for the underserved population of immigrant victims of Domestic Violence. It is our goal to ensure that immigrant victims and survivors of abuse have access to linguistically and culturally competent services.

### Partnership with LLVI

In partnership with Lifting Latina Voices Initiative, the Multicultural Program offers monthly leadership workshops focusing on the needs of Latina women in Cherokee County. Reproductive health, self-esteem, immigrants' rights, finances and parenting are among the workshop topics. All Latinas are welcome to attend the free workshops. On Saturday, April 4th, Cherokee Family Violence Center (CFVC) and the Feminist Women's Health Center held a graduation ceremony for 14 new graduates of the initiative's program.



LLVI Partners and Promotoras at the Georgia Capitol in February for Stop Violence Against Women Day

## DURING 2015, 20 CLIENTS PARTICIPATED IN THE LIFTING LATINA VOICES INITIATIVE AT CFVC.

### Immigration

CFVC is recognized by the Board of Immigration Appeals and has two Multicultural Advocates with Partial BIA Accreditation to provide free legal immigration assistance to immigrant victims and survivors of Domestic Violence. The Advocates discuss victims' immigration options and resources and assess their immigration history/needs. CFVC remains the only Domestic Violence program in the State of Georgia who has been certified to provide immigration relief by the US Customs and Immigration Service (USCIS).

## Statewide Spanish Language Domestic Violence Hotline

CFVC continues to act as the hub for the State of Georgia's Spanish Language Domestic Violence hotline. Run by a staff of six bilingual Hotline Advocates, calls are taken around the clock from all over our state. Advocates work to connect Spanish-speaking victims with a local domestic violence program, providing crisis intervention, safety planning and support in their native language.

## DURING 2015, VICTIMS MADE 411 CALLS TO THE STATEWIDE SPANISH LANGUAGE HOTLINE.

### Recognition

CFVC was honored to receive the Journey Award for Community Partner of the Year from Caminar Latino on November 7th. The award is presented to an individual, business, or organization that has demonstrated exemplary commitment and has made significant contributions in helping families in their journey towards non-violence. Caminar Latino is a nationally recognized program for their approach in addressing intimate partner violence for the Latino population. CFVC had maintained an ongoing partnership with Caminar Latino for many years, and with our agency spearheading the State of Georgia's Spanish Language Domestic Violence Hotline this year, our relationship has continued to flourish.



Jessica Nunan (Executive Director of Caminar Latino) with Meg Rogers and Vivian Keller at the Journey Awards.

## IN 2015, WE PROVIDED SERVICES TO 244 HISPANIC CLIENTS, MAKING UP 20% OF ALL AGENCY CLIENTS.



## Legal Program

It is the mission of Cherokee Family Violence Center's Legal Program and our Legal Advocates to offer non-judgmental support, education, and advocacy to victims of Domestic Violence throughout the legal process. Legal Advocates aim to educate systems, advocate for and support victims of Domestic Violence as they implement a legal safety plan that best addresses their goals. As an agency dedicated to helping survivors of domestic violence, stalking and dating violence, we are committed to helping victims understand their legal rights, available community resources, and how best to manage their personal safety. Legal Advocates are committed to supporting, listening, addressing victims' legal needs, and being empathetic and flexible.

### 2015 Legal Statistics



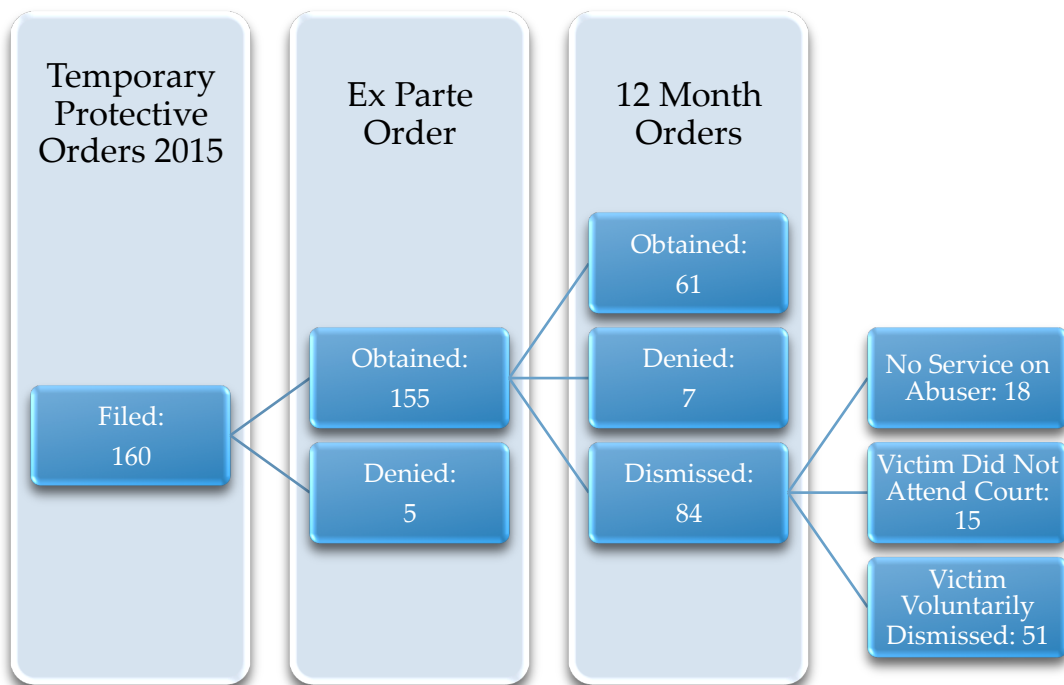
We offer victims no-cost legal assistance, including filing Temporary Protective Orders and other civil filings, assistance in applying for Crime Victims' Compensation, and developing a safety plan. Legal Advocates also provide information about additional legal systems including Law Enforcement and Prosecution and will assist victims with concerns around these systems by advocating with those systems, on behalf of victims, ensuring their safety needs are met.

**DURING 2015, LEGAL ADVOCATES PROVIDED  
ASSISTANCE TO 49 CLIENTS SEEKING CRIME  
VICTIMS' COMPENSATION FROM  
THE STATE OF GEORGIA.**



Among our Legal Advocates' most valued duties is assisting victims with obtaining Temporary Protective Orders and providing support through other legal proceedings. Advocates also assisted 110 victim clients locate legal representation by way of referrals to local attorneys and Georgia Legal Services.

## LEGAL ADVOCATES ACCOMPANIED 194 VICTIMS TO COURT APPEARANCES DURING 2015.



Legal Advocates maintain an open case on all active Temporary Protective Orders and complete periodic followup calls to victims who have an active TPO against their abuser. During 2015, Legal Advocates identified 10 issues of contempt on active TPOs. Using their expertise in safety planning and systems change, Legal Advocates worked with victims to determine a plan to safely address the contempt issues and advocates with law enforcement, probation and the courts to enforce the existing orders.

## Children's Program

Cherokee Family Violence Center's Children's Program continues to grow as fast as the children we work with. The focus of our program remains working with children who have experienced or been exposed to violence in their homes, many of whom reside in our Transitional Housing and Shelter Programs. Through the children's services by CFVC, community collaboration, and volunteers, CFVC's children are healing from abuse and are learning to model healthy relationships.

### Holiday Events

We are fortunate to be able to host holiday events throughout the year, in partnership with volunteer and civic groups. One of this year's favorite events was thanks to the efforts of the Cherokee County Solicitor General's Office and the Cherokee County Bar Association Law Day Committee along with many volunteers from local public safety agencies. More than 50 children living in CFVC's Shelter and Transitional Housing program were able to participate in an Easter Egg Hunt.



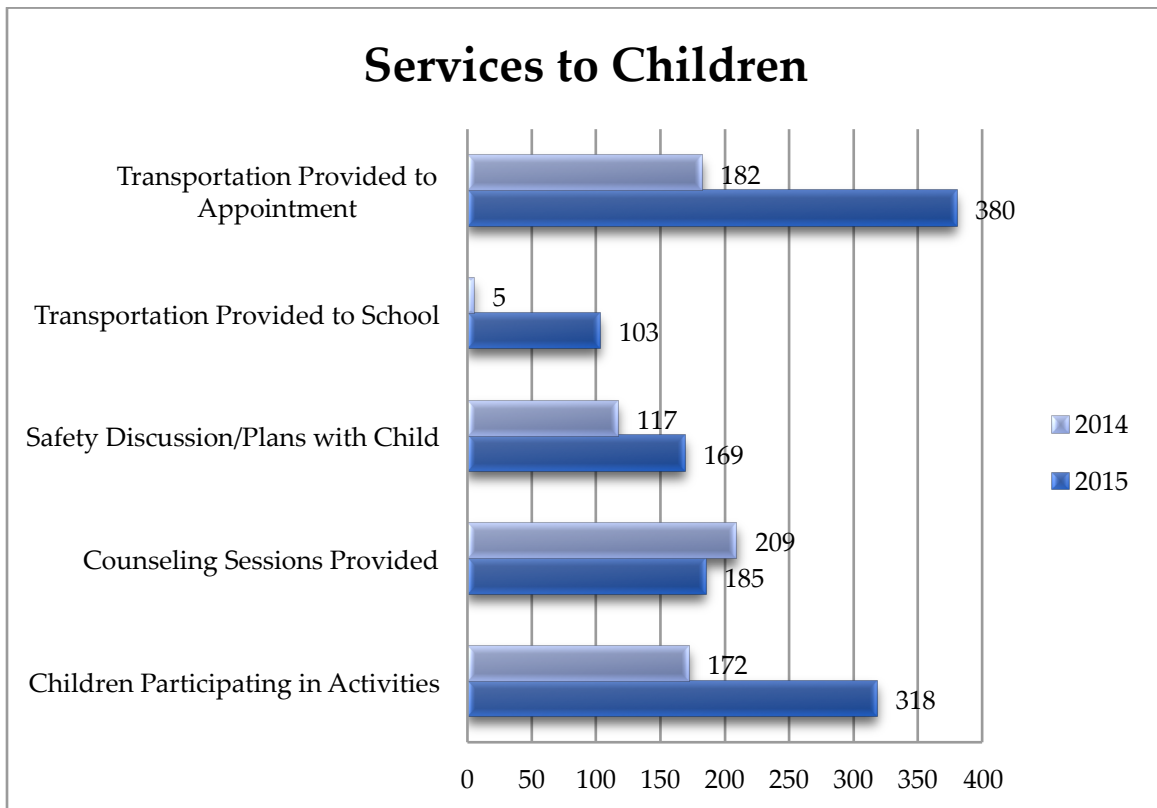
### Triple P

The Positive Parenting Program (Triple P) is offered through Cherokee Family Violence Center. The program is designed to build upon the positive aspects of relationships between parent and child, and is an evidence-based curriculum to address troubling behaviors in children.

## **180 PARENTS PARTICIPATED IN THE TRIPLE P PROGRAM DURING 2015.**

### Academic Mentoring

Beginning in October, CFVC partnered with Children's Restoration Network to implement Project One on One, an academic mentorship program to assist children in their academic development. The Monday night, weekly event was a hit with the 12 children who participated. Volunteer mentors provided 67.5 hours of tutoring to the children in the program, not including the canine volunteer from the Reading Education Assistance Dog (READ) program that encouraged improving reading skills by allowing the children to read to the dog.



### Children's Support Group

Held at the same time as our groups for adults, children age 6 to 18 are encouraged to attend an age appropriate support group, as well. Segregated by age (6-8, 9-11, age 12 can choose older or younger group based on maturity, and 13 and up), **120 children had a combined attendance of 631 support groups during 2015.**

Groups offer a safe place for children to talk about their feelings. Advocates provided non-judgmental support during group time and encourage the children to share their past experiences as a way of alleviating their feelings of isolation. Fun activities are also offered during group to encourage rapport building amongst the children and to encourage resiliency and play.

### Children's Support Group Combined Attendance

2015  
631 Sessions

2014  
246 Sessions

## Community Programs

### Support Groups

During April, we relocated our support groups, which had traditionally been held at our office, offsite. With the help of Liberty Hill Church in Canton's space, Tuesday night support groups and children's activities moved to a location that could accommodate our growth. Moving to Liberty Hill has allowed for enhanced specialized programs for children, by age groups, and offers multiple meeting rooms for adult programs and classes. Support groups are facilitated by volunteers and paid staff. Childcare is provided for those 5 and under during support groups.

**DURING 2015, 106 ADULT CLIENTS HAD A  
COMBINED ATTENDANCE OF 429 SUPPORT  
GROUPS IN ENGLISH AND SPANISH.**

### Classes

Inadequate financial resources often serve as powerful barriers to the victim's access to legal counsel, transportation, medical care, childcare and housing. Financial independence often equates with independence from the abuser. With this in mind, CFVC encourages the victims we work with to attend a Financial Empowerment Class.

**TWENTY CLIENTS PARTICIPATED IN FINANCIAL  
EMPOWERMENT CLASSES DURING 2015.**

In our experience working with victims, even after leaving an abusive situation, survivors often look for answers about the cause of abuse in their relationship. To help them find answers to those questions, and in hopes of reducing the likelihood of future violence in subsequent relationships, a 12-week curriculum was developed and CFVC began to offer our Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) Class in both English and Spanish.

**DURING 2015, 39 CLIENTS HAD A COMBINED  
ATTENDANCE OF 200 INTIMATE PARTNER  
VIOLENCE CLASSES.**

## Hotline

CFVC is home to 24-hour Hotlines in English and Spanish, and also offers TTY access for the hearing impaired. Round the clock assistance is offered to callers by staff and volunteers, who are trained to assess for safety and develop a plan to reduce the likelihood of future violence, assist with immediate needs and provide resources, provide information about our programs and make arrangements for securing safe shelter for those who are in need. Hotline staff and volunteers provide ongoing support and listening to victims, concerned family and friends, and community members 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

## CFVC RECEIVED 1,383 CALLS TO OUR 24-HOUR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOTLINES IN 2015.

### Low Cost Medical and Dental Assistance

Funding through the United Way Healthy Communities Grant sponsored by Kaiser Permanente, has allowed Cherokee Family Violence Center to provide low cost primary healthcare services to the families we serve. Medications, blood tests and non-emergency medical, dental and counseling services were provided to 65 individuals during 2015.



The Laurel Garden Club provided socks and underwear for our shelter residents.



Moss Family Chiropractic collected gifts and funds for families at CFVC.



## Outreach Programs

### Volunteers

Our Volunteer Training Class of Summer 2015 offered on June 11th and 13th, brought CFVC an extraordinary, diverse group of 12 people who were willing to join us in our work to assist victims. Volunteering with CFVC is a process, which requires time, training, dedication and a heart for serving those who have been through domestic violence.

CFVC Volunteers help in so many ways: everything from working at our front desk, to answering our crisis hotline, or helping with our children's support group. Volunteers are also some of our best ambassadors: connecting us with churches and local civic organizations to assist victims of domestic violence in our county each day. Our volunteers give their time and talent to us, and that's a gift that can't be understated.

**DURING 2015, 12 NEW VOLUNTEERS JOINED A TOTAL OF 68 VOLUNTEERS IN CONDUCTING 3,805 HOURS OF SERVICE.**

### Victim Liaison

Cherokee Family Violence Center operates in partnership with Ascension Mental Health and Counseling to provide services to victims whose abusers are participating in Ascension's 24 week, State Certified, Family Violence Intervention Program. CFVC's Legal Advocate, Niki Lemeshka, acts in the role of Victim Liaison and regularly contacts victims by phone and in writing to determine the existence of any safety issues. Together, the Victim Liaison and FVIP Program hope to enhance the safety of victims of abuse, and reduce the likelihood of future violence by addressing abuser's power and control issues through the 24-week curriculum. During 2015, a CFVC Advocate made contact with 70 victims whose abuser was enrolled in FVIP to check on their safety and relay any concerns on the victims' behalf.



The Bridgemill Sixes Service League hosted an event benefiting CFVC's programs.



Woodstock High School Beta Club provided an event for our children.





## Trainings Given

Cherokee Family Violence Center staff are well known as subject matter experts operating within the best practices of our field and are often called on to speak about our work. Our training presentations on the local and statewide level included the following topics:

- “Client Confidentiality and Working with the Department of Family and Children Services”
- “Supporting Law Enforcement's Role in Domestic Violence Response”
- “Domestic Violence Dynamics”
- “Trauma and the Effects of Domestic Violence”
- “Lethality Indicators in Intimate Partner Violence Cases”

Presentations on CFVC services were also made to groups including:

- Belk
- Bridgemill Service League
- Caminar Latino
- CASA Volunteers
- Cherokee County State Court
- Georgia Commission on Family Violence Law Enforcement Officer Training
- Georgia Latinas Against Domestic Violence
- Holly Springs Police Department
- North Cobb High School
- Partnership Against Domestic Violence (PADV)
- Publix
- Verizon Wireless
- Woodstock Police Department

**DURING 2015, CFVC STAFF MEMBERS PRESENTED  
AT 60 TRAINING EVENTS ON THE LOCAL AND  
STATEWIDE LEVEL. PRESENTATIONS WERE MADE  
TO AN AUDIENCE OF 2,065.**

## Awareness Events

Cherokee Family Violence Center staff members also took place in awareness events throughout the State:

- AM1310 Inspiration, Radio Interview
- Cherokee Talks, Radio Interview
- Gateway International Food and Music Festival
- GCADV Race for Empowerment
- Live Without Fear (with Tapestry)
- Night Out Against Crime
- Stop Violence Against Women Day
- Walking Among Us - Now and Forever (Caminando Entre Nosotros - Ahora y Siempre)



CFVC Advocates with Representative Mandi Ballinger at the Georgia Capitol during Stop Violence Against Women Day in February

## Candlelight Vigil

In accordance with Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Cherokee Family Violence Center holds a candlelight vigil each October to honor survivors and memorialize Georgia victims who were killed in domestic violence incidents during 2015. This year's vigil was held on October 13<sup>th</sup> in Cannon Park in Canton. [139 victims were killed in domestic violence related incidents in Georgia, during 2015.](#)



CFVC Advocates attended the Georgia Commission on Family Violence Annual Conference in Athens, Georgia during September 2015. Our Legal Advocates also presented a workshop on Lethality Indicators during the conference.

## Trainings Attended

Cherokee Family Violence Center recognizes that in order to maintain our position as one of the most progressive domestic violence agencies in the state, our staff must maintain ongoing training on best practices within our field. As an agency, we strive to achieve training goals on a variety of topics so that our staff members have a well-rounded approach to working with clients. We consistently exceed minimum training requirements for State certified domestic violence programs.

### **CFVC ADVOCATES RECEIVED A COMBINED TOTAL OF 1,290 HOURS OF TRAINING THIS YEAR ALONE.**

CFVC staff members received training on topics including:

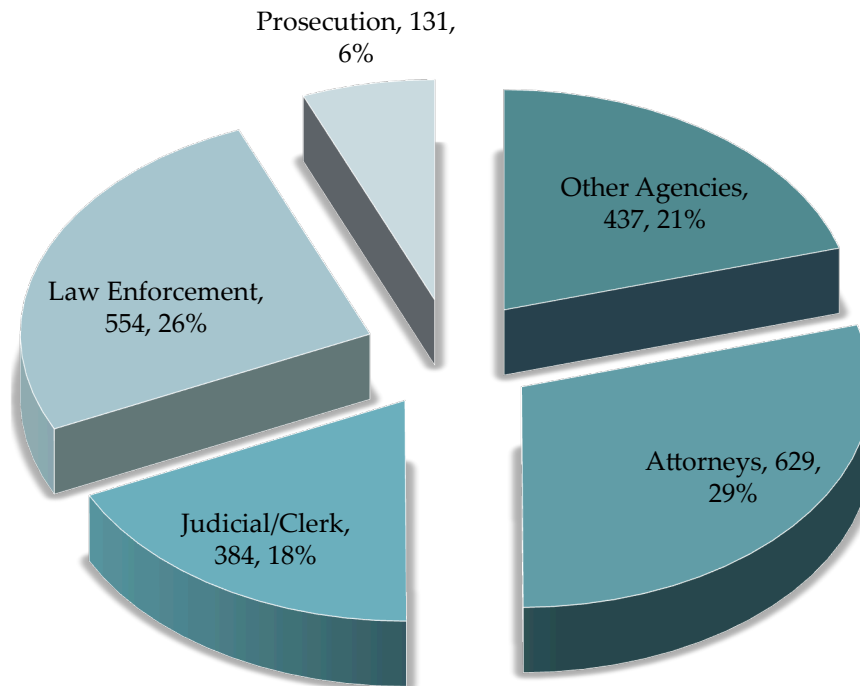
- Abuse and Forgiveness: The Possibilities of Healing
- An Overview of Substance Abuse, Trauma, and Violence Against Women
- Brain Injury and Domestic Violence
- Building Trauma Informed Services
- Bystander Intervention on Campus: Interpersonal Violence/Sexual Assault
- Domestic Violence and Child Support Parenting Time Initiatives
- Children Grow in Context of their Relationships: Stress, Resilience and Principles of Child Development
- Communities of Color and the Violence Against Women Act
- Connecting the Dots During Crisis Calls: Responding to Survivors' Need for Safety, Information and Resources
- Darkness to Light
- Domestic Violence: What Every Front Line Advocate Should Know
- Domestic Violence & Firearms
- Faith and Community Based Approaches to Victim Services
- Federal and State Confidentiality Requirements for Domestic Violence Programs
- Gang Violence & Domestic Violence
- Housing Rights for Survivors
- Integrating Health Assessments Into Domestic Violence Programs
- Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction for Survivors of Trauma
- Safety Planning for Survivors Affected by their Own Substance Abuse or Addiction
- Stalking and Intimate Partner Violence
- Understanding and Addressing LGBT Domestic Violence
- Workplace Responses to Domestic Violence

## Advocacy on Behalf of Our Clients

One of our most important roles as advocates, is to ensure that other community partners such as counselors, doctors, law enforcement officers, social service workers and attorneys, understand how their response can affect victims. We consider advocacy for our clients and engaging other community stakeholders to join us in modeling best practices, one of our top priorities.

**DURING 2015, CFVC ADVOCATES MADE 2,135  
CONTACTS WITH OTHER AGENCIES ON BEHALF OF  
468 OF OUR CLIENTS.**

### Advocacy with Other Agencies 2015



### Holly Springs Citizens Police Academy

Navigating relationship with community partners can be complicated, given that we often come from different perspectives in our work. In order to better understand how to partner with local Law Enforcement agencies, three Cherokee Family Violence Center Advocates completed the Holly Springs Police Department's Citizens Police Academy

earlier this week. The Academy focuses on various aspects of law enforcement over a six-week period.

CFVC's Family Support Coordinator, Brooke Larson, was one of the three Advocates to complete the Academy. She offers, "I thoroughly enjoyed my experience. Each week we focused on a different topic of police work. We learned about detective work, the use of force, the functions of law enforcement and the daily risks law enforcement face. The ride along with the police officer was one of the best parts! He took the time to educate me about his career and what all it entails." Fellow Academy graduate and Legal Program Coordinator, Tommie DeGonzague, says her favorite part of the Academy was the gun safety course and adds, "completing the class gave me a better understanding of, and respect for the Holly Springs Police Department. This experience will improve my advocacy for my clients because I am now better able to explain the role of law enforcement in Domestic Violence response. Because of the classes, I also have a better

working relationship with the officers in Holly Springs." [Legal Advocate, Lyndsey Little](#) also completed the course and is pictured here, along with Larson, DeGonzague and Detective Greg Bettis of the Holly Springs Police Department.

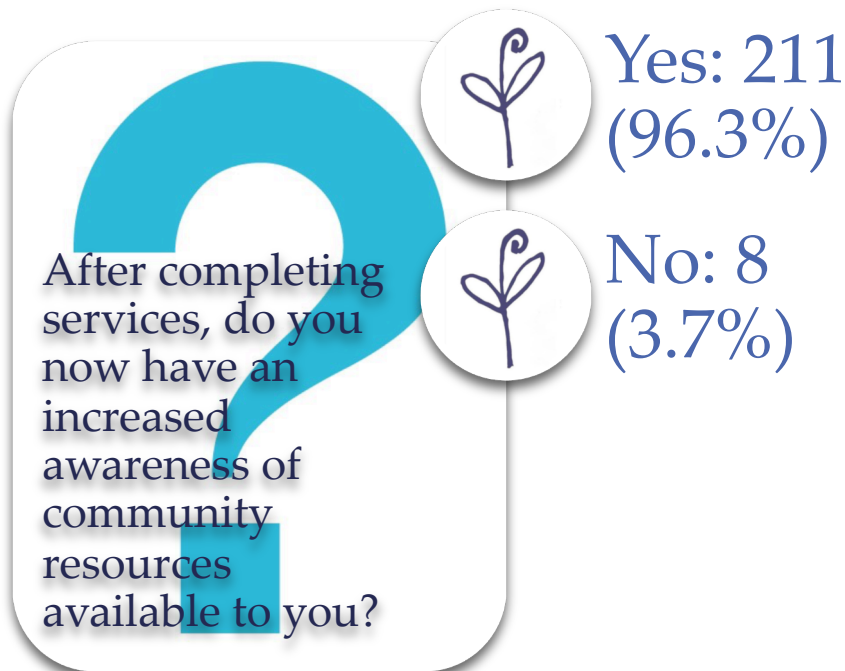
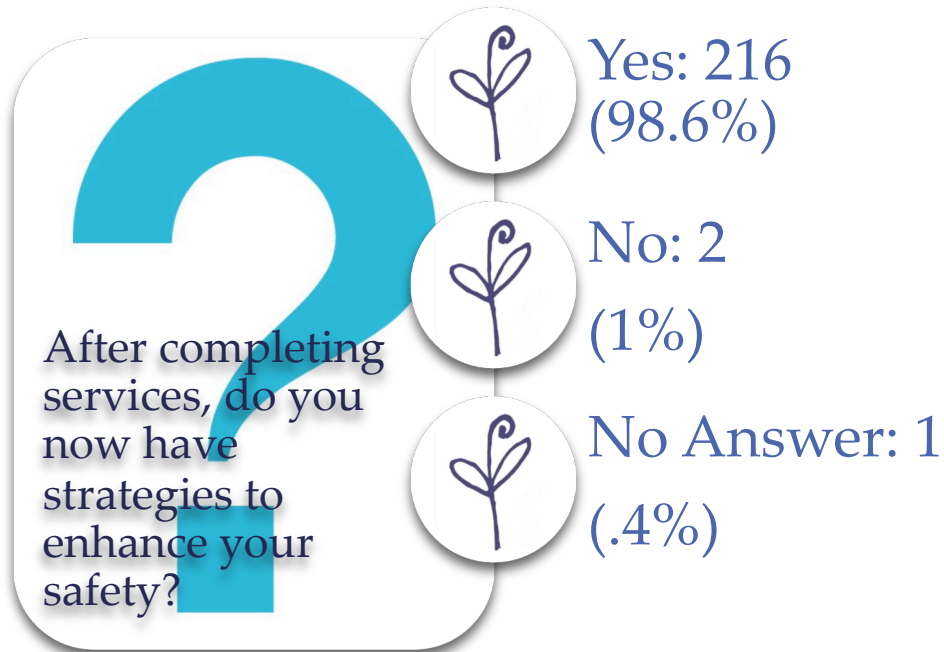
"The passionate and courageous men and women of the Holly Springs Police Department deserve to be thanked daily and kept safe by our community," says Larson. She continues, "Thank you again Holly Springs Police Department. This was an unbelievable experience for me and I thank you today and every day." Congratulations to our Advocates and thanks to the Holly Springs Police Department for dedicating their time and service to our community.





## Client Satisfaction

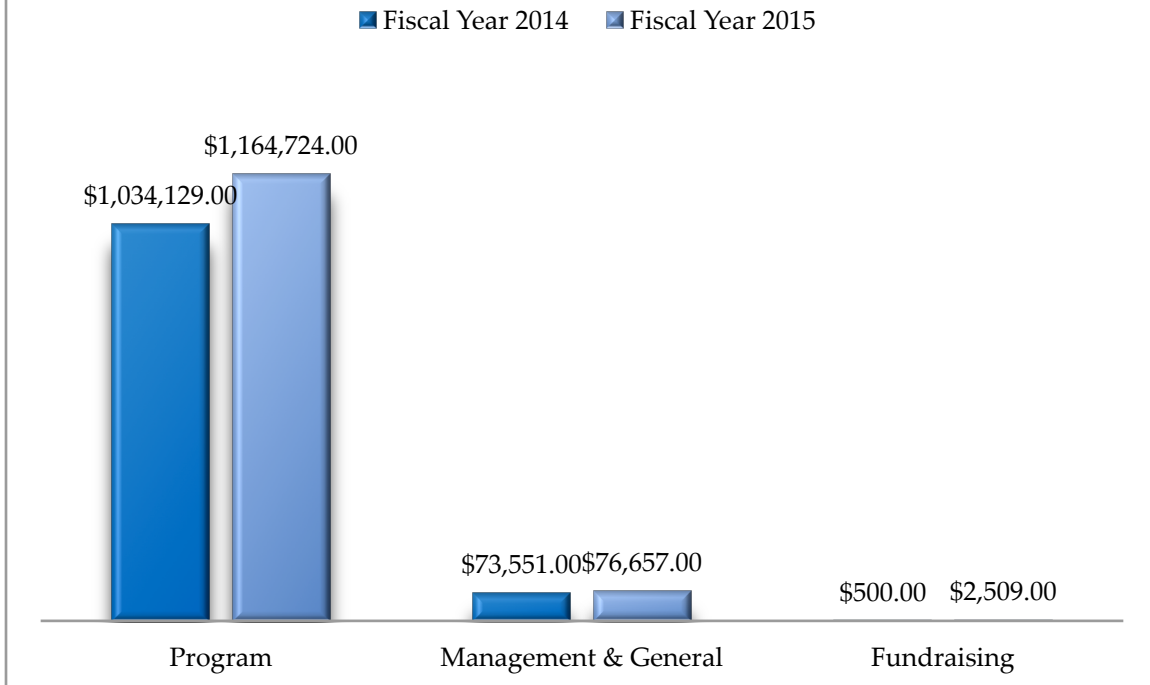
Cherokee Family Violence Center's clients are given a survey after they have completed services from our agency. 219 individuals completed the survey in accordance with the requirements of the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA), during 2015. They were asked:



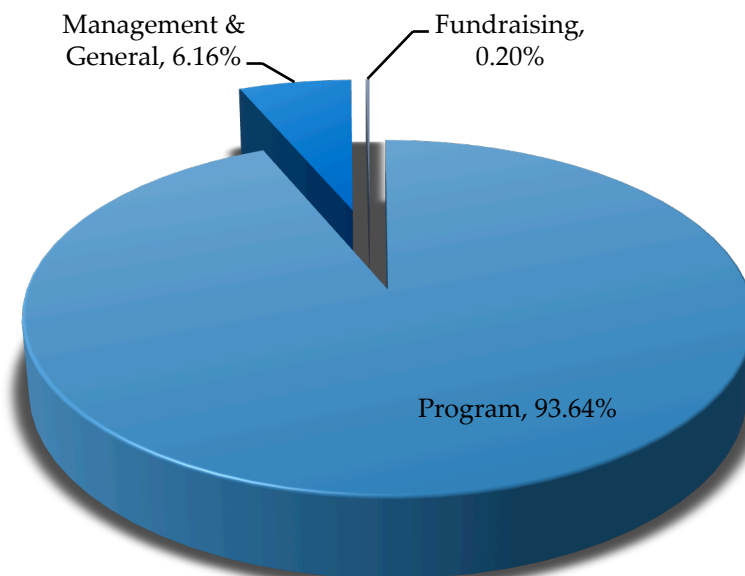


## Agency Expenses

### Comparison of Expenses

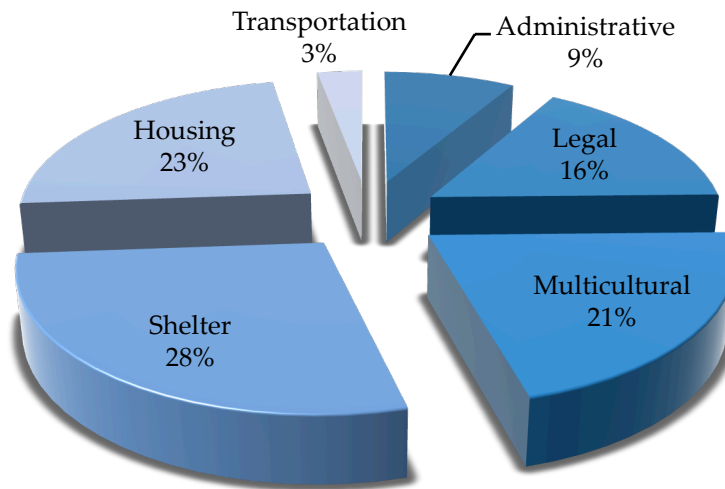


### Fiscal Year 2015 Expense Ratios

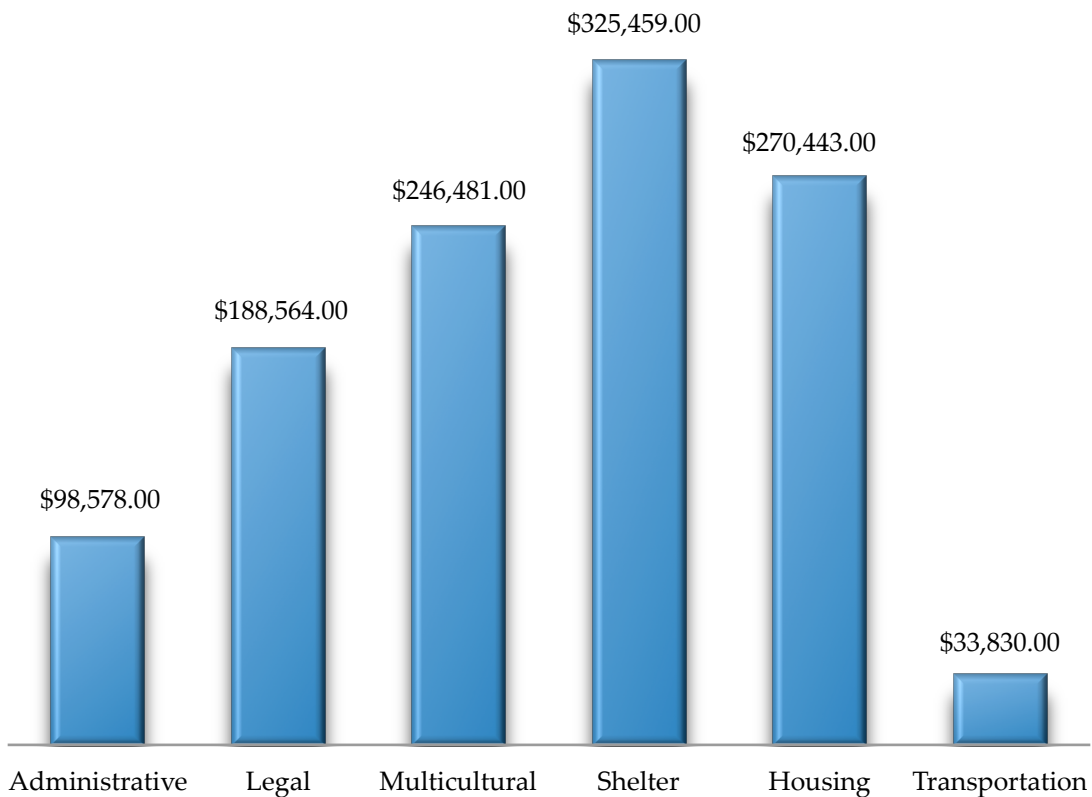


## Program Expenses

### Calendar Year 2015 Program Expense Ratios

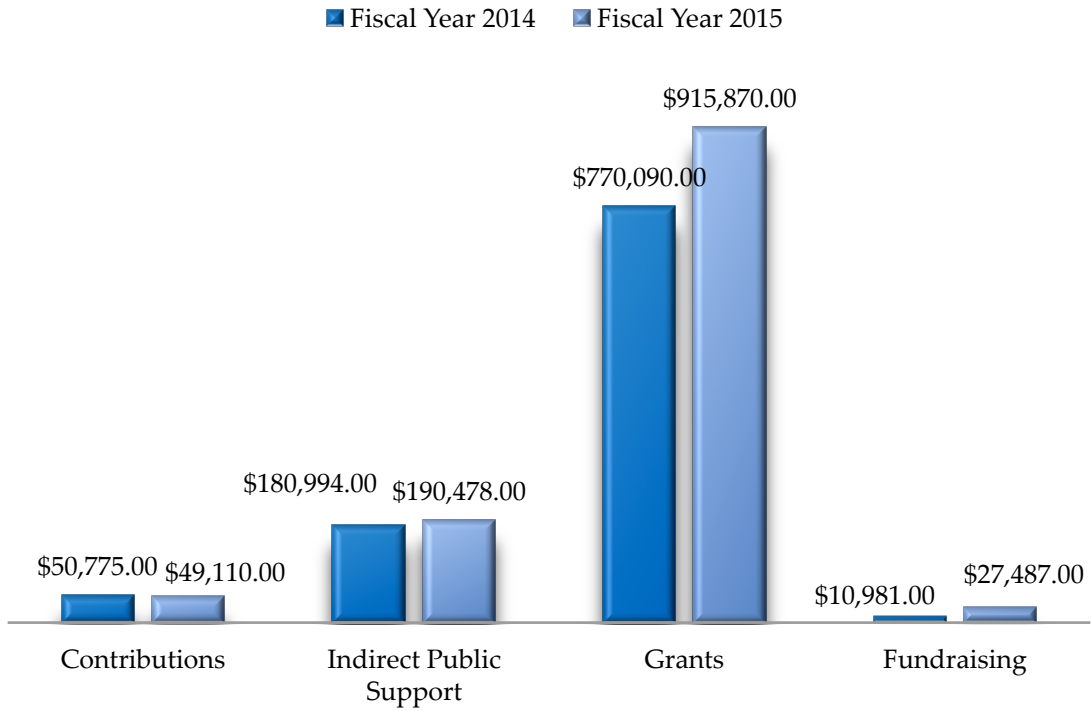


### Calendar Year 2015 Program Expenses

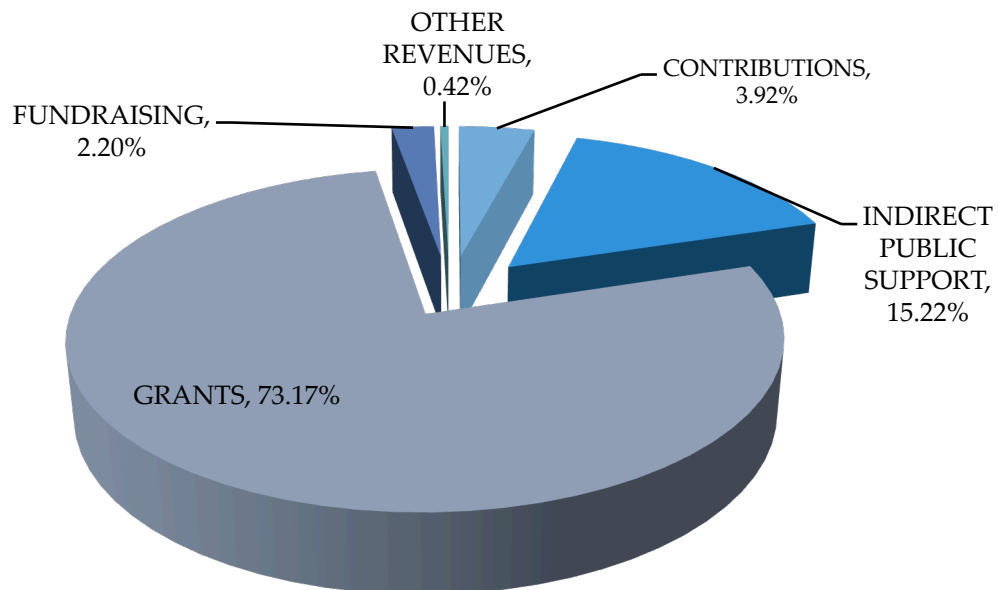


## Revenues

### Comparison of Revenues



### Fiscal Year 2015 Revenue Ratios



## Partners in Our Work

### Grant Funders

Nearly three quarters of our work with victims is funded by grants. We have been fortunate to receive continued support from many of our funders this year, and appreciate our generous grantors' continued support of our work. Grants received during 2015 include:

Cherokee County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)  
 Criminal Justice Coordinating Council – Family Violence Prevention and Services Act Grant  
 Criminal Justice Coordinating Council – State Grant  
 Judicial Council of Georgia/Administrative Office of the Court – Legal Services Grant  
 Office on Violence Against Women – Legal Assistance to Victims Grant  
 Office on Violence Against Women – Transitional Housing Grant  
 Triple P (Positive Parenting Program) Grant  
 United Way – Atlanta Grant  
 United Way – Emergency Food and Shelter Program Grant  
 United Way – Kaiser Foundation Grant  
 United Way – Permanent Housing Grant  
 Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Grant  
 Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) – Legal Grant  
 Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) – Statewide Spanish Hotline Grant  
 Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) – Transitional Housing Grant

### Community Partners

Cherokee Family Violence Center is a non-profit organization and as such, we depend on the support of our community. We are fortunate to have received support from many partners this year and thank each of them for giving of their time, talents and resources in support of our mission. A special thanks to those who contributed over \$1,000 each:

Bridgemill Sixes Service League  
 Tina Finley  
 First United Methodist Church of Canton  
 His Hands Church  
 Ms. Molly Foundation  
 Pamela & Milton Watkins Foundation  
 M. Claire Rivera  
 St. Clement's Episcopal Church  
 Verizon Wireless  
 Wells Fargo  
 Woodstock United Methodist Church  
 Women of Woodstock

### Molly Maids

Molly Maid of Cherokee County, Kennesaw & Acworth and their customers have been a long term partner of our Center, through the Ms. Molly Foundation, a non-profit organization, whose mission is to increase public awareness of domestic violence and to provide assistance to local shelters and agencies that support victims in the communities Molly Maids serves.



Through their Making a Difference Drive in December, Molly Maid customers pitched in \$1,145 to support CFVC's programs – the largest amount collected in the drive since 2008 – and also donated a truckload full of paper products and personal care items, including 635 rolls of toilet paper. In addition, Molly Maid of Cherokee County, Kennesaw & Acworth donated cleaning services to our office throughout this year, so we have gotten to know many of their dedicated and friendly staff members. We are lucky to count Molly Maid among our most active supporters!



**Clockwise from above: Etowah High School Women's Lacrosse completed a service project at our shelter. Steve Cannon's State Farm office collected over 200 pounds of food for our shelter. Changed 2 Ministry planned a Mother's Day celebration for our clients.**



## Needs List

### Transitional Housing and Shelter Needs Include:

Kitchen utensils (such as measuring spoons, spatulas, ladles, etc.)  
 Silverware  
 Knife set/blocks  
 Microwaves  
 Can openers  
 Pots and pans  
 Food prep and storage items (such as Ziploc bags, tin foil, wax paper, saran wrap, and Tupperware containers)  
 Shower curtains  
 Bath mats  
 Towels  
 Wash cloths  
 Cleaning supplies  
 Mops  
 Brooms  
 Vacuum cleaners  
 Laundry detergent  
 Dishwashing detergent  
 Deodorant  
 Shampoo and conditioner  
 Bar soap or body wash  
 Loofahs  
 Cotton Swabs Toothpaste  
 Toothbrushes  
 Feminine hygiene products  
 Undergarments (new bras, new panties in a variety of sizes)  
 Diapers (variety of sizes)  
 Sippy Cups  
 Birthday party kits (plates, napkins, tablecloth, etc., for kids and teens)  
 Arts and crafts kits (for children and adults of all ages)



During 2015, every resident in transitional housing and shelter received new pillows! Thanks to our generous donors.

### Other Needs Include:

Gift cards (particularly for groceries, gas, and local retailers)  
 Monetary donations in any amount

**CFVC AND THE VICTIMS WE SERVE APPRECIATE YOUR  
GENEROUS DONATIONS!**



**Thank you for your support during 2015. We hope you will continue to play a part in our work to enhance the safety of victims of intimate partner violence and their children and look forward to a successful 2016!**



### **Contact Cherokee Family Violence Center:**

#### **Office:**

(770) 479-1804  
PO Box 489 Canton, GA 30169

#### **Hotlines:**

English (770) 479-1703  
Spanish (770) 720-7050  
TTY (770) 479-7703  
Georgia (800) 33-HAVEN

#### **Online:**

[www.cfvc.org](http://www.cfvc.org)



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