



2016

COMMUNITY REPORT

CENTER FOR WOMEN IN TRANSITION



My name is Martha*.
I spent over 15 years
married to a man who
turned out to be a monster.

**WITHOUT
CENTER FOR
WOMEN IN
TRANSITION,
I WOULD NOT
BE HERE TO
TELL MY STORY.**



I was born to a teenage mother, but she didn't have the skills or the interest to be a good parent. When I was young, my mother's boyfriend sexually abused me. I told my mother, but she refused to believe me and sent me to live with my grandmother. I loved my grandmother dearly, but she passed when I was 16. After the abuse in my childhood, I craved love and attention. With no idea of what a healthy relationship looked like; I was easy prey for abusive men.

My ex-husband abused and controlled me in every way possible: financially, emotionally, physically, sexually, and mentally. Anything could set him off—getting home later than I should, trying to defend myself during an argument, even making eye contact.

The final argument before I left was the longest, most brutal attack of my life. He hit and kicked me until I no longer recognized myself. My hair was ripped out, teeth were missing, and I was bleeding everywhere.

I packed up my children and left, but that didn't end the abuse. My ex stalked our family across the country. I broke leases and ruined my credit trying to get away from him. I wasn't a candidate for many homeless shelters due to safety concerns. My ex would call every facility in the area and threaten to bomb it unless they sent me back to him.

*Name changed for confidentiality

Read Martha's full story at
cwitmi.org



Finally, someone referred me to Center for Women in Transition (CWIT). They recognized the potential lethality in my situation, and admitted me to their emergency shelter the same day.

While living in the shelter, I connected with an advocate. She encouraged me to apply for the Supportive Housing program. Though I didn't think any landlord would take a chance on me, I

turned in my application and was accepted! Thanks to the rent assistance, my children and I had stability. I worked daily with my advocate on goal-setting, budget-making, fixing my credit score, finding a job, and even parenting. After two years in the program, I successfully rented an apartment on my own.

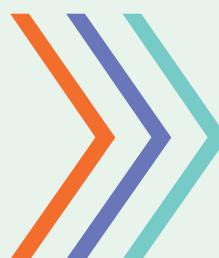
The programs at CWIT work so well for me. No one tells me what to do; instead they generously offer resources



and support. Right now, I'm taking time to work on myself in therapy, trying to deal with the trauma I've experienced. It's up to me to end the cycle of violence in my family, and my therapist is helping me with that.

Coming to support groups has also been a blessing. I thought I was alone, but I've realized abuse happens to so many in our community. There are many out there suffering in silence.

As I look to the future, my goals are simple. I want to finish raising my kids and encourage them to attend college. I want to be a positive part of my community.





LIFE CHANGING SAFETY AND SUPPORT

At CWIT, we know each client has a unique journey to healing. Our services are personalized to the needs of each individual.

The highly-trained staff at our emergency shelter understand the complex needs of abuse victims. They work diligently to make sure every resident is safe, while still providing a comfortable home environment.

Healing isn't exclusive to adults. Our children's therapy program helps kids process the violence they have been exposed to at home, and learn how to express their emotions in a healthy, safe way.

CRISIS INTERVENTION

- 24-hour help line
- Emergency shelter
- Sexual assault forensic exams
- Emergency walk-in services

SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

- Case management
- Supportive Housing
- Legal advocacy
- Support groups for adults and children
- Trauma therapy for adults and children
- Wardrobe for Work

PREVENTION AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- Girls on the Run
- School violence prevention
- Educator training and curriculum lending
- Specialized workplace trainings
- Community presentations for churches, schools and community groups

Join us by making a gift anytime
at cwitmi.org/donate



PREVENTION

Center for Women in Transition recognizes the importance of youth-centered services that promote healthy, safe relationships. Our Girls on the Run program is consistently one of the largest in the nation, with upwards of 1,200 girls participating in any given year. A curriculum that promotes healthy minds and healthy bodies reaches these young women at a crucial stage of their development, creating positive self-esteem and building relationship skills. In 2016, our agency piloted a program for young men that teaches vital bystander intervention skills, consent, and respect.



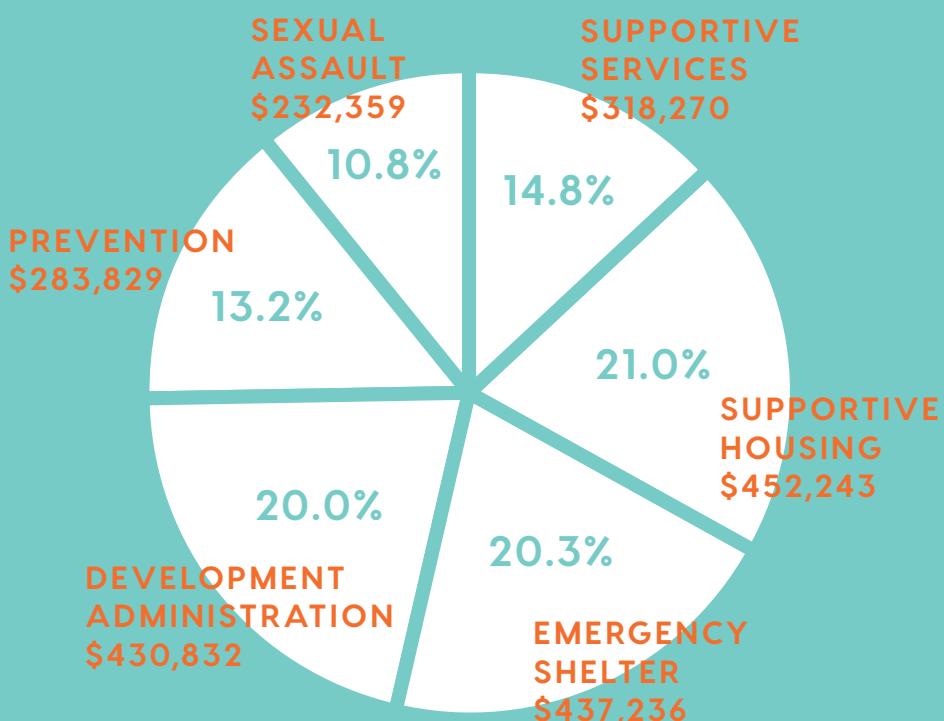
THE SCOPE OF OUR WORK

	2016	2015
Domestic Violence Shelter – Adults	56	61
Domestic Violence Shelter – Children	77	78
Domestic Violence Supportive Services	206	199
Supportive Housing – Adults	38	49
Supportive Housing – Children	72	102
Sexual Assault Trauma Therapy	73	62
Sexual Assault Forensic Exams	56	54
Children's Therapy	30	37
Walk-in support	709	643

YOUR INVESTMENT

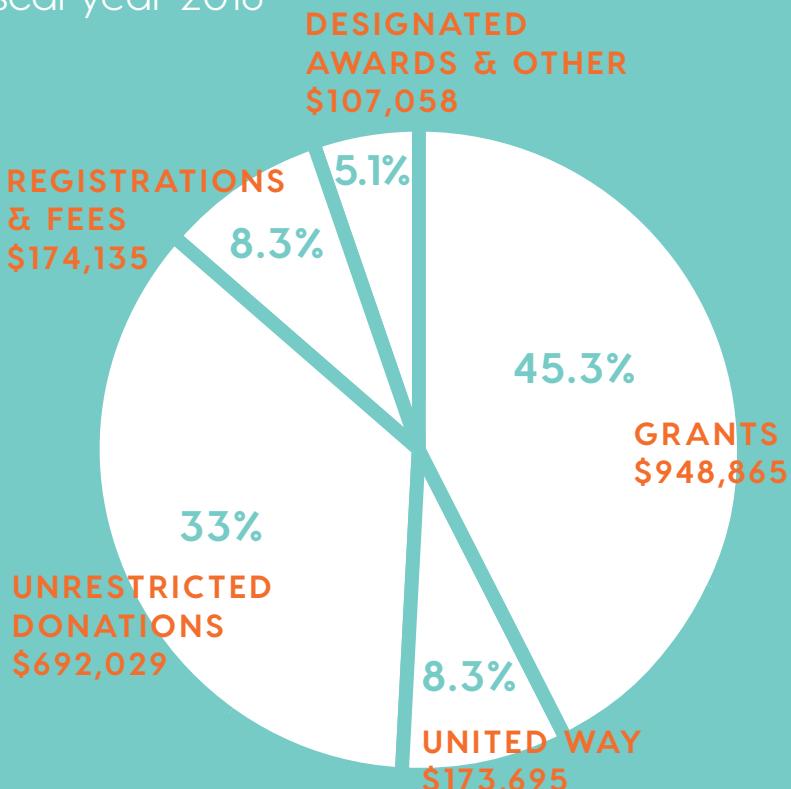
EXPENSES

Fiscal year 2016



REVENUE

Fiscal year 2016





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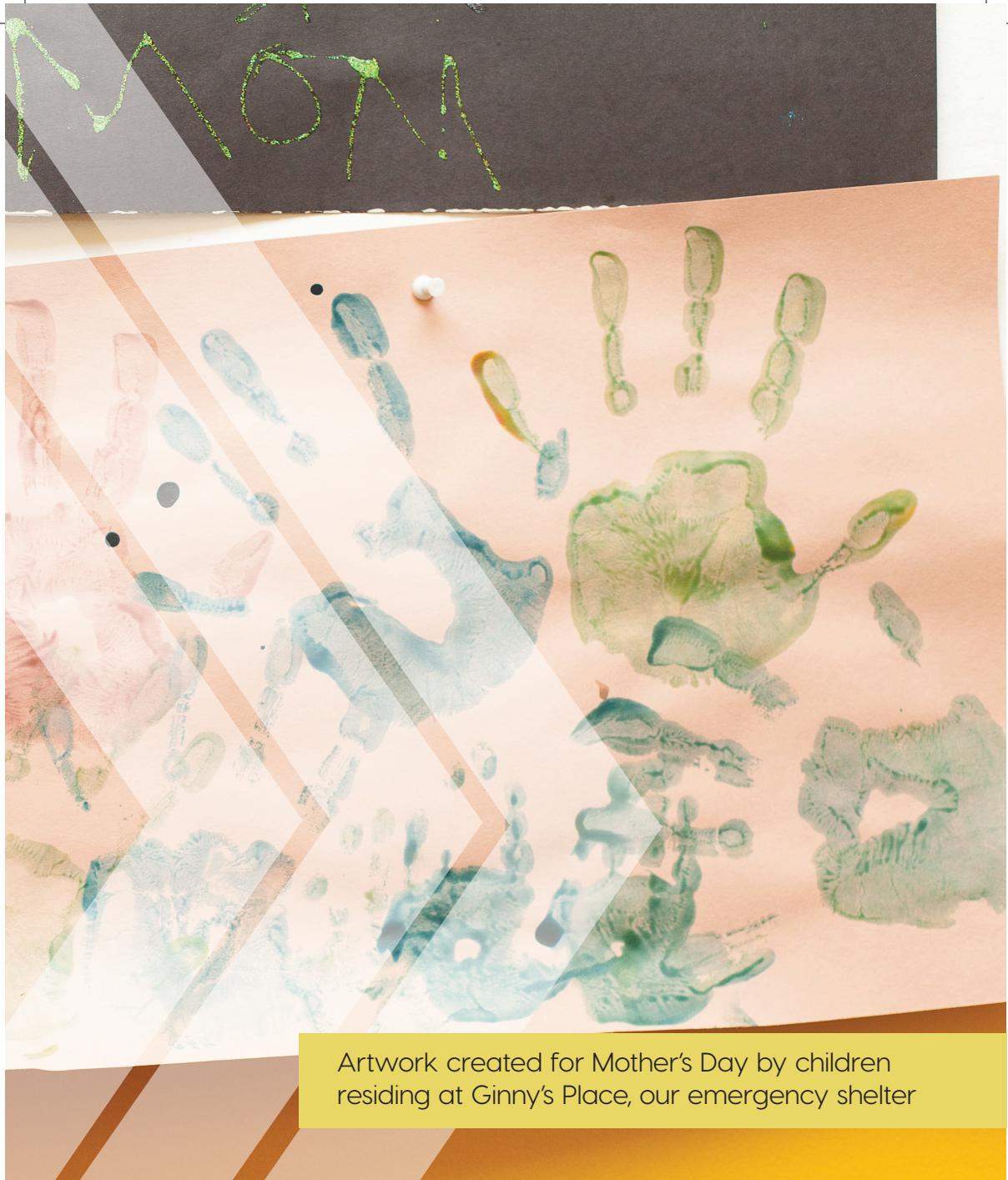
LEADERSHIP TEAM:

Executive Director: Beth Larsen

Director of Development: Christina Scarpino

Program Director: Holly Seymour

Operations Director: Jan Meinel



Artwork created for Mother's Day by children residing at Ginny's Place, our emergency shelter

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24-Hour Crisis Line
800.848.5991

Hablamos Español
866.728.2131

Center for Women in Transition's mission is to respond to, reduce, and prevent domestic and sexual violence. This mission will be achieved through education, collaboration, and advocacy with crisis and supportive services to victims and survivors.



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