




EXPANSION & INNOVATION

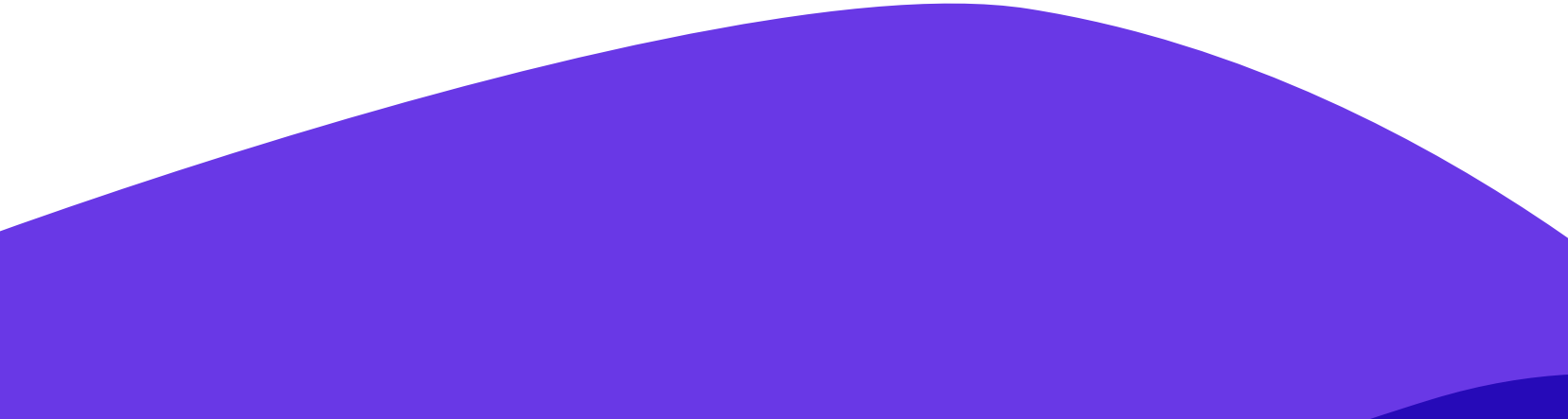
FY2023 Impact Report
www.bwjp.org

BWJP

TABLE OF CONTENTS



3	MISSION AND VISION
4-5	A LETTER FROM OUR LEADERSHIP
6-7	THE LEARNING COMMUNITY
8	BWJP IN THE MEDIA
9-10	MEET OUR CENTERS
11	NATIONAL CENTER ON SYSTEMS CHANGE AND ADVOCACY
12	NATIONAL LEGAL CENTER ON CHILDREN AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
13	NATIONAL DEFENSE CENTER FOR CRIMINALIZED SURVIVORS
14	NATIONAL CENTER ON GUN VIOLENCE IN RELATIONSHIPS
15	FIREARMS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECT (FTAP)
16	NATIONAL CENTER ON LEGAL APPROACHES TO PREVENT FAMILY VIOLENCE
17	NATIONAL CENTER ON PROTECTION ORDERS AND FULL FAITH & CREDIT
18	NATIONAL CENTER ON REIMAGINING COORDINATED COMMUNITY RESPONSE
19	OUR NATIONWIDE IMPACT NUMBERS
20-21	YOUR PARTNERSHIP
22-23	THANK YOU DONORS
24-25	STAFF AND LEADERSHIP
26	BOARD OF DIRECTORS
27	WHAT OUR STAFF IS LOOKING FORWARD TO IN FY2024
28	STAY IN TOUCH



MISSION & VISION

The mission of BWJP is to promote change within the civil and criminal legal systems to enhance their effectiveness in providing safety, security, and justice for survivors of gender-based violence (GBV), their families, and communities.

We understand that the way we go about our work is every bit as important as the work itself. We commit to living our core values so that we maintain the utmost integrity. This means aligning our governance and operational structures to nurture a culture of learning and exploration.

Tenacity

Act with tireless conviction in order to always do the right thing, no matter the adversity.

Equity

Create and advocate for just solutions that provide a tailored, intersectional approach to addressing complex realities.

Courage

Never give up on our capacity to affect systemic and community change.

Accountability

Hold oppressive legal and social systems accountable for justice, healing, and societal transformation.

Agency

Support the rights of all survivors working towards self-determination and choice in all aspects of their lives.

A LETTER FROM OUR **LEADERSHIP**

Dear Friends,

Welcome to BWJP's Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 annual report! In the last year, we have expanded our team and explored innovative ways to assist survivors of GBV and their communities. We are excited to share how our communities have supported us in creating a better reality for survivors in the legal system.

FY2023 saw significant growth and innovation at BWJP. We are proud to announce that our team has nearly doubled in size, enabling us to deepen our expertise and broaden our impact. Through this expansion, we have strengthened our National Centers, providing them with more resources and training to advocate effectively for survivors. This is evidenced by the increased engagement in our training programs. Over the past year, we have trained nearly 3,000 individuals to better address GBV in their communities.

We have also filled critical leadership positions, including appointing our first-ever General Counsel, Director of Operations, and Human Resources Manager. Their expertise and dedication will further fortify our organization as we navigate the complexities of legal systems.

In our commitment to supporting survivors, we have developed new resources to address the diverse challenges they face. For example, our National Legal Center on Children and Domestic Violence is pioneering efforts to address intimate partner violence within the child welfare system and child support enforcement.

Our dedication to advancing knowledge in the GBV field is reflected in resources on topics such as [Evidence of Battering and Defense of Duress](#), as well as an updated [Summary of Key Cases Related to Firearms and Domestic Violence](#). Additionally, we are excited to introduce an updated [Full Faith and Credit case matrix](#) developed by the National Center on Protection Orders and Full Faith and Credit. This case matrix will be a valuable tool in navigating complex legal processes.

This past year we launched a significant Department of Justice, Office of Violence Against Women (OVW) project titled the Firearms Technical Assistance Project (FTAP). FTAP collaborates with 12 communities across the nation to support survivors by addressing gun violence in ways tailored to each community's needs. Our comprehensive training and consultations focus on community building, promoting safety, supporting firearms surrender strategies, and fostering connectivity and synergy. We are committed to prioritizing survivor and community safety while guiding communities to create secure and thriving environments.

However, we are not on this journey alone. We are grateful to partner with remarkable organizations and funders who make our work possible. Our government partners, the Department of Justice's Office on Violence Against Women and the Department of Health and Human Service's Office of Family Violence Prevention and Services, have been invaluable in supporting our impactful work. We have also welcomed new partners including the Allstate Foundation, the NFL Foundation, and the Hugh J. Andersen Foundation to advocate for gender equity and justice. Additionally, we have been fortunate to collaborate with Warner Brothers and the Morbid Podcast, and received substantial support from The Chicago Community Foundation, which all helps us reach broader audiences and initiate vital conversations.

Looking ahead to FY2024 and beyond, BWJP and our consortium partners will relaunch The Learning Community, our collaborative online learning platform where anyone can access resources and learn more about various aspects of GBV. Our [Domestic Violence 101](#) course has already received positive feedback and is available for free for a limited time.

As we reflect on the past year, we are filled with hope and readiness for the future. We are committed to ensuring everyone can live safely and with dignity, free from GBV. Thank you for your unwavering support of BWJP and for being part of this journey in FY2023 and beyond.

In service,



Amy J. Sánchez
CEO



Jason Engelhart
Board Chair

With Gratitude.

THE LEARNING COMMUNITY

www.gbvlearningcommunity.org

The Learning Community takes education, consultation, and community building to new heights. Embodying our commitment to caring and straightforward support for survivors, families, and communities.

As experts in the field, we have curated a consortium of partners dedicated to providing essential education, support, and collaboration opportunities for those tackling GBV. Looking ahead to FY2024, learners of The Community can anticipate an enhanced user experience with a revamped website boasting fresh branding and seamless module navigation.

Together, we remain hopeful and steadfast in our mission to effect meaningful change within the legal systems and beyond. www.gbvlearningcommunity.org

**CHECK OUT THE
LEARNING COMMUNITY!**



As a Learning Management System offering diverse learning formats, The Learning Community facilitated impactful initiatives including:

ValorUS

Became A New Consortium Member:

Welcoming Valor as a new consortium member expanded The Learning Community's reach and expertise, enriching the community with diverse perspectives and resources.

Allstate Partnership: The collaboration with the Allstate Foundation was developed to enhance the available resources and outreach by using the Allstate Moving Ahead Curriculum, fostering even more opportunities for The Community's members.

"I did the new self-paced 'Intro to Working with Criminalized Survivors' course that The Learning Community put up this week. I thought it was very well done and really enjoyed it. This is a topic area that I'd like to see us spend some energy on this year as well."
- Student of The Learning Community

155

available courses



1761

participants

FY2024 EXPECTATIONS

Looking ahead to FY2024, the consortium anticipates even further growth and innovation in the hiring of a Director of The Learning Community!

In FY2024, the consortium plans an exciting rebranding initiative and website UI/UX upgrade. These enhancements aim to streamline user experience and accessibility, ensuring that individuals seeking to improve their support for survivors can easily navigate and utilize the platform's resources. The Learning Community remains committed to its mission of providing high-quality digital learning experiences and fostering collaborative efforts to combat GBV.

BWJP IN THE MEDIA



Hayward Bissell and the Murder of Patricia Booher

Morbid • Episode 473
 On January 24, 2000, sheriff's deputies in Mentone, Alabama stopped an older model Lincoln with Ohio plates that they suspected was involved in a hit-and-run accident earlier that day. The driver was thirty-seven-year-old Hayward Bissell of Norwalk, Ohio and strapped into the seat beside him was the remains of his twenty-four-year-old girlfriend, Patricia Booher. To the deputies' horror, Booher's hand and leg had been severed from her body, her eyes had been gouged out and her heart and liver had been torn out, but were still in the car. Further investigation revealed that, in addition to Booher's murder, Bissell had also attempted to kill two other couples on what appeared to be a rampage across two states.

Thank you to the ever so talented David White for research assistance :)

-Schizophrenia & Psychosis Action Alliance -
 Website: sczaction.org
 Services: Education and support groups

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)
 Website: nami.org
 Services: General resources for mental health

Domestic Violence:
 -US Hotline Number: 1(800)-799-7233

-The Battered Women's Justice Project: "We donated to them, I met with them and they are amazing!"
 Website: BWJPOrg
 Services: Free legal help

BWJP
 1,292 followers
 8mo · Edited ·

BWJP was proud to be in the room at the White House of the launch of the United States first-ever National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence.

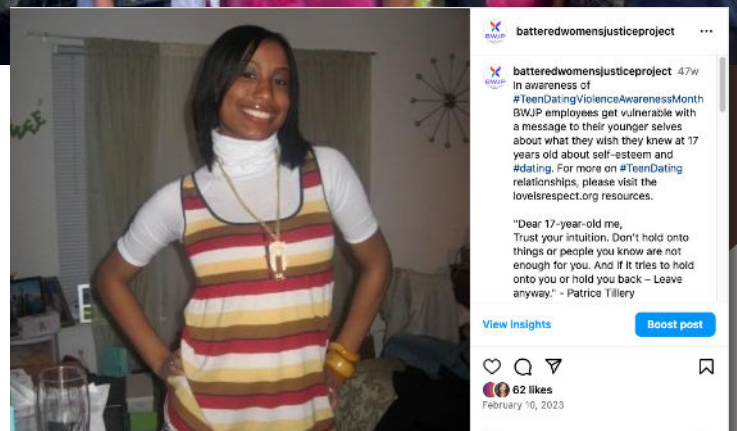
Thank you to the Biden Administration for prioritizing safety for survivors of gender-based violence.

Special thank you to [Rosie Hidalgo](#) and the Gender Policy Council for your hard work on the National Action Plan.

Find more information on this action plan here: <https://lnkd.in/gXDgZ6fe>



#BWJPExecutiveRetreat #Teamwork





BWJP

MEET OUR CENTERS

We see BWJP's core values reflected strongly in our seven National Resource Centers. These centers are experts in the field of gender-based violence and the law. They are the forefront of change, offering essential leadership, best practices, and policy insights to the GBV community. With a focus on marginalized communities, our centers make a real impact by navigating complex laws and policies with clarity and compassion. Through our unwavering dedication, we remain hopeful and passionate champions for a safer, more just world for all.

OUR SEVEN CENTERS

To learn more about and delve into the work of each of our National Centers, click on each tab below.



ADVOCACY

NATIONAL CENTER ON SYSTEMS
CHANGE AND ADVOCACY



CHILDREN

NATIONAL LEGAL CENTER ON
CHILDREN AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



DEFENSE

NATIONAL DEFENSE CENTER
FOR CRIMINALIZED SURVIVORS



GUN VIOLENCE

NATIONAL CENTER ON GUN
VIOLENCE IN RELATIONSHIPS



PROTECTION ORDERS

NATIONAL CENTER ON PROTECTION
ORDERS AND FULL FAITH & CREDIT



LEGAL APPROACHES

NATIONAL CENTER ON LEGAL APPROACHES
TO PREVENT FAMILY VIOLENCE



REIMAGINING CCR

NATIONAL CENTER ON REIMAGINING
COORDINATED COMMUNITY RESPONSE



ADVOCACY
NATIONAL CENTER ON SYSTEMS
CHANGE AND ADVOCACY

Survivors of gender-based violence often face barriers within legal systems. While these systems offer pathways to justice and healing, they can be daunting to navigate alone.

At the Advocacy Center, we are dedicated to empowering local communities to bring about meaningful change in legal and social services. Our goal is to simplify these systems and make them more supportive for survivors.

Drawing on our expertise, we ensure survivors receive the safety, security, and justice they rightfully deserve. Moreover, through BWJP's national platform, we amplify the voices of survivors and community organizations, using their insights to drive policy improvements nationwide. Together, we remain steadfast in our commitment to fostering hope and championing change for survivors and their communities.

- María José Fletcher, Esq.
Director

VISITED

4 Countries and 3 States
throughout the year

3 NEW

community reports

ADVOCACY CENTER SPOTLIGHTS

The Center represented BWJP and presented at the Chile Delegation and the Fair Food Program encounter as part of a Department of Labor, International Labor Affairs Bureau effort to eliminate labor exploitation, human trafficking, and sexual violence in the agricultural industry. The Center also visited Chile and presented to Chile's Multisectoral Commission on Forced Labor about labor legislation.

The Center participated in the development project of the Texas Predominant Aggressor tool conducted by RAND and Safe Haven.



Child support enforcement is crucial for the welfare of children and families. Domestic violence frequently intersects with the child support system and its enforcement.

In FY2023, BWJP’s National Legal Center on Children and Domestic Violence broadened our efforts to include the child support enforcement system. We are collaborating with different areas to apply our nationally recognized SAFeR framework, and, as always, our aim is to generate beneficial outcomes for both children and survivors of GBV.

- *Anadelle Martínez-Mullen, Esq.*
Director



CHILDREN’S CENTER SPOTLIGHTS

The Center presented the SAFeR approach to the Michigan statewide SAVES (Safe Access for Victims’ Economic Security). This workgroup comprises of over 30 practitioners in child support, child welfare, family court, and domestic violence.

As part of BWJP’s collaboration with the National Domestic Violence Hotline, the Center conducted six live virtual training sessions to a total of 145 hotline advocates. During the training sessions, participants learned about common legal issues in family court, with an emphasis on child custody when there is intimate partner violence.





In FY2023 the Defense Center experienced significant growth. New funding from the Department of Justice and the NFL Foundation allowed us to continue to be the industry leader in education, as well as in consultations for attorneys and others supporting criminalized survivors.

This new funding allowed for many new opportunities, including a Survivor-Centered Technical Assistance Working Group. Together, attorneys and advocates will develop new skills in order to work collaboratively to find solutions to the unique challenges of criminalized survivors.

We've also formed strategic alliances with esteemed organizations such as the Cornell Center on the Death Penalty Worldwide, Tulane DV Clinic, Illinois Prison Project, ASISTA, STEPS to End Family Violence, and the Love and Justice Project. These partnerships amplify our collective impact and open new avenues for advocacy and support.

-Cindene Pezzell, Esq.
Director



205
new cases

1495
technical assistance

DEFENSE CENTER SPOTLIGHTS

The Defense Center has made significant strides this year. We doubled our amicus involvement to ensure more robust legal support in critical cases and developed a comprehensive new learning module tailored for new advocates. Additionally, we established a bi-weekly internal technical assistance group, fostering continuous improvement and collaboration among our team.

“If you remember, you consulted with me last year on a case we are working on...Good news! After investigating out this case and history (and with the assistance of some of the resources you provided), we were able to convince the DA’s office here to dismiss the murder charge against her.”

- Legal Director at a Public Defenders Office, Texas



GUN VIOLENCE

NATIONAL CENTER ON GUN
VIOLENCE IN RELATIONSHIPS

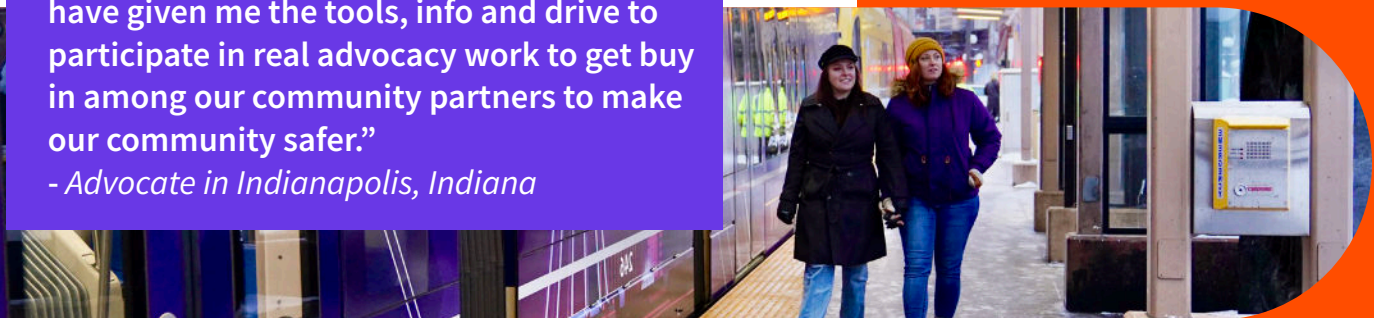
In United States v. Rahimi, the Supreme Court will decide whether some people who have been found by a judge to have committed domestic violence should have access to a gun.

As experts in domestic violence and firearms, BWJP is leading the charge to address the implications of this ruling. We are sharing insights through online convenings, webinars, articles, and press interviews on how this case may affect domestic violence survivors nationwide. By uniting advocates, attorneys, coalitions, and professionals across the country, our goal is to ensure everyone understands the impact of this decision on domestic violence advocacy and support.

- Jennifer Becker, Esq.
Director

“I have made a promise to myself and this community as an advocate to start the conversation in my community. You have given me the tools, info and drive to participate in real advocacy work to get buy in among our community partners to make our community safer.”

- Advocate in Indianapolis, Indiana



1365

training participants

160

technical assistance

GUN VIOLENCE CENTER SPOTLIGHT

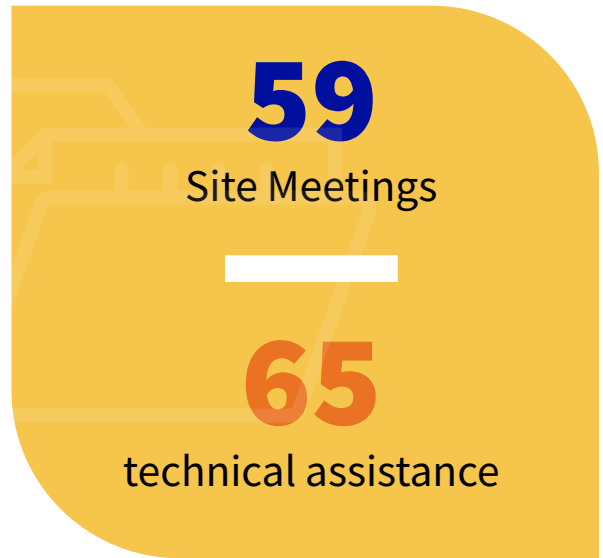
BWJP along with several other leading domestic violence and gun violence organizations [filed an amicus brief](#) before the U.S. Supreme Court in support of the U.S. Department of Justice’s (DOJ) petition for certiorari in USA v. Rahimi. The brief urges the Court to take up the case in order to overturn the Fifth Circuit’s dangerous and misguided decision.




In FY2023 BWJP launched the **Office of Violence Against Women’s Firearms Technical Assistance Project (FTAP)** under our **Gun Violence Center**.

Our goal is to help communities better support survivors by reducing domestic violence involving firearms. We provide thorough training and engage in tough conversations to help communities use strategies for domestic abusers to give up their firearms. We focus on survivors and communities, ensuring they have the information and resources they need to stay safe. We are here to help communities every step of the way so survivors can live in supportive and thriving neighborhoods. Together, we are working towards safer futures for everyone.

- *Lumarie Orozco, Esq.*
Director



Together, we are working towards safer futures for everyone.



“I am so in awe of BWJP’s ability to move this work forward in the way that you have. You have done it throughout your career, and it just demonstrates your knowledge and dedication to the work. Thank you for being so amazing! OVW is so excited to see what BWJP will achieve under your leadership!” - *Site member*



LEGAL APPROACHES

NATIONAL CENTER ON LEGAL APPROACHES
TO PREVENT FAMILY VIOLENCE

We believe that all parts of the criminal justice system have a responsibility to work together to end firearm related violence against survivors of gender-based violence.

The Center used data, research, and practical tools that addressed the challenges in enforcing firearm relinquishment. We presented at workshops across the country sharing strategies, empowering agents and contributing to the prevention of family violence. Throughout FY2023, The National Center on Legal Approaches to Prevent Family Violence led a National Training project which centers probation to diminish firearm assault and homicide.

The Center hosted the 2022 Coalition Advocates and Attorneys Network (CAAN) meeting, bringing together over 30 State and Tribal coalitions in Denver, CO, for a two-day meeting.

- Kristine Lizdas, Esq.
Director



70

minute average TA call

483

technical assistance

LEGAL APPROACHES CENTER SPOTLIGHTS

The Improving Community Supervision Responses (ICSR) project is a new addition to the Legal Approaches Center. They work at the intersection of probation and parole strategies to disarm domestic violence offenders.

The Legal Approaches Center houses the BWJP Technical Assistance (TA) Call Line which helps focus and refer questions about the civil and criminal legal systems to other resources. In 2023, the average call time our advocates spent with callers was 70 minutes.



At BWJP, we think working together and sharing knowledge is important. In FY2023, our National Center on Protection Orders and Full Faith & Credit held 10 Critical Issues Forums.

These microlearning sessions covered important topics like helping survivors with immigration, teen dating violence, and dealing with abuse through technology. By bringing people together to learn, we are finding better ways to handle tough problems.

More than 20 interns were hired from across the country to work with our center on various projects, including legal research, drafting memos, and creating educational materials to support survivors of domestic violence. They also participated in trainings and collaborated with professionals to enhance their understanding of the complexities surrounding domestic violence cases.

- Monica Player, Esq.
Director



PROTECTION ORDERS SPOTLIGHTS

During FY2023 the Protection Orders and Full Faith & Credit Center staff presented on court-ordered firearms prohibitions at the May 2023 Conference on Crimes Against Women.

We created four new and revised 26 statutory matrices and case summaries in collaboration with the interns of our inaugural legal internship program which is spearheaded by the Protection Orders team.





REIMAGINING CCR

NATIONAL CENTER ON REIMAGINING
COORDINATED COMMUNITY RESPONSE

The National Center on Reimagining Coordinated Community Response (RCCR) works to make sure that survivors' needs and cultural backgrounds are a top priority. We team up with advocates and professionals to positively change how systems treat survivors, their partners, and their communities.

We have joined forces with community groups in different locations to make legal and social services better for survivors. From local to national levels, we have made important improvements to help survivors and hold abusers accountable. Our educational programs and support reach areas like Palm Beach County, FL; Pierce County, WA; Washington D.C.; Prince George's County, MD; Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN; and North Carolina.

- *Amalfi Parker Elder, Esq.*
Director



32

virtual consultations

4

trainings/presentations

RCCR CENTER SPOTLIGHT

Palm Beach County Victim Services partnered with BWJP in 2018 to address domestic violence issues. BWJP identified key areas for improvement in the legal system's handling of domestic violence cases. Now in collaboration with organizations like Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse, Inc. and the Palm Beach County Criminal Justice Commission, as well as BWJP, we aim to strengthen the community's response to intimate partner violence and address survivor experiences and needs within the system.

OUR GLOBAL IMPACT

6

NEW STAFF
MEMBERS

65%

Increase in
digital content
published
online

144%

Increase in
website traffic
over last year

794

Mailed letters to
incarcerated
survivors

1,100

Social media
posts, stories
and reels

\$76,544

In individual
contributions
from supporters
just like you!

28%

Email
newsletter
open rate

12

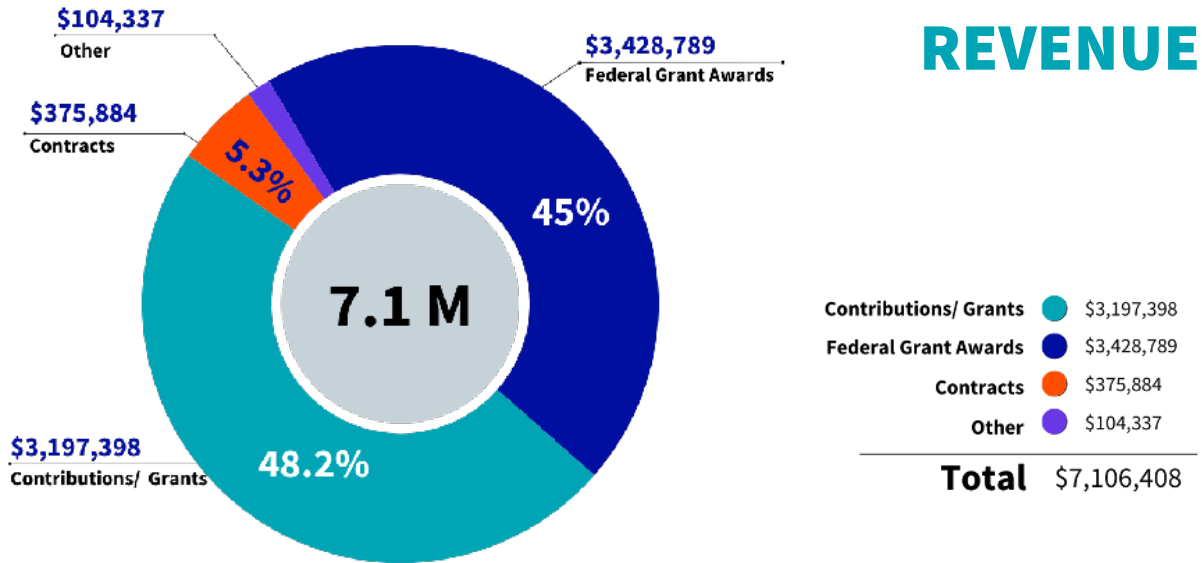
New communities
being served
through FTAP

YOUR PARTNERSHIP

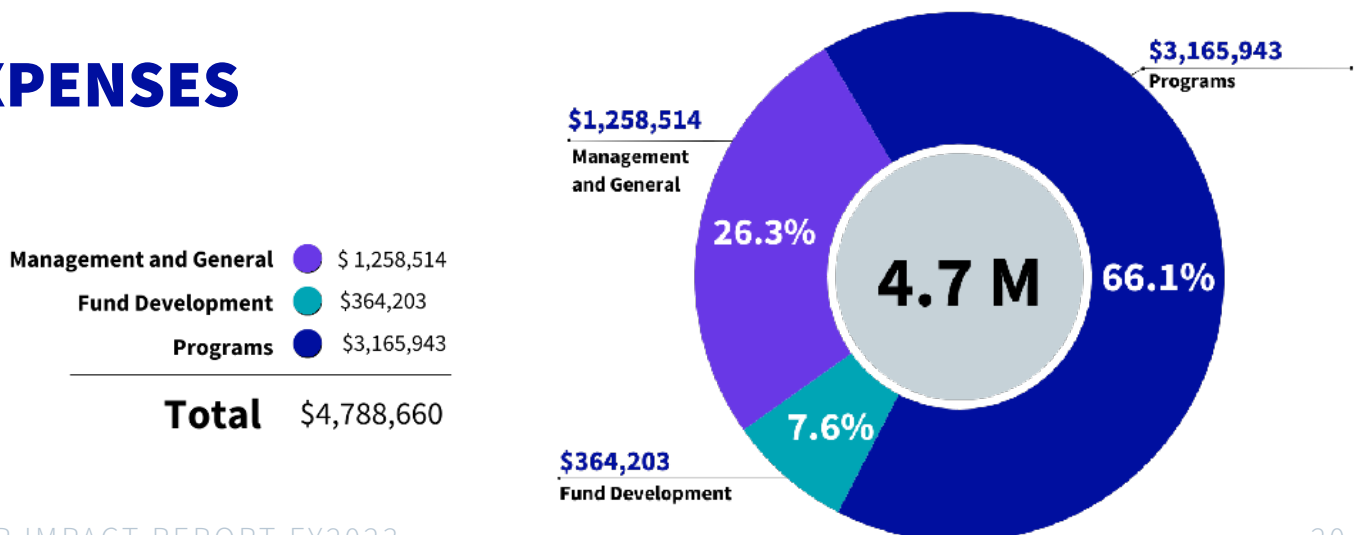
How Funds Help Our Organization

Your donation to BWJP is vital. It supports our mission to raise awareness, educate and enhance GBV prevention and early intervention through training, resources, and policy consultation. As we expand our presence in communities, your contributions are key to our success.

[Join us in making a difference.](#) Donate now to support survivors and help them build safer, brighter futures.



EXPENSES



Individual Donor Spotlight

"I began my career as a professor in 1973, and my involvement in addressing domestic violence started when students persuaded me to work part-time as a policeman. This led to me being one of the founders of the Women's SAAFE House in 1984. In 1988, I initiated and consistently taught a course on family violence. About two decades ago, an attorney from BWJP (NCDBW at the time) sought my assistance in defending a battered woman who had killed her abusive partner. Your team provided significant support, and, since then, I've continued to collaborate with attorneys, particularly in cases involving innocent battered women facing unjust murder prosecutions. I donate because I understand the importance of the work that BWJP does and how it impacts the lives of survivors."

- Ray Teske, Jr., BWJP Donor

Donor Highlights

The Allstate Foundation

This groundbreaking collaboration generously funded and supports the hosting of Allstate's "Moving Forward" curriculum on The Learning Community platform. This collaboration not only enhances the resources available on our platform but also reinforces the commitment to community education on gender-based violence.

The Chicago Community Foundation

This substantial unrestricted funding, made possible by MacKenzie Scott's generosity, has provided a profound and lasting impact on our organization's ability to provide critical support and services to those impacted by GBV.

The NFL Foundation

Recognizing the work and the impact of survivors who have been criminalized because of their abuse, the NFL Foundation donated to support the work of the National Defense Center for Criminalized Survivors.

Hugh J. Andersen Foundation

The support from the Hugh J. Andersen Foundation marked a significant milestone for BWJP. The Increasing Minnesota Professional Advocates' Capacity to Thrive (IMPACT) project is a collaboration that involves partnering with three domestic violence direct service organizations to confront barriers in legal systems.

Morbid: A True Crime Podcast

The popular podcast Morbid: A True Crime Podcast, created and hosted by Alaina Urquhart and Ash Kelley, generously donated from their Patreon account to BWJP in FY2023. Thanks to their dedicated followers we were able to increase our outreach and engagement with new members of the community.



Individual Donors

Betty Abramson
 Karyne Akhtar
 Oliver William and Doris Fnd
 Callie Anderson
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 Kate Appel
 Candice Auble
 Carol Bachmann
 Kelly Baltz
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Jeannine and David Webber
Sara Werth
Sally Whetton
Elizabeth Whitcomb
Nancy Wilhelm
Bett Williams
Alex Williams
Frances Wong
Mike Yoder
Kathleen H Young
John Zainea
Ruth Zakarin

How to Support BWJP

Donate via our website, follow and share us on social media, or educate yourself and others on GBV topics using the available resources on our website.

[Donate](#)

FY23 STAFF



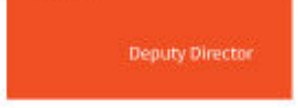
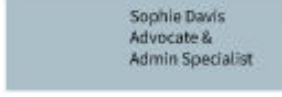
OPERATIONS & ADMINISTRATION



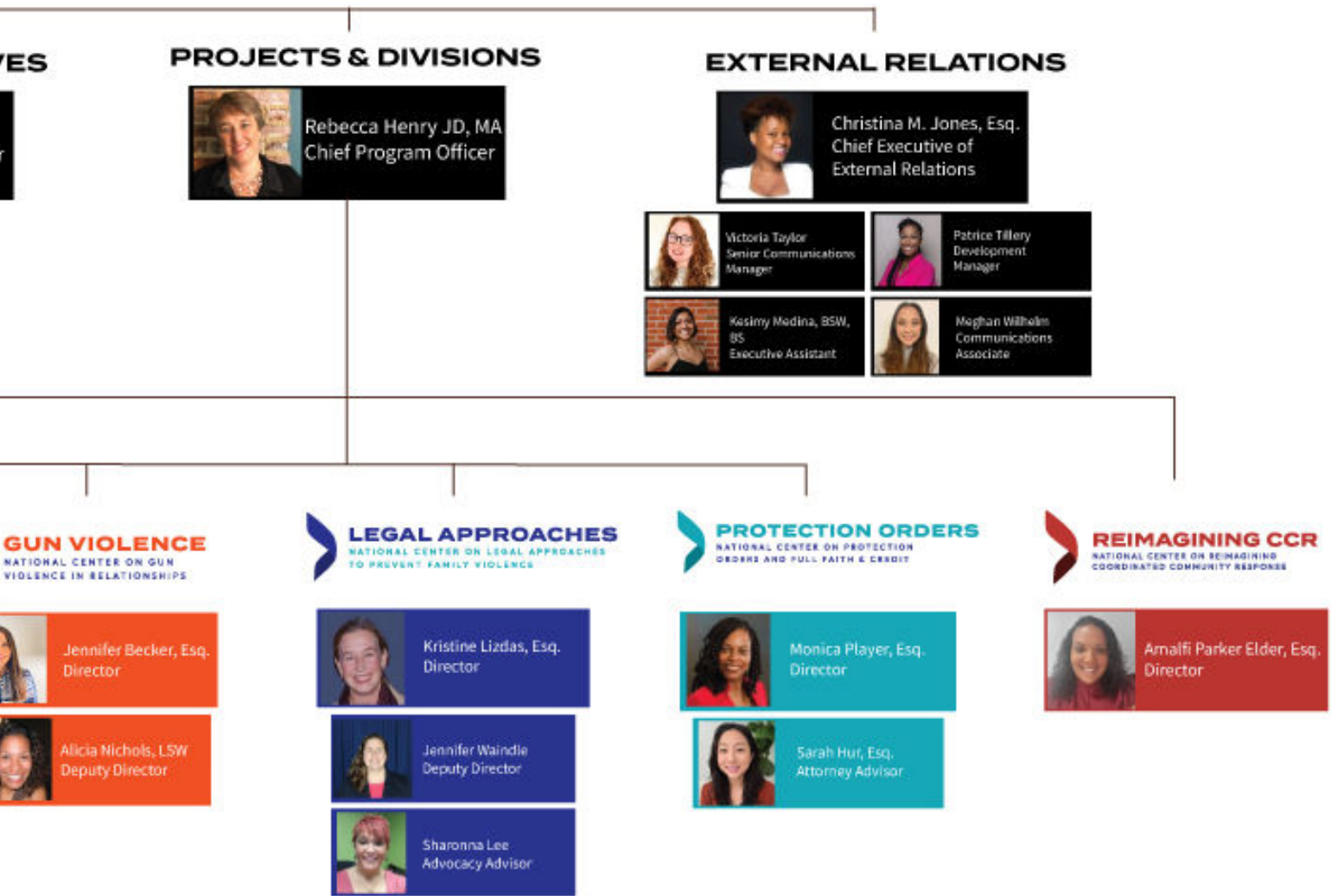
GENERAL COUNSEL



STRATEGIC INITIATIVES



y J. Sánchez
Chief Executive
Officer



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Safia Khan has served as BWJP's board chair for nearly three and a half years, coinciding with Amy Sánchez's tenure.

Safia has skillfully balanced her demanding full-time role at the Minnesota Department of Corrections with her duties as board chair of BWJP. Her adept leadership has guided the organization through significant changes, including the appointment of a new CEO following decades of leadership by its founder, a successful merger with another organization, and a doubling of staff. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Safia for her exceptional stewardship and unwavering support of BWJP's mission. Thank you Safia!

Jason Engelhart, Esq., Board Chair

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San Francisco, CA

Tracy Tripp, Esq.
Philadelphia, PA

Zelda B. Harris, Esq.
Chicago, IL

WHAT OUR TEAM IS LOOKING FORWARD TO IN FY2024



I am looking forward to developing a new resource focused on post-conviction strategies for criminalized survivors. - *Cindene Pezell*

A new and improved NRCDVF branding and website! - *Jennifer Becker*

Make survivors' participation and contributions an integral part of BWJP's work. - *María José Fletcher*

The growth of and improvements to The Learning Community. - *Staff Member*

The Power & Control Wheel for the African American/Black Community being published! - *Amalfi Parker Elder*

Increasing our reach through our social media channels! - *Meghan Dunlap*

Looking forward to bringing on and working with a new defense-based advocate! - *Dale Grayson*

Looking forward to expanding the breadth of our work in child support and child welfare. - *Ana Martínez Mullen*

STAY IN TOUCH!

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