

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



*Leading The Journey From
Surviving to Thriving*

MCWC
Montgomery County Women's Center

HOTLINE 936-441-7273

A LETTER FROM LEADERSHIP

Empowering Change Together

We want to extend our heartfelt appreciation for supporting us during another challenging year. It is our privilege to continue providing lifesaving services to the people of Montgomery County and beyond. Our successes this year are the direct result of your continued investments in our agency and those we help. On behalf of the board of directors, agency staff, and dedicated volunteers, we are pleased to present our 2023 Annual Report. At its core, the Montgomery County Women's Center is committed to social change. Our staff and volunteers worked tirelessly all year to make domestic violence a thing of the past by strengthening our efforts at every level to ensure quality essential services are available and easily accessible to all victims in our community. Our theme of Empowering Change Together demonstrates our continued commitment and dedication to serving those who make the courageous choice to reach out.

In review, 2023 was another demanding year for our advocates. All of whom are dedicated professionals working diligently with survivors in various settings to support, empower and ensure their voices are heard. Our advocates, counselors, and attorneys provided them with essential assistance throughout their healing journeys with accompaniment to the hospital, court, interviews with police, and assessments at the children's advocacy center. Staff and volunteers provided countless hours of case management, legal, and mental health services. This includes individual therapy, groups, and coaching at all of our locations. Our Outreach team worked persistently to ensure the voices of many survivors were heard. They also continued to provide professional and school-based education on the dynamics of domestic and sexual violence. Finally, we presented nineteen exceptional individuals with life-changing educational scholarships.

As in previous years, we experienced a significant increase in both domestic and sexual violence in our community, indicating the crucial need for continued advocacy. As "first responders," our advocates provide a necessary gateway to other services, including legal representation, emergency shelter, housing, and counseling services. We continue to focus on capacity building and expansion of essential services with a renewed focus on outreach and community partnership building, ensuring that all who walk through our doors are met with compassion and support to address their unique and individual needs. However, we could not do this life-changing work alone. We are incredibly grateful to our donors, volunteers, staff, and community partners. Your valued support affects generations of lives.

Sarah Raleigh

Sarah Raleigh
President & CEO

Darren Ercolani

Darren Ercolani
Board Chair

AGENCY IMPACT

BY THE NUMBERS



46,619
Crisis Calls
Answered



1,129 Victims
Accessed
Emergency Shelter



15,366 Emergency
Shelter Nights
Provided



3,032 Survivors
Received
Advocacy



931 Received
Legal
Representation &
Advocacy



873 Survivors
Received Medical
Accompaniment



54 Residents in
Transitional
Housing



1,922 Received
Individual, &
Group Counseling



1,178 Presentations
Reached 94,440
Community
Members



1,484 Dedicated
Volunteers
Donated 23,662
Hours

Stories of Courage

"I used to think I was alone in the world and that nobody would understand. Then I finally told someone my story. I found the Women's Center – a place for my voice to be heard, a place where I found my voice, a place where people understand me more where the weight on my shoulders wasn't so great – a safe place – the first place I genuinely laughed and smiled – a place to cry where no one judges. - Stephanie

"The Women's Center came into my life when I needed it the most, but I didn't know that at the time. Being in an abusive relationship you think that YOU were doing something wrong, or you can "fix" them. When I started to hear the patterns and then see the patterns, I knew I needed to change something. That change ended up being hard, but they were with me through those hard times. I can honestly say that I'm in a better place now because of the work they did for me and with me" - Robin

HIGHLIGHTS



OPEN YOUR PURSE FOR CHANGE

We celebrated our 10th annual Open Your Purse for Change event on October 12, 2023. The sold out event was generously hosted by The Post Oak Collection, The Woodlands and chaired by Ally Seder, Elvira Graham and Andrea Byrd. Don't miss this year's event!

APRIL 12, 2023 - MCWC DAY

In honor of Sexual Assault Awareness Month, the Mayor of Conroe and the Conroe City Council issued a proclamation that April 12, 2023 be known as Montgomery County Women's Center Day.

FLOWERS ON THE LAKE

In honor of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, on October 17, 2023, the Montgomery County DA's Office, Judge Echo Hutson, and the Montgomery County Veterans Memorial Commission hosted an event to honor survivors of domestic violence. In an incredible show of support, the community floated 2,023 purple carnations on the lake.

Debbie Flint, Something Special Manager

Debbie is the Store Manager at Something Special, the resale shop whose proceeds support the agency's services. Debbie has volunteered with many organizations in the past but fell in love with our mission when she began volunteering with us in 2009. In 2011, she became an employee! As the Manager, she oversees all aspects of the resale shop and brings together a remarkable employee, volunteer, and community service "team." Her favorite part about working at the store is that she gets to see daily how we are impacting the lives of victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in our community. She is inspired by the community's generosity and commitment to supporting our clients. She is also proud to work for an agency that changes people's lives. Debbie was raised in Southern California but calls Texas her "home." She has been happily married to her husband, Dave, for 35 years. They have two loving children and three grandchildren. She enjoys watching Hallmark Movies, which "make her heart happy."

Julia Hoffman, Legal Advocate

Julia has been an essential part of the agency since May of 2021, initially serving as a residential case manager and then transitioning to a legal advocate. She provides advocacy, court accompaniment, case management, safety planning, information, and referrals. She meets with clients, completes their legal intakes, trains staff, and conducts legal clinics at the shelter. Finally, she dedicates a portion of her workweek to the Domestic Violence Collaboration Advocacy Program (DV-COAP) with the DA's office. She follows up with victims of family violence who have recently made an emergency domestic violence 911 call. She has learned—over time—how to best prepare victims for what to expect in court and is passionate about technological advancements in safety planning. She attended Texas State University and is "an artist at heart." She has two beloved pets and enjoys hiking with her dog, Luna. She also travels, paints, and creates stained glass art in her spare time.

Aida Banda, Culinary Specialist

Aida joined the agency two years ago as the shelter community cook. She is responsible for preparing nutritious meals. She proudly tells everyone that all of her food is made with love and care. She adores visiting with the residents and wants them to feel like they are at home while they are in the shelter. She also thoroughly enjoys being a part of the shelter "team." In her spare time, she volunteers with her church and spends time with her family. She has a loving husband, two children, children-in-law, and three grandchildren. One of her favorite pastimes is going to the park with her grandkids. A little-known fact about Aida is that she does not cook meals on weekends; instead, her doting family gives her a break and prepares the meals.

CONROE OFFICE

1401 Airport Road
Conroe, TX 77301

WOODLANDS OFFICE

1600 Lake Front Circle # 130
The Woodlands, TX 77380

SOMETHING SPECIAL

19073 I-45 South
Shenandoah, TX 77385



Our mission is to lead the effort in preventing domestic violence and sexual assault through crisis intervention, assistance, advocacy, empowerment, and social change.