

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



*Advocating for Justice,
Empowering through Empathy*

MCWC
Montgomery County Women's Center

HOTLINE 936-441-7273

A LETTER FROM LEADERSHIP

Advocating for Justice, Empowering through Empathy

This report is dedicated to the incredible donors, volunteers, staff, and supporters whose unwavering dedication and energy drive our shared mission to end sexual and domestic violence. Our work often involves standing alongside survivors in the aftermath of violence—listening, offering care, providing guidance, and simply being present together. At other times, it means engaging with community members, delivering trainings, and facilitating community-centered education. No matter the form, our work always begins with listening and caring as we navigate this journey together. In Montgomery County, we recognize that residents face immense danger in their homes, and we strive to advocate for justice and empowerment through empathy.

Our legal programs were particularly impactful in 2024, connecting a record number of survivors to protective orders. Our advocates and therapists met the challenges of the year head-on, providing unprecedented support through advocacy, medical and legal accompaniment, therapy, and individualized assistance. These core services are essential to our mission, linking victims to justice, dignity, and empathetic resources.

Our shelter and transitional housing programs continue to be pillars of support. Our shelter provides families with a safe, confidential environment where they can begin to heal and rebuild their lives. With 24/7 access to emergency housing, they are given refuge from violence, along with the resources they need to make informed decisions about their future. Our transitional housing program extends this by offering longer-term housing options and individualized case management and financial coaching. This program bridges the gap between emergency shelter and permanent housing, empowering survivors to regain stability and independence.

Our shelter and transitional housing programs offer wraparound services, including safety planning, therapy, emotional support, life skills training, and assistance finding housing. These services help to develop the tools they need to build self-sufficiency and create a life free from violence. We are proud of the work done by our dedicated staff, volunteers, donors, and community members, who provide a safe space and a compassionate community where survivors can feel supported and heard.

In addition, we have strengthened our collaboration with allied professionals, such as educators, healthcare providers, and law enforcement, working hand-in-hand to ensure victims receive the comprehensive support they need. Our outreach to community members has also been essential in building awareness and fostering a collective responsibility to end violence. Together, we are creating a network of understanding and advocacy that reaches far beyond the walls of our organization.

We look forward to continuing this journey with you, united in our commitment to advocate for justice and empower others through empathy. Thank you for being an essential part of our community and for standing alongside us as we work to create a brighter future for those who need it most.

Sarah Raleigh

Sarah Raleigh
President & CEO

Darren Ercolani

Darren Ercolani
Board Chair

AGENCY IMPACT

BY THE NUMBERS



48,678
Crisis Calls
Answered



1,243 Victims
Accessed
Emergency Shelter



15,593 Emergency
Shelter Nights
Provided



2,791 Survivors
Received
Advocacy &
Accompaniment



1,085 Received
Legal
Representation &
Advocacy



956 Survivors
Received Non-
Residential Case
Management



49 Residents in
Transitional
Housing



1,781 Received
Individual &
Group Counseling



Reached 114,530
Community
Members



1,320 Dedicated
Volunteers
Donated 28,405
Hours

Story of Courage

Alice's (name changed) journey to safety, strength, and empowerment exemplifies the profound impact the Montgomery County Women's Center services can have. When she arrived, she faced uncertainty, fear, and exhaustion, unsure how to rebuild her life. Through MCWC's support, she gained safety, tools, and the confidence to regain control of her life. Comprehensive resources like counseling, advocacy, and life skills training empowered her to face challenges.

"The staff's compassion, patience, and understanding helped me feel seen and valued during a time when I felt invisible. They listened, guided, and never gave up on me," she says. Her counselor helped her apply for Reaching Pines Transitional Housing, where she was later accepted into long-term housing. With her case manager and financial coach's help, Alice secured a higher-paying job, paid off her car loan through THRIVE financial education, and enrolled in graduate school to become a Board-Certified Behavior Analyst. She is also pursuing a divorce.

Now, Alice is living a life filled with new possibilities. "They helped me change the course of my life, and for that, I will be forever grateful. The Montgomery County Women's Center has been a beacon of hope and strength for me," she shares.

HIGHLIGHTS



WRITING & ART CHALLENGE

The Montgomery County Women's Center launched the Writing and Art Challenge in 2018 as a creative platform for middle and high school students to explore and express their thoughts on healthy/unhealthy relationships. Held in February during Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month, this initiative empowers teens to raise awareness by reflecting on core aspects of healthy relationships. Participants choose one of three impactful themes—trust, respect, or communication—and create original works that highlight these crucial elements through writing or art. The challenge provides a safe and engaging space for teens to share their perspectives, fostering meaningful dialogue about relationships' positive and negative dynamics. In February, we received over 50 submissions from students all over the county, demonstrating their enthusiasm and creativity in participating in this challenge.

This year, the annual report cover features the artwork of our first-place high school art winner, showcasing their talent and the importance of this meaningful initiative.

Martin "Buddy" Hunt- Managing Attorney

Martin graduated from Texas A&M University in 2006 with a double major in Political Science and Philosophy, later earning his law degree from the South Texas College of Law. Early experiences, including an internship at the State Capitol as a legislative aide, shaped his path to the legal profession. While being mentored by Representatives of Abilene and Taylor Counties, he developed a passion for legislative processes and bill writing. Upon graduation, he worked as a defense attorney. However, Martin found his true calling in family law during his tenure with the Montgomery County Women's Center (MCWC). Although his family law experience was limited before joining the organization, his dedication and compassion have driven him to become a remarkable advocate for survivors of domestic and sexual violence. In his time with MCWC, Martin has exponentially increased the number of accepted family law cases and secured a significant rise in protective orders for those in need. His ability to understand the strategies of opposing counsel, stemming from his defense background, has proven invaluable in effectively navigating family violence cases. His commitment to ensuring constitutional protections and justice for vulnerable populations has set a new standard for excellence within the organization. He describes his work at MCWC as fulfilling and purposeful, expressing immense pride in the department's accomplishments. "The work we do here gives me purpose, and I am incredibly proud of the impact we've made together," he shares. His goal is to retire as a judge, but for now, he remains dedicated to serving the mission of MCWC for as long as he is needed. When he's not advocating for justice, Martin enjoys spending time with his wife, Brittaney, and their two cherished fur children, Fizzgig and Charlie.

Amanda Walton, LMSW- Counselor

Amanda discovered her passion for helping others early in life through nonprofit work. From attending Vacation Bible Schools to volunteering at organizations such as the Good Samaritan Center, the Georgetown Project, and the NEST Empowerment Center, she developed a lifelong commitment to service. A graduate of Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas, Amanda earned a bachelor's degree in Psychology with a minor in Business and Feminist Studies. Her academic journey culminated in a capstone internship at LifeWorks Austin, where she worked with 18-26 year-olds in wraparound services and transitional housing. Mentored by a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW), she found her passion for working with vulnerable populations. Pursuing a master's in social work (MSW) at the University of Texas at Arlington, Amanda returned to LifeWorks for her first internship, further refining her skills through community work and one-on-one counseling. Her second internship with Communities in Schools gave her valuable experience managing a caseload of children and addressing their academic, social, and emotional needs. These experiences solidified her dedication to making a lasting impact in the lives of those she serves. Relocating to Conroe to support her spouse's medical school journey, Amanda brought her expertise to the Montgomery County Women's Center (MCWC). Since joining the counseling program, she has gone above and beyond to support survivors of domestic and sexual violence, combining compassion with evidence-based practices. With MCWC's help, she pursued certification in Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR) therapy and is working toward becoming an LCSW. Her goal is to one day oversee or direct a nonprofit program, continuing her mission of empowering individuals and families. Outside of work, Amanda enjoys spending time with her wife, their two beloved pets, and their extended family, including a niece who frequently visits. An avid reader and fan of story-driven video games, she finds inspiration in narratives of resilience and transformation. The Montgomery County Women's Center is proud to have her on its team.



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

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