

Gateway Domestic Violence Center

Annual Report

Moving Forward



MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT



"... THE REALITY (IS) THAT THE STATISTICS OFTEN REPRESENT A FRACTION OF THE ACTUAL NEED. FORTUNATELY, THEY'VE ALSO SHOWN ME WHAT WE ARE CAPABLE OF WHEN WE COME TOGETHER WITH A COMMON GOAL TO FACE THESE ISSUES HEAD-ON."

Greetings!

Chances are if you received this annual report and are reading this letter, you've supported Gateway in some meaningful way in the past year. Thank you! For many of you, that support stretches back much farther. **It's because of people like you that Gateway is thriving today in its mission of providing safety, shelter and support to those impacted by domestic violence.**

As someone who grew up in Gainesville/Hall County and is now raising my children here, I don't remember a time when Gateway was not an integral part of this community. On the one hand, I wish I didn't have this opportunity to serve and now lead our Board of Directors. That would mean the problem of domestic violence no longer existed here and we could turn our attention elsewhere. But as you'll see in our "Gateway By the Numbers" feature, that is unfortunately not the case.

On the other hand, it's an honor to be part of an organization that's making such a difference in the lives of so many, particularly women and children. It's one thing to look a list of numbers that help quantify the size of the problem. It's another to see firsthand the struggles so many in our community face.

I've been fortunate to work in several roles during my life where I've had the opportunity to better understand those problems and their effects. These experiences have driven home the reality that the statistics often represent a fraction of the actual need. Fortunately, they've also shown me what we are capable of when we come together with a common goal to face these issues head-on.

Thanks to the generous support of people like you, Gateway is making a positive impact on the fight against domestic violence in our community. In this report you'll see photos and examples of the contributions Gateway's staff and our community volunteers make each day. Thank you for helping make this work possible through your generosity.

Sincerely,

Joy Griffin

GATEWAY BY THE NUMBERS IN 2023...

195 survivors of domestic violence (and their children) lived in the emergency shelter.

21 nights was the average length of stay in the emergency shelter.

7,756 guest nights of shelter were provided in the emergency shelter.

3,077 hours of volunteer time were contributed.

64 women and children lived in Gateway's long-term transitional housing program.

12 average number of months residents lived in the transitional housing program.

9,071 guest nights were provided in the transitional housing program.

\$13 average hourly wage of transitional housing residents

143 adult survivors of domestic violence attended support groups.

167 children participated in support groups.

1,377 total number of clients served through Gateway programming.

\$5,644 average monthly amount Gateway paid to help clients with expenses like transportation, childcare, rent deposits, attorneys and prescriptions.

1,517 number of crisis calls Gateway answered on the 24/7 hotline.

93% of the adults who participated in Gateway programs said they can better manage their own safety.

89% of adult clients say that Gateway has helped them learn ways to handle their emotions when they felt overwhelmed.

203 survivors were assisted applying for a Temporary Protective Order.

72 survivors received legal representation (an attorney) through Gateway during TPO hearings.



Moving Forward

We've spent the past year making our new shelter a home. It's been rewarding to watch our team and our clients move toward a common goal, together. Because while we moved into this new space, that was just the beginning. Each day we watch as our clients take steps to move toward futures free from abuse, where they don't just survive, but thrive. Thank you for being part of this journey.



POINTS OF PRIDE



CINDY BRYANT

Cindy Bryant, Director of Advocacy, was recognized by WomenSource as a woman of power in advocacy in 2023. Cindy has worked closely with Gateway's transitional housing program since 2010 and is passionate about advocating for affordable housing in our community.



JANEL DALY

Janel Daly was selected by the Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence as a "Don't knock the hustle" mini grant recipient in 2023. To be selected, honorees must be small business owners who are either survivors of abuse or work for a domestic violence program. Janel owns her own cleaning business and joined the staff at Gateway in January 2023.



CHRISTINE HERNANDEZ

Gateway legal advocate Christine Hernandez was recognized by Brenau University and the Featherbone Communitiversity as a master in her field in 2023. Christine is a Brenau graduate and has worked with Gateway for two years.



JESS MAYNARD

A writer by trade, Jess Maynard facilitates Gateway support groups for teens two nights a week. Jess writes about workplace mental health for Spring Health, an organization that offers behavioral health treatment and employee assistance programs. For the past two years, she's covered Gateway's domestic violence breakfast and briefing events, and these articles were published on the Spring Health blog. In 2023, her blog was recognized as one of Spring Health's most-read blogs of the year.

BOARD MEMBERS & STAFF

as of March 1, 2024



Gateway's Staff



Gateway's Board of Directors

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GATEWAY STAFF

Danica Barron, *Night and Weekend House Manager*
 Cindy Bryant, *Director of Advocacy*
 Jessica Butler, *Executive Director*
 Janel Daly, *Cleaning Professional*
 Letecia Davenport, *Family Advocate*

Jennifer Findley, *Night and Weekend House Manager*
 Lauren Gately, *Night and Weekend House Manager*
 Vicki Grizzard, *Child Advocate*
 Christine Hernandez, *Legal Advocate*
 TJJ Johnston, *Night and Weekend House Manager*
 Denise Kronk, *Bookkeeper*
 Lola Longoria, *Shelter Manager*
 Jennelle Major, *Family Advocate*
 Jennie Pless, *Night and Weekend Supervisor*
 Valery Prada, *Family Advocate*
 Israel Quintanar, *Legal Advocate*
 Dana Skelton, *Night and Weekend House Manager*
 Karen Staley, *Administrative Assistant*
 Lisa Thomas, *Family Advocate*
 Janet Whittaker, *Director of Operations*
 Cassie Yanez, *Transitional Advocate*

SUPPORT GROUP PROGRAM FACILITATORS

Shelby Adams
 Faith Bater
 Dawn Columbo
 Jess Maynard
 Beth Oropeza
 Savannah Partee
 Monica Rios
 Arielle Sabina
 Sarah Sukumaran
 Yesica Turcios
 Robin Underwood
 Katelynn Warren

