

Coalition of Community Based Programs

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE JOINT FISCAL LEGISLATIVE
COMMITTEE ON THE NEED TO RESTORE \$3 MILLION IN
NON-RESIDENTIAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICES FUNDING**

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Prepared by

EnDV Coalition of Community Based Programs

With the Support of

The New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence

The **EnDV: Coalition of Community Based Programs**, formerly The New York City Coalition of Non-Residential Domestic Violence Service Providers (“NYC DV Service Providers”) respectfully submits this testimony in support of restoration of \$3 million for statewide Non-Residential Domestic Violence Services. **The EnDV New York City programs serve nearly 3,000 victims of domestic violence every month and prevent many thousands of victims from entering costly shelters each year.** Our range of services are replicated in every county throughout the state, where non-residential domestic service providers fill critical gaps related to crisis counseling, legal advocacy, social services support, financial justice and housing advocacy.

This Testimony is provided on behalf of the below-signed New York City-based programs.¹ We represent service providers who receive funding through Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (“TANF”) administered by the Office of Children and Family Services (“OCFS”). The purpose of this funding is to provide a continuum of non-residential services to survivors of domestic violence, including preventing the need for shelter placement, which costs more than \$27,000 a year per family in New York City.

The funds at issue, however, are distributed statewide and provide domestic violence survivors with services in *every* New York State County. The **New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence**, a statewide non-profit membership organization for domestic violence service providers, joins EnDV in calling for expanded funding for non-residential domestic violence funds.

The Executive Budget cuts ALL funding for non-residential domestic violence services. These TANF funds are set aside by New York State to provide critical and life-saving services throughout New York State. We urge you to restore the TANF Domestic Violence Services Funding to the 2009 funding level of \$3 million.

¹ These programs and individual representatives are: **Barrier Free Living**, Paul B. Feuerstein, President/CEO; **Edwin Gould Services for Children & Families - STEPS to End Family Violence**, Lucia Riviuccio, LCSW, Director; **F-E-G-S Health and Human Services System’s Center for Women and Families**, Kathy Rosenthal, LCSW, Vice President, Family Services and Long Island Regional Operations; **HELP R.O.A.D.S.**, Hayley Carrington-Walton, Program Director; **Jewish Board for Family and Children Services**, Sheilah D. Mabry, LCSW-R, Director, Bronx Domestic Violence Services, Genesis; **The New York Asian Women’s Center**, Julie Kim Richards, L.C.S.W, Director of Client Services; **The New York City Gay and Lesbian Anti-Violence Project**, Sharon Stapel, Esq., Executive Director; **Queens Legal Services**, Brian Dworkin, Esq., Director, Domestic Violence Law & Advocacy Project; **Safe Horizon Michael Polenber**, Vice President, Government Affairs ; **Sanctuary for Families**, Laurel W. Eisner, JD, MSW, Executive Director; **The Seamen’s Society for Children and Families**, Mark Simeone, Supervisor, Safe Passage;; **The Urban Justice Center’s Domestic Violence Project**, Madeline Garcia-Bigelow, Esq., Director; **The Violence Intervention Program**, Cecilia Gastón, Executive Director.

1. History of TANF Non-Residential Domestic Violence Services Funding in NYC

A majority of the victims calling New York City's Domestic Violence Hotline request community based, non-residential services, not shelter.

Our 13 organizations have provided expert domestic violence services to some of our most vulnerable neighbors in New York City for decades. The programs funded through OCFS offer counseling, legal, case management, and other non-shelter services to victims of domestic violence and their children. With relatively very little funding, these programs provide life-saving services to nearly 3,000 individuals **every month** – and by doing so we save taxpayer dollars. In particular, our community-based programs prevent many thousands of victims from entering shelter each year. Failing to restore these funds would not only decimate our ability to provide services to the State's most at-risk victims and their children, but **would cost the city and state much more in shelter and other costs.**

Preventing shelter placement of just 111 families in New York City alone saves the full \$3,000,000.

Domestic violence has long been recognized as a social and public health issue in New York State. New York's human services programs promote the safety and well-being of the State's most vulnerable citizens. Programs funded through OCFS include TANF domestic violence services to victims of domestic violence and their children, which fund the 13 programs offering this testimony. New York State, through OCFS, mandates provision of non-residential services to victims of domestic violence, services which are funded by this TANF money.² TANF Funding for New York State non-residential domestic violence services programs was reduced to \$510,000 FY12 and restored to \$1.21 million in FY13.

COST OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Studies suggest that \$1 invested in domestic violence services saves \$10 in future costs.³ These funding cuts would result in an increased demand for state-funded services, costing the state more money to address the harm caused when domestic violence services are not available. In a study of the cost-benefit analysis of VAWA funding from 1994-2000, researchers found that the original funding of \$1.6 billion dollars led to a net averted cost due to domestic violence service provision of \$14.8 billion dollars.⁴

Medical Costs

Center for Disease Control studies published in 2003 placed the annual estimated direct health care costs associated with domestic violence to be around \$4.1 billion, with another \$1.8 billion

² 18 NYCRR §462 et seq.

³ K. Anderson Clark *et al*, *A Cost-Benefit Analysis of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994*, Violence Against Women, Vol. 8. No. 4, 471-428 (2002). The averted costs were calculated as savings from direct property losses, medical and mental health care, police response, victims services, lost productivity, reduced quality of life and death.

⁴ *Id.*

in productivity losses associated with injuries and death.⁵ On average, a domestic violence victim incurs \$1,775 more in annual medical costs than persons who are not victims of domestic violence.⁶ In their 2010 study, CDC found that men and women who experienced rape or stalking by any perpetrator or physical violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime were more likely to report frequent headaches, chronic pain, difficulty with sleeping, activity limitations, poor physical health and poor mental health than men and women who did not experience these forms of violence. Women who had experienced these forms of violence were also more likely to report having asthma, irritable bowel syndrome, and diabetes than women who did not experience these forms of violence.⁷

Workplace Costs

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), domestic violence victims lose a total of nearly eight million days of paid work a year—the equivalent of more than 32,000 full-time jobs. In addition, domestic violence costs American businesses more than \$4.1 billion a year in health care-related services for victims and an additional \$727.8 million in productivity losses, according to the Family Violence Prevention Fund. Those victims who do lose their jobs because of the domestic violence may become dependent on state-funded public benefits programs.

IMPACT ON INDIVIDUAL PROGRAMS

Despite decreasing State funding levels, NYC non-residential domestic violence service providers funded through the NYC Human Resources Administration (HRA) have responded to the enormous need for services. From July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011, according to HRA, NYC programs provided direct service to nearly 5,000 new clients, answered nearly 32,800 hotline calls and engaged in over 1700 education, training and outreach events. Each month, through this funding, more than 3,000 domestic violence victims on average received social services and an average of nearly 1,100 clients received legal services.⁸ In 2012, our programs took on new program areas, working with domestic violence survivors on financial justice issues, and have incorporated financial counseling, debt advocacy and economic planning with our clients as part of our domestic violence advocacy. Our programs also contribute staff members who provide services to clients at the Family Justice Centers in Brooklyn, Queens and the Bronx. Continued participation in Family Justice Center activities is jeopardized by the elimination of the TANF funding. At the state level, almost 50,000 people benefited from non-residential services in FY 2012. From 2002 to 2012, service provision under this funding increased more than 50% despite no increase in funding. **If this funding is not restored to the budget, these victims of domestic violence will go without vital services and access to safety for themselves and their children.**

⁵ *Costs of Intimate Partner Violence Against Women in the United States*. 2003. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Centers for Injury Prevention and Control. Atlanta, GA.

⁶ *Domestic Violence and the Workplace*, a 2002 Partnership for Prevention publication citing data from the Family and Intimate Partner Violence Prevention Team of the CDC, National Center for Injury Protection (available at: <http://www.tpchd.org/files/library/c9df481abc6a4b5d.pdf>, last visited 2/03/12).

⁷ National Center for Injury Prevention and Control Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey: 2010 Summary Report*, (Nov. 2011).

⁸ Information provided by the Human Resources Administration Office of Domestic Violence and Emergency Intervention's *2012 Non Residential Monthly Activity Report for Clients Served*, received via email from Tracey Thorne, Director of Program and Policy Analysis, on 7/30/2012.,

EnDV estimates that, without restored funding, our programs will lose close to two dozen advocates, including social workers, counselors, attorneys and outreach workers. **Many of us provide services specific to particularly underserved, hard-to-reach communities, including disabled victims; immigrant groups including Haitian, Latina/o, Asian, Bengali, Japanese, Gujarati, Punjabi, and Korean victims; Arabic speaking victims; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and HIV-affected victims; and trafficked people.** For some victims, our programs are the only accessible programs in the City. For monolingual Lao and Thai speakers, for example, The New York Asian Women's Center is the sole agency providing domestic violence services in their languages. For lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and HIV-affected survivors, the New York City Anti-Violence Project is the sole agency focused exclusively on serving the needs of LGBTQH survivors of domestic violence in New York City. The loss of a single counselor would represent the loss of services in New York City and State capable of reaching these populations and would mean that some of the most vulnerable victims in New York City would go without safety or support. For many clients, the loss of these services would mean continuing to suffer domestic violence and an increased risk of death due to domestic violence.⁹ Many of our programs already have waitlists and have to turn clients away on a daily basis, it is a devastating prospect that there would be even less funds available.

Additionally, OCFS mandates the provision of non-residential services for victims of domestic violence¹⁰ and the Governor's proposal to zero out this TANF funding would put the burden of funding this legal mandate on localities who have little or no resources to do so, putting both the State and localities in violation of the law.

NON-RESIDENTIAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICE NEED IN NEW YORK STATE AND NEW YORK CITY

The global recession has meant a significant increase in the incidence of domestic violence. Three out of four shelters have experienced an increase in victims seeking assistance from abuse—a startling 72% increase in the Northeast region of the United States.¹¹ Seventy-three percent of the shelters attributed the rise in domestic violence to “financial issues” and 49% to “job loss.” Additionally, there has been a terrifying rise in domestic violence homicide rates in New York State in recent years, with an increase of 7% since 2007.¹² There were 68 family violence-related homicides in 2012. Orders of Protection issued by New York State courts

⁹ Almost one-third of female homicide victims that are reported in police records are killed by an intimate partner. Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Uniform Crime Reports* “Crime in the United States, 2000,” (2001). In 2007, intimate partners committed 14% of all homicides in the U.S., killing an estimated 1,640 women and 700 men. Catalano, S., Rand, M., Smith, E., & Snyder, H. (2009). *Female Victims of Violence*. BJS. In *The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey: 2010 Summary Report* released in November 2011 by the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, More than 1 in 3 women (35.6%) • and more than 1 in 4 men (28.5%) in the United States have experienced rape, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime and About 1 in 4 women (24.3%) • and 1 in 7 men (13.8%) have experienced severe physical violence by an intimate partner (e.g., hit with a fist or something hard, beaten, slammed against something) at some point in their lifetime.

¹⁰ 18 NYCRR §462 et seq.

¹¹ Mary Kay Ash Charitable Foundation Survey, May 12, 2009 (available at http://www.pcadv.org/Resources/MaryKay_Beauty_That_Counts_Release.pdf).

¹² *ibid*

increased 6% last year and since 2007 there has been a more than 34% increase.¹³ In New York City alone, more than 25,000 order of protection cases containing 305,204 family offense allegations were filed in the Family Courts in 2010. The number of filings has increased 15-20% since the state enacted legislation to allow cases involving intimate partner violence to be heard in Family Court. Many Orders of Protection are granted after a victim has approached one of our 13 programs and asked for support and assistance in navigating the Court. Without our programs, to whom will these victims turn for help? Will we see an even greater increase in intimate partner homicides?

Not surprisingly, New York City's domestic violence services—already stretched beyond their limits - have felt the impact of the increase in domestic violence since the recession. There are only 2,144 domestic violence shelter beds in New York City, not nearly enough to cover the need we face. According to the Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence (OCDV), in 2010, the New York Police Department responded to 249,440 domestic violence incidents; this averages almost 700 incidents per day. In addition, NYPD's Domestic Violence Unit conducted 67,761 home visits in 2010, a 77% increase since 2002. The New York City Family Justice Centers see an astounding number of victims each day, with well over 3,000 client visits each month, on average. In 2010, the City's Domestic Violence Hotline answered 119,177 calls, averaging more than 320 calls per day¹⁴. With limited shelter space, the vast majority of victims of domestic violence in New York City receive services from non-residential service providers, including the 13 programs highlighted in this testimony.

CONCLUSION

While we recognize the budget crisis faced by our city, New York State and states and cities across the country, our programs are providing an enormous value to thousands of individuals at what is in reality a very small immediate cost, while at the same time preventing future costs that could be many multiples greater than this budget allocation. Moreover, restoring this funding saves money in this same fiscal year - \$27,000 per family that does NOT enter shelter. **A majority of the victims calling New York City's Domestic Violence Hotline request community based, non-residential services, not shelter.** If the undersigned group of service providers can provide non-residential services we can prevent victims from going into shelter.

It is our understanding that without a dedicated budget allocation for these non-residential services, HRA will not be able to keep our programs whole. Without this dedicated funding many victims of domestic violence in New York City will go without services and some will be killed by their batterers. With cutbacks or shutdowns of non-shelter programs at our agencies, many that do reach out will instead seek help through emergency rooms, need representation through 18(b) state-funded attorneys, or lose jobs and become dependent on public benefits — and state-funded costs for these services will increase sharply. **We urge you to restore the \$3 million in TANF funding immediately to prevent this tragedy.**

¹³ *ibid*

¹⁴ All NYC statistics from the NYC Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence *Fact Sheet Calendar Year 2010* (2011 not yet available); retrieved 2/6/12 at http://www.nyc.gov/html/ocdv/downloads/pdf/2010_annual_DVFactSheet.pdf

APPENDIX 1 ABOUT EnDV PROGRAMS

Barrier Free Living Non-Residential Domestic Violence Program offers victims with disabilities case management; short- and long-term individual counseling; advocacy with medical, legal, financial, law enforcement and child welfare issues; safety planning; occupational therapy; and referrals to outside services. Services are offered in English, Spanish, American Sign Language, Italian, French, and Haitian Creole.

Edwin Gould Services for Children & Families - STEPS to End Family Violence provides non residential services including individual, counseling, group services, advocacy with concrete services, court advocacy, crisis intervention, safety planning, legal advice & direct representation, and training to community members, ACS caseworkers, foster care agencies, court personnel and other community-based agencies. STEPS staff speaks Spanish, French, Italian, Punjabi, and Hindi and is one of the only programs offering teen-specific services.

F·E·G·S Health and Human Services System's Center for Women and Families provides a predominantly immigrant population of domestic violence victims/survivors with a comprehensive array of culturally and linguistically sensitive services including: crisis and long-term counseling, advocacy, interpretation and translation services, with linkages provided to family and immigration legal services.

HELP R.O.A.D.S located in East New York and serves Brownville, Bushwick, Bedford Stuyvesant, Williamsburg and Green point, which are disenfranchised population struck by violence, poverty and lack of services. Our services are bilingual and culturally sensitive and include: crisis intervention, counseling, support groups, parenting and domestic workshops, advocacy, referrals, aftercare, translation, children and teens services.

Jewish Board for Family and Children Services' Bronx Domestic Violence Program is a non-residential domestic violence program that offers victims and survivors of domestic violence individual and group counseling, safety planning, referrals, advocacy, domestic violence awareness presentations to service providers and community organizations, providing services in Spanish and two-thirds of clients are Spanish Speaking.

The New York Asian Women's Center provides direct services, including a 24 hour multilingual hotline, intensive counseling, crisis intervention, case management, advocacy assistance, translation/interpretation, entitlement assistance, and education/employment assistance to Asian victims of domestic violence. With the Asian language proficiency that each of our counselors brings to the agency, we can serve the Asian community in over a dozen Asian languages. With the loss of any given counselor, our language capacity decreases and vulnerable populations lose access to Non Residential Domestic Violence services. For example, without our counselor who speaks Lao and Thai, those two distinct communities have no organization where they can receive services in their languages.

The New York City Gay and Lesbian Anti-Violence Project provides direct services, community organizing and public advocacy, including a free and confidential 24 hour Bilingual English/Spanish hotline, crisis intervention, safety planning, counseling, advocacy and referrals to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and HIV-affected victims of domestic violence and training to thousands of first responders, including the New York Police Department, District Attorney's Offices, victim services organizations and hospitals, within New York City and New York State.

Queens Legal Services provides legal and support services, including advice and representation in family offense, custody, visitation, support and divorce cases in Family Court, Supreme Court, and the Integrated

Domestic Violence Part of the Criminal Court, immigration cases, 24 hour hotline, crisis intervention, safety planning, counseling and advocacy to victims of domestic violence.

Safe Horizon has, for the past 30 years, been at the forefront of helping victims of crime and abuse in New York City. The organization was founded in 1978 with the mission to provide support, prevent violence, and promote justice for victims of crime and abuse, their families and communities. We offer a range of services at nearly 70 sites across the five boroughs that help move more than 250,000 victims of violence from crisis to confidence each year. Funding from TANF covers the activities performed by our staff located in our Queens Community Program, Queens Family Court and the Queens Integrated Domestic Violence Court. Services include information and referral, advocacy, counseling and community outreach. Community outreach includes presentations at schools, community groups, and hospitals.

Sanctuary for Families' at the Bronx Family Justice Center provides integrated clinical, legal, and economic stability advocacy, including a hotline from Monday through Friday 9am-5pm, to victims of domestic violence and sex trafficking, as well as child victims/witnesses of family violence in the Bronx. Services are available in English, Spanish, Bengali, Japanese, Gujarati and Korean.

The Seamen's Society for Children and Families is a non-residential domestic violence program; the only one like it on Staten Island. We provide long term and short term DV counseling, advocacy and referrals to domestic violence survivors in Staten Island; both English and Spanish speaking.

The Urban Justice Center's Domestic Violence Project provides psychosocial and legal assessments and services through a collaborative and holistic framework. Services provided are open to any victim of domestic violence, irrespective of gender, sexual orientation, religious, cultural or economic status. We provide these services city-wide with free legal direct representation services to Bronx, Queens and Brooklyn residents.

The Violence Intervention Program's Bronx Non-Residential Program offers hotline, crisis counseling, safety planning, advocacies, referrals, accompaniments, support groups. VIP is known for its work with the Latino community but we serve women of all nationalities.

APPENDIX 2

IMPACT THAT THESE SERVICES HAVE ON YOUR CONSTITUANTS

Barrier Free Living assisted client J. who was referred from Sanctuary for Families. J was an immigrant, stay-at-home mother married to an American citizen. She was also subjected to abuse from her husband on a daily basis which made her doubt her own mind and abilities. Her immigration status depended on the husband's cooperation with the process. She also suffered from a neurological condition that affected her walking and balance but she had worked hard to alleviate the severity of the disability. She began receiving counseling and attending a support group at BFL. Eventually, she was able to leave her husband, obtain immigration status on her own, find employment, housing and medical care; in short, independence and an abuse-free life for herself and her child.

Edwin Gould Services for Children & Families - STEPS to End Family Violence served Marta who arrived at STEPS one day in June 2008, frantic because her husband served her with divorce papers and she couldn't afford an attorney. Marta had a long history of abuse at the hands of her husband including an incident where he kicked her repeatedly resulting in the miscarriage of her child. Although she had him arrested and had received a two year order of protection, Marta felt vulnerable in addressing the divorce action because she was without legal status in this country, couldn't work, and does not have a support network in this country. Her abuser had petitioned the court to expel her and her son (from a previous union) from the marital home. STEPS intervened by drafting an Order to Show Cause (emergency motion) for her in which she requested that the court dismiss the divorce complaint, that it allow her and her child to remain in the marital residence until he found her other accommodations that he would have to pay for, that he continue her medical health coverage, and that he pay her \$200.00 per week as maintenance. Today, the husband has had to continue medical coverage, Marta and her son are still in the marital residence and the husband is paying all expenses. STEPS litigation prevented Marta and her child from moving into shelter and relying on NYS assistance.

F·E·G·S Health and Human Services System's Center for Women and Families worked with TMK a 42-year-old woman from Mali with three children ages 5 to 16. MK was reportedly a victim of domestic violence in her country of origin as well as a victim of rape, genital mutilation, and torture. F·E·G·S's Center for Women and Families provided trauma counseling, assisted MK in getting medical care for symptoms related to her genital mutilation, assisted MK in getting legal immigration representation to file a political asylum petition, wrote an affidavit to support her political asylum petition, gave her referrals to food pantries and public assistance for her U.S. born son, provided a linkage to a refugee resettlement program, and assisted her in getting into shelter. F.E.G.S advocacy and thorough assistance has resulted in MK being granted political asylum, receiving Work Advantage voucher, obtaining full-time employment as a home health aide and accessing an affordable apartment for herself and her children.

HELP R.O.A.D.S worked with Ms. A, a 21 year old African American woman who had one child and was nine months pregnant with her second. She met her abuser as a teenager and moved in with him when she became an adult. She was emotionally and physically abused, resulting in head injuries. She fled Georgia and moved to New York to reside with her grandmother. She became embroiled with the Administration for Children's Services and her children were placed with a relative in foster care because. She was referred to HELP ROADS for assistance. An initial assessment and safety planning lead to extensive individual counseling, support groups and parenting skills classes. Ms. A became proactive in the reunification process. HELP ROADS provided additional assistance with obtaining winter clothing, public benefits, legal services, GED program information and a referral to an employment specialist. Ms. A was reunited with her children and remains safe from her former abuser.

Jewish Board of Family and Children Service's Bronx Domestic Violence Program provided services to K.J., a 34 year old African American woman of Caribbean descent, referred by HRA Office of Domestic Violence and Emergency Intervention Services. KJ was trapped in an abusive relationship for seven years. Like many victims, KJ is undocumented and her immigration status is used by the abuser to maintain control. KJ has struggled with crippling debt amassed by her abuser and the real fear of eviction from her home since housing was only in the abuser's name. KJ's unimaginably difficult issues seemed almost insurmountable. However, with the careful assistance and strenuous advocacy, JBFCS secured mental health services to address the impact of the violence and legal services to address divorce, immigration, and housing issues. JBFCS has provided the supportive structure and necessary counseling to assist KJ in successfully interfacing with all the professionals involved in her representation. JBFCS also provided necessary documentation for legal proceedings to allow the court to understand the full weight and circumstances of KJ's current situation. As a direct result of JBFCS advocacy and support, KJ has found critical relief from crushing debt incurred by her abuser and is securing an apartment.

The New York Asian Women's Center assisted client B, whose husband began abusing her within a month of getting married. He would not allow her to enter their bedroom without his permission, berated her because of her limited English language skills and hit her whenever she did not do something that he wanted. B was isolated in the home and one night when she tried calling the police, her husband pushed her to the ground and she lost consciousness. Later that evening, she did flee the home and phone the police but was unable to communicate that she needed assistance. She finally went to a local hospital and after being examined, was referred to New York Asian Women's Center (NYAWC) where she received counseling and information about divorce and immigration options. A pro bono attorney provided assistance and an advocate from NYAWC accompanied her to interviews and provided an affidavit for use in the immigration matter. NYAWC also applied for vocation funds which B used to participate in a Home Health Aide training program. She is now employed, attends, ESL classes, has a conditional legal permanent resident card and remains safe from her abuser.

The New York City Gay and Lesbian Anti-Violence Project worked with Amy, a 25 year old, self-identified transgender Latina woman who came to the NYC Anti-Violence project in search of emotional and legal support for the intimate partner abuse that she was experiencing, and needed services in Spanish. Amy's partner subjected her to intimidation and isolation as part of emotional, economic, physical, and sexual violence, and she was also harassed and threatened by men who shared their apartment. Amy expressed love for her partner, but also a deep fear. Amy was able to escape the relationship with support from AVP staff, who helped her access scarce domestic violence shelter and connected her to an attorney from AVP's Domestic Violence Legal Clinic, who helped her evaluate the risks of obtaining an Order of Protection—she decided against it. Throughout her ordeal, AVP provided her with counseling support, to allow Amy to work through the trauma and violence she experienced at the hands of her abusive partner. Without AVP, Amy would not have obtained culturally competent legal, counseling, and shelter services, and may never have begun her journey towards safety, independence, and healing.

Queens Legal Services represented Client Y, an immigrant woman from China, with family offense and immigration cases. Shortly after arriving in New York, Y's husband belittling and was verbally abuse to her. Y was also isolated from meeting friends or other women from her cultural background. This escalated into physical violence. He would hit her about the body, kick her, push her into walls and threaten to kill her. Y called the police, the husband was arrested and an order of protection was obtained from both Family and Criminal courts. A VAWA self-petition was filed on her behalf. She is working as a cleaning woman and taking English classes.

A Safe Horizon Social Worker provided services to a 19 year old woman that had been abused by her boyfriend over a number of years and who appeared in the Queens IDVC. She was facing eviction, had a

young child, felt unsupported by her family, and was fearful that the abuser would return to hurt her. The Social Worker provided the client with court orientation, advocacy with court staff and court accompaniment. The Social Worker and the client also worked together to assess her safety and develop strategies to increase her safety. The Social Worker advocated on her behalf and was able to identify an emergency domestic violence shelter that could accept her and her child. The Social Worker worked with HRA to help correct a mix-up with the client's food stamp allocation and worked together with the Self-Sufficiency Coordinator, located at the Family Justice Center, to connect her to appropriate resources.

Sanctuary for Families at Bronx Family Justice Center worked extensively with CD who received clinical and legal services at SFF. CD was a victim of severe emotional, verbal and physical abuse at the hand of her husband. He repeatedly belittled her and her abilities, called her names and sabotaged her education and employment. In the last, and most serious, incident he strangled her repeatedly in front of their young son and prevented them from getting help. As a result, CD and the child experienced trauma reactions and depression. SFF attorneys represented CD in family offense and custody proceedings in the Bronx Integrated Domestic Violence Court. CD obtained sole custody of the child and a five-year order of protection for both her and the child. SFF represents CD in an ongoing divorce proceeding.

CD also received extensive counseling services at SFF to help her cope with the trauma and its effect on her life. CD was able to value herself more and gain confidence in her decisions. She participated in the Parenting support group and her son also received counseling services. They participated in the SFF-facilitated Brooke Jackman Family Literacy Project and the WISE Financial Literacy Project to further assist CD with gaining financial independence.

The Seamen's Society for Children and Families' worked with Client B.S. age 50, strictly Spanish speaking, saw our program in a brochure at the Staten Island Public Assistance office. She had an extremely abusive husband who held her captive and wouldn't give her any food. Her husband eventually wanted her to leave and drove her to leave and threatened to take her 10 year old son. She began counseling at Seamen's April 08. She participated in individual counseling and received advocacy and referrals from one of our caseworkers. This particular client is a fine artist and now she is waiting for immigration papers; started school to learn English, and is now working on an art career! Her husband condemned this behavior and would not let her pursue this career and tried to deport her. Through our legal advocacy she has full custody of her son and an order of protection. Our program provided her with counseling, support and education to make independent decisions based on the needs of her son and herself. Seamen's also worked with Client M.H. is a 34 year old survivor with 3 children who came to us because her children were removed and foster care agency referred her for DV counseling. She was initially homeless and children were in foster care. Our caseworker advocated on her behalf many times with her FC agency, as her children were receiving inadequate care. The support of her workers helped her gain trust with our program, therefore participating in DV counseling and education. She currently lives in a Section 8 apartment with her children and without her abusive husband.

The Urban Justice Center's Domestic Violence Project worked with LD who suffered severe domestic violence over the span of a ten year relationship with her abuser. As with so many victims of domestic violence, LD had severed relations with her abuser many times only ending in reconciliation. Following each act of reconciliation, LD suffered more prolonged and severe incidents of abuse. LD was referred to us through a community based organization. LD described a recent incident of domestic violence where her abuser strangled the client and cut her with a knife. The client's children, one of whom was the child of the abuser, were present in the home during the most recent incident. As a result of our partnerships, we worked closely with the district attorney's office and also represented LD on a contested family court matter. Given the abuser's criminal history, the legal case was fairly straightforward. However, given LD's history of attempting to leave the abuser, it was of utmost importance for our clinicians to seize this opportunity to provide LD with more nuanced and long term safety planning. Each time LD returned to

her abuser, the violence escalated. Furthermore use of a weapon and strangling are also two lethality indicators. We knew extensive safety planning would be crucial to the client's safety. Included in our advocacy with LD, we assisted her in changing her numbers, avoiding neighborhoods where his family and close friends lived, registering her orders of protection with any and all local precincts, and keeping her address confidential. In addition, we were also able to encourage her to engage in long-term counseling for herself and her child. Counseling would not only help her deal with the trauma but hopefully also allow her to end the cycle of domestic violence with the abuser.

The Violence Intervention Program worked with Guadalupe, who tells her own story: I lived for twelve years with my abuser. I wasn't allowed to go to school, have friends, or get help. My husband physically, emotionally, verbally and sexually assaulted me. One day, when I was pregnant with our child, we got into an argument and he got so angry he hurt me. When I got to the hospital I was too afraid to tell them my husband had caused the bruises. I thought he could change, so I stayed. I tried to leave a couple of times, I even went into a shelter, but then I decided to give him another chance. Things did not change and his abuse got worse, but I was afraid to get help because I was that one who had let him come back home. When I finally realized that he would never stop hurting me, I called the VIP hotline where I found counselors who supported me and helped me get an order of protection and a lawyer. I am still in counseling and recently I have been able to speak out about my abuse at community events and even on Spanish television.

