

WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER TO END DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

2023



IMPACT

REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY





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Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we reflect on the past year and plan for the next, I am honored to share our Impact Report for 2023. In this report, we acknowledge and celebrate the progress we have made in supporting survivors of domestic violence while also recognizing the challenges that persist, particularly in the realm of affordable housing.



Jean Douglas

One of the most pressing issues facing survivors in our community is a dire shortage of affordable housing in Atlanta. As rents continue to rise and housing options dwindle, survivors are often left with limited, undesirable choices when seeking to escape abusive relationships and start their new lives in safety and comfort. The decision to leave a violent home is already fraught with complexities and dangers, and the lack of safe, affordable housing exacerbates these challenges.

For many survivors, the fear of homelessness or housing instability is a determining factor in whether they leave their abuser. Without a stable place to live, many feel as though they have no option but to remain in danger. This crisis not only perpetuates cycles of abuse



but also undermines survivors' autonomy and ability to rebuild their lives free from violence.

Recognizing the urgency of this issue, the Women's Resource Center is committed to addressing the intersection of domestic violence and housing insecurity over the next five years. As we move into a new 5-year strategic plan, we have set this goal:

By the end of 2025, 100% OF OUR SAFE HOUSE GUESTS WILL MOVE INTO SAFE, LONG-TERM HOUSING WITHIN 90 DAYS of entering our safe house.

It's a lofty goal, but doable!

We will meet this goal by strengthening partnerships with local housing agencies and landlords to increase access to safe and affordable options. We will advocate for policy changes that prioritize affordable housing for survivors of domestic violence. We will also seek funding partners to help make housing more affordable for those we serve.

While the road ahead may be challenging, I am confident that your continued support will allow us to have a significant impact on survivors seeking access to safe, affordable housing and the resources they need to rebuild their lives free of violence.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to our mission.

Jean Douglas, Executive Director

DURING 2023: WE SERVED 7,115 WOMEN, CHILDREN, AND OTHER DV SURVIVORS.

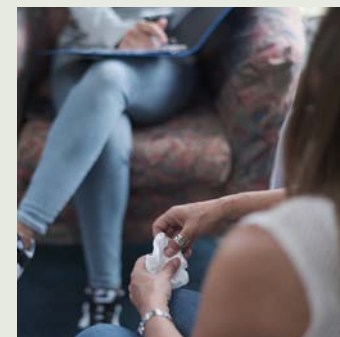
We answered **35% MORE CALLS** to our crisis hotline.

WE SERVED 31% MORE domestic violence survivors across our programs.

We **DOUBLED THE NUMBER** of families receiving transitional housing assistance.

We increased the number of moms **ATTENDING PARENTING SUPPORT GROUPS BY 20%.**

We increased the number of children receiving **WEEKLY RESILIENCY CHECK-INS** after moving out of the safe house by 74%.



We increased the number of survivors receiving **COUNSELING/ MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT BY 38%.**

We increased the number of families receiving **FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE BY 27%.**

We increased the number of **SUPERVISED VISITS PROVIDED BY 30%.**



OUR MISSION
is to create
a society
in which
domestic
violence
NO LONGER EXISTS.

FOCUS AREA 1: CARE & INCLUSION

GOAL 1: EXPAND COMMUNITY RESILIENCY

Strategies

- Establish a Community Center
- Provide emergency and transitional housing & enable long-term housing options
- Advocate for social and restorative justice
- Continue providing legal services

GOAL 2: EVALUATE IMPACT

Strategies

- Engage an outside evaluator and/or academic partner to monitor progress toward outcomes
- Every 3-5 years, conduct a community needs assessment to determine unmet need

FOCUS AREA 2: PEOPLE

GOAL 3: ATTRACT AND RETAIN TALENT

Strategies

- Facilitate a culture of well-being with a growth mindset
- Align roles of staff to implement the strategic and tactical plan
- Develop succession plans and procedures for board, volunteer and staff leadership

FOCUS AREA 3: ORGANIZATIONAL EXCELLENCE

GOAL 4: ELEVATE THE BRAND

Strategies

- Focus awareness on social justice and unique services

GOAL 5: FINANCIALLY SUSTAIN THE ORGANIZATION

Strategies

- Revise financial reporting and forecasting
- Inspire and motivate donors
- Generate revenue through consulting, training, and licensing fees

CORE VALUES

We are FAMILY

We are committed to contributing to an environment that fosters belonging and where people feel seen and heard. This is a welcoming space to connect, safely challenge, learn, contribute, and grow. We support building and nurturing each person's capacity for joy and change. We care about people for their own sake, apart from titles, possessions, or accomplishments.

We are ADVOCATES for HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS

We are advocates for healthy relationships by building emotionally and physically safe spaces. We support survivors in their life journeys and elevate their voices, speaking for survivors only when they are unable to speak for themselves. Our programming centers the growth of resilience and the creation of thriving communities.

We are CHAMPIONS of SURVIVOR-CENTERED SERVICES

We offer programs that recognize and honor domestic violence survivors' full humanity and our shared right to live fulfilling lives free from suffering. We derive our expertise by listening to survivor experiences and honor their trust in all the services we provide.

We are ADVOCATES for JUSTICE AND EQUITY

We ensure that the survivors we serve have access to the information they need to make informed decisions. We value diversity and demonstrate progressive ideology by centering and uplifting the voices of Black women. We recognize the right of all marginalized groups to live lives free from family violence. We are dedicated to influencing the systems that uphold violence to create a safer world for all.

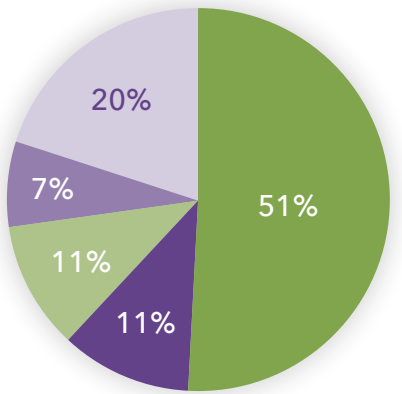
We are THOUGHT LEADERS and INNOVATORS

We are courageous leaders with a commitment to community engagement. We use the knowledge imparted to us by the lived experiences of domestic violence survivors to lead discussion, influence policy, and create change. Our programming is innovative and we respond to the world around us without being inhibited by what we are told is possible. We envision a domestic violence movement that is by us, for us, and are dedicated to influencing the future of survivor advocacy.

INCOME SOURCES

● Government	\$2,010,698
● Individual and Corporate.....	\$418,526
● Special Events.....	\$423,278
● Foundations.....	\$293,113
● Special Project Funding*	\$780,826
○ Other (less than 1%)	\$3,978

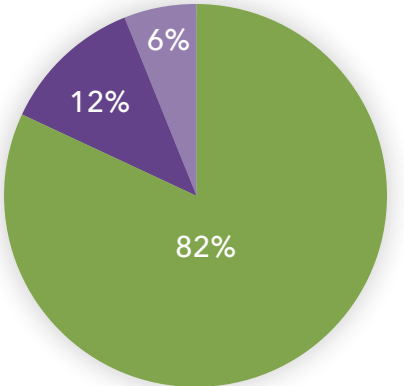
TOTAL \$3,930,419



EXPENSES

● Programs	
Housing Programs.....	\$748,272
Legal Advocacy	\$522,636
Community-Based Advocacy	\$427,460
Child and Youth Advocacy.....	\$251,976
Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange.....	\$192,718
Prevention Programming.....	\$83,436
Hotline.....	\$70,041
● Adminstration.....	\$333,548
● Resource Development	\$164,991

TOTAL \$2,795,078



*Funding earmarked for special project in 2024/2025

We provided 17 families with **EMERGENCY HOTEL STAYS** when our safe house was full.

We assisted 21 families with **RAPID RE-HOUSING**, allowing them to transition into a new home more quickly.

We provided **TRANSITIONAL HOUSING ASSISTANCE** to 34 families, allowing them more time to reach their financial goals.

We served 41 women through **SUPPORTIVE GROUPS** held at our safe house.

In 2023, **WRC HOSTED 41 ADULTS AND 77 CHILDREN** as guests in our safe house.

WRC offers housing programming to DV survivors including an emergency safe house, rapid rehousing services to help families settle into a new home more quickly, and transitional housing for families who have bigger goals for their financial futures.



DANA transitioned from our safe house into her own home with her family in 2022. She continued to remain connected with WRC for support and has remained stably housed for more than 18 months. During that time, Dana earned her high school diploma and received a community service award from a partnering agency she connected with while staying in the safe house. One of Dana’s children has completed high school and earned a college scholarship. Another has found joy in cheerleading. Her youngest child continues to enjoy Camp PEACE during the summers. Dana is now a member of our newly convened Safe House Advisory Board and will help us continue to respond to new housing needs and ensure our safe house program provides the supports necessary to help our guests reach their goals.

NAOMI fled an abusive partner in another state. She was glad to be safe but also mourned the budding business she had left behind. Safe house staff connected Naomi with community partners who could help her relaunch her business, offering her a real choice: Naomi could be safe AND she could pursue her culinary and entrepreneurial dreams. With WRC advocacy and partnerships, Naomi secured safe, permanent housing as well as her LLC and a small business loan. Along with another former safe house guest, Naomi now offers cooking classes and sells her products at various pop-up locations. Both survivors have been stably housed for nearly one year and are also safe house volunteers. Everyone loves when they come to share their samosas and other stellar dishes with our current safe house families.

COURTNEY and her children relocated to Georgia in the fall of 2023. She knew leaving was the safest option but had no family or friends to turn to for support. She was able to locate an emergency shelter in south Georgia but experienced racism as the only Black family in the program. She was also 8 months pregnant and did not have access to prenatal care. Courtney desperately needed more than shelter - she needed a place to stay that would respect her family, understand the trauma in her past, and help her create the new life she wanted for her family. Thankfully, a room soon became available in our safe house.

Courtney was nervous to relocate again, but immediately felt welcome and at home. “I felt so much love,” she remembers. “It was too good to be true.” Her children felt safe enough to play and began to show their true personalities in the children’s program. Courtney was able to receive prenatal care and begin taking care of her body and her growing child. When she struggled with depression and overwhelm, she credits the staff at the safe house for keeping her going. “I never had a real deal family,” she says. “I still cry from time to time with happiness just thinking about the support [we received] and how real these wonderful ladies are. They helped me get back on my feet and helped my kids and I get back everything we lost.”

After several weeks in the WRC safe house, and a safe and healthy delivery, Courtney was able to transition into an apartment with WRC’s assistance. We continued to provide support to her family as she found a job, got a car, and began to build her life in Atlanta. She describes her new home as “full of positive energy and love.”

CHRISTINA fled to Georgia from the west coast to escape violence from her partner. She was able to receive a job transfer to Atlanta and move in with her father, but he was struggling to adjust to sharing his space with Christina and her two young kids.

She called the crisis line in tears, feeling overwhelmed. Christina felt that her father lacked compassion and did not understand the impact of the abuse she experienced, but she had nowhere else to stay. We were able to provide emotional support to Christina during this period of transition and connections with programs to help her address her credit issues and locate an apartment. Once she was able to find an apartment that would accept her, we were able to help with the first month’s rent and deposit to help her move in more quickly.

BAILEY called the crisis line because she needed a safe place for herself and her four children. As we listened, we learned that Bailey’s home with her abusive partner was located near the safe house. We realized that coming to our house would not be the safest option. Instead, we worked with Bailey on a safety plan and hotel lodging for a few days until we could locate an alternative. We worked with a community partner to secure transitional housing for Bailey’s family while we continued to provide services to build resilience and address the impacts of DV trauma. Within six months Bailey was employed and ready to move into permanent housing. WRC provided financial assistance to support her family’s move. The family has remained stably housed for 16 months with periodic financial assistance and ongoing emotional support.

We received **5,820 CALLS** to our crisis hotline.

We provided individualized counseling or other **MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT** to 40 survivors.

42 SURVIVORS attended our virtual support groups an average of 12 times each.

50 WOMEN are active members of our SISTERS outreach group. SISTERS = Survivors in Service to Extend Resiliency.

We provided financial assistance to 137 families for a total of **\$148,768**.

THE TOP REASONS DV survivors request financial assistance:

- **HOUSING** assistance
- **TRANSPORTATION** (including car repairs and registration)
- **RELOCATION** (e.g. moving costs)



ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES, or ACEs, are potentially traumatic events that occur in childhood. Along with witnessing family violence, housing instability is one of the more common ACEs experienced by children enrolled in our programs. ACEs can have lasting negative effects on health, wellbeing in childhood, and life opportunities, such as education and job potential, well into adulthood. The more ACEs a child experiences, the more profound the impact on their future.

PROTECTIVE FACTORS ARE THE ANSWER TO ACEs. Protective factors in a child's life can build resilience and moderate the long-term impact of adverse childhood experiences.

IN 2023, WRC SERVED 138 CHILDREN impacted by domestic violence across our Child and Youth Advocacy programming.



WRC provided after-school programming for **54 KIDS VISITING OUR SAFE HOUSE.** Programming focuses on addressing the impacts of ACEs and building protective factors and healthy relationships.



NATASHA is the oldest of five children who were all thriving at Camp PEACE. Her family settled into their own apartment after leaving the safe house and were grateful to have a safe and stable home free from violence. Unfortunately, during their time at camp, a problem arose with the family's housing voucher. Without the financial assistance the voucher provided, Natasha's mother could not afford the rent on their current residence. Though the landlord promised he would give the family 30 days to sort out the issue, he ended up evicting the family. Natasha, a high school student, was devastated and spent time at camp researching how to help her mom. At home, she worked with her siblings to pack their most important items to take wherever they landed next. Natasha was particularly sad that she would have to change schools before her junior year of high school. The family was able to sort out the administrative issue with their voucher, but not before the landlord rented their apartment to someone else.

WRC aided Natasha's family in their search for new housing while adjusting transportation to make sure that the kids never missed camp. Camp became their refuge of stability during a difficult transition. We helped with food and clean clothing while the family stayed with a friend. Eventually, we were able to assist the family in moving into a new apartment that would accept their voucher.

We are proud that we were able to support Natasha and her siblings with a number of protective supports during their transition: supportive relationships, a positive peer group, meeting basic needs, active involvement in community activities, caring role models, and more.



75 kids who transitioned from the safe house into their own homes received weekly resiliency and emotional literacy programming from our advocacy staff through our virtual **WIND DOWN WEDNESDAYS.**



57 kids attended **CAMP PEACE**, our 8-week violence-prevention summer camp, at NO COST to their families.

8 families, including 28 kids, participated in monthly peace education and parenting support activities through our **PEACE MOMS / PEACE FAMILIES** groups.

45 KIDS, PLUS THEIR MOMS, attended our Camp PEACE reunion/holiday party in December.



CHILD & YOUTH ADVOCACY PROGRAM

20 TEENS ENGAGED WITH GAME CHANGERS, our teen-specific programming that provides social support and programming for teens who want to reject violence and build healthy relationships.



30 MOMS participated in our parenting groups, which support moms through the challenges of parenting children who have experienced trauma.

In 2023 Nia's Place, our supervised visitation center, **SERVED 53 FAMILIES** with **110 CHILDREN**. Nia's Place provided 360 supervised visits and 191 supervised exchanges.



LEGAL ADVOCACY PROGRAM

Lack of housing choice causes difficulties for survivors served by our Legal Advocacy Program as well. When a survivor makes the courageous decision to leave an abusive relationship, the financial responsibilities for rebuilding often rest solely on her shoulders.

MINDY reached out to WRC's Legal Advocacy program with concerns about her husband's physical violence and verbally aggressive behavior toward her in front of their young child. We helped Mindy secure a Temporary Protective Order and document her partner's history of abuse with law enforcement. Family and Children's Services opened an investigation to determine if Mindy's child could be safe in the home of her abusive spouse and supported her decision to leave the home and file for protection.

When Mindy reached out to her leaseholder to ask that she be removed from the lease agreement she had signed with her husband, property management stated that she had to have her husband's permission to be removed from the contract. Mindy contacted WRC in distress, but was able to receive emotional support and guidance on how to use her Temporary Protective Order in a formal request to be removed from the lease for her safety. After being presented with the court order, the leaseholder recanted their prior stance and asked how they could assist Mindy in increasing her safety. All fees associated with breaking her lease were waived and she was able to move to a new apartment.

FRANKIE filed a protective order against her abusive partner and sought to move out of the home they shared. She was approved for an apartment but struggled to quickly produce the amount needed for a deposit and first month's rent on her own. WRC was able to assist with her move-in costs, allowing her to transition quickly into building a safer home for herself and her children. She was able to settle into a walkable community with good schools. Now that she feels safe, she is able to focus on addressing the mental health impacts of the abuse and strengthening her relationship with her children.

OUR LEGAL ADVOCATES RECEIVE AN AVERAGE OF 53 CALLS FOR ASSISTANCE EVERY DAY.

In 2023, our legal advocates **RESPONDED TO 13,393 CALLS FOR LEGAL ASSISTANCE** from 5,785 callers.

We assisted 2,327 petitioners with filing **TEMPORARY PROTECTIVE ORDERS** for their safety. Some petitioners had to be assisted in filing multiple Orders over several months.

We **ACCOMPANIED 926 DV SURVIVORS** to court hearings.



198 women attended our support groups for **SURVIVORS INVOLVED WITH THE JUSTICE SYSTEM.**

53 SURVIVORS received free legal consultations through our **legal clinic.**



COMMUNITY EDUCATION ANNUAL CANDLELIGHT VIGIL

2023 marked our 32nd annual Candlelight Vigil commemorating Domestic Violence Awareness Month. At this event, we remembered 153 victims of domestic violence homicides, ranging in age from unborn to 6 months to 87 years old. An additional 43 perpetrators of violence also lost their lives, bringing the total to 196 domestic violence-related deaths in GA in 2022.

The focus of this year's event was domestic violence as a social justice issue. We heard from Dionna Scott, whose life was directly impacted by domestic violence, as well as Dr. Roy Reese and WRC staff members Markesha Dunham and Barbara Gibson, who spoke to the complicated intersections of domestic violence and other social issues. To learn more, visit tinyurl.com/4h3dcyxj.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM). Each year, we commemorate DVAM with a candlelight vigil remembering those killed in domestic violence homicides in Georgia in the previous year. The vigil not only honors those we have lost but renews our dedication to ending domestic violence.

You can view the live stream on our Facebook Page at tinyurl.com/3umasuch.

In 2023, WRC **HOSTED 72 ACTIVE VOLUNTEERS AND 6 INTERNS.**

Our staff conducted **12 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TRAININGS** with partners including fellow nonprofits, the Department of Juvenile Justice, DeKalb County Police Academy, the Center for Justice Innovation, and more.

We participated in **23 COMMUNITY EDUCATION EVENTS** that reached nearly **4,000 PARTICIPANTS.**



DONOR ENGAGEMENT
CHAMPIONS FOR CHANGE

As Jean Douglas, our executive director, shared with our guests, "There's no place like home. Home should be a place of comfort and refuge. The place that holds some of our favorite things and people. Rarely do we imagine it as the place where we feel most vulnerable and afraid. But that is the reality for many."

Our Champions for Change Fundraiser was one to remember this year, breaking all previous records for fundraising and attendance. Highlights of the event include hearing about Chloe's courageous journey from coming into our safe house to purchasing her own home, how children learn about peace through our summer camp, and the amazing commitment of our honoree, the Home Depot Legal Department. Joined by event chairs Melba Hughes and Allega Lawrence-Hardy, and with the help of our supporters and sponsors, we raised a record-breaking \$423,000 to support our programs.

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE
who participated in making this event one for the books!



DONOR ENGAGEMENT
IT TAKES A MAN

On Father's Day, June 18, 2023, WRC ran our 22nd annual ad in the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* under the heading "It Takes a Man to Stop Domestic Violence." The men listed below are proud to state that they will not tolerate domestic violence in their community." Others were also invited to contribute in the name of a nonviolent man in their lives. We're grateful to all who contributed and took a stand against domestic violence in their homes, businesses, and communities

It Takes A Man to Stop Domestic Violence.



In commemoration of Father's Day, the men of Atlanta have united to promote peace in every home. If you think that domestic violence does not affect you or that you cannot make a difference, these men ask that you think of your mothers, sisters and daughters. Domestic violence affects us all, and you can make a difference by letting others know that violence in the home is unacceptable.

Those listed below proudly state that they will not tolerate domestic violence in their homes, businesses, or communities.

DEFENDERS

David Cofrin⁹
Representative Scott Holcomb¹⁵
Honorable Clarence F. Seeliger (ret.)²

ALLIES

Dr. Michael Baron¹⁵ Pete Bell²

SUPPORTERS

Sally Dorn¹⁴ Greg Loughlin¹⁰ Dr. Leroy Reese¹⁵
Deborah Johnson¹⁵ Dr. Margaret Mermin⁹ Jill Wasserman⁶

BELIEVERS

Honorable Judge Gregory A. Adams ²	Jerry Draluck ¹⁴	Suzy Quenzer ¹³
Neville W. Anderson, Sr. CPA, PC ⁶	Fred and Pat Elsberry ¹⁵	Tunisia Poole ³
Keith Barnett ⁶	Zachary Gibson ⁸	Virginia Rece ⁷
Asher Burk ¹⁴	Nat and Libby Gozansky	Julie Reeves ⁴
Marian Camp ⁹	Natalie Gregory ¹⁴	Pat Robinson ⁴
Chitra Chaturvedi ⁴	Cathy Hasbrouck ¹⁶	Kevin Ross ³
Debra Cline ⁷	Jeremy Haselwood ⁸	Linda and David Spencer ⁷
Brian Douglas ²³	Charles Huddleston ³	Harry Roy Thompson ⁶
	Eric Koontz ²⁵	Todd Warren ⁷
	Diane Laws-Brown ²	Joy White ²

IN HONOR OF / IN MEMORY OF

Pete Bell in honor of Russell Baldwin ²	Jennifer Manning in honor of Donald Manning ¹⁴
Ann Daiss in honor of George Demchak ¹⁵	Dr. Margaret Mermin in honor of Dan, David, and Mike Mermin, wonderful fathers all. ⁷
Sally Dorn in honor of William (Bill) Ferguson ¹⁴	Dr. Don Murphy in honor of Jean Douglas ⁸
Robert Elrod in honor of Nancy E. Elrod ⁸	Dr. LeRoy Reese in honor of Ms. Regina Kelly ¹⁵
Alice Gamble in honor of Norris Gamble ⁴	Helen Rogers in honor of Joel Rogers ⁹
Deborah Johnson in honor of Jeff Bragg ¹⁵	Jill Wasserman in honor of Stephen Devereaux and Michael Wasserman ³
Stephen Johnston in honor of Wanda Johnston ¹¹	

*Indicates the number of years participating. Every effort has been made to correctly list contributors. If an error has been made, please accept our apologies.

Women's Resource Center to End Domestic Violence
P.O. Box 171, Decatur, GA 30031
Phone: 404-370-7670 Fax: 404-370-7668
24-Hour Hotline: **404-688-9436**

Men Stopping Violence

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

www.wrcdv.org

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

Without you we would not be able to provide direct services to **MORE THAN 7,100** WOMEN, CHILDREN, and OTHER SURVIVORS each year.

\$100,000+

Cathedral Giving By Design / The Episcopal Cathedral of St. Philip
The Cigna Group Foundation
Criminal Justice Coordinating Council of Georgia
DeKalb County
Estate of Edward Eugene Wightman
GA-004 Community Project Funding
US Office on Violence Against Women

\$25,000-\$99,999

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DeKalb County Solicitor-General Donna Coleman-Stribling
Georgia Department of Community Affairs
Google Foundation
Homestead Foundation
King & Spalding
Promoting Safe and Stable Families Program
Teresa Wynn Roseborough and The Home Depot
Taste of the South
Anna and Paul Terry
TJX Foundation

\$10,000-\$24,999

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Cari Dawson
DeKalb County Chiefs Association
Lovely Dhillon
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Natasha Hyche
Iman Hypolite
Sakina Johnson
Tonya Johnson
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Oliver Kennon
Lora and Robert Kight
Sarah Koob

Julia Larson
Terri Lawson Adams
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEBRUARY 24

Love Run 5K

MAY 9

Champions for Change Fundraiser

JUNE 16

It Takes a Man
Father's Day Campaign

JUNE & JULY

Camp PEACE

OCTOBER 12

Dancing with the DeKalb Stars

OCTOBER 17

Candlelight Vigil

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