



Annual Report: 2025 in Review

Letter from the Executive Director

Dear DAWN Friends and Supporters,

If I were to summarize 2025 in one word, it would be “community.” With programs running smoothly and a capable staff in place, we engaged the community on a new level this year—resulting in more volunteers, new supporters, and opportunities to share our resources.

Whenever we engage in the community, we repeatedly hear from people with their own story of experiencing domestic violence. Survivors are resilient, and these experiences strengthen our commitment to expanding our reach and making sure everyone can find the help they need.

I’m proud to share some of our key achievements in 2025:

- **Shelter improvements and growth:** We added eight kitchenettes to shelter rooms, completed a Youth Advocacy Room renovation, created a private Advocacy space, and added new evidence-based Parenting Classes and Support Groups. Our numbers at shelter continue to grow, and were up 40% this year.
- **New followers and donors:** Consistent messaging and a new communications plan resulted in hundreds of new followers and an increase in new donors and re-engaged donors. Many of these new contacts resulted from our extensive outreach efforts for Purple Light Nights®.
- **Grants supporting staff and infrastructure:** DAWN secured new grants providing training, enhanced benefits,

and infrastructure improvements like new laptops and additional professional consultation.

- **Client assistance grants:** DAWN secured several grants providing flexible funding for clients. Needs met included rental deposits, car repairs, utility payments, and relocation travel.
- **Board expansion:** DAWN’s Board of Directors has grown and diversified, adding a new group of talented individuals with wide-ranging expertise and experience to help guide DAWN’s future. We also now have two men on our board, reflecting the portion of our clients who are male.

While we celebrate this year’s progress, the need for domestic violence services remains urgent. We see incredible resilience, courage, and possibility every day—in King County and across our region, survivors are rebuilding their lives. DAWN is committed to walking beside them as we expand access to safety, healing, and hope.

Our work would not be possible without your support. When you share our mission, invest in our programs, or give your time and energy, you become part of a movement to create safer homes and stronger communities.

Thank you for standing with us as we build a future where every survivor is believed, supported, and free to thrive.

—Gina Finley, Executive Director, DAWN

Meet DAWN's 2025 Board

Board Leadership

President: Anisha Gururaj

Vice President: Zshoni Nalls

Treasurer: Adriana Brito

Secretary: Levona Miles

Board Members

Jeff Arnold

Bonita Benlioglu

Adriana Brito

Suzanne Cameron

Joy Clegg

Elizabeth Comeaux

Sarah Fassett

Jennifer Gellner

Tony Gregg

Anisha Gururaj

Levona Miles

Zshoni Nalls

Katie Phelan-Chostner

Annie Ramirez

Valentina Stoilova



Pictured (top to bottom): DAWN's board at a planning retreat; Board members Katie Phelan-Chostner, Bonita Benlioglu, Jennifer Gellner, and Executive Director Gina Finley at an event.



2025 Highlights

2025 Highlights

Board Retreat

JANUARY—DAWN’s Board of Directors participated in a two-day planning retreat at Cedarbrook Lodge to discuss opportunities, challenges, and strategy for 2025 and beyond. This annual event is an opportunity for the board and leadership to align priorities and make decisions for the health and well-being of the organization.

Lobby Days

FEBRUARY—DAWN’s Executive Director, Director of Programs, and Advocates attended the Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence’s annual Lobby Days event in Olympia. The team met with legislators to communicate the vital work DAWN is doing for the community and to advocate for policy changes and continued funding to assist survivors of domestic violence.



Pictured (top to bottom): DAWN’s board meets for a retreat to discuss plans for 2025; DAWN participates in WSCADV’s Lobby Days, meeting with legislators in Olympia.

2025 Highlights, Ctd.

Women's Wellness Breakfast

MARCH — DAWN participated in a Women's Wellness Breakfast put on by the Kent Chamber of Commerce. Executive Director Gina Finley served on a panel, "Girl, I am Tired: Protect Your Peace While Setting Workplace Boundaries" and DAWN staff hosted an information table. It was an inspirational day, and many women approached the team during the event to share their experiences with domestic violence.

Comcast Impact Committee

APRIL — DAWN received a gift of 25 new laptops for clients from our partners with Comcast's Impact Committee. Computer access makes a huge impact for our clients, allowing them to seek out education, occupation, and personal development opportunities while increasing connection and reducing access barriers. DAWN thanks Comcast for their ongoing partnership and support.



Pictured (top to bottom): DAWN Executive Director Gina Finley participates in a panel discussion at the Women's Wellness Breakfast; Comcast delivers a donation of 25 new laptops.

2025 Highlights, Ctd.

Business Expo

MAY—DAWN was pleased to participate in a Business Expo at Kent's ShoWare Center. Promoting awareness and education is an important piece of our prevention efforts, and this event was a fantastic opportunity to connect with the community and share information about our resources and services.

Shelter Cleanup

JUNE—Two work parties, from Windermere PSR and the Insurance Industry Charitable Fund, visited DAWN's shelter for a cleanup event. Both groups rolled up their sleeves and assisted with pressure washing, weeding, organizing, and cleaning, helping make our shelter a welcoming environment for our clients.



Pictured (top to bottom): Executive Director Gina Finley and 2026 Board Member Suzanne Cameron; A volunteer group from Windermere PSR participated in shelter cleanup events.

2025 Highlights, Ctd.

Shelter Kitchenettes

JULY—DAWN unveiled four new kitchenettes for shelter clients in a private ribbon cutting event with members of the Kent Rotary. These kitchenettes were made possible through the generous support of donors and have made a tremendous impact for our clients, increasing the level of privacy and autonomy they enjoy while staying at our shelter.

Kent Chamber of Commerce After-Hours

AUGUST—The Kent Chamber of Commerce's August After-Hours event was hosted at DAWN headquarters. The event, which was sponsored by Gellner Law, provided an opportunity for the nearly 70 attendees to learn about DAWN's programs, enjoy food and drinks, and even win some prizes. Our local business community has been a huge source of support over the years, and we were thrilled and honored to host this fun, tropical-themed event.



Pictured (top to bottom): One of four kitchenettes at DAWN's shelter; DAWN hosts a tropical-themed Kent Chamber of Commerce After-Hours event.

2025 Highlights, Ctd.

All-Staff Retreat

SEPTEMBER — Taking care of staff has long been a priority for DAWN. Our annual retreat is an opportunity for staff to get away from work, build camaraderie, laugh, reflect, and enjoy each other's company. Between some healthy competition, surprises, pizza-making, and relaxation, this year's retreat was a big hit.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

OCTOBER — October is Domestic Violence Awareness month, and this year DAWN commemorated the occasion with a monthlong Purple Light Nights® campaign. The community showed up in support of survivors across several community walks, art shows, third party fundraisers, and more. Events featured appearances from the Thunderbirds mascot Cool Bird, Blue Thunder and the Sea Gals from the Seahawks, and numerous elected officials, survivors, and business owners.



Pictured (top to bottom): DAWN staff at their annual retreat; DAWN Executive Director Gina Finley during a march for Purple Light Nights® (photo credit: Bailey Jo Josie, Sound Publishing).

2025 Highlights, Ctd.

Youth Advocacy Room Completed

NOVEMBER—Thanks to the generous support of the Employees Community Fund of Boeing (ECF Puget Sound chapter), DAWN opened a renovated youth advocacy room. The new space allows staff to work directly with the youth at shelter, providing 1:1 advocacy appointments, support groups, and mindfulness activities—all with the goal of building resiliency.

Holiday Marketplaces

DECEMBER—DAWN hosted two Holiday Markets—one at the shelter and one at our Gowe office—serving nearly 70 households. Families were able to choose gifts for their loved ones, promoting dignity, choice, and autonomy during the holiday season. Special thanks to the many individuals, businesses, and civic partners who helped make these events possible, as well as our incredible staff, whose all-hands-on-deck spirit made the celebrations such a success.



Pictured (top to bottom): A newly renovated Youth Advocacy Room; Contributions from our generous donors made both of our Holiday Marketplace events a success.

May It Forward

In May, DAWN hosted its first-ever May It Forward Happy Hour, an evening rooted in the simple yet powerful idea that when one person gives, the impact can ripple outward for generations. When survivors find safety, rebuild their lives, and create new beginnings for their families, those ripples become lasting change.

Nearly 80 community members gathered to celebrate this spirit of paying it forward. The event featured a lively dessert auction, programmatic passport, wine from Abbe Winery and heavy appetizers provided by Green River College in Auburn, raffles, a moving client story, Raise the Paddle, and plenty of old-fashioned connection and fun. Together, guests experienced firsthand how collective generosity strengthens our work and our community.

Thanks to the incredible support of our donors and partners, DAWN raised nearly \$70,000 in unrestricted funds—resources that allow us to respond to urgent needs, invest in long-term stability, and continue walking alongside survivors as they move toward safety and hope.

Pictured (top to bottom): Rowena Dacones (BECU) and Yvonne Walker (Heritage Bank) share a laugh; May It Forward attendees raise bid cards to donate as part of the fundraiser.



Purple Light Nights®

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and this year, DAWN hosted a variety of Purple Light Nights® events in support of survivors to create awareness and change for more peaceful communities. Purple lights and lanterns lit the way across Kent and Renton, and Covington hosted its annual Purple Lights tree. Special thanks to Purple Light Nights® Sponsors including Comcast, Kent Station Shopping Center, Lockton, Puget Sound Energy, The Seahawks, and Xfinity.

Highlights included:

- Kickoff Reception at Green River Campus & Kent Purple Light Nights® Walk
- Covington Purple Light Nights® Walk & Tree Lighting Ceremony
- Renton Solidarity Walk
- “Art Against Silence” at Good Vibes Barbershop and Community Space
- “In Her Shoes,” an online interactive story of Sierra, a domestic violence survivor, released in episodes throughout the month of October via DAWN’s website
- DAWN Night at a Seattle Thunderbirds game

Pictured (top to bottom): Former Seahawk Doug Baldwin participates in Renton’s Purple Light Nights® march; Cool Bird represents the Seattle Thunderbirds at Kent’s march.



New Grants & Contracts

DAWN received several new grants in 2025:

- **FS 6 Workforce Stabilization:** This grant allowed DAWN to launch a wellness program, add gym memberships to employee benefits, and give retention bonuses.
- **VSHSL Technical Assistance and Capacity Building:** This grant allowed DAWN to replace five aging laptops and funded board training, DEI consulting, marketing costs, and other professional development/training costs.
- **HL 10: Building Resilient Communities** provided funds for staff members to train in ECHO™ Parenting Curriculum, allowing DAWN to launch new evidence-based parenting classes. This grant also funded enhanced support groups for Spanish-speaking survivors. In-person support groups include art-making, hands-on crafts, and food, strengthening survivors' sense of community.
- **Mental Health Matters:** The Seahawks pledged \$12K in partnership with Safeway towards our Wellness Center renovation, giving us a strong start on our forthcoming capital campaign to provide a space for teens and adults to focus on their physical and mental health.



Pictured (top to bottom): New laptops from VSHSL grant arrive at DAWN's offices; DAWN accepts a \$12,000 donation from the Seattle Seahawks.

Community Outreach

Mother Africa: In October, our Community Advocacy Program Supervisor, Ada Onyali, represented DAWN at Mother Africa's Cultural Night. Mother Africa is a longtime partner of DAWN and offers programs supporting African and immigrant women, youth, and families. The organizations collaborate to support immigrant survivors of domestic violence through advocacy services and culturally specific resources.

GFWC: DAWN's Development Director, Christine Rose, addressed members of the Greater Foundation of Women's Clubs (GFWC) at their Day of Service in September. GFWC donated home-sewn survivor gift bags lovingly filled with personal care items and gift cards from clubs across Washington State.

Housing Connector/Zillow: DAWN's Executive Director Gina Finley and Shelter Supervisor Jeanette Mihaila joined Housing Connector and Zillow as they celebrated 10,000 served in October. DAWN is proud to partner with Housing Connector as they transform the private housing market to combat homelessness, working with property owners to remove barriers and connect residents with available housing.

Pictured (top to bottom): DAWN Development Director Christine Rose with GFWC members at their Day of Service; DAWN joins Housing Connector and Zillow to celebrate 10,000 served.



Volunteer Highlights

Comcast: A huge thanks to Comcast for their work at DAWN's Emergency Domestic Violence Shelter. The group reorganized the boutique and warehouse, and created a more efficient staging area for turning rooms between clients. Their team had a great time and provided significant value for our clients.

Western States Regional Council of Carpenters: Union Carpenters with Western States Regional Council of Carpenters put their skills to use building our Survivor Cutouts standing silhouettes. Additional volunteers painted the silhouettes, which were displayed across the South Puget Sound, raising awareness about domestic violence.

Archbright: A team of Archbright volunteers cleaned and refreshed our mediation room, transforming it into a more welcoming space for survivors and their families. We are grateful for Archbright's hands-on contribution and look forward to continued collaboration!

Grace Lutheran Church: Pastor Rachel and a team of volunteers from Grace Lutheran Church in Des Moines spent an afternoon clearing leaves from our Gowe office and parking lot. The church has also made grab bags for our clients and have continued reaching out offering future help.

Pictured (top to bottom): Participants in Comcast's Day of Service event pose with their DAWN swag; Western States Regional Council of Carpenters with their finished silhouettes.





By the Numbers

Service Highlights

Art Therapy

DAWN hosted two art therapy sessions, giving survivors a creative outlet to process their experiences. Some survivors donated their artwork, which was sold to raise funds for DAWN's programs.

Spanish-Language Support Groups

Relaunched programming to ensure culturally responsive services for Spanish-speaking survivors.

Financial Education

DAWN partnered with the YWCA to hold a financial education group, helping survivors build economic independence.

Expanding Assistance

DAWN went beyond basic needs, including professional licensing fees and pet care in assistance to survivors, helping remove employment barriers and addressing the link between animal abuse and domestic violence.

Shelter Parenting Group

New parenting courses helped support survivors in strengthening family bonds while navigating safety and healing.

Community Collaboration

We provided training for partners like Bellevue College, Seattle Housing Authority, Auburn School District, and the Seattle Indian Health Board, and worked with cities to better understand community needs.

\$78,500 in Assistance

Through direct aid and advocacy with external agencies, 149 clients accessed \$78,500 in funds.

Mental Health Expansion

DAWN hired two new therapists to expand clinical capacity, including providing therapy in both Spanish and English.

Service Numbers



141

shelter clients



8,174

bed nights



21

pets housed at shelter



1,539

CAP client households



10,414

CAP service hours



4,371

support line calls



6

states of origin



76,050

support line minutes



92

households supported by holiday marketplace



96

support group clients



100+

training participants



181

reached by Mental Health services

CAP Client Demographics

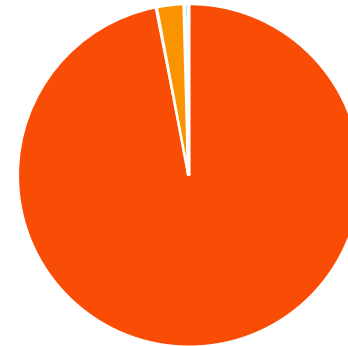
Age

- 18–24: 5.7%
- 25–34: 41.8%
- 35–54: 49.6%
- 55+: 2.9%



Gender

- Cis. Female: 96.9%
- Cis. Male: 2.7%
- Transgender + Nonbinary: 0.5%



Race

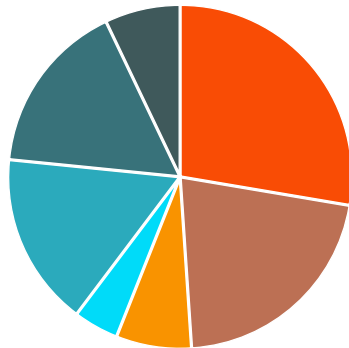
- American Indian/Alaska Native: 3.2%
- Asian/Asian American: 3.9%
- Black/African American: 39.9%
- Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander: 2.3%
- White/Caucasian: 28.2%
- Other: 9.3%
- Multi-Racial: 13.3%



Shelter Client Demographics

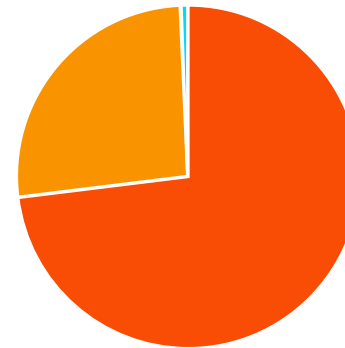
Age

- 0–6: 27.7%
- 7–13: 21.3%
- 14–18: 7.1%
- 19–24: 4.3%
- 25–33: 16.3%
- 34–45: 16.3%
- 46+: 7.1%



Gender

- Cis. Female: 73.1%
- Cis. Male: 26.2%
- Transgender: 0.7%



Race

- Black/African American: 52.5%
- Latino/Hispanic: 7.2%
- White/Caucasian: 28.8%
- Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander: 11.58%



Demographics, Ctd.

DAWN is proud to serve our diverse community, including survivors from all backgrounds and identities. Our staff and board reflect the demographics of the people we serve, and at DAWN, we value diversity, inclusion, and belonging. Among our staff, we have a wide range of life experiences represented, including team members who have immigrated to the United States and a long list of languages spoken. In 2025, 62% of our staff identified as BIPOC, and many have lived experience relevant to our work. That wealth of perspective is an incredible asset for us as we endeavor to give every survivor the personal care that they deserve.



5.8%

of CAP clients are ESL or do not speak English



18.2%

of CAP clients identify as Latino/Hispanic



2.7%

of adult CAP clients identify as male



32.9%

of CAP clients report having a disability



71.8%

of CAP clients identify as BIPOC



56%

of shelter clients are under 18 years of age



8.2%

of CAP clients self-identify as LGBTQ+



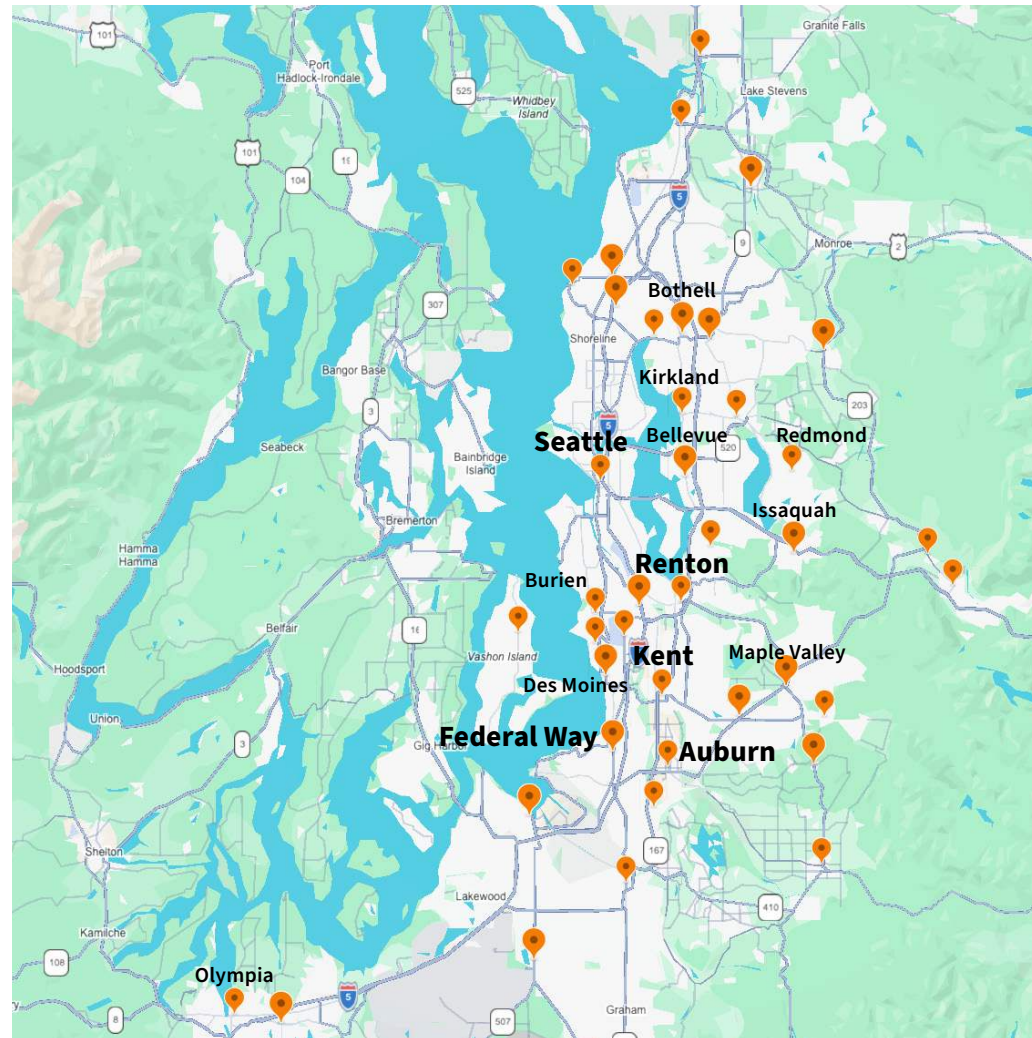
11%

of clients are immigrants

King County and Beyond

DAWN served clients from cities in King County and beyond in 2025, including the following cities:

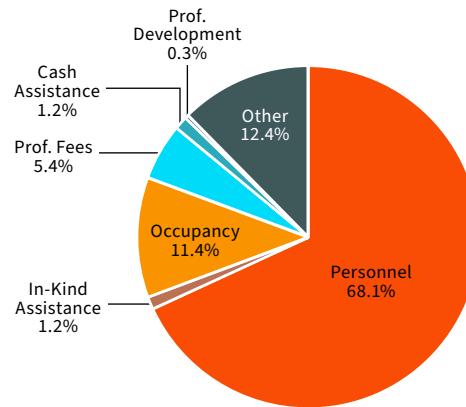
- **Seattle:** 28.7% of clients
- **Kent:** 14.1%
- **Renton:** 12.4%
- **Federal Way:** 9.3%
- **Auburn:** 9.0%
- **Bellevue:** 5.0%
- **Redmond:** 2.8%
- **Kirkland:** 2.5%
- **Issaquah:** 2.3%
- **Maple Valley:** 2.0%
- **Olympia:** 1.6%
- **Bothell:** 1.0%
- **Burien:** 1.0%
- **Des Moines:** 1.0%
- **Other Cities:** 7.25%



Financials

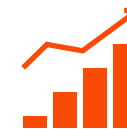
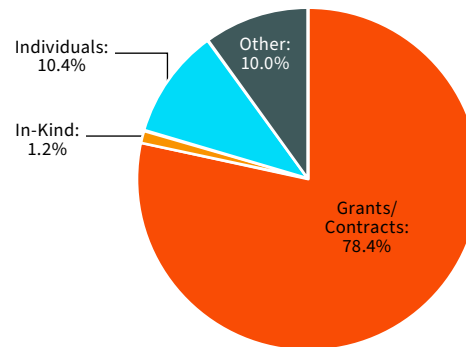
Expenses

- Personnel: \$1,711,607
 - In-Kind Assistance: \$29,497
 - Occupancy: \$286,151
 - Professional Fees: \$134,462
 - Cash Assistance: \$31,285
 - Professional Development: \$8,387
 - Other: \$311,828
- Total: \$2,513,218**



Revenue

- Grants/Contracts: \$1,974,673
 - In-Kind: \$29,497
 - Individuals: \$262,595
 - Other: \$251,618
- Total: \$2,518,383**



\$747,947
total investments



\$382,166
available cash flow



Beyond the Numbers

Client Stories

Our clients remind us every day of the importance and impact of our mission. Their stories inspire us as we press forward toward our vision of peaceful homes and communities. Here are some of our team's most impactful stories from the past year:

The holidays can be especially difficult for survivors, which makes our holiday marketplace events extra rewarding. Thanks to our generous donors, we were able to hold a raffle in addition to the gifts clients were able to shop through. The winner was so excited because the prize had been the gift her daughter was really wanting.

A first-time shelter client told us she had been feeling nervous about the experience but, after seeing how beautiful the space was with our new kitchenette, she was excited to have made it somewhere she feels safe.

A client arrived overwhelmed and distressed, unable to locate her dog. She suspected something was wrong but was holding onto hope. Fortunately, she eventually learned her pet was being fostered at the Humane Society, and they were able to reunite. She was especially grateful for the dog food and dog bed we provided.

Last week, we heard from a client who shared that she would be starting her phlebotomy career next month! When she first reached out to DAWN for help, she had no funds for education or housing. We covered her course and licensing expenses, giving her a foundation to move forward. Meanwhile, the rapid rehousing application we submitted to DVCHAP was approved, and she's now starting the next chapter of her life with a safe home and a career.

A client reached out to us with active safety concerns and needing to flee her home. Our shelter team and advocates collaborated to identify a space matching her family size. We completed a phone screening and she was able to move in quickly. Now, she's getting help where she needs and feeling a sense of unity and community.

A client and her abuser were in the process of co-parenting through their separation, alternating time at their shared apartment with their two children. One day, he stole her gun, waved it at her and her children, and threatened to kill her. She called the police, but no action was taken, and he continued harassing her through false reports to the police and CPS. Eventually, she called DAWN and was able to get a Domestic Violence Protection Order. We also helped her secure funds through a community partner for a safe, affordable home for her and her children.

Thank You

DAWN Friends and Supporters,

Thank you for sharing our belief that each survivor in our community should have safety, stability, and self-sufficiency.

Thank you for your generous support, confirming that you share DAWN's commitment to the incredible value of each person we serve, and you are dedicated to honoring, giving a voice to, and empowering those facing domestic violence.

Thank you for standing with survivors who are dealing with some of the most traumatic, life-threatening moments they've ever experienced. Because of your commitment, DAWN's impact is growing. Our ability to serve survivors across the region has grown with your partnership.

Thank you for every gift you offered this past year. Your time. Your in-kind donations. Your support for DAWN's events. Your financial gifts and sponsorships. Your compassion and generosity are at the foundation of DAWN's work.

One survivor wrote: "For the first time in a long time, I feel seen."

From all of us at DAWN—board, team members, volunteers, and most importantly, the survivors we serve—**Thank you** for seeing the people who need help, for contributing, and for being a part of DAWN.

For peace and safety,

Christine Rose, Development Director

Special Thanks to Our 2025 Embolden Sponsor (\$20,000+)



Thank You to Our 2025 Donors (\$2,000+)

Alec Newman	Isernio's	The First Financial
Ann G. and James B. Ritchey Foundation	Horizons Foundation of Washington	Northwest Foundation
Anonymous Household Aven Foundation	Hypertherm Associates Hope Foundation	Robyn & Ravi Singh
Boeing Company Match Fund	Insurance Industry Charitable Foundation	Rosenthal Family Foundation
Brian & Heather Feinstein	InTech Consulting, LLC	Rotary Club of Kent Foundation
Catherine Holmes Wilkins Charitable Foundation	Karen Seeley	The Norman Archibald Charitable Foundation
The Albrecht Family Charitable Fund	Kawabe Memorial Fund	Strategic Consulting Services, Inc.
Comcast	Leslie Fund, Inc.	Thrive Communities
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Dalia Alfi	Medina Foundation	Washington Multi Family Housing Association
Eileen Keiffer	Paulette Clark	Whitney Bryant & Matthew Millar
Erin Yoshida	The Peg & Rick Young Foundation	WSCADV
Franz Bakery Foundation	Puyallup Tribe of Indians Charity Trust	
Gellner Law	Renaissance Acquisition Co, LLC	

Legacy Gift

I.I. Lilleoren Charitable Remainder Trust



Contact Us

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