

# casa myrna ANNUAL REPORT

2021-2022

## Meeting Survivors' Needs During a Pandemic

Casa Myrna's  
Covid Response



# Welcome to our ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022

We begin with thanking you because everything we have achieved in the past two wild years reflects the trust that thousands of you have in us.

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## DEAR FRIENDS

Thank you! Thank you to our donors, foundation and corporate partners, fellow providers, government partners, and so many valued friends.

We begin with thanking you because everything we have achieved in the past two wild years reflects the trust that thousands of you have in us. Despite the enormous challenges and trauma that the COVID-19 pandemic imposed on all of us, particularly survivors of domestic and dating violence, 2021 and 2022 were successful years for Casa Myrna. Your trust and compassion for survivors led to positive change and growth in so many ways.

### You provided:

- \$5.46M in rental assistance, housing support and emergency financial assistance for over 1,300 families
- 80 emergency housing units for survivors fleeing during the height of the pandemic
- 50% increase in rental assistance, housing advocacy, and access to safe, stable housing for survivors and their children
- A listening and supportive ear 24/7 to 53,330 callers to SafeLink

In addition, we strengthened our partnerships and collaborations throughout the Boston region and the Commonwealth. Casa Myrna led a Boston regional collaborative of domestic violence organizations to share knowledge, services and resources and to create innovative solutions to systemic barriers survivors face. And we partnered with the former Lt. Governor Karyn Polito and the Department of Public Health to ensure SafeLink was known and available to domestic and sexual violence survivors throughout the Commonwealth.

We are all very proud of what we have achieved together, but even more grateful and humbled by how our community stepped up in every way to help others. We weathered the crisis by strengthening our network of responsive, creative, passionate partners, as we share with you in this annual report.

While we still have much work to do to end domestic and dating violence, we are excited about the future and look forward to your continued partnership! Our future partnership goals are also contained within. We are deeply grateful to you, our amazing staff, volunteers, Board members, community partners, and supporters. This year, and for the last 45 years, you have brought hope and support to thousands of families whose lives have been shattered by abuse. We thank you for standing with us and ask for your continued support as we work toward a society in which every relationship is safe, healthy and free from violence.

Maria Manrique  
President, Board of Directors

Stephanie Brown  
Chief Executive Officer





# Our Response to

## COVID-19

When the pandemic arrived in early 2020, Casa Myrna adapted quickly to the unprecedented challenges we all faced. Our team immediately developed a continuity plan with a primary focus on keeping survivors and staff safe. We continued – and expanded – our resources and supports for survivors. We helped hundreds of families maintain housing by providing rental and utility assistance and other emergency financial supports. For those survivors for whom it was not safe to remain at home, we created partnerships with private landlords and hotels to provide over 80 units of emergency housing for survivors and their children. We developed new strategies to help survivors communicate virtually, including purchasing laptops for many isolated households. At the same time, we were able to provide bonuses for all staff and extra pay for those working on site in our shelters, and ensured all other staff could work virtually.

In partnership with state and local leaders, Casa Myrna kept our community informed about developments in the rapidly changing landscape. SafeLink, Casa Myrna's 24/7 statewide hotline, became a vital community resource for raising public awareness about domestic and sexual violence and linking people to local supports and resources. Many of these adaptations were so successful in engaging survivors that we will continue them permanently.

One of the most inspirational and significant outcomes despite the pandemic's many challenges is the way so many pulled together to help survivors achieve and maintain safety. In addition to an outpouring of financial support, we evolved new, efficient, sustainable systems to overcome our collective trauma. Casa Myrna established the Boston Region Domestic Violence

Partnership supporting the area domestic violence organizations to combine resources to meet our collective needs – we share our expertise, know-how and resources with each other. In addition, Casa Myrna was able to extend our housing supports and emergency assistance to survivors working with our sister organizations. Together, we are better able to support survivors and create solutions to the systemic barriers to independence from abuse survivors face.

As you know well, the past two years have been enormously challenging, and the impact continues in many ways. But during this time of fear and uncertainty, we are comforted and humbled by all the support we have received from our community. Thanks to the passion of our amazing colleagues who dedicated their days and nights to the front lines, we have (mostly) arrived on the other side of the crisis, stronger than before! Thanks to the Casa Myrna Board of Directors who worked tirelessly to help guide us through these rough seas. And finally, thank you to survivors who continue to place their trust in us every day.

*We continued – and expanded – our resources and supports for survivors....  
We developed new strategies to help survivors communicate virtually, including purchasing laptops for the many households who were isolated without internet.*



## Our Future

## & IMPORTANT PARTNERSHIPS



As Casa Myrna looks forward to a future forever changed due to the global pandemic, the word that best describes our approach is "partnership." Just before the pandemic arrived, Casa Myrna established our new headquarters at 451 Blue Hill Avenue in Dorchester. Now that COVID restrictions have lifted, we plan to partner with our community to take domestic violence out of the shadows and into the light – so our community rejects violence and abuse and nurtures survivors and healthy relationships. Grove Hall is the perfect location for us. It is where many of our program participants and staff live, and it is a powerful epicenter of the struggle for justice and equality in Boston, both historically and today.

Locating in Dorchester, a neighborhood rich in diversity, is an affirmation of Casa Myrna's mission as a social-justice driven, community-centered organization. We want to focus attention on survivors who continue to face numerous barriers to accessing safety and supports when they experience abuse. Our dream is for our headquarters to be both a home base for our work on behalf of survivors, and a safe, inviting space for community activities, workshops and meetings. It will include a survivor resource center, a teen-run enterprise and public meeting and office spaces where activists meet and work, youth gather and learn about healthy relationships, and our neighbors stop in for information and supports.

Another significant new partnership is Casa Myrna's Empowerment through Employment program, a multi-sector focused workforce development partnership that connects survivors to living wage careers. Through employer partners in high demand sectors that offer quality career pathways, the program will meet the needs of both the survivor seeking living wage employment and the employer recruiting and retaining quality candidates. Casa Myrna has also partnered with Canopy Equity Coaching to help advance another important future

goal: becoming an anti-racist and anti-oppression organization that embodies social justice. We have been working with Canopy over the past year to learn how oppression affects survivors and shows up in our work and to develop antidotes to oppression. In the coming year, we will do an equity audit to identify areas of growth and develop a plan to becoming a more equitable and inclusive organization.

Although the pandemic delayed our new strategic planning process, we continue to be future-driven and poised to do our work better. Later in 2023, we will begin to partner with you and our community to create Casa Myrna's strategic direction based on all that we have learned in the past two years, our goals for the future, and our recognition that together we can do amazing things!

# By the **NUMBERS FY21 & FY22**

Casa Myrna is Boston's largest provider of shelter and supportive services to survivors of domestic violence, providing safety, resources, advocacy and information since 1977. We operate SafeLink, the statewide domestic violence hotline, and promote domestic and dating violence prevention through awareness and education. All of our supports are provided to survivors free of charge.



**1,923**  
survivors benefitted from legal advocacy supports including our legal helpline and full and partial legal representation.



**1,300**  
survivors received COVID-19 related emergency supports.



**1,308**  
survivors accessed help from community-based advocates.



**562 families**  
started on their journey into safe, permanent homes of their own.



**205 survivors**  
obtained trauma-informed support from our counselors.



A total of **168 survivors**  
including 117 adults & 51 children were welcomed into our residential shelters.



Casa Myrna provided **\$5.46M**  
in rental assistance, housing support and emergency financial assistance to survivors.



**211 survivors**  
achieved financial literacy, increased their credit score, and paid off debt.



**114 survivors**  
gained job readiness skills.

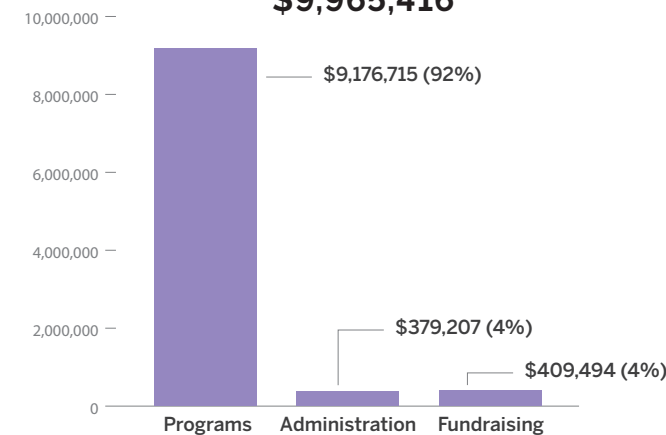


SafeLink hotline advocates answered **53,330 calls**  
from across the state.

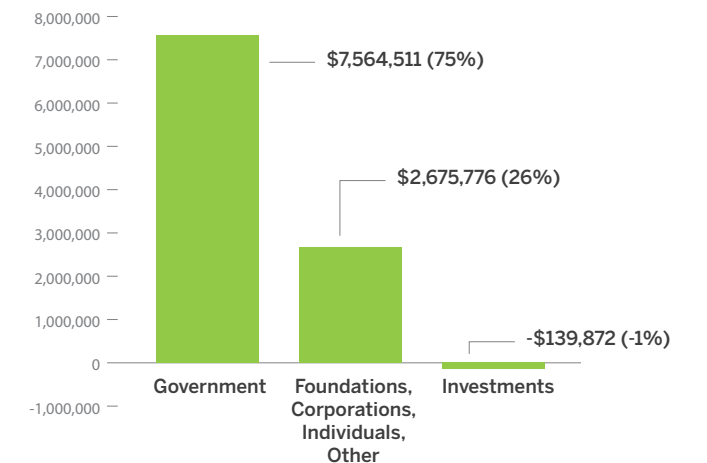
\* Fiscal Year 2021 and 2022, July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2022

## Financials

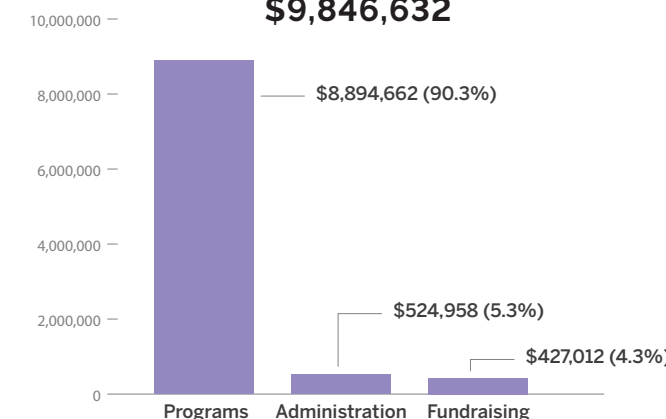
**FY22 Expense Total:  
\$9,965,416**



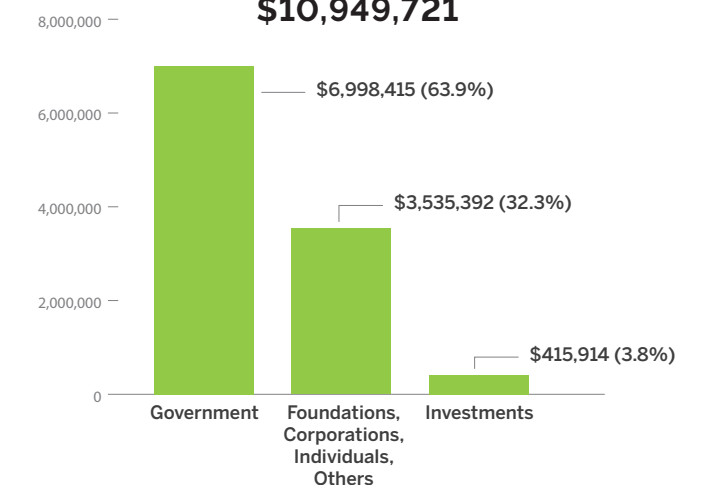
**FY22 Revenue Total:  
\$10,100,415**



**FY21 Expense Total:  
\$9,846,632**



**FY21 Revenue Total:  
\$10,949,721**





FY21 and FY22

ORGANIZATION SUPPORT

Casa Myrna is grateful to our foundation and corporate supporters who helped us weather the storm these last few years. Please join us in thanking the following for their kindness and generosity.

Foundations

Adelaide Breed Bayrd Foundation  
Aksel Nielsen Foundation  
Anna B. Stearns Charitable Foundation  
BlumShapiro Foundation  
Bobby and Peggy O'Connor Foundation  
Boston Bar Foundation  
Bushrod H. Campbell and Adah F. Hall Charity Fund  
Cambridge Community Foundation  
Champions of Love  
Charles Sanders Trust  
Clipper Ship Foundation  
David and Katherine Moore Family Foundation  
Dennis Family Foundation  
Enhancing Tomorrow Foundation  
Fish Family Foundation  
Franklin Square House Foundation  
Frank W. and Carl S. Adams Memorial Fund  
George & Alice Rich Charitable Foundation  
Gloria C. Crotty Charitable Foundation  
Gratis Foundation

Health Resources in Action  
Helios Foundation  
Jockers Family Foundation  
John Alden Trust  
JSP Family Foundation  
Lawrence Model Lodging Houses Trust  
Lincoln and Therese Filene Foundation  
Ludcke Foundation  
Marion L. Decrow Memorial Foundation  
Massachusetts Bankers Association Charitable Foundation  
Massachusetts Bar Foundation  
Massachusetts Medical Society  
Michael & Margaret Picotte Foundation  
Mildred's Dream Foundation  
Nancy E. Barton Foundation  
Natick Sons & Daughters of Italy  
New England Patriots Foundation  
New World Foundation  
Oliver White Foundation  
Paul and Edith Babson Foundation  
Red Sox Foundation  
Reebok Foundation  
Robert C. Brooks Revocable Trust  
Rockland Trust

Rowland Foundation  
Svrluga Foundation  
The Frederick E. Weber Charities Corporation  
Town Fair Tire Foundation  
United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley  
Woods and Gil Family Foundation  
Wyss Foundation  
Yawkey Foundation

Corporations

AllWays Health Partners  
Alyce  
Anna's Taqueria  
ArentFox Schiff  
Boston Document Systems  
BreakFIT Wellness  
Brookline Bank  
Cambridge Eye Group  
Cambridge Savings Bank  
Cambridge Trust Company  
CMBG3 Law  
ColorTyme Pawtucket  
Dedham Savings Bank  
Eastern Salt Company  
Encore Boston Harbor  
Evie Salon Studio

Fabricare Cleaners & Tailors  
Federal Home Loan Bank of Boston  
Foley Hoag LLP  
Forty Winks  
Gallagher  
Give Lively  
Goodwin Procter  
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Philanthropic Advisors  
GreenOp  
Guardsquare  
Hunt Alternatives  
Ink Spot  
Inmar Intelligence  
Insource Services, Inc.  
Intoxicated Cosmetics  
Isaacson Miller  
JLL  
John Hancock  
Klopfer Martin Design Group  
La Saison Bakery  
Liberty Mutual  
Liberty Painting and Siding  
Littler Mendelson P.C.  
Locke Lord  
Looking Glass Counseling  
Loomis, Sayles & Company, L.P.

Maloney Properties  
Mass Electric  
Massachusetts Nurses Association  
Metro Credit Union  
Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky and Popeo, P.C.  
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP  
Nasdaq  
Natick Sons & Daughters of Italy  
New Balance  
New Horizon Communications  
Nirvana Tea House & Café  
Optimus Ride  
O'Reilly Media  
P.J. Spillane Company  
Pathstone Advisors  
Patrón Tequila  
Peabody Properties  
People's United Bank  
Pfizer  
Project Beauty Share  
Project Paulie  
Robert J. Devereaux Corporation  
Ropes & Gray LLP  
SAS Security Systems  
She Thinks Big Coaching  
Silicon Valley Bank  
Smith, Sullivan & Brown, P.C.

Studio G Architects  
Summit Partners  
Takeda  
TEAM LEWIS  
The RMR Group  
Thrivent  
Trillium Asset Management  
Turco Legal, P.C.  
Turner Construction Company  
Verizon  
Watertown Flooring  
Wayfair  
Westcott Mercantile  
White Snake Projects  
Wistia





Casa Myrna Domestic Violence Awareness Night at Fenway Park in June 2022

### Staff Leadership

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**Marc Davino**, *Director of Development & Communications*  
**Ron Mason**, *Director of Operations*  
**Venessa Rosemond**, *Director of Finance*  
**Cesia Sanchez**, *Director of Housing Programs*

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**Dina Scianna**, *Vice President*,  
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**Melissa McDonagh**, *Clerk*,  
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**Saritin Rizzuto**, *Metro Credit Union*  
**Darrus Sands**, *Beyond Measure*  
*Productions, LLC*



**casa myrna**

until every relationship is safe and healthy

casamyrna  
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 casamyrnaboston

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Phone: 617-521-0100  
 SafeLink hotline: 877-785-2020  
[www.casamyrna.org](http://www.casamyrna.org)



**Community  
 of Conscience  
 Breakfast**

**Wednesday • May 17, 2023**

Omni Boston Hotel at the Seaport