

# About Us

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. We support survivors of any race, ethnicity, language, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity or expression, disability, age, and sexual orientation.



**101**  
survivors

received trauma-informed support from our counselors.



A total of **67**  
survivors

including 53 adults and 14 children were welcomed into our residential shelters.



SafeLink hotline advocates answered

**32,359**  
phone calls

from across the state – a 14% increase over the prior year.



**307**  
families

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



**606**  
survivors

accessed help from our community-based advocates.



**999**  
survivors

benefitted from legal advocacy support including our legal helpline and legal representation.



**158**  
survivors

achieved financial literacy, increased their credit score, and paid off debt – 28% more than the past year.



**174**  
survivors

gained job readiness skills – a near three-fold increase over the last year.



Casa Myrna provided

**\$2.3M**

in rental assistance, housing support and emergency financial assistance to survivors.

\* Fiscal Year 2023, July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023

## Our Mission

Casa Myrna delivers solutions to end domestic and dating violence through intervention awareness, and prevention.

## Our Values

- Equity & Justice
- Inclusion
- Healthy Relationships
- Empowerment
- Community & Partnership.

### Residential Shelter

- The Mary Lawson Foreman emergency shelter was founded in 1977 in Boston's South End to provide immediate safety to survivors fleeing abuse.
- The Teen Parenting Program, created in 1993, is a shelter for pregnant and parenting young adults made homeless due to domestic and family violence.
- The EVA Center house, opened in 2017, is a program for survivors of commercial sexual exploitation.
- Between the three programs, Casa Myrna can shelter up to 26 families at a time.

### EVA Center

- The EVA Center works to end the sex trade through education, vision, and advocacy (EVA).
- A comprehensive, survivor led exit program for women who have experienced commercial sexual exploitation (prostitution, trafficking), the EVA Center also provides peer support and access to safety, resources, and options as survivors develop their own exit plans.

### Dorchester Engagement

- Advocates provide culturally appropriate supports to Black women survivors in Dorchester (and Roxbury) that are reflective of the cultural barriers they face.
- Advocates also engage, educate, and work collaboratively with community partners, faith communities, and others to ensure Black survivors have access to resources they need to overcome domestic violence.

### Housing Advocacy & Stabilization

- Established in 2006, Housing Specialists and Peer Navigators work with survivors to identify, apply for, secure, and maintain safe permanent affordable housing.
- Through five rapid rehousing programs (including one for youth), we assist over 130 families each year move from emergency shelter and homelessness directly into permanent housing with the use of temporary subsidies for up to two years.
- The Housing team also provides homelessness prevention resources to survivors, including emergency financial assistance and rental assistance.

### Counseling Services

- Individual and group counseling services support survivors as they process and heal from trauma and achieve overall wellness.
- The counseling team provides training to other domestic violence and human services organizations including community health centers and faith-based organizations.
- Staffed by licensed independent clinical social workers, counselors, and interns majoring in social work, mental health counseling or psychology.

### Children's Services

- The Children's Services team works to address the complex needs of children who have witnessed the abuse of a parent, helping them to heal and recover from the trauma they have experienced.

### Community Advocacy

- Established in 2007, Specialists provide survivors with crisis intervention, safety planning, advocacy, and access to support as they overcome abuse.
- Specialists meet with survivors at partner health centers, district courts, homeless shelters, schools, and other community resources. In addition, Specialists provide education to staff at those partner organizations to help them identify and respond to disclosures of domestic violence safely and appropriately.
- The community team provides outreach and engagement to ensure our community is aware of supports available to survivors and how to access them.
- **Community Helpline: (617) 521-0108**

### Economic Stability

- Economic stability is the cornerstone of a survivors' ability to be safe and free from domestic violence. Since 2007, Casa Myrna has helped survivors plan for and meet their economic stability goals through financial literacy workshops, financial coaching and planning, credit repair, debt remediation, savings, education, and employment.
- Save for a Change is a savings and debt payment match program that also provides incentives for opening savings accounts and increasing credit scores.
- Empowerment through Employment supports survivors as they obtain meaningful employment. Employment coordinators serve as liaison between employers and survivors, connecting them with career opportunities that result in living wage jobs.

### Legal Advocacy

- Founded in 1991, Staff Attorneys, Paralegals, and Advocates provide survivors with direct services related to family and immigration law. Services include limited and full representation in abuse prevention orders, family law (divorce, child custody, and child support), and immigration matters and document preparation for pro se litigants.
- The Legal HelpLine provides survivors and advocates throughout Massachusetts with access to a consultation with an attorney.
- **Legal Helpline: (617) 521-0146**

### Youth Engagement & Prevention

- In 2016, Casa Myrna expanded our outreach and education work to focus on teen dating violence education, prevention, and intervention. In addition to providing housing and community advocacy services for youth, we created youth prevention programming.
- Peer Leaders aged 14-18 discuss and teach other youth and adults about healthy relationships, teen dating violence, and how to support youth survivors.
- With a partner org, Peer Leaders write, record, and promote a podcast on healthy relationships called *Red Flags and Roses*.

### SafeLink

- SafeLink, Massachusetts' statewide 24/7 toll-free domestic violence hotline answers more than 30,000 calls annually.
- **Safelink Hotline: 1-877-785-2020**