

# casa myrna ANNUAL REPORT

FY '23  
—  
& '24



## Dear Friends,

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

We begin by thanking you because everything we have achieved in the past few years reflects the trust that thousands of you have in us. 2023 and 2024 were successful years for Casa Myrna. Your trust and compassion for survivors led to positive change and growth in so many ways.

### You Provided:

- **\$5.4 Million** in rental assistance, housing support and emergency financial assistance to survivors.
- **1,243 Survivors** accessed help from our community-based advocates.
- **120 Children** served to help them heal and recover from the trauma they have experienced.

While we still have much work to end domestic and dating violence, we are excited about the future and look forward to your continued partnership! We are deeply grateful for you, our amazing staff, volunteers, Board members, community partners and supporters. This year, and for the last nearly 50 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.

*Stephanie Brown*

**Stephanie Brown**  
Chief Executive Officer

*Dina Scianna*

**Dina Scianna**  
President, Board of Directors



### Table of CONTENTS

**02**

Letter From Our President And CEO

**03**

Mission & Programs

**05**

Strategic Growth Plan

**06**

Program Highlights

**08**

Policy Wins!

**09**

Survivor Story: Juliana

**10**

2023-24 Infographic

**11**

2023-24 Financials

**12**

Organization Support

**13**

2023 & 2024 Community of Conscience Event

**14**

DEI work with Canopy

**15**

Staff

**15**

Board of Directors

## Section One

# Mission & Programs

**Casa Myrna's mission is to end domestic and dating violence through awareness, prevention, and education.**

Since our early years, Casa Myrna has understood that providing shelter alone is not enough. To truly break free from abuse, survivors need access to safe, affordable housing and financial independence. That's why we tailor our supportive services to address the unique barriers survivors face, delivering solutions that go beyond short-term interventions.

Each year, we serve 2,200 survivors, some of the most vulnerable members of our community. Many identify as Black, Latinx, or are from immigrant populations in Greater Boston. 96% earn less than \$30,000 annually, and all are well below the federal poverty level. To meet their

***In FY23 & 24, we served 4,627 survivors in our shelter and community based services.***

needs, Casa Myrna's Economic Stability Program provides holistic resources, education, and tools that support survivors from the moment they decide to leave an abusive relationship through their journey toward long-term healing and stability.

Trauma-informed support is the cornerstone of survivor empowerment and success. Over the past year, Casa Myrna has continued its dedicated work, reaching out to and supporting domestic violence survivors through comprehensive programs and services. In FY23 & 24, we served 2,167 survivors in our shelter and community based services. *Here is a summary of our impact over the last two fiscal years:*

### **Residential Shelter Programs:**

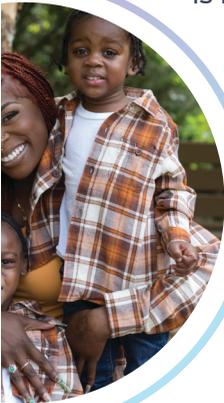
We provided safe shelter to 129 women and their children.

### **\*SafeLink Hotline:**

Our 24/7, statewide hotline has seen an increase in activity, with 63,094 emergency calls received, offering safety planning, referrals, and domestic violence information to survivors and their allies. Since the pandemic, calls have increased by 27% (from FY21) and by 16% over the past year (from FY22).

### **Economic Stability Programming:**

We assisted 368 survivors in setting and achieving educational and employment goals, an increase in the number of survivors served by 28% over FY22.



**Housing Support:**

We helped 607 survivors and their families avoid homelessness and secure safe, permanent housing, continuing our commitment to increase housing support to combat homelessness. Casa Myrna distributed \$5.4M in rental assistance, housing support, and emergency financial assistance to survivors.

**Legal Services:**

We provided legal assistance to 1,833 survivors, helping them navigate complex legal challenges.

**Community-based Advocacy:**

We supported 1,243 survivors at neighborhood health centers, schools, and other community locations, maintaining strong community-based support.

**Counseling and Supportive Services:**

We provided trauma counseling and support services, assisting over 183 survivors and their children.

**Housing Advocacy and Support:**

Working in tandem with our Economic Stability Program, Casa Myrna provides extensive assistance in securing safe, affordable housing. We help survivors navigate housing applications, negotiate with landlords, and connect them to housing vouchers and stabilization funding. When survivors can stay in their current homes safely, we support them in doing so, or we assist them in

relocating to secure, stable housing. Additionally, Casa Myrna offers statewide leadership and technical assistance to other domestic violence organizations, focusing on housing and homelessness prevention.

These activities empower survivors to build financial stability, avoid homelessness, and achieve long-term economic prosperity, ensuring they can live safe, self-sufficient lives free from violence.



## Section Two

# Strategic Growth Plan

**We have grown significantly over the past six to seven years and have invested in our infrastructure to meet our current and future needs.**



Chief Programs Officer who will provide robust and comprehensive leadership across programs. This integration ensures the work between programs are aligned, that all programs are trauma informed, workloads are right-sized, and we reach our equity goals.

**We are thrilled to promote Director of Housing Programs Cesia Sanchez into the role of Chief Programs Officer as of January 2025.**

Additional strategic growth plans also include the hiring of a Chief Operations Officer to oversee Finance, Facilities, and Operations as we start Strategic Planning for the next five years.

To better support survivors and staff, we have integrated our programs under one



## Section Three

# Program Highlights

**Casa Myrna has consistently served a steady number of survivors across our programs over the years.**

Casa Myrna has consistently served a steady number of survivors across our programs over the years. However, FY24 marked significant growth and impact in our Economic Stability Program, with participation increasing by 23% compared to FY23 and nearly 64% since FY21. Over the past two years, we are also proud to report that we have distributed \$3.1 million in rental assistance, housing support, and emergency financial aid, providing survivors with meaningful, tangible support to help them rebuild their lives. These metrics reflect our ongoing efforts to meet the growing needs of survivors and strengthen long-term stability and independence. In addition to this growth, we are proud to highlight several other organizational successes this year:

- The Housing Department received a grant from Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center for the Savings and Employment Incentive Program (SEIP), which is available to survivors in the Rapid Rehousing program. This initiative matches the survivors'

rent contributions and deposits the matched amount into an escrow account. Additionally, survivors collaborate with an economic stability specialist to create a budget and address their debt, with up to \$3,000 of their debt being matched.

- The Housing Department was also awarded the Bridge to Safety Transitional Rapid Rehousing grant. This program partners with other domestic violence organizations in Boston and hospitals that do not have emergency shelters for survivors fleeing domestic violence. The transitional housing component offers temporary hotel accommodation for survivors before transitioning them into rapid rehousing or permanent housing. We also regained a Housing contract, which was lost during the COVID-19 pandemic. This has enabled us to once again house more individuals.

Our approach is multifaceted, focusing on both immediate safety and long-term financial security through a range of survivor-centered initiatives. Our





bilingual (Spanish/English) Economic Stability Specialists provide trauma-informed one-on-one mentoring, guiding survivors through financial challenges with personalized coaching and goal-setting to build stability and self-sufficiency. Our Personal Economic Planning (PEP) Workshops offer critical financial literacy education, covering budgeting, bank account management, and credit and debt issues to empower survivors in making informed financial decisions. Through our “Save for a Change” Program, participants can receive matched savings of up to \$3,000 and matched debt reduction payments, helping them establish savings accounts and improve their credit scores. Additionally, our “Empowerment through Employment” Program equips survivors with workforce readiness skills, including mock interviews, resume writing, and job placement support, while our Employment Relations Coordinator connects participants with job opportunities and ensures workplaces

accommodate their unique needs.

Cesia Sanchez, our Chief Program Officer, has been participating in the Listen4Good initiative, which offers capacity-building programs and resources to help organizations collect and use client feedback to improve outcomes and advance equity goals. She recently completed collecting feedback from participants in the rapid rehousing program, and this experience will inform us how we gather feedback from future participants.

Additionally, our Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) grant was renewed, allowing us to produce the second season of our podcast, Red Flags and Roses. This youth-led digital campaign raises awareness about teen dating violence through engaging and impactful content. A collaboration between Casa Myrna and Beat The Odds- Boston, the project aims to redefine relationship culture and prevent dating violence.



## Section Four

# Policy Wins!

**We're thrilled to share that on Thursday, June 20, 2024 Governor Healey signed *An Act to Prevent Abuse and Exploitation*.**



This new law expands protections for survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence by banning image-based sexual assault (commonly known as “revenge porn”) and adding coercive control as a basis for 209A (restraining order) protection. With its passage, Massachusetts became the 49th state to ban image-based sexual assault and the 7th to recognize coercive control as a form of domestic abuse.

The law closes a legal loophole by prohibiting the nonconsensual sharing

of sexually explicit images and videos, creates a diversion and education program for adolescents engaged in sexting, and bans deepfakes that depict real people in explicit ways. It also expands the definition of criminal abuse to include coercive control.

Casa Myrna’s legal team joined the statewide coalition TRAC (Together Rising Against Coercion) to advocate for these changes. The resulting definition of coercive control includes behaviors intended to intimidate, isolate, or control a partner—such as threats, property damage, and emotional manipulation—signaling a culture shift in how abuse is recognized.

The bill will go into effect on September 18. Casa Myrna will work with partners like MLRI and JDI to educate judges, update court forms, and ensure survivors receive appropriate legal representation. We look forward to seeing the bill’s impact on supporting those seeking abuse prevention orders.



## Section Five

# Survivor Story: Juliana

**I left Santo Domingo eight years ago on a visitor's visa and fell in love with Juan.**

I thought living together and being married would be a fairy tale, but the dream quickly turned into a nightmare. He had four children, and while I cared for them, he spent nights and weekends drinking, cheating on, and berating me. When I threatened to stop cooking for them, he retaliated by cutting off groceries. One evening, I returned from work to find that Juan had changed the locks. He ended up taking me back, but his emotional and financial abuse escalated into violence. Tragically, I also lost my brother to liver cancer around this same time. Depressed and at my wit's end, I sought support at a local health center.

There, I met a doctor who guided me to Casa Myrna. I met with my counselor, Yoanna, and I began planning my escape. I saved up just enough money to move out and afford a single room – but nothing else. I relied on food pantries from local churches and realized I couldn't make ends meet. I moved into one of Casa Myrna's residential programs.



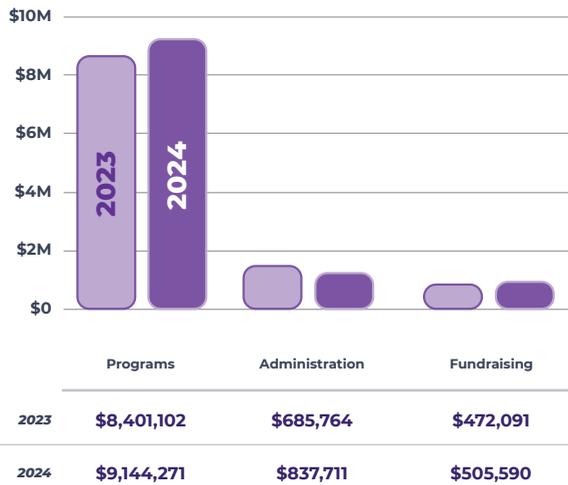
To my surprise, I had my own room, and I discovered that shelters could be places of hope and healing.

With Casa Myrna's help, I secured my VAWA visa and later my green card. I attended counseling, participated in house meetings, and received support for my job at the hair salon. I also completed a work program, an ESOL program, and received my home health aide license for elder care. And, after three years of an abusive marriage, their legal team helped with my divorce.

Now, I'm living in my own apartment, and I've found my inner strength. I'm grateful to Casa Myrna for caring for me like family, and I'm so proud of how far I've come. ***I'm finally free.***

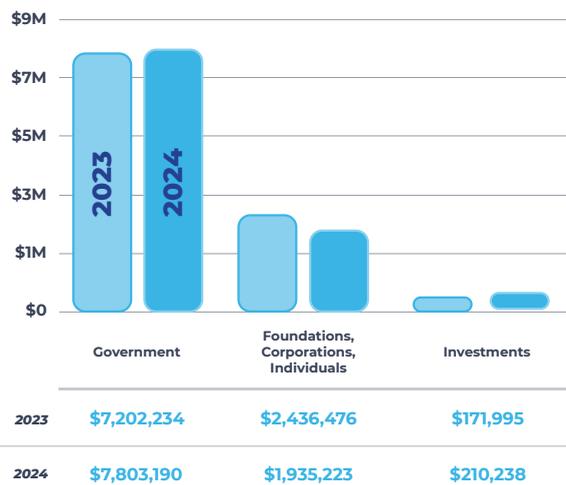
### FY '23 &'24 | Expense Total

**\$20,046,529**



### FY '23 &'24 | Revenue Total

**\$19,759,356**



## By The Numbers

As a result of the generous contributions we've received over the past two years, Casa Myrna has been able to support:

**183 survivors**  
received trauma-informed support from our counselors.

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

A total of **129 survivors**  
including 42 adults and 20 children were welcomed into our residential shelters.

**1,243 survivors**  
accessed help from our community-based advocates

**120 children**  
served to help them heal and recover from the trauma they have experienced.

**368 survivors**  
achieved financial literacy, gained job readiness skills, paid off debt and increased their credit score; 36% more than the previous year.

**SafeLink** hotline advocates answered  
**63,094 phone calls**  
from across the state

**1,833 survivors**  
benefitted from legal advocacy support including our legal helpline and legal representation.

**Casa Myrna** provided  
**\$5.4M**  
in rental assistance, housing support and emergency financial assistance to survivors.

\* Fiscal Year '23 & '24, July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2024

# FY '23-24 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.

24 Hour Music LLC  
Abby Park  
Abington Savings Bank  
Abt Associates  
Adelaide Breed Bayrd Foundation  
AeroSpace Fabricators, Inc.  
Aksel Nielsen Foundation  
Alice Willard Dorr  
All Heart PR  
All'italiana - Boston Italian Theater Company  
AllWays Health Partners  
Allyn Family Foundation  
Alumni Ventures  
Amazon Smile Foundation  
Amelia Peabody Foundation  
American Tower  
Anna B. Stearns Charitable Foundation  
Anna's Taqueria  
ArentFox Schiff Corporate  
Association of Governmental Accountants,  
Boston Chapter  
Audax Private Equity  
Aura Cacia Positive Change Project  
Autodesk  
Barrett's Alehouse  
Beacon Hill Circle for Charity  
Berkshire Bank Foundation  
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center  
BlackRock  
BNY Mellon  
Bobby and Peggy O'Connor Family  
Foundation  
Boston Bar Foundation

Boston College High School  
Boston Document Systems  
Boston Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence  
Boston University  
Boston/Southeast Massachusetts Chapter  
of OESP  
Brookline Bank  
Bushrod H. Campbell and Adah F. Hall  
Charity Fund  
Cabot Family Charitable Trust  
Cambridge Common Restaurant  
Cambridge Community Foundation  
Cambridge Savings Bank  
Cambridge Trust Company  
Champions of Love Foundation  
Charles Sanders Trust  
Charles Spada Interiors  
CIBC  
Clipper Ship Foundation  
CMBG3 Law  
Comcast  
Creaser Jewelers  
Cummings Foundation  
(One World Boston)  
Daughters Fund  
Dedham Savings Bank  
Dennis Family Foundation  
Discover Financial  
Eastern Bank Foundation  
Eastern Salt Company  
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Encore Boston Harbor  
Enhancing Tomorrow  
Family Foundation  
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Federal Home Loan Bank of  
Boston (FHL)  
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Forty Winks  
Frank Lamparelli Oil Co.  
Frank W. and Carl S. Adams  
Memorial Fund  
Franklin Square House  
Foundation  
Gallagher  
George & Alice Rich  
Charitable Foundation  
George H. and Jane A. Mifflin  
Memorial Fund Family  
Give with Liberty (Liberty  
Mutual Payroll Gifts)  
Gloria C. Crotty  
Charitable Foundation  
Goldman Sachs

Google Inc.  
Goulston & Storrs  
Philanthropic Advisors  
Gratis Family Foundation  
HarborOne Foundation  
Harvard Consulting  
on Business and the  
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Health Resources in Action  
Helios Foundation  
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Innovation Studio  
Ironwood  
Isaacson Miller  
J.E.T. Boston  
Jockers Family Foundation  
John Alden Trust  
Journal of Expressive Writing  
JSP Family Foundation  
Lawrence Model Lodging  
Houses Trust  
Leader Bank  
Liberty Mutual  
Liberty Painting & Siding, LLC  
Life Science Cares Boston  
LinkSquares  
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Ludcke  
Mabel Louise Riley  
Foundation  
Main Street Group  
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Maloney Properties  
Marion L. Decrow Memorial  
Foundation  
Mary Kay Ash Foundation  
Massachusetts Attorney  
General's Office  
Massachusetts Bar  
Foundation  
Massachusetts General  
Hospital  
Massachusetts League of  
Community Health Centers  
Massachusetts Nurses  
Association  
Massachusetts Port Authority  
Mayor's Office, City of Boston  
Metro Credit Union  
Mildred's Dream Foundation  
Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris,  
Glovsky and Popeo, P.C.  
Minuteman Press Quincy

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP  
MorningTide Financial Group  
Nancy E. Barton Foundation  
Needham Bank Foundation  
New England Patriots  
New Horizon  
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Association  
North Branford Fraternal  
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Northeastern University  
Novara  
Nuance  
Nutter, McClennen & Fish  
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Race Roster  
RaceWire DBA Stack Sports  
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Ring's End, Inc.  
Rockefeller Philanthropy  
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Rockland Trust  
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Foundation  
SAS Security Systems  
Seaport Master TRS LLC  
Shepherd PMC  
Shields Health Solutions  
Siharum Advisors, LLC  
Sincere Foundation  
Smith, Sullivan & Brown, P.C.  
Space International Inc.  
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Syria Court #10 Daughters of  
Isis  
Takeda  
Target  
TD Bank  
The Boston Foundation  
The First Church of Christ,  
Scientist  
The Frederick E. Weber  
Charities  
The Miriam Fund  
The Plate  
The RMR Group  
Thrivent  
TJX Companies, Inc.  
Todd & Weld  
Town Fair Tire Foundation  
Trillium Asset Management  
TripAdvisor Gift Matching  
Program  
Triverus Consulting  
U.C.C. Congregational  
Church  
United Parish of Auburndale  
United Way of Central  
Massachusetts  
United Way of Massachusetts  
Bay and  
Merrimack Valley  
United Way Suncoast  
University Of Massachusetts  
Unleashed Doggy Daycare  
VDC Research Group Inc  
Verizon  
Vertex Pharmaceuticals  
Wagner Foundation  
Webster Bank  
Weston & Sampson  
Women's Foundation of  
Boston  
Women's Independence  
Scholarship Program  
Woods and Gil Family  
Foundation  
Wynn Employee Foundation  
Wyss Foundation  
Yale Appliance  
Yawkey Foundation

# 2024 & 2025 Community of Conscience Event Recap

## Community of Conscience Event

**Thanks so much to everyone who joined us at City Winery Boston to celebrate our 16th Annual Community of Conscience Reception!**

Around 200 guests came out both years in support of survivors for a lively night of music by DJ Stix, Spoken Word Poetry by HunnySpeaks, mixing, mingling, a silent auction, and remarks from our CEO Stephanie Brown. This past year we welcomed Keynote Speaker - Rachel Louise Snyder, and Survivor Speaker Tavi De La Rosa. Tavi, a survivor who shaped his path to safety and heal through Casa Myrna's Housing Program, shared his incredible story of resilience and strength. For the last two years, with your generosity we've raised nearly \$400,00 for Survivors at our Community of Conscience Events! As we look ahead to the next two years, we will start to plan our 50th Anniversary Celebration!

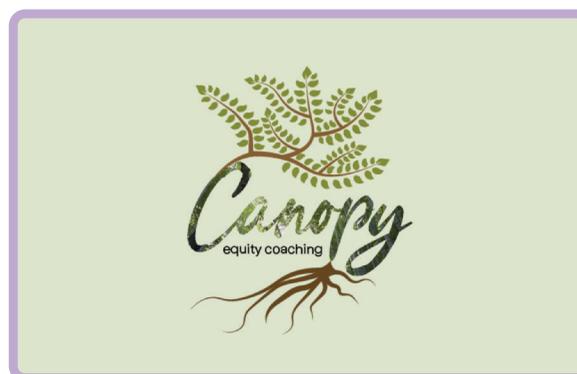
Please contact [Mdonabed@casamyrna.org](mailto:Mdonabed@casamyrna.org) if you would like to be on the Planning Committee!





## DEI work with Canopy

While the roots of our organization and movement are in social justice, we acknowledge that much work lies ahead of us to truly embody the values we seek.



We want to ensure that we are recruiting and retaining diverse leadership and that our programming is responsive to the needs of the diverse communities we serve.

To this end, we are implementing long-term initiatives and the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) recommendations from Canopy Equity Coaching. This includes forming a DEI committee and integrating our DEI-centered values into our work and culture at Casa Myrna.

Our leadership team is working to build better accountability, transparency, and trust among staff particularly as it applies to decision-making. The Board is also actively engaged in Canopy Equity Coaching's recommendations and collaborating with staff on joint projects.

## Staff



**Stephanie Brown**  
Chief Executive Officer



**Cesia Sanchez**  
Chief Programs Officer



**Michelle J. Donabed Esq.**  
Director of Development and Communications



**Ron Mason**  
Director of Operations



**Venessa Rosemond**  
Director of Finance

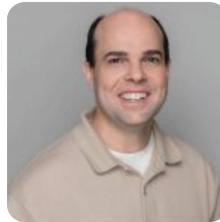
## Board of Directors



**Dina Scianna**  
President, Affordable Housing Foundation Fellow, Eastern Bank



**Mike Licker, Esq.**  
Vice President, Head of Litigation and Investigations, Wayfair



**Carlos Famadas**  
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**Schuyler Daum**  
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**Cas Groblewski**  
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**Maria Manrique**  
Chief People Officer, Dutchie



**Catherine Mesner**  
Independent Pharmaceutical Consultant



**Rontear Pendleton**  
Deputy Attorney General, Massachusetts Attorney General's Office



**Christian Ponce**  
Senior Director of Technology Alliances, NexThink



**Maria Roche**  
Vice President Clinical Development, Blueprint Medicines



**Darrus Sands**  
Senior Producer & Writer, Beyond Measure Productions, LLC



**Jeff Scheer**  
Executive Managing Director, Pathstone Federal Street Advisors

# SafeLink

**SafeLink** is a program of Casa Myrna, Boston's leading nonprofit delivering solutions to end domestic and dating violence. For more information about Casa Myrna's domestic violence resources and SafeLink, visit [www.casamyrna.org](http://www.casamyrna.org).

SafeLink provides posters and palm cards in several languages at no cost. To order materials, contact [outreach@casamyrna.org](mailto:outreach@casamyrna.org).

**SafeLink** is the Massachusetts statewide 24/7 toll-free domestic violence hotline run by Casa Myrna. **The SafeLink number is (877) 785-2020.**

**SafeLink** hotline advocates are multilingual and have access to a translation service that can provide language interpretation in more than 130 languages. **All calls to SafeLink are free, confidential, and anonymous.**

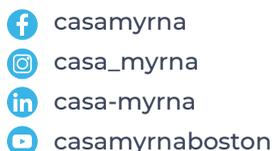
**SafeLink** is a resource for anyone affected by domestic violence. Each call is answered by a trained advocate who provides non-judgmental support, assistance with safety planning, and direct referrals to appropriate resources.

Hotline advocates are available to help you navigate available resources and can connect your call to your local domestic violence or other community organization. Domestic violence shelters throughout Massachusetts share their real-time space availability with SafeLink. This allows callers who are in danger to get help with a single call, rather than having to make calls to different programs across the state.

It is OK to call SafeLink if you just want to talk about your situation – or someone else's. You do not need to be a survivor or looking for shelter to call us.

## SafeLink Provides

- ⦿ **Safety planning** – Survivors of domestic violence learn how they and their families can stay safe
- ⦿ **Supportive listening** – We provide a safe space in which to talk about what's happening in your relationship
- ⦿ **Direct connection and referrals** to domestic violence and other community services across Massachusetts
- ⦿ **Support and resources** for anyone who is concerned about a victim of domestic violence or wants to learn more



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