



ria

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Inspired by Community

"The Embrace" By Hank Willis Thomas, Boston, MA



We Practice The Power of Presence

RIA builds healing relationships to support adults, majority female, identified with experience in commercial sex. RIA accompanies participants where they are in their lives, whether experiencing homelessness, living in a shelter, or in a more stable housing situation. Exploitation robs people of their born identities, it diminishes self-esteem, and hurts physically and emotionally. RIA walks with people as they feel value and joy, and are seen and loved.

VISION

Our vision is a world where people's bodies are not victimized, exploited, bought or sold for the sexual gratification of another person.

MISSION

Our mission is to stand with and support adults with experience in the sex trade and its associated exploitation, trafficking and prostitution, by providing a range of community-based services.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Valerie Godhwani".

VALERIE GODHWANI

A message from RIA's Board Chair

Against all odds, we did it.

In a year marked by deep uncertainty and real threats to our federal funding – which is about a third of our total budget, RIA not only stood its ground—we stood taller. Thanks to the incredible support of this community, we were able to exceed our budget goals in 2025. That's not just a win for us—it's a win for the 123 adults who turned to RIA this year for safety, healing, and hope.

We didn't cower in the face of challenge. We didn't shrink our mission, nor did we change it or mute it. Instead, we showed up—every single day—for the people who count on us most. And we were able to do that because **you** showed up for **us**.

Your generosity and belief in our work meant we could continue to provide housing assistance, peer mentorship, therapy, emergency support, and a path forward for survivors of sex trafficking, commercial sexual exploitation, and prostitution. The numbers tell one story—but the lives behind the numbers are the impact. Women moving into stable housing often for the first time. Graduates landing jobs. Parents reuniting with their children. Survivors reclaiming their voices.

And yet—we know 2026 won't be easier. The threats to federal grants like VOCA and VAWA haven't gone away. The need remains great. But if this year proved anything, it's this: when we stand together, we are powerful.

We are ready for what comes next. We are inspired by the strength of adults with lived and living experience. And we will act—with courage, conviction, and community beside us.

Thank you again for standing with us. With deep gratitude.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Valerie GODHWANI
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Manleen SINGH
VICE CHAIR

Michelle SAMUEL
TREASURER

Meera SUBRAMANIAN
SECRETARY

Cassandra MOMBRUN

Padmaja
SURENDRANATH

Estie RAPPAPORT

Janika LEMAITRE



MEET THE TEAM



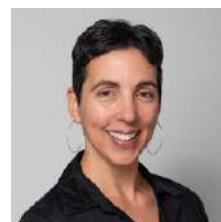
BECKY
Grant Writer



CHANTHA
*Development &
Strategy Director*



ESTHER
Clinical Intern (Sept)



HEATHER
*Executive
Director &
Founder*



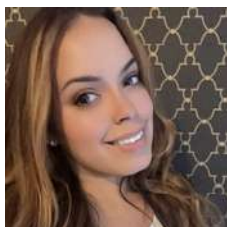
IVETTE
*Outreach &
Operations
Manager*



JACQUELINE
*Peer Mentor &
Advocate*



JA'DANA
Therapist (June)



KATHERINE
*Director of Peer
Mentorship &
Advocacy Services*



LIBBY
Therapist



MARGO
*Evaluation &
Impact*



MICHELLE
*Peer Mentor &
Advocate*



RACHEL
Clinical Director



RAYNA
*Clinical Intern
(Sept)*



SARA
*Clinical Intern
(June)*



STACEY
*Housing Specialist,
Peer Mentor &
Advocate*

Letter From Our Staff



JA'DANA
Clinical Therapist, RIA

Each day I am inspired by participants. The beauty that arises from accepting, speaking about, and healing from all that has been endured is a beautiful thing to bear witness to. As someone with similar vulnerabilities and experiences, it feels like a personal mission to be a part of this team and fighting against exploitation. I get deeply touched by every single relationship that I form with participants, and I feel so honored to be trusted to support folks in finding their internal light again. Healing from exploitation, abuse, and the mental health outcomes that come as a result is not easy, but participants show up every day ready to get one step closer to their goals and accomplishments. And having witnessed participants get themselves out of their lowest points, it is in these moments that drive me to continue to do more.

My time at RIA, Inc. began over a year ago when I joined the organization as a clinical intern. I first learned about RIA during my first year in my Master's program and knew I would apply when it came time to search for internships. My experience as an intern was so meaningful that, after graduating from Lesley University, I applied for a full-time therapist position. I was drawn not only to the work itself, but also to the supportive team and the strong sense of sisterhood among like-minded individuals who are passionately committed to the cause.

Since starting as a full-time employee, I have been encouraged to expand my understanding and skills to be able to offer specialized therapy to participants. Thus far, I have had trainings for a few different therapeutic modalities, including, Eye Movement Desensitization & Reprocessing (EMDR) Therapy, Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT), and Internal Family Systems (IFS). RIA not only invests in their participants well-being, healing, and learning, but also invests in their employees- allowing me to pour even more into caring for participants. My colleagues and the participants I work with are continuously building me into the therapist I am today and want to become.

RIA services are critical and the fight against commercial sexual exploitation is an important one. Where there is exploitation, there is often homelessness, substance use, food insecurity, loss of custody of children, domestic violence, unhealthy relationships, poor mental and physical health, and other forms of systemic disadvantage. Witnessing participants repeatedly fighting their way through a series of barriers to get to stability, safety, and joy time and time again, is an honor and a privilege. This work is critical and the fight against commercial sexual exploitation is an important one. That is why walking alongside someone on their journey of healing is the best part of the job.

Who RIA Serves

RIAs direct service team supported 123 adults in 2025.



IDENTIFY AS FEMALE



REPORTED ONE OR MORE DISABILITY
(mental, physical, or cognitive)



HAVE A HISTORY OF SUBSTANCE USE



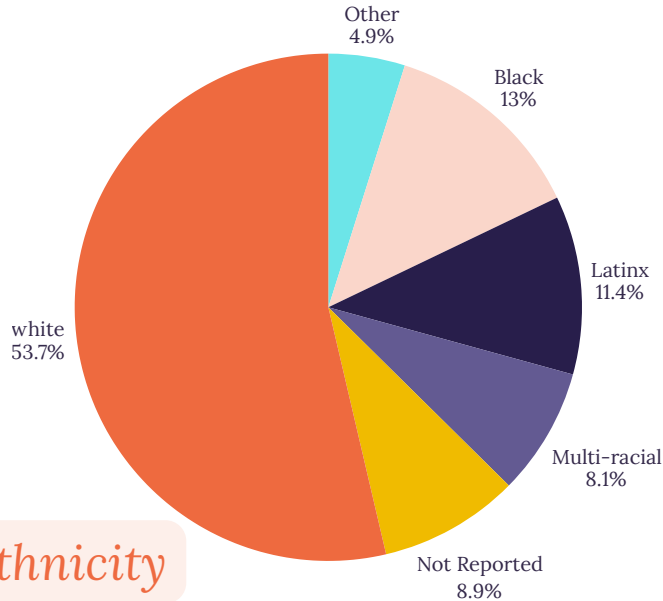
IDENTIFY AS LGBTQIA+



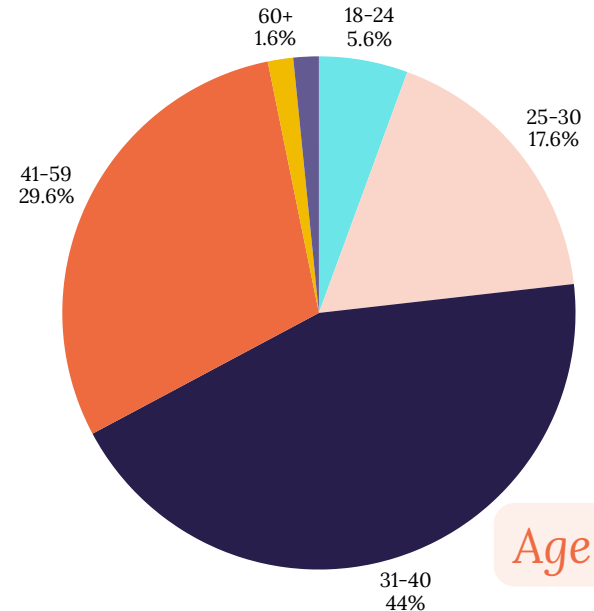
HAVE CHILDREN



FIRST EXPLOITED AS A CHILD

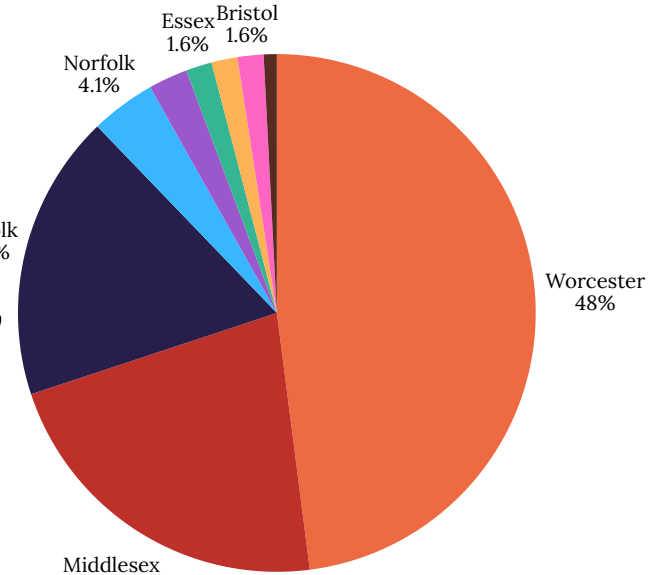
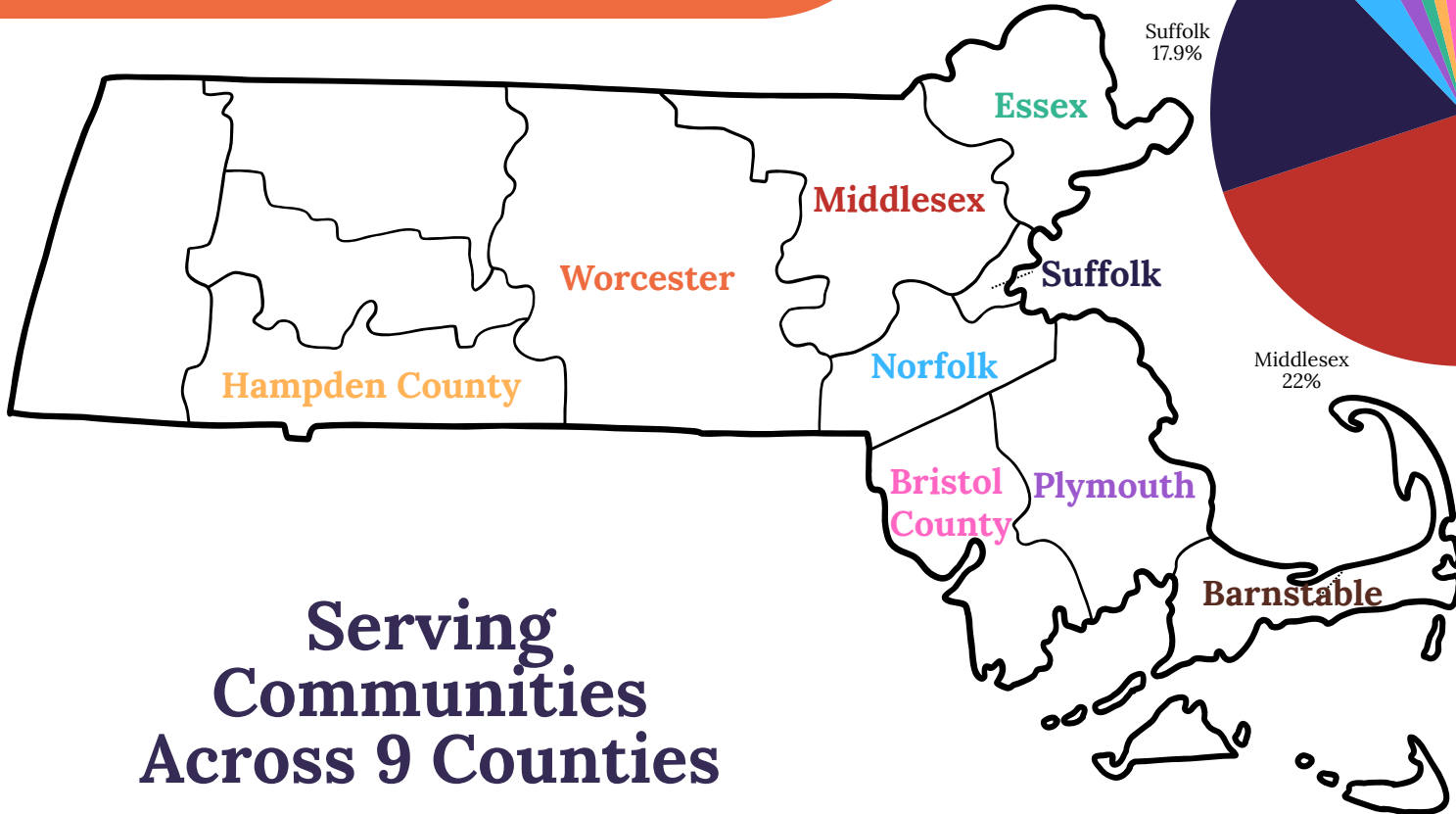


Race/ Ethnicity



Age

Reach



Serving
Communities
Across 9 Counties



Life Experiences

123

UNIQUE
PARTICIPANTS*

Served in 2025

57 RETURNING
PARTICIPANTS

66 NEW
INTAKES

A special thank you to all participants for allowing RIA into your lives.

98% of participants served have a history of physical assault

95% have a known history of sexual assault

88% report stalking/harassment

85% have a history of domestic and/or family violence

82% report having been bullied

73% report childhood abuse

65% report having been robbed

47% have a history of kidnapping

100%

of RIA participants have **traded sex for something of value** such as food, shelter, drugs, diapers, etc.

94%

of RIA participants have **felt manipulated, threatened, or controlled** in some way related to their experience in commercial sex.

74%

of RIA participants report **experiencing homelessness** on 2025 intakes.

52%

of participants experienced **commercial sexual exploitation** as a child.

“Before I found RIA”



Letter from RIA Participant



Before I found RIA, I was doing my best to move forward, but everything felt unstable. I was trafficked for over ten years, abused since age 9, and after leaving the sex industry, I was constantly trying to stay safe and keep my life on track. Without consistent support, it felt like I was always one crisis away from being pulled back into a world I had worked so hard to leave behind. Survival took up most of my energy, and it was hard to think long-term when the basics were not guaranteed.

RIA changed that in a very real way. One of the biggest ways RIA helped me was through their housing program. Having help with my rent might not sound dramatic, but for me, it meant safety and stability. It meant I did not have to constantly think about making desperate choices just to keep a roof over my head. That support played a huge role in keeping me out of the trafficking industry, because when you are housed and supported, you are no longer operating from fear. You get the opportunity to make healthy long-term decisions instead.

RIA also supported me in a way I never imagined was possible. Through their educational grant, they paid for an entire semester of my education at [University]. That kind of support was not just financial. It was deeply personal. It showed me that RIA believed in my future and my potential, not just my survival. Being able to focus on school without the constant stress of how I was going to pay for it changed everything. It allowed me to show up fully, learn, and move toward the goals I have been working toward for years. I just finished my semester with two A's and a B+.

The mentorship program has been just as impactful. My mentor, Stacey, has been an incredible source of encouragement and guidance. Having someone consistent in my corner, someone who listens, checks in, and genuinely cares, has made a huge difference in my healing and growth. Through Stacey and RIA's mentorship program, I have also been connected to many other resources and opportunities that I never would have found on my own.

What I appreciate most about RIA is that they understand real life. They do not just help in one area and disappear. They support the whole person, financially, emotionally, and practically. Because of RIA, I am not just getting by. I am in school, I am housed, I am supported, and I am building a future that feels safe and intentional. I never in a million years thought I would have this kind of life without having to sell myself for it.

I am incredibly grateful for RIA and for the donors and partners who make this work possible. It gives people like me the chance to step out of survival mode and into a life with stability, education, and hope. RIA has played a huge role in helping me stay out of exploitation and move forward toward the life I want, and I truly would not be where I am without them.

*All of us at RIA appreciate the enormous generosity of this Participant to share here in community.

Year In Review

123 Unique Participants Served*

360 HIGHEST # OF ENCOUNTERS FOR A SINGLE PARTICIPANT

60 AVERAGE # OF ENCOUNTERS PER PARTICIPANT

108 Case Management

95 Peer-Mentorship

60 Clinical Therapy Services

* Some participants received multiple services

Case Management

3247
Encounters

Support
207
Group

Peer Mentorship

2495
Encounters

Clinical Therapy

1408
Encounters



Impact

7,357

ENCOUNTERS

Each encounter encompasses multiple personal interactions between participant and staff. Individual interactions are categorized and logged by mode of communication to reflect engagement time.

Modes of Communication



4,196 TEXT MESSAGES



1,164 PHONE CALLS



1,098 IN-PERSON
MEETINGS



990 VIRTUAL MEETINGS



11 SOCIAL MEDIA CHECK-IN'S

IN THE
Journey
THERE IS
Life
Changing
IMPACT



“

Q: in your words, how has RIA helped you?

RIA has helped me increase my self esteem and confidence. I am more confident about reaching my goals since I started working with my mentor.

RIA has helped me tremendously! The support I received from the staff has been life-changing. RIA paid for my 2024 [college] summer courses until I was able to secure financial aid, and I am proud to say I graduated with my Associate's degree in December 2025. While in school, they supported me through food and housing insecurity, which allowed me to prioritize my studies and graduate with highest honors. I am so grateful to continue receiving such amazing services.

My mentor and therapist have been there when I felt down and helped me get on my feet.

My mentor has helped me feel accepted enough to open up to her. She gives me advice on how to handle difficult situations and has helped me find resources that I need. She's given me someone to talk to anytime I need to.

RIA has helped me in every part of my everyday life. I do generally have anxiety about if I could sustain all the things I've worked for without RIA. But I believe I have more time to figure that out.

Better [my] thinking about my past life.

RIA has changed my life, they are so accepting and understanding. Talking with my mentor and therapist feels like I've been speaking with a person I've known my entire life.

RIA has helped me become more independent and my mentor is always there when I call or need her.

My mentor and therapist have been there when I felt down and helped me get on my feet.

”

WHAT IS SURVIVOR-DIRECTED HOUSING?

RIA's rental assistance program provides crucial support to enrolled participants for 6 to 24 months and offers practical aid in the journey toward stability and economic independence. By increasing access to safe housing, the program enables individuals to break free from the cycle of exploitation and begin rebuilding their lives with dignity. With some of the burden of rent alleviated, participants can focus on healing and accessing necessary resources, gradually reclaiming control over their futures. Since March 2022, RIA has enrolled more than 22 participants in this program.

The average length of time with RIA is **2.7 years** compared to 1.3 years for participants **not receiving rental assistance**.

One participant enrolled in college, **increased her credit score** and moved into her first **apartment**.

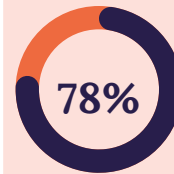


OUTCOMES:

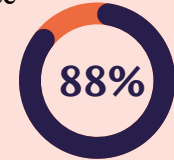


Survivor-Directed Housing

The following participant outcomes were assessed after at least six months or more of rental assistance and support. n=12



of participants experience 2+ positive life events related to employment, education, legal, health, relationship, substance-use



of participants report that they are employed either full or part-time



of participants report that they are living in a safe housing situation




of participants report that they are completely out of the commercial sex trade




PERSONAL GOALS

Participants define and work towards their personal goals throughout the duration of the program.


From **improving health and wellness** to **pursuing new career goals**, participants focus on meaningful goal attainment with their mentors while receiving rental assistance.




Start savings account, continue my education, find full-time employment




Utilize my savings from rent towards a car payment and insurance. This will allow me to follow up with visits to see my daughter and give me the opportunity to look for alternative jobs and better long term housing.




Find independent living, petition the court for visitation, find a career. Start writing in my step work



Begin to build my credit score and pay off my debt



Build credit, pay debt, join first time home buyers class



Custody of children, go back to work and school

Mission Ambassador Program

2025

ready • inspire • act

LEADING WITH PURPOSE

Our vision is a world where people's bodies are not victimized, exploited, bought or sold for the sexual gratification of another person.



ria



ambassadors
for change

RIA Mission Ambassadors
raised **\$55,000** in 2025.
Thank you all!

Building a stronger community together

In 2025 RIA launched its first Mission Ambassador program to help expand our network. RIA Mission Ambassadors are passionate volunteers looking to create change and are dedicated to fueling our mission.

They play a vital role in helping RIA raise both awareness and vital resources for survivors of commercial sexual exploitation across Massachusetts.

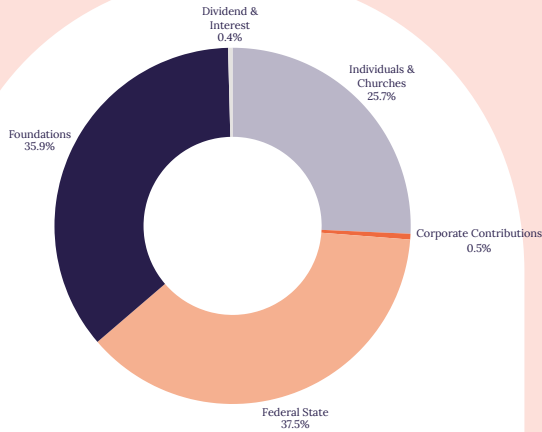
Collectively we are a compassionate community, determined to lead with purpose- one that stands strong and speaks up for those in need.

A heartfelt *Thank You* to the Ambassadors for connecting RIA to your community. Your impact is real, and your commitment makes a difference.



RIA Mission Ambassadors *for change!*

THE 2025 FINANCIALS

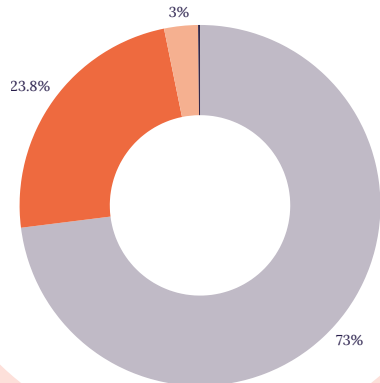


INCOME

Individuals and Churches	\$312,040
Corporate Contributions	\$6,275
Federal/State	\$454,966
Foundations	\$435,537
Dividend & Interest	\$4,948
Total Income	\$1,213,766

EXPENSES

Personnel	\$746,351
Operations	\$243,030
General & Administrative	\$30,954
Fundraising	\$1,677
Total Expenses	\$1,022,012
Net Income	\$191,754



SheFUND Totals

Participant Financial Support Total Individuals

Clothing	25
Coffee & Meals	58
Celebrations (Birthdays, Graduation, etc.)	1
Groceries	9
Rent/Housing/Utilities	24
Transportation/Gas/Travel	12
Gift Cards	1
Tuition/Program Fees	6
SheFund - Total Individuals (Unduplicated*)	93

Total \$ Spent on SheFund **\$95,970**

*some participants receive more than one type of support

THANK *you!*

Financial Contributors

Agnes Lindsay Trust
Anonymous
Avidia Bank
Bushrod H. Campbell and Adah F. Hall Charity Fund
Clipper Ship Foundation
Community Foundation of MetroWest
Cummings Foundation
Eastern Bank
Fletcher Foundation
Frederick E. Weber Charities Corporation
Gardiner Howland Shaw Foundation
George H. & Jane A. Mifflin Memorial Fund
Gratis Foundation
Greater Boston Association of Realtors
Greater Worcester Community Foundation
GS Fuller Foundation
Katharine C. Pierce Trust
Liberty Mutual
Lincoln & Therese Filene Foundation
Ludcke Foundation
MA Department of Public Health
MA Executive Office of Public Safety
Marianne J H Witherby Foundation
Massachusetts Office for Victim Assistance
MetroWest Women's Fund
MetroWest Health Foundation
Middlesex Bank Charitable Foundation

Mildred's Dream Foundation
Reliant Foundation
Robins Kaplan LLC
Rockland Trust
The Adelard A. and Valeda Lea Roy Foundation
The Boston Foundation
The City of Boston
The Deborah Munroe Noonan Memorial Fund
The First Religious Society of Carlisle
The Hamilton Company Charitable Foundation
The Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts
The John H. and H. Naomi Tomfohrde Foundation
The Office of the MA Senate President Spilka
The Philanthropy Connection
The United Way of TriCounty
TJX Corporation
Town Fair Tire
U.S. Department of Justice, Executive Office of Public Safety
U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Victims of Crime
U.S. Department of Justice, Violence Against Women Act
Webster Five
Wellesley Village Congregational Church
WestMetro Home Consortium (HOME ARP)
First Parish Unitarian Church of Concord
First Parish Unitarian Church of Stow & Acton

Collaborative Partners

Empowered Network
Dignity Matters
Wesley United Methodist Church (Worcester)
Framingham Police
Gifts of Hope International
Jasmine Grace Outreach
Sisters of St. Joseph
South Middlesex Opportunity Council (SMOC)
Survivors & Allies for Justice Coalition (formerly the EMMA Coalition)

*A very special
thank you to
all of our
individual
donors that
make our
work
possible!*

*And thank
you to:*

RIA Participants

RIA Staff

RIA Board of
Directors

Volunteers

In-kind
Donors



2025 highlights



Launched Mission Ambassador Program



Doubled our individual donor base in 2025



Four years of tracking outcomes



3rd Year of Survivor-Directed Housing Program, completed 8 cohorts



Proud Member of the Survivors & Allies for Justice Coalition (formerly the EMMA Coalition)



Began a Partnership with The Empowered Network



Became an official member of Jane Doe Inc.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2026

Goal ONE

- ▶ Grow Mission Ambassador Program

Goal TWO

- ▶ Launch professional trainings providing Continuing Education Credits (CEU's)

Goal THREE

- ▶ Double the size of RIA's team:
 - ▶ Board of Directors
 - ▶ Peer Mentors
 - ▶ Clinicians



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