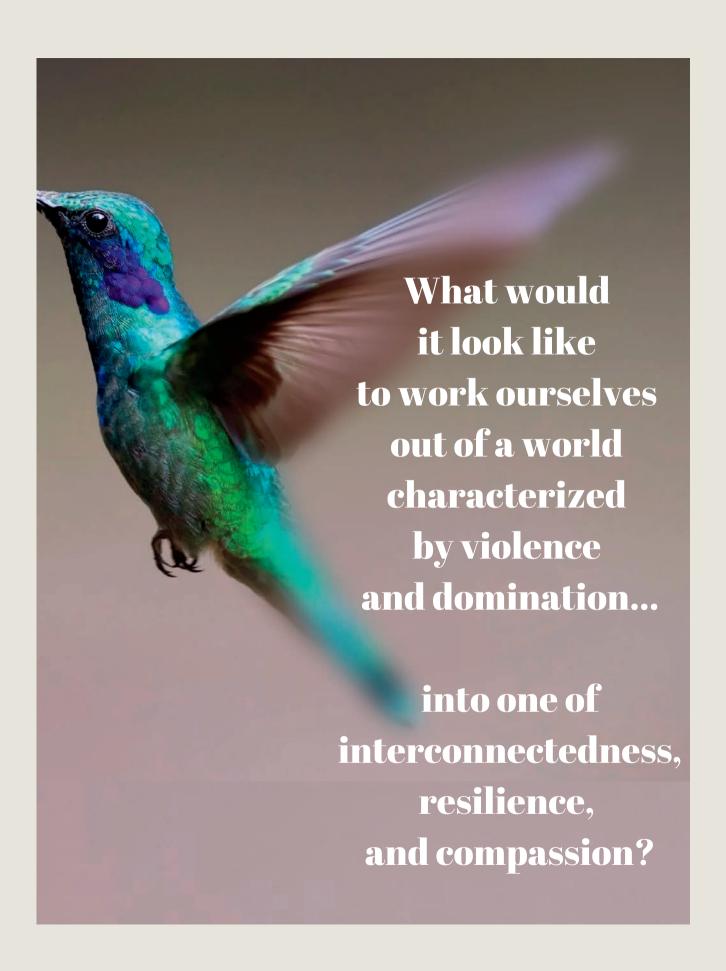
ANNUAL REPORT



Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence

ACTIONALLIANCE



GOVERNING BODY 2022

A LETTER FROM THE **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

KRISTI VANAUDENHOVE

Ahhh, dragonflies and hummingbirds. Two of my favorite sights of summer. Our little garden by the Rappahannock River is full of dragonflies and hummingbirds and their flight is a wonder to behold. These gorgeous little creatures play two vital roles in our garden and in ecosystems across Virginia: the dragonfly brings balance, and the hummingbird promotes diversity and reproduction. I have such respect and appreciation for the work that they do each day, and I can't help but pause to take in their beauty and grace when they pass by. It is a joy to be connected to them.

So it is as I reflect on another year in leadership at the Action Alliance. As I read this report, images come to mind of the many, many people and their many, many vital roles in making all of this work possible. Members of the coalition are a powerful, resilient and interconnected group. At our best we lift each other up, have compassion for ourselves and others, and do our part to make our ecosystems healthy and strong.

Thank you for sharing some of your best moments with all of us in the Action Alliance—it is a joy to be connected to you.

In Peace,

Kristi VanAudenhove

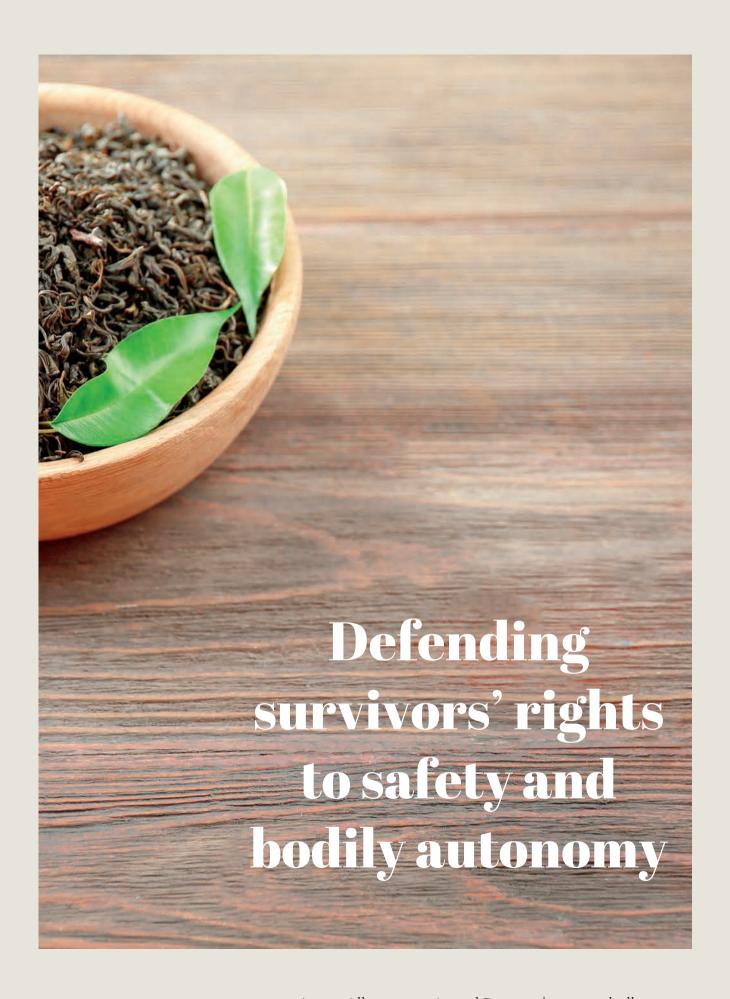
FACILITATOR Nikki Duncan Talley

FINANCE OFFICER Laura Beth Weaver

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT & GOVERNANCE OFFICER **Ginny Powell**

> **COMMUNICATIONS & DEVELOPMENT OFFICER Brad Perry**

> > Marybeth Adkins Rosalind Cook Nikki Duncan-Talley Marva Dunn Lenora Jones Elliott Cortney Fisher Josephine Gonzalez Dina Hackley-Hunt Ted Heck Beth Leftwich Chad Lewis Angel Mefford Katie Mey Kiesha Preston Alejandro Prince Tremayne Robertson Claire Sheppard Fatima Smith Gretchen Soto **Shelley Strain** Ellen Yackel **Scotney Young**



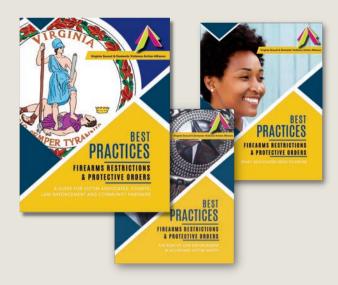
Defending survivors' rights to safety & bodily autonomy



Reproductive justice and the fall of Roe v. Wade

The Action Alliance staff established an internal Reproductive Freedom Workgroup a year before Roe fell to respond to the ongoing assault on reproductive freedom. In 2022, the workgroup wrote and distributed a 3-part series for advocates on understanding reproductive justice, two FAQ documents for survivors and advocates on how to access reproductive resources, and developed and delivered an on-request 1-hour webinar on Reproductive Freedom & Choice for Survivors of Sexual & Domestic Violence to the staff of 9 sexual and domestic violence agencies across Virginia.

https://vsdvalliance.org/rjforadvocates/



Best practices toolkit on firearms restrictions and protective orders for advocates, police, courts, and community partners

Recent changes in Virginia code pertaining to firearm restrictions and protective orders can substantially impact the safety of survivors of intimate partner violence. To assist survivors in making decisions regarding petitioning for protective orders and with safety planning, it is essential that advocates are knowledgeable about both the legal remedies as they pertain to firearms and the processes in their communities for the implementation of these new remedies. The Virginia Domestic Violence and Firearms Workgroup continued to work in step with local, state, and national partners to create a <u>comprehensive new toolkit</u> to support implementation of firearms restrictions in communities across Virginia. The toolkit is intended to serve as a foundational resource for sexual and domestic violence advocates – in their work with survivors and communities – to maximize safety and ensure compliance with Virginia law.

https://vsdvalliance.org/resource/firearms-restrictions-and-protective-orders-in-virginia/

Healing & learning from the Covid pandemic



Storytelling to connect, learn, and heal

The Action Alliance was active in a group of 25 coalitions from US states and territories to participate in ReStoryation, a national needs assessment, healing, and sustainability project for victim advocates. ReStoryation gathers advocates from across the country to meet in small groups and share their personal and professional experiences during Covid. The project uses storytelling to connect and understand the collective experience of the advocacy workforce during the past few years. The Action Alliance hosted the ReStoryation East Coast launch in Richmond in July for 12 state SDV coalitions and NNEDV and held a staff storytelling event in October. We'll hold small gatherings of advocates across Virginia in the first half of 2023.

Summer advocate listening tour

Three Action Alliance staff traveled around Virginia in the spring/summer of 2022, visiting 22 sexual and domestic violence programs and interviewing 70(!) victim advocates. The listening tour gathered advocates' perspectives on funding priorities, unmet needs for programs and survivors, and the recent work of which they have been most proud. We'll be using this rich data culled directly from the field to help guide our training and technical assistance plans over the next few years.



Always on the Front Lines Campaign

To help raise visibility of the work of front-line advocates during the pandemic, we created the <u>Always on the Front Lines campaign</u>. The campaign honors the efforts of victim advocates who worked around the clock to respond to crisis situations and were (and continue to be) in many ways some of our communities' most crucial yet invisible first responders. https://bit.ly/alwaysonthefrontlines



2022 at a glance



2,500phone-based -consultations

15 survivors

assisted by our Legal Fund, which paid for

\$28,000

in legal fees





we negotiated discounts of

up to 90%

on legal services for survivors

\$2 value for every \$1 spent



For every \$1 spent on legal fund cases, the legal services team negotiated \$2 in donated services to survivors.

Advocate and Attorney Alliance (formerly PES)

The Advocate and Attorney Alliance provides free confidential legal consultations for victims with its on-staff legal advocate and attorneys, facilitates to fill in the gaps where victims are unable qualify for Legal Aid services or other free legal services.

(averaging less than \$2,000 per case). The team successfully negotiated discounts of up to 90% on legal services provided to representation using the Legal Fund.

In 2022, the legal services team successfully survivors.

Direct assistance to survivors

Learning from survivors

Action Alliance Crisis Response Team

The Crisis Response team provided traumainformed supportive services to 9,904 survivors of interpersonal violence, sexual assault, and trafficking. Survivors reached out for support via, phone, text and email: 19% of survivors identified as Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC), 4% of survivors presented with Limited English Proficiency, 2% of survivors identified as LGBTQ+, 19% of survivors were from rural communities and 3% of survivors identified as having a disability.

30 of Virginia's sexual & domestic violence programs relied on our Statewide Hotline to provide back-up to their local hotlines throughout the year.

At this year's PREA conference (Prison Rape Elimination Act), Crisis Response Team staff facilitated a workshop session on Statewide Hotline trauma-informed services and support, elevating the importance of collaboration with the Department of Corrections on behalf of survivors reaching out for support through PREA.

Launch of VOICES **Leadership Council** (Victim/Survivor **Opportunities to Impact Change by Elevating Our Stories**)

The work to end gender-based violence began with the voices, efforts, and labor of survivors of sexual and intimate partner violence. Survivors are the ones who, through telling their stories and amplifying their voices, can best guide the work of professionals. In recognition of the important role that survivors play in leading the movement, the Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance established the VOICES Leadership Council in 2022, a network of survivors that helps guide the work of the Action Alliance. Members of the VOICES Leadership Council took part in a statewide working group tasked with developing a series of recommendations for the state's Sexual and Domestic Violence Advisory Committee on practices and policies to improve language access in the courts/in the process of petitioning for a protective order.





Championing the work of advocates



The Hope Reception

The Action Alliance was thrilled to host the Hope Reception as our first event in our new offices on Main Street in Richmond. The reception helped us pause to celebrate advocates across Virginia, recognize our new Lifetime Members, and honor those who continue to inspire hope for a violence-free Virginia.

Our honorees



Delegate Carrie Coyner (VA-62)

For her steadfast advocacy on behalf of survivors and her work to secure \$9M in federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) appropriations to maintain level funding for Virginia's sexual and domestic violence crisis centers.



Toni Zollicoffer, Director, **Fairfax Office of Domestic** and Sexual Violence Services

For her work on the Statewide Advisory Committee on Sexual and Domestic Violence, which informed local and statewide initiatives that address the harm within intimate partner relationships through trauma-informed healing and accountability programs.



Delegate Patrick Hope (VA-47)

For his efforts to expand the Supreme Court's successful Hope Card Program, allowing survivors who are granted final protective orders access to a walletsized card summarizing the order's critical information.

Virginia's 69 sexual & domestic VIOLENCE AGENCIES CONTINUE TO CHANGE LIVES FOR THE BETTER

Between January 1 and December 31, 2022, Virginia's sexual and domestic violence programs provided*:

email



40,899 hours of crisis response to 78.956 hotline contacts by phone, text, chat, and

emergency housing to

6,278 adults & children





advocacy services to

& children

- 93% of clients would recommend or strongly recommend the agency to a friend.
- 97% feel more hopeful about their lives after receiving services
- 95% know more about sexual and/or domestic violence and its impact.
- Among clients with children, 91% said they feel their children are having more positive interactions with others.

The three types of support that survivors described as most important were:



- 1. help to address emotional needs
- 2.help with the impact of violence on relationships with family and friends
- 3. help meeting basic financial needs

41% of respondents received services from the agency for 3 months or more.



Promoting policy solutions that help families and communities thrive









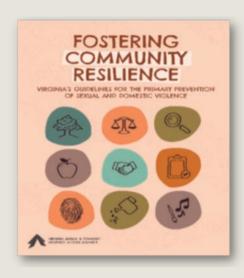
Legislative Advocacy

Our presence on policy issues at the General Assembly and beyond continues to challenge the traditional victim-perpetrator binary. Working closely with the Virginia Pre-Trial Justice Coalition, the Legal Aid Justice Center, ACLU of Virginia, and more, we continue to balance a need for immediate victim safety and long-term healing with the reality that investments in the prison system will not solve the problem of violence, therefore we must invest in building alternatives for survivors.

Some of our many 2022 policy wins include:

- Establishment of a statewide Hope Card Program
- \$2.7 million annual investment in a prevention fund for sexual and domestic violence
- \$9 million in ARPA funds to sustain sexual and domestic violence services at local programs.

Helping advocates and preventionists stay on the cutting edge of best practices



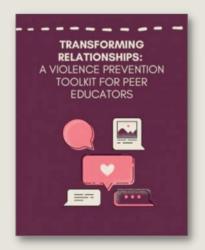
New training curricula

The Action Alliance wrote and launched two new training curricula for advocates: "Sexual and Reproductive Coercion: What Advocates and Healthcare Providers Need to Know" and "Joyful Sexuality and the Movement to End Sexual and Domestic Violence".

We instituted a new education program for campus preventionists: "ECHO@edu: Campus Violence Prevention", which serves as a didactic and collaborative space to learn about and develop strategies for integrating prevention education into formalized spaces on campus.

Primary Prevention Guidelines

The Action Alliance released our newly updated guidelines for the primary prevention of sexual and intimate partner violence, "Fostering Community Resilience: Virginia's Guidelines for the Primary Prevention of Sexual and Domestic Violence". This long-awaited resource offers nine guidelines for effective prevention programs that have been informed by the field and are built on the foundation of two core concepts: social justice principles and public health models. The accompanying website https://guidelines.vsdvalliance.org serves as a multi-media toolbox with resources relevant to each guideline.



Prevention Toolkit for Peer Educators

We wrote and released <u>Transforming Relationships: A Violence Prevention Toolkit for Peer Educators</u>, which serves as a tool for young adults and supportive professional staff who want to cultivate safer thriving communities on their college campuses. https://www.communitysolutionsva.org/index.php/resources/item/transforming-relationships-a-violence-prevention-toolkit-for-peer-educators



Looking toward the future

Sustainability Planning Alliance

This year, the Action Alliance pulled together a small group of directors from sexual and domestic violence agencies to form the Sustainability Planning Alliance. The purpose of the group was to outline sustainability strategies and build a state-level 10-year plan that includes workforce developments like access to wages and benefits that will sustain advocates at the local level. This ambitious project will wrap in 2023 after publishing its 10-year plan to build a thriving movement to end sexual and domestic violence.

The essence of sustainability is collective good stewardship of resources to achieve balance between short-term needs and long-term stability which makes thriving possible.

From the Sustainability Planning Alliance's 10-Year Plan to Strengthen the Movement



New Action Alliance office space!

The Action Alliance marked the end of an era when we left our beloved office space at 1118 West Main and moved two blocks down the street to 1411 West Main Street in Richmond. Many of our staff now work remotely much of the time, allowing us to find a smaller, more affordable office space. The new office has a training room directly next door at 1413, which allows us to hold trainings and events conveniently without interrupting the workflow of staff in the office. Stop by and see us!

Looking toward the future

How can we respond to violence without using violence?

Redefining how we think about harm and accountability

To set a new trajectory for how we view and work toward harm and accountability, the Action Alliance wrote "Harm, Healing and Accountability: Guidance for the Action Alliance Leadership and Staff". The purpose of The purpose of the internal document is to provide guidance toward substantive and transformative ways to connect survivor-centered healing with harm and accountability practices.

In addition, the Action Alliance continued to participate in Fairfax County's Accountability Workgroup, seeking to explore alternative and survivor-informed approaches to responding to low-level sexual and domestic violence offenses.

> Accountability is the courageous and loving act of taking responsibility. It is an honest accounting of the impact and consequences of one's choices.

It requires clear acknowledgment of any harm and active steps toward repair.

> From the Action Alliance's "Harm, Healing, and Accountability" Statement

2022 Financials

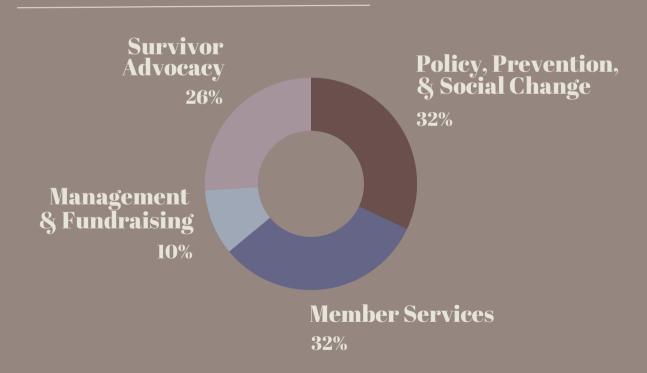
Your membership and contributions are vital to the work of the Action Alliance and to the long-term financial health of the coalition. Thank you for your support!

2022 Revenues: \$3,430,827

2022 Expenses: \$3,418,283

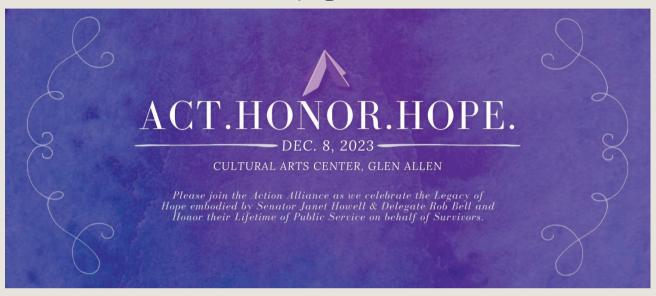
The Action Alliance is primarily funded by state and federal grants and contracts, which totaled \$2,398,380 in 2022.

Expenses



Copies of our audited financial statements and 990 (tax return) are available upon request. We are also happy to speak with you about your plans for giving to the Action Alliance. Contact our Training and Events Manger Isantilli@vsdvalliance.org with your requests.

Save the date for our annual Act. Honor. Hope. Luncheon Reception on Friday December 8th, from 11:00am-2:30pm in Glen Allen



Order your Peace Begins at Home plate to support violence prevention work across Virginia





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