425 guests joined Partners for Women and Justice at our annual CELEBRATE HOPE Spring Benefit on May 1, 2019 at Mayfair Farms in West Orange. Thanks to the generosity of our dedicated supporters, the event raised nearly $380,000. The most ever! The highlight of the evening was a Partners’ client concluding her story with these words,

“I don’t know what I would have done if Partners wasn’t there to help me when they did or if I would even be alive right now to share my story with you. There are no words to describe how fortunate and eternally grateful I am. From the bottom of my heart… thank you for everything that you’ve done.”
Dear Friends:

2019 marks the 17th year Partners for Women and Justice has provided free legal assistance to victims and survivors of domestic violence. In doing so, we have always had a sharp focus on the safety of our clients. But it is not just victims whose safety and well-being are at stake. The trauma of domestic violence can also have a significant and long-lasting impact on children. (See page 4.) That is why the protections we advocate for always include those that also help our clients’ children and why one of our ongoing advocacy efforts — to improve how the courts handle child support in domestic violence cases — benefits children.

Even as we offered direct legal services through our talented staff attorneys and many dedicated pro bono attorneys, we also continued our advocacy efforts. Partners worked with the judiciary, prosecutors, and local and statewide domestic violence agencies to create a bench guide for judges that identifies the signs of heightened risk in domestic violence cases. We have also been pushing for uniformity in how victims can present translations of foreign language social media posts, texts, and emails — which are so often crucial as evidence of abuse — at final restraining order hearings. And we continue to advocate with the judiciary to enhance safety for victims by incorporating domestic violence risk into the tool used to determine whether a defendant arrested on domestic violence charges should be released pending trial.

As we have settled into our new offices and I reflect on the past year, I am reminded of the early beginnings of Partners — a small office, two unpaid staff, second-hand computers, and a few clients. Thanks to you and all of our supporters, we now serve hundreds of clients each year, helping victims and their children escape abuse.

Warmest regards,

Jane M. Hanson

Jane M. Hanson, Esq.
President and Executive Director

OUR MISSION: Partners for Women and Justice empowers low-income victims and survivors of domestic violence to build safe and secure futures for themselves and their children by providing equal access to justice. We offer quality legal assistance in domestic violence and family law matters.
There is hope for children who experience domestic violence. Appropriate intervention and prevention of domestic violence can allow children to foster consistent, healthy, and loving relationships with the non-offending parent.

CHILDREN ARE NOT PASSIVE VICTIMS

One in three children are exposed to some form of domestic violence.

A main cause of child homelessness is domestic violence.

Almost half of the children who witness domestic violence try to intervene in some way:
- 49.9% yelled for the abuser to stop
- 43.9% tried to get away
- 23.6% called for help

Children exposed to domestic violence are more likely to:
- Attempt suicide
- Abuse drugs
- Perform poorly in school
- Engage in criminal behavior

Partners helped 425 children escape domestic violence. We secured an average of $7,640 in annual child support per client.

There is hope for children who experience domestic violence. Appropriate intervention and prevention of domestic violence can allow children to foster consistent, healthy, and loving relationships with the non-offending parent.
I was missing school and work because I had bruises and I was in pain. The time he slammed me into the wall made me realize the potential danger. While I was in the process of getting a temporary restraining order, I saw a flyer advertising Partners’ services. I contacted Partners and felt instant comfort that they would help me through every step. After getting the final restraining order, I was finally able to exhale. I finished my bachelor’s degree and I am now working toward a masters.”

Support Children of Survivors

Partners’ Child Support Project seeks to address the systemic barriers to securing and collecting child support and to reduce the burden on the custodial parent when the non-custodial parent violates court orders.

Our advocacy work is funded in part by the Community Foundation of New Jersey, Jewish Women’s Foundation of New Jersey, The Montclair Foundation, and Montclair Fund for Women.

ADVOCACY
Through advocacy Partners seeks to reform the systemic practices that harm victims of domestic violence. Partners’ goals are to:

Improve Access to Justice
Partners works with the judiciary, prosecutors and other domestic violence agencies to improve access to justice so that victims feel heard in court, understand court processes, and are able to obtain meaningful protection from further abuse.

Enhance Victim Safety
Partners’ Pretrial Safety Project advocates for improvements in the system of assessing pretrial risk in domestic violence cases and to expand protections for victims through safety enhancements such as no-contact orders during the pretrial period.

Support Children of Survivors
Partners’ Child Support Project seeks to address the systemic barriers to securing and collecting child support and to reduce the burden on the custodial parent when the non-custodial parent violates court orders.

Footnote References for the Content Follow:
2018 – 2019
FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS
(UNAUDITED)
Fiscal year ending June 30, 2019

REVENUE

Individuals $467,201
Government $529,914
Businesses $271,325
Foundations $240,224
Donated Legal Services $932,011
Other and In-kind Contributions $42,738
TOTAL REVENUE $2,483,413

EXPENSES

Program Services $830,810
Donated Legal Services $932,011
Total Program $1,762,821
Fundraising/Communications $227,100
Management/General $267,439
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES $2,257,361
Event Expenses $57,358
TOTAL EXPENSES $2,314,719

ASSETS

TOTAL NET ASSETS $776,762

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