More than 425 guests joined PARTNERS FOR WOMEN AND JUSTICE to celebrate hope at our 13th annual Spring Benefit on May 4, 2016 at Mayfair Farms in West Orange. Thanks to the generosity of our dedicated supporters, the event raised more than $300,000. The highlight of the evening was a Partners’ client sharing her story. Afterwards, she told us about the impact on her: “It was truly an honor and an empowering moment. Standing in front of the room and being able to tell my story allowed me once more to find pride in myself and continue to move forward.”

Partners was proud to honor leaders in their respective communities and fields for their dedication to improving the lives of others.

Brooke M. McGeehan, Jane Hanson (Partners’ Executive Director), James A. Covell, Jason B. Newman, Edward P. DiConza

“Tonight let’s honor the real honorees…the women who have risen above and have made their lives better because of this wonderful organization.”
—JAMES

“My heart breaks to hear the stories of domestic violence so close to where we live, but thanks to the incredible work of Partners and the support of everyone in this room, these women are able to find a brighter path free of fear and full of life.”
—BROOKE

Domestic violence is something women never talk about, even to their closest friends. Some of my girlfriends reached out to tell me about domestic violence in their lives, stories I had never heard before. Partners gives women like these a voice to be heard and legal representation to break free and be safe.

—LINDA

Back in 1991 with heightened awareness and new, stronger laws... we truly believed by this time (2016), a full generation later, intimate partner violence and abuse would be substantially reduced...it just hasn’t happened as fast as we wanted it to. 1200 incidents of domestic violence occur in New Jersey each week. Our work continues.

—THOMAS

Thank you to Partners for your extraordinary work. The training and support provided by Partners allows pro bono attorneys to contribute to the organization’s mission in a significant way – we’re able to help empower victims of domestic violence to find the help they need and otherwise might not get. Partners inspires me to be a better attorney and, I think, a better person.

—JEFFREY

One act of domestic violence occurs every 8 minutes and 47 seconds in New Jersey.*
New Jersey’s Prevention of Domestic Violence Act of 1991 is one of the strongest laws in the country providing protection and relief to victims of domestic violence. At the time it was adopted in 1991, a newly appointed Family Court judge and his colleagues were sure that, 25 years on, few would need to take advantage of the law.

In accepting an honor from Partners earlier this year, that judge, the Hon. Thomas Dilts, J.S.C. (Ret.), recalled that “we hoped and believed that heightened awareness of intimate partner abuse, saying out loud the harms to not only the victims, but to their children and to our communities, and new, stronger laws, would change behaviors. But sadly, we have a long way to go. We see that in some cases we may affect conduct – but human hearts and understandings of what it takes to create and sustain healthy intimate relationships still need to change.”

Indeed, New Jersey State Police report that in 2014 there were more than 62,000 incidents of domestic violence reported to police in New Jersey; 42 involved murder.

Though domestic abuse persists, there is hope. Public awareness of the extent of domestic violence and the desire to help those affected by it are ever increasing. And you – friends of Partners for Women and Justice – are an important part of this effort. You make a difference each time our free legal assistance helps one of our clients break free of abuse. Your support means that thousands of survivors, their children and their communities have benefited since Partners was founded.

Our work continues. This past year, we expanded our geographic reach and are now providing legal assistance to survivors from Middlesex County. We also expanded our mission to serve low-income victims and survivors, regardless of sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.

We hope you will continue to be a friend of Partners – so that our programs of legal assistance will continue to be available for as long as they are needed. Thank you for all that you do.

Jane M. Hanson, Esq.

*All data reported is from Domestic Violence in New Jersey for Year Ending December 31, 2014, New Jersey State Police Uniform Crime Reporting Unit 2014.*
Breaking the Cycle of Domestic Violence

“Thank you so much for all your help in such a short time. I could never repay Partners for all they have done for me and my little girl.”

—PARTNERS’ CLIENT

SANDRA2 and William dated for three years before they married. Sandra was sure she and William would live happily ever after. William always took care of everything.

After the birth of their daughter, Alexia, William slowly started to change his treatment of Sandra. At first, it was verbal abuse he used in an attempt to manipulate and control her. By the time Alexia was six years old the abuse had escalated to threats, and ultimately acts, of physical violence. William grabbed Sandra by the throat once and told her if she tried to leave he would cut her up and ship the pieces back to her home country. He stopped paying the bills and their condo went into foreclosure. He continued to intimidate Sandra with threats that if she called the police she would be dead before they arrived. One day, William shoved Sandra down onto the bed and choked her twice while nine year-old Alexia looked on. Afraid for her mother, Alexia called the police. It was Alexia who took that first brave step towards breaking the cycle of abuse by calling the police that day.

Sandra got a temporary restraining order and was referred to Partners for Women and Justice. One of our staff attorneys represented her with the help of a bi-lingual paralegal. At this point Sandra was convinced that William would kill her, but she found the strength to move forward with the case for the sake of Alexia. Partners’ attorney and paralegal provided Sandra with support every step of the legal process and made sure that she understood what was happening throughout the proceedings. Sandra’s mother also supported her with powerful testimony. Ultimately, Sandra courageously stood up for herself and her daughter and told her story to the judge.

After a full trial Sandra was granted a final restraining order and custody of Alexia. William is allowed visitation that must be supervised until a full risk assessment is completed. Today Sandra, her mother, and Alexia are safe in their own apartment and looking forward to a secure future free from violence.

CHILDREN WERE INVOLVED OR PRESENT DURING 29% OF ALL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES OCCURRING IN 2014.2

1 All names are changed to protect the privacy of our client and her child.
Legal Services Delivered

364 Women Served

70% Restraining Orders
26% Child Support, Custody, Visitation, Relocation
4% Clinics, Appeals, Other

RESULTS

501 Matters
86% Favorable Outcomes
$4,266 Annual Child Support Award per Child

492 Children Served
After several months of planning, Partners launched a pilot legal clinic in October in collaboration with Gibbons and AT&T’s Legal Department. Trained by Partners on substantive law and procedure, the Gibbons and AT&T attorneys provide representation in court to victims and survivors of domestic violence dealing with child support, visitation and custody.

The clinics have been a great success, and they will continue. Jerusha (name changed to protect her identity) was one of the first clients to participate in the clinic. She had left the abusive father of her child and was working, taking care of her baby and trying to make ends meet. The child support he paid, in Jerusha’s words, “wouldn’t even cover the cost of a box of diapers.” When the abuser filed a motion to increase visitation, Jerusha came to Partners for help. The Gibbons and AT&T attorneys used his motion as an opportunity to file for an increase in child support, and with their help Jerusha was able to secure a fair award of child support and safe visitation for the baby.

The clinics take place every other month at Gibbons’ offices in Newark. In advance of the clinic, Partners completes a comprehensive intake with each client and also secures relevant documents. On the day of the clinic, a Gibbons attorney and an AT&T attorney are paired as a team and assigned to a client. Partners’ comprehensive intake process enables the attorneys to hit the ground running and make the most of their initial meeting with a client. With the guidance of Partners’ staff (an attorney and a bi-lingual paralegal) and with the resources of Gibbons to support them, the Gibbons/AT&T team works directly with the client, collaborating and sharing various perspectives in order to develop an optimum case strategy. After the first meeting on-site at Gibbons, the attorneys prepare whatever filings are necessary and then proceed to represent clients in court.

Our clients tell us that the Gibbons and AT&T attorneys give them a voice – a chance to be heard as they face their abusers in court. And seeing first hand what a difference they make, the volunteer attorneys find the work extremely satisfying.

The clinics are made possible by the tireless dedication of the volunteer attorneys and the commitment and support of Mary Frances Palisano, Esq. (Director and Pro Bono Coordinator, Gibbons, PC), Susan E. McGahan, Esq. and Stephen J. Pentlicki, Esq. (Executive Directors - Senior Counsel and Co-chairs, AT&T Northeast Region Pro Bono Committee).
The Power of Pro Bono Attorney Representation

A Volunteer Attorney’s First Case

Lowenstein Sandler attorney Jamie Gottlieb Furia took her first Partners’ case in 2013, motivated by a desire to volunteer her legal skills to help people who cannot afford to pay an attorney. She was also inspired by Michael T. G. Long, a Lowenstein Sandler partner and himself a pro bono attorney now in charge of Partners’ program at the firm.

Armed with the facts and the evidence prepared by a Partners’ paralegal and the full power of Lowenstein Sandler’s legal resources behind her, Jamie jumped in with both feet to prepare Marsha’s (name changed to protect her identity) case for court. Knowing how critical the police report was, Jamie went to the police precinct to talk with the arresting officer. He agreed to testify, even if it meant going to court during his vacation. In addition to developing the case strategy, Jamie worked hard to build rapport with her client; Marsha had suffered serious physical and emotional abuse and needed to be ready to re-tell her story of abuse in front of a judge, her abuser and everyone else in the courtroom. With Jamie at her side and her case well-presented, the client was able to summon the courage to face her abuser and tell her story. Marsha secured a final restraining order against him.

Of her first experience representing a Partners client Jamie says, “Partners was amazing - from the training, to the preparation of the documents, and to the wonderful support of Michele Lefkowitz, Director of Legal Programs; she was available anytime of the day or week to answer questions and provide insights for legal strategy. Partners gave me the confidence to properly represent Marsha. I am grateful for organizations like Partners, without whom victims of domestic violence might be left standing on their own to navigate the tricky legal system.”

Jamie is one of more than 150 volunteer attorneys who donate their time, talent and resources to represent victims of domestic violence who might not otherwise be represented by counsel. Thanks to the volunteers like Jamie, this year nearly 100 victims of domestic violence were accompanied to court by their own volunteer legal counsel.

Females were victims in 75% of all domestic violence offenses.®
## Financial Highlights

### Fiscal year ending June 30, 2016

#### Revenue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Individuals</td>
<td>$375,919</td>
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<tr>
<td>Government</td>
<td>$169,070</td>
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<tr>
<td>Businesses</td>
<td>$127,576</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foundations</td>
<td>$106,459</td>
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<tr>
<td>United Way</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest Earned</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Operating Revenue</strong></td>
<td><strong>$793,574</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Donated Legal Services - Program $945,090

Donated Legal Services - Other $9,497

**Total Revenue** $1,748,161

#### Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program Services</td>
<td>$506,713</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising/Communications</td>
<td>$174,153</td>
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<tr>
<td>Management/General</td>
<td>$73,200</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Operating Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$754,066</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Donated Legal Services - Program $945,090

Donated Legal Services - Other $9,497

Event Expenses $56,025

**Total Expenses** $1,764,678

#### Assets

**Total Net Assets** $651,444
$25,000+
Anonymous (2)
The IOLTA Fund of the Bar of New Jersey
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Merck Company Foundation
New Jersey Division of Criminal Justice
Office of Victim Witness Advocacy
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Silver Family Foundation
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There were 62,055 domestic violence offenses reported by New Jersey police in 2014.
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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.

Thank you for your support

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The most frequent day of domestic violence occurrences is Sunday.
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Our 4th annual BREAK THE CYCLE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE event attracted nearly 100 riders on October 6 and 7, 2015. Thanks to the introduction of peer-to-peer fundraising we raised nearly $30,000.

Break the Cycle is the brainchild of our Junior Advisory Board (JAB). Under the leadership of JAB’s chair, Allison Kasirer, the first cycling event took place four years ago and raised $5,000 in one cycling studio in New York City; this year the event grew to three studios in New York, Short Hills and Montclair.

Partners wishes to thank our sponsors: Esthetica Salon, J&A Auto Parts, Montclair Physical Therapy, Partners for Health Foundation, Pravata Enterprises LLC, and Whole Foods Market and the riders who each raised $200+

RIDERS RAISED $200+

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