

SOURCE

FRAMINGHAM

Voices Against Violence Receives \$10,000 Grant from Foundation for MetroWest

Posted January 14, 2020



FRAMINGHAM – Voices Against Violence, the domestic violence and rape crisis program of the South Middlesex Opportunity Council (SMOC), recently received a \$10,000 grant from the Foundation for MetroWest as part of its 2019 Competitive Grant Program.

This grant will fund direct services to victims who are experiencing sexual and domestic violence in the MetroWest.

Voices Against Violence provides survivor-centered, trauma-informed services to victims of sexual and domestic violence. Program Advocates work to ensure a victim's safety, help them create stable home environments, and develop personal and economic self-sufficiency on their journey to independence.

This grant also makes it possible for Voices to place Program Advocates in local courthouses, shelters, and cultural organizations so victims can receive services in a place that is safe and convenient. All of the services at Voices Against Violence are free and confidential.

Every 15 seconds someone experiences relationship violence. One in three women and one in seven men experience domestic abuse in their lifetime.

Thirty-five percent of ER visits by women are the result of domestic abuse.

In 2019, Voices Against Violence saw a 20 percent increase in clients and a 59 percent increase in support line calls.

The Voices Against Violence 24/7 support line number is 508-626-8686.

The Program Advocates at Voices provide critical, life-saving services to over 3,000 people in the MetroWest face-to-face or on our support line," said Patricia Hohl, Director at Voices Against Violence. "We simply could not meet this demand without the support of the Foundation for MetroWest. With the Foundation's support, we are able to operate without having to institute a wait list and there's nothing more heartbreaking than having to tell a victim we can't help."

Established in 1995, the Foundation for MetroWest is the only community foundation serving the 33 cities and towns in the region. They promote philanthropy in the region, help donors maximize the impact of their local giving, serve as a resource for local nonprofits and enhance the quality of life for all our residents. Since inception, the Foundation has granted \$19 million to charitable organizations and currently stewards more than \$25 million in charitable assets for current needs and future impact.

"We are thrilled to support the work of Voices Against Violence with a grant," said Caroline Murphy, Director of Programs at Foundation for MetroWest. "They are a critical lifeline to victims and survivors of sexual and domestic violence right in our backyard and we hope this funding allows them to help even more of our neighbors in the coming year."