



ANNUAL REPORT

www.FamilyViolenceProject.org

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DEDICATION:

This year Family Violence Project (FVP) would like to dedicate the Annual Report to David White! A special thank you goes to him for his years of zeal and commitment to this work! David has termed out of board service, but his hard work and dedication as President will be felt for years to come. David joined the board on September 1, 2011, and became President in 2016.

David has been involved with Family Violence Project for over 20 years. Originally, he was introduced to FVP through his work at the Office of Child and Family Services (OFCS) where he was based in the same office as the FVP Domestic Violence /Child Protective Services liaison advocate. Their ongoing communication exposed David to FVP's purpose and deepened the OCFC's connection with our agency. Later, a statewide, collaborative training initiative involving partners in domestic violence advocacy allowed David to become one of the founding trainers. The initiative remained active for four or five years. After the funding ended, David continued to offer the training to daycare centers and mental health providers. This continued partnership fostered a strong relationship between the department and FVP. When the chance arose for him to join the board, he jumped at the opportunity!

One of David's favorite memories with the agency, pre-pandemic, is the 'Walk a Mile in Her Shoes' event. He loved seeing law enforcement, social workers, and others parading through the streets of Skowhegan in heels. David enjoyed the powerful message of men, playing a more active role in advocating for domestic abuse protections. He stated that his proudest accomplishment on the board was the maintenance of FVP services. The board was able to ensure, even through turbulent times, that benefits for staff and clients stayed consistent. There were times in which grant funding sources had ended or changed, yet the board was able to help support and stabilize the agency through these challenges.

These fond memories and accomplishments helped to lead the agency's board to where it is today.

David's hope for the board over the next 5 years, would be for the agency to no longer need to exist because domestic abuse no longer exists. Though he is unsure of what the conversation will look like in a month let alone 5 years, David hopes that folks will continue to show empathy and compassion to everyone impacted by domestic abuse. A priority area David would like to see expand within the agency is in the education department. Education will help future bystanders understand the signs of DV and the best ways to support those in that situation. Prevention education in schools and the public will help stop the situation before needing responsive services. David continues to volunteer for the organization and is very proud of his experience on the board.

David shared the following words about his time on the board, "It's one thing to have the ability to see the world as it is, and dream of a world as it should be. It is quite another thing to be able to plan, build, and work on the bridge between those two things. Cause that's what domestic violence work is. We are walking on the bridge as we are building it and that's a special kind of talent and that's not one, I would claim for myself, but it's one I would claim for the project."

We appreciate everything that David White has done and will continue to do for the agency and we are grateful for his leadership during his time on the board!



DIRECTOR'S WORD

FAMILY VIOLENCE PROJECT

It is with great enthusiasm that I share the Family Violence Project's 2020 annual report. It has been an extraordinary year! It has been full of confusion, uncertainty, and fear. However, it has also been a year of reflection, inspiration, and transformation. The pandemic disrupted our world, yet our work continued. Family Violence Project remained constant in providing services through thoughtful, consistent, and creative ways to ensure services continued to be offered safely to Kennebec and Somerset residents. Our COVID-19 responses became a new way of life. The agency supported staff as they set up home offices to decrease people at administrative and outreach offices. We waited as ongoing and changing recommendations and protocols were put into place. We worried about the safety of victims/survivors as the country moved into isolation. How must we move forward in a way that maintains safety from the virus and at the same time be sure we are providing safe options for victims of domestic abuse? We endured a new language of reality.

As 2020 ends and 2021 begins with healing, hope, and opportunity we celebrate! We recognize we have learned things, that may impact our work and services for a long time moving forward. We were able to serve the same number of people while remaining connected to our community using innovative approaches. We learned new skills and honed old ones. We evaluated, assessed, and adjusted as needed. All staff put the safety of survivors first and worked hard to ensure that our services were as available and consistent as safely possible.

During this same time, social injustice and racial inequality became extremely evident with the murder of George Floyd and others. The heightened unrest throughout the country complicated by the virus provided the backdrop for a true reckoning of injustice and oppression. The political climate was divisive and unstable. Everything seemed a question, what will this all mean for us as a country, as a people! Family Violence Project has always strived to be a beacon for change, not only in the domestic violence movement but for social justice. FVP's vision declares that we will work towards advancing a world of nonviolence and equality. This commitment requires honest conversations internally, with staff, board, and community partners. In the coming year, we will strive to further our education and understanding of racism, oppression, and the necessary actions vital for significant change. We have begun a deep and thoughtful look at the steps we should take to be engaged in this vital aspect of our work.

We look to the future in a new sacred way, moving past and on. What we have learned during this time will be etched in the soul of this agency and movement forever. The upcoming year will include a new appreciation for each other and the culture of violence we continue to strive to end. This year we plan to take a step back to examine our community and services. In this time of reflection, I give you my sincere gratitude and appreciation for the determination of very dedicated staff and community, who made what seemed like the impossible become possible. We know by doing the work, that change is possible. Change is always possible!

-Pamela Morin

FY 2020 MANAGEMENT TEAM

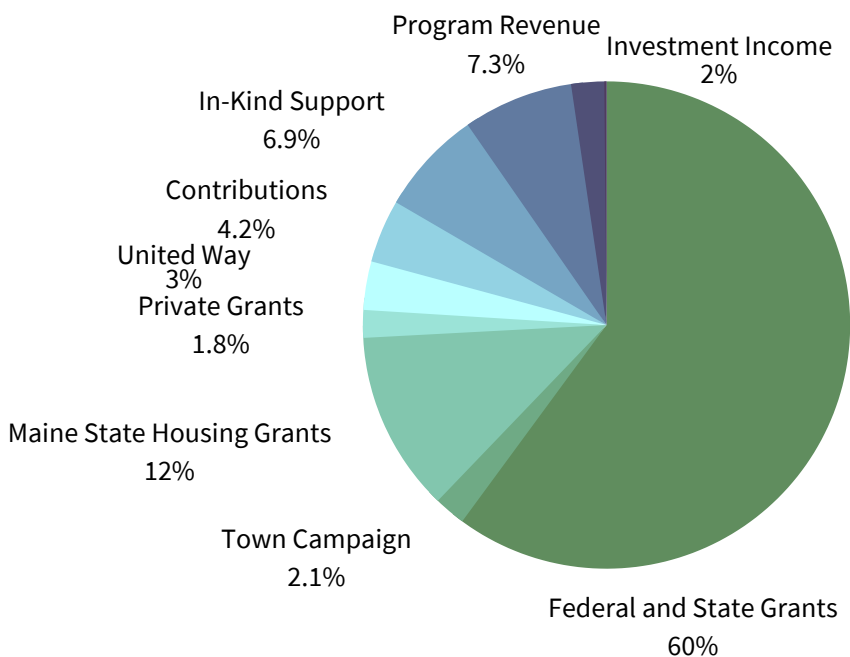
Pam Morin.....	Executive Director
Heidi Hall.....	Administrative & Finance Director
Melanie Beaulieu.....	Shelter & Housing Programs Director
Jaime Mooney.....	Advocacy Director
Jon Heath.....	Prevention & Intervention Programs Director
Shawna Lund.....	Outreach Programs Director
Nathan MacDonald.....	Development & Community Engagement Director
Melody Fitch.....	Education Director

THE NUMBERS

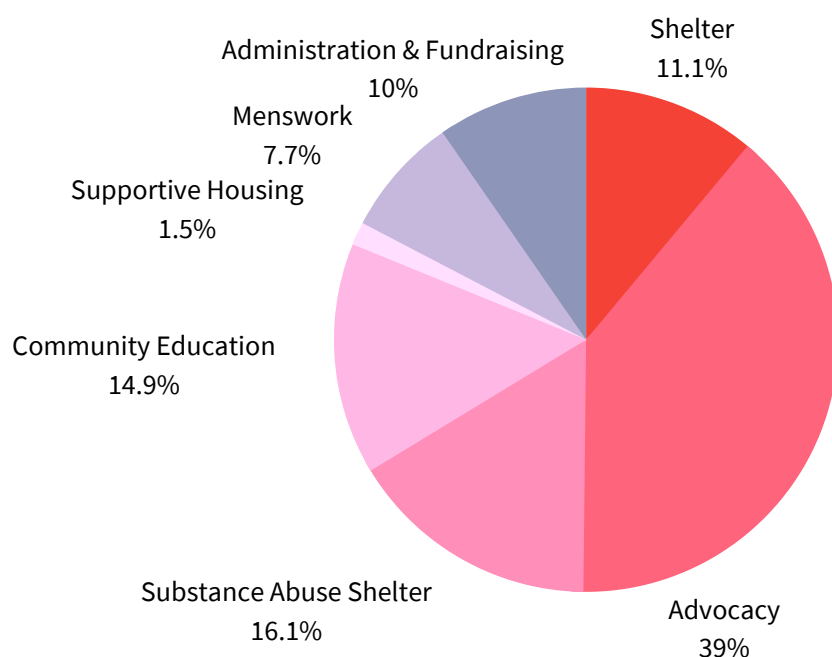
FAMILY VIOLENCE PROJECT

Family Violence Project's Revenue and Expenses for FY Ending September 30, 2020

FY 20 Revenue: \$2,228,750



FY 20 Expenses: \$1,946,534



AGENCY SERVICE NUMBERS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020

TOTAL NUMBER OF UNDUPLICATED
PERSONS SERVED:

1,802

NUMBER OF PRESENTATIONS IN
SCHOOLS:

96

NUMBER OF STUDENTS AT SCHOOL-
BASED PRESENTATIONS:

1,795

NUMBER OF PRESENTATIONS IN THE
COMMUNITY:

52

NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS:

30

NUMBER OF VOLUNTEER HOURS:

6,394

PERSONS RECEIVING COURT
ADVOCACY:

668

PERSONS PARTICIPATING IN
SUPPORT GROUPS:

84

PERSONS ACCESSING EMERGENCY
SHELTER:

84

NUMBER OF CALLS TO THE
HELPLINE/OFFICES:

3,828

PROGRAMS

REPORTS AND UPDATES FROM FY 2020

SHELTER & HOUSING:

Family Violence Project shelter staff had an incredible 2019-2020. What ended up being a monumental year for the world, in the midst of the Coronavirus pandemic, has also been monumental in our shelters and supportive housing. Our shelter advocates and housing navigator have had to learn new strategies, especially at the beginning of the pandemic, to meet our families in very different ways. These strategies included Zoom meetings, telephone contact and face-to-face meetings. First, in outside settings like our porches and driveways, then inside shelter with very limited face-to-face contact and now, we are settling into more face-to-face contact with no limited hours. The shelter staff was able to create and maintain connections with our residents, they were able to advocate appropriately, to provide all their basic needs and safety plan as well as they had prior to the pandemic. The partnership we had with the CDC to ensure safety for staff and residents made it possible for staff to work inside shelter after only a few short months. Local CDC representatives met with us several times to safety plan and were available any time we called with best practice questions. This made the transition from working from home to on-site less stressful and very manageable. The best practices we have put into place have also ensured that we have had no cases of Covid-19 inside our shelter and supportive housing walls. This has been very important to us. The work that these advocates did, along with a partnership with local testing sites and local motels, enabled Family Violence Project to not close the doors to shelter during the pandemic, and made it possible for families fleeing domestic violence to continue to have a safe haven and excellent support when they needed it most.



DEVELOPMENT & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

The development department heavily focused this year on strengthening community ties and expanding funding opportunities. Partnerships with local businesses helped expand Family Violence Project's donor list and support survivors by furthering awareness. Early in the year, efforts focused heavily on year-end reporting and securing a new outreach office space in Waterville. When the Covid-19 pandemic hit, securing funds from community resources became the top priority to ensure FVP services could adapt and sustain. Continuing to apply for relief funds and extreme community support proved fruitful to ensure there was no dramatic impact on services this fiscal year. In the latter part of the year, grant opportunities were sought out and secured for agency expansion and enhanced programming. This year's Domestic Violence Awareness month awareness campaign move to digital surprised all with higher engagement than historically. Continued expansion within the community and maintenance of accessibility will be the focus to round out the calendar year. Overall, 2020 was a successful first taste of further development to come.



A special thank you to all of our donors, community partners, and followers. It is through the help and generosity of people like you that we are able to continue our work. Your compassionate support truly makes a difference!

PREVENTION & INTERVENTION

Menswork provided 10 weekly classes during this fiscal year and because of the dedication of our District Attorney, Menswork was one of few Maine CBIP providers who kept receiving referrals in 2020, when courts faced closure brought on by the pandemic. Due to the Pandemic, all Maine CBIP's took a hiatus beginning March 16, 2020, through April 21, 2020, and when videoconference waivers were not obtainable from MDOC, Menswork began a modified CBIP service to participants via weekly 1:1 phone calls until September 16th, 2020 when we resumed in-person classes in Kennebec and Somerset Counties. Menswork currently has 4 part-time staff and 1 full-time staff who provided incredibly dedicated and difficult intervention work through a most challenging year and are deserving of much gratitude. Menswork has also applied for a STOP Grant for 2021 to build collaboration with Maine CBIP providers to reach underserved populations in Maine. When Covid-19 stopped CBIP in Maine and beyond, Jon Heath, Violence Intervention Director at Family Violence Project, was able to share his videoconference experience, training others in videoconference BIP alongside Melissa Scaia, Director of International Training for Global Rights for Women. Jon and Melissa Scaia then co-authored a "DRAFT Adaptation of the European Network Guidelines for Working Responsibly with Perpetrators of Domestic Violence During the COVID-19 Pandemic for Consideration by the United States Perpetrator Programs"- April 2020. In 2020, Jon joined other experts in the field in several International trainings which include the following:

Working with Perpetrators during the COVID-19 Crisis: Lessons from Europe: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_3qVFWHXoUM&feature=youtu.be

Working with Perpetrators during COVID-19: U.S. Guidelines: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PJYUT5JxsNI&feature=youtu.be>

How to Engage with Perpetrators of DV Individually and in a Video Conference Group during COVID-19: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FWTs93tQblg&feature=youtu.be>

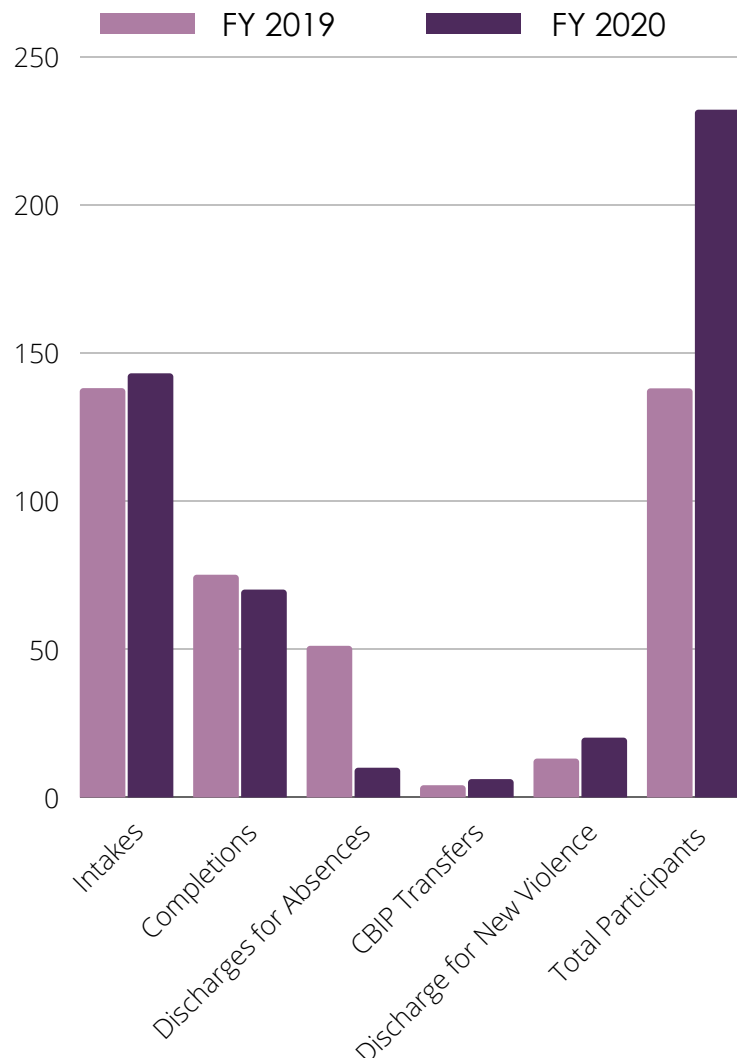
Utilization of Video Conference Software for Men's BIPs: Experience", Research to date and COVID-19 Considerations:

<https://www.bwjp.org/resource-center/resource-results/utilization-of-video-conference-software-for-mens-bips-recording.html>

Co-Authored the "DRAFT Adaptation of the European Network Guidelines for Working Responsibly with Perpetrators of Domestic Violence During the COVID-19 Pandemic for Consideration by the United States Perpetrator Programs"- April 2020

<https://globalrightsforwomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/US-Considerations-for-Working-with-Perpetrators-during-COVID-19.pdf>

MENSWORK YEAR TO YEAR COMPARISON





18.2% of all DV assaults in Maine occurred in Kennebec and Somerset Counties.

**Reported by the 2019 Crime in Maine Report*

OUTREACH PROGRAMS

Although this year may look different and had its challenges, advocates have met many needs of survivors. They have connected via phone, email, zoom, text, some face-to-face meetings to provide safety planning, legal advocacy, local resources, basic necessities, toiletries, monies for down payments on apartments, assistance with fuel, as well as phone cards. Advocates have also been available to all 3 courts to provide socially distanced face-to-face advocacy for Protection From Abuse orders.

We have continued our work with Pine Tree Legal Assistance and Volunteer Lawyer Project. These have been a great collaboration and support for survivors. A positive through the pandemic is that we have been able to streamline the referral process for a faster legal response time. We also have continued to work with our community partners to best meet survivor needs.

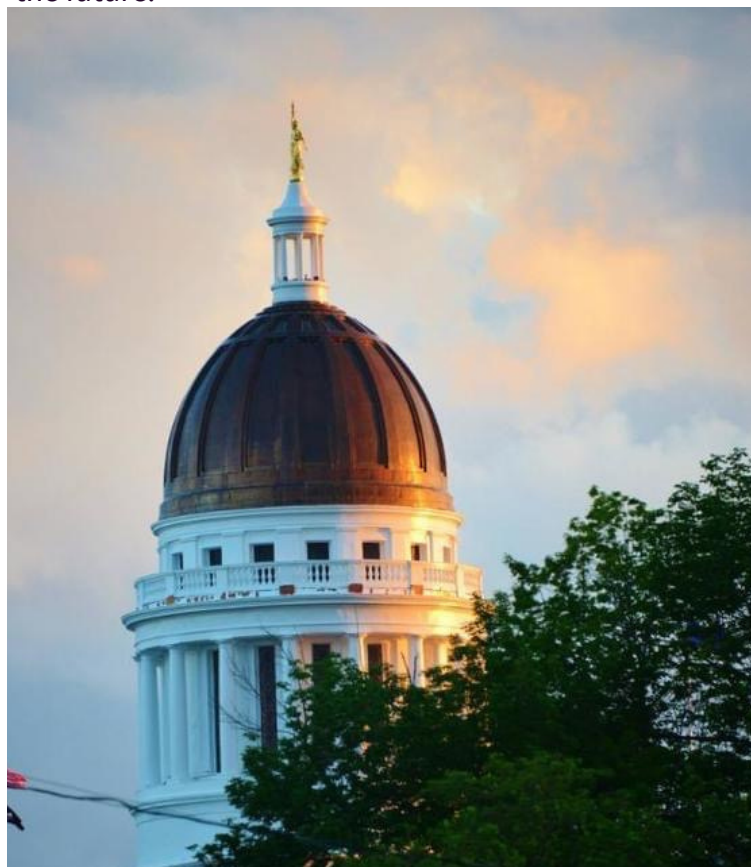
COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Providing education and building awareness of domestic abuse in the communities of Kennebec and Somerset counties is a cornerstone of the FVP mission, most often within the context of collaborative efforts meant to strengthen individuals, families, and community-based systems of support. The FVP community educator worked with many local agencies providing training to support staff and discussing the dynamics of abuse, resources; and strengthening our collaborative community response to violence through participation in domestic violence task force groups.

From October 1, 2019-September 30, 2020, the community educator delivered presentations for 150 people in Kennebec and Somerset counties. Ranging from presentations on Domestic Violence Foundations to specific training content designed to build the skills and enhance knowledge for professionals in medical, behavioral health, or education fields; the educator builds the capacity of helping professionals to recognize and appropriately respond to domestic abuse.

The Comprehensive Advocacy, Intervention, Response, and Ethics Training (CAIRET), mandatory for all new domestic violence staff and volunteers, was delivered twice using an online platform. Each training encompasses 15 modules, delivered over 45 hours. The curriculum was adapted for online delivery after the covid pandemic. We partnered with Maine Humanities Council to offer a reading group, with Waterville Creates for “Art Kits for All,” and communicated with the community through local radio and television outlets. The educator co-facilitates Respect Me, the Violence Intervention Program for women, offered through Kennebec Behavioral Health; classes are held in Skowhegan, Waterville, and Augusta. We used social media as a tool to raise awareness of how COVID was affecting survivors and encouraged folks to reach out to each other and check-in as well as share information about services available for those experiencing isolation.

This unpredictable year has helped us stretch our comfort zones and challenged us to reach folks in different ways, which will help us continue to adapt in the future.



Kennebec and Somerset counties only account for 12.9% of Maine's population.

**Reported by the 2019 Census Bureau QuickFacts*



YOUTH PROGRAMS

From October 2019-March 2020, FVP prevention educators reached close to 1000 students, across 35 schools in Kennebec and Somerset counties, through 70 classroom events. Participants ranged from Pre-K to 12th grade, including at least one Head Start program and alternative education programs for youth. Each of these offerings was co-coordinated with a teacher, guidance counselor, or other supportive staff person within the educational milieu, ensuring continuity of connection and resources beyond the presentation. In Kennebec County, our efforts are primarily supported through generous funding made possible by United Way of Kennebec Valley. Since March, despite the challenges posed by closing schools, quarantines, and virtual learning, our educator has connected with area schools through a virtual platform, reaching both students attending school, and those who are learning from home, providing them with valuable resources and information about how to reach us during this unpredictable time. The FVP prevention educator has contributed her expert knowledge and advocacy experience in a unique partnership with the Maine Department of Education.

Our educator created a series of pre-recorded educational classes and Doodly videos for all ages and published them on YouTube.

Although prevention education looks much different than it has in the past, the messaging and dedication remain the same: We are here for you, and there is never a bad time to call. Reach out if you or someone you know would like more information about virtual education opportunities. Our school-based educator can be reached by email: nprovost@familyviolenceproject.org.

ADVOCACY PROGRAM

This past fiscal year began as usual and ended with the Covid 19 pandemic in full swing. Like many agencies, we were able to adapt and continue providing services thanks to the commitment of our staff and volunteers. Volunteer support remained strong throughout the fiscal year with 102 volunteers donating more than 6,394 hours of their time to assist with FVP's mission; 30 of those volunteers were trained advocates who mostly concentrated their efforts into the 24-hour helpline for those affected by domestic violence. In their role as helpline advocates, these trained community members assisted callers by providing education, information, support and safety planning services. Some of these volunteers completed their training during this fiscal year. Agency staff trained 9 community members and 7 staff in CAIRET (Core Advocacy, Intervention, Response and Ethics Training for New Advocates) during this time period. This training is 45 hours long for volunteers and 50 hours long for staff and intern students. The numbers of people trained were lower than expected due to the pandemic as we were not able to move forward with one scheduled training due to the closures in March of 2020. The time that would have been spent on that additional offering of the training was instead spent on transitioning the training from a physical classroom to a virtual one. We received a lot of positive feedback from participants on the virtual format and plan to continue occasional offerings of this format in the future even once physical classroom trainings are again being offered.

FY 2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

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VICE-PRESIDENT:

Maeghan Maloney

TREASURER:

Rick Barry

SECRETARY:

Michael Pike

MEMBERS:

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Karen Boston

Eric Bottaro

Cathy Bourque

Tiffany Comis

Emily Fortin

Raymond Moinester

Donna Russell

Charlotte M. Warren

Family Violence Project is supported through funding from US Office on Violence Against Women, Maine DHHS, United Ways of Kennebec and Mid-Maine, Maine State Housing Authority, municipalities, private grants, special fundraising events, and donations.

Family Violence Project was incorporated in 1978 as an independent, nonprofit organization. With offices in Augusta, Waterville, and Skowhegan, the Project serves the communities of Kennebec and Somerset Counties, providing a 24-hour helpline, emergency shelter, individual and court advocacy, support groups, community and school-based education, and a certified batterer intervention program.

Family Violence Project proudly serves anyone regardless of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, religion, age, ancestry or national origin, gender identity or expression, pregnancy, or any other characteristic protected by law.



Connect With Us!

24/7 Helpline: 1.877.890.7788

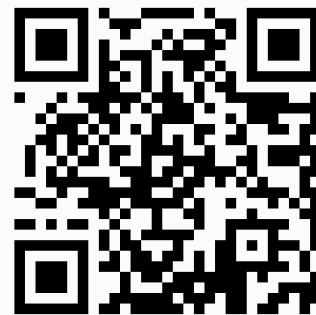
www.FamilyViolenceProject.org

Augusta Administrative Office: 207-623-8637

Waterville Outreach Office: 207-877-0835

Skowhegan Outreach Office: 207-474-8860

Menswork Program: 207-620-8494



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