



Dear Friends:

Thank you.

It is because of you—our donors, volunteers, and other friends who share our vision for a world without sexual violence—that Rape Victim Advocates (RVA) is able to do all that we do in behalf of survivors.

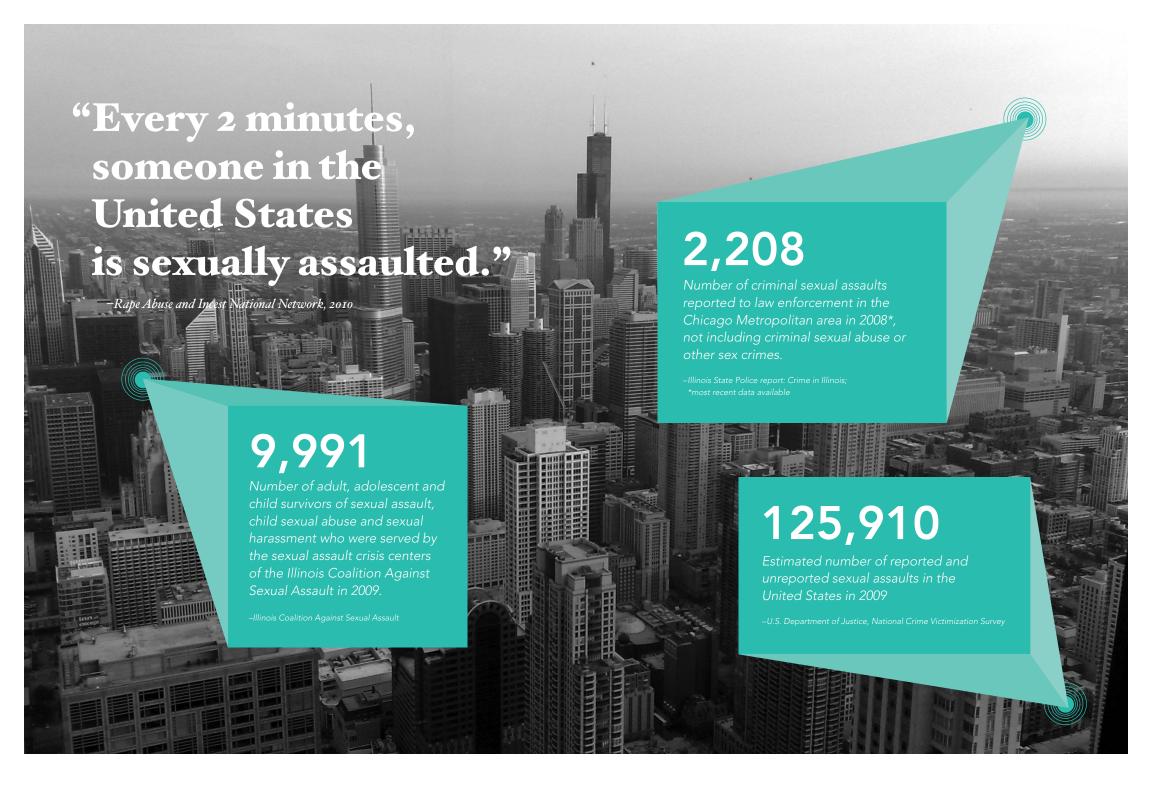
In the pages that follow, we share the everyday stories about the powerful impact our programs and services have had in Fiscal Year 2010 (July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010). While our hallmark continues to be the 24-hour crisis counseling we provide in 11 hospitals throughout the city, in 2010 we worked especially hard to boost our institutional advocacy and expand the reach of our education and training programs. We re-invested in existing partnerships, such as with the Austin community on the city's West Side; and we enlisted new partners in the arts, like the world-renowned Lookingglass Theatre Company in downtown Chicago. With these and other partners, we were able to reach new audiences in new ways, helping to build communities and institutions that are more compassionate toward survivors and are empowered to confront sexual violence.

Our services are needed now more than ever. Even as the Chicago Police Department reported a decrease in criminal sexual assaults in the past year, demand for RVA's services increased by 15 percent. Looking forward, RVA will continue to serve survivors and educate the public, and our challenge is to find new ways to lead the fight against sexual violence and ensure our message will be heard: survivors must be treated with dignity and compassion, by the legal system, medical institutions and society as a whole. RVA is committed to providing services to survivors and their families free of charge, and grateful for the support and partnership from friends like you that has allowed us to do just that.

In the safe and just world that we seek to create, there would be no need for organizations like RVA. Until then, we are here—every step of the way.

Sharmili Majmudar

Executive Director

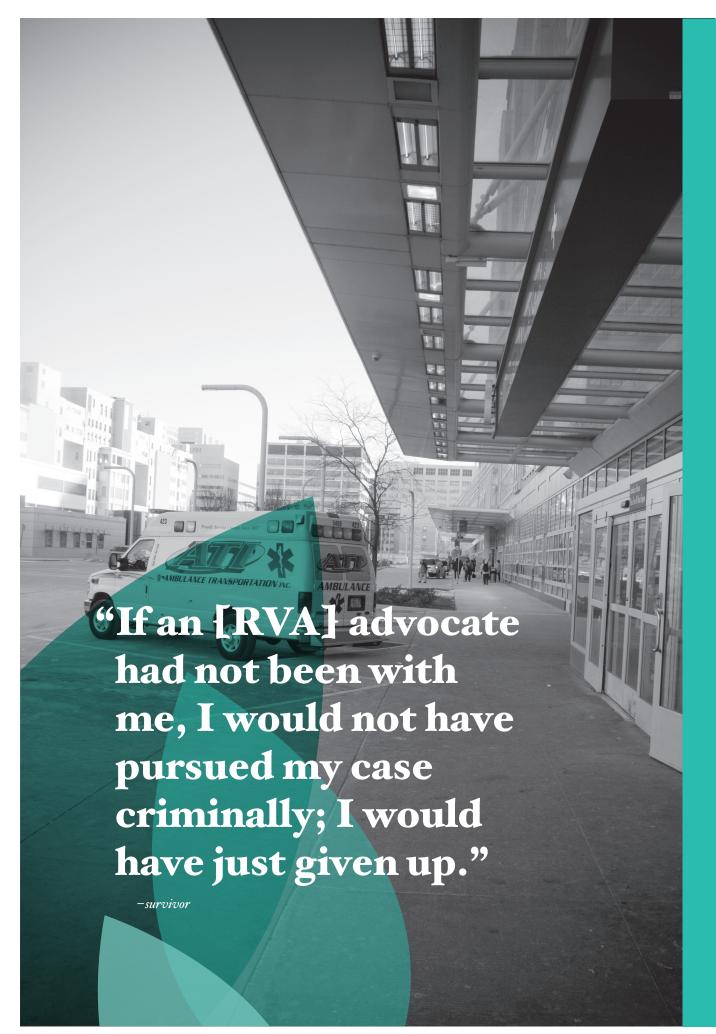


Mission

Rape Victim Advocates (RVA) is an independent, not-for-profit organization dedicated to the healing and empowerment of sexual assault survivors through non-judgmental crisis intervention counseling, individual and group counseling, and medical and legal advocacy in the greater Chicago metropolitan area. RVA provides public education and institutional advocacy in order to improve the treatment of sexual assault survivors and to effect positive change in policies and public attitudes toward sexual assault.

History

Rape Victim Advocates was founded by obstetrician/gynecologist Natalie Stephens and a group of Northwestern University medical and nursing students who saw a profound need to ensure victims of sexual assault received proper medical treatment, emotional support, and resources to aid in their recovery and healing. Partnering with just one hospital in 1975 to provide emergency room crisis counseling, today RVA works round-the-clock with 11 Chicago-area hospitals and has three offices throughout the city. RVA's comprehensive services now include medical and legal advocacy, counseling and support for families, professional training for medical and law enforcement staff, and public education for youth and communities.



How Does Rape Victim Advocates Help?

Rape Victim Advocates crisis counselors are on-call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, providing crisis counseling to victims of sexual assault at 11 hospitals throughout Chicago. But we don't stop there. Although it is estimated that as many as two-thirds of sexual assaults go unreported to law enforcement, these crimes touch many lives regardless of age, gender identity, race, religion or sexual orientation, and the effects can last a lifetime. Regardless of when and where a survivor's journey begins—in the ER just after an assault or through a phone call for help to make sense of something that happened 20 years ago—RVA is here every step of the way.

Advocacy

RVA's advocacy is at the heart of all we do, extending from the individual to families, communities, and institutions. An individual's journey to becoming a survivor of sexual assault often begins in the emergency room, but the path can be bumpy or even obliterated without the proper support. Medical and law enforcement staff are there to treat the physical wounds and ailments resulting from the assault and take action to resolve the crime, respectively. But this leaves too many other crucial needs unmet: clothes to replace the soiled and torn garments that are taken as criminal evidence, the absence of judgment in hearing a survivor's story the first time it is ever spoken, and knowledge and expertise to convey an understanding of what has just happened and what will happen next—from the assault that brought them there to the assorted contents of the rape kit splayed before them: speculum, clamps, swabs, combs, paper bags.

RVA supports each victim through our individual advocacy, and all victims through our institutional advocacy.

RVA's work with other organizations has helped to create systemic change related to sexual assault treatment and prevention in and around Chicago. For example, our outreach efforts to Chicago-area pharmacy chains and health centers have made it easier for survivors to obtain free post-exposure prophylactic medications (PEP meds) for exposure to HIV. Further, in Fiscal Year 2010 RVA trained 534 nurses and doctors and 358 police officers and Assistant State's Attorneys. The professionals who participate in these comprehensive trainings are better able to support and interact with survivors, thereby making them less vulnerable to further trauma by the systems that serve them.

Counseling

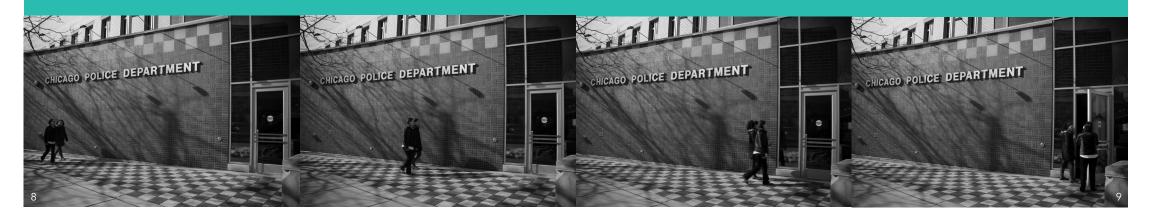
The trauma of being sexually assaulted goes far beyond the event itself, after a victim has survived the emergency room, the police station, or perhaps the courtroom, sometimes not entering the realm of consciousness until after many years have passed. People who have been the direct target of sexual crimes are 4 to 26 times more likely than those who have not to face a host of other problems, including depression, drug and alcohol abuse, and suicide. RVA helps at this juncture by providing free and confidential individual counseling, couples/family counseling and support groups to survivors of sexual assault, childhood sexual abuse, and incest.

Education and Training

Far too many myths about what sexual violence is, and why and to whom it occurs, pervade American popular culture. Through our violence prevention programs, RVA works with Chicago Public Schools, community groups, social service organizations, faith communities, universities, and student alliances to spread knowledge about sexual violence and promote individual and community empowerment. Our community training and education programs teach parents, teachers and professionals such as social workers and clergy to recognize myths and misconceptions about sexual violence and to begin the broader conversations about it. In addition, RVA has partnered with Loyola University-Chicago, University of Illinois-Chicago, Northwestern University, and Dominican University to work with each on developing and implementing a comprehensive campus response to sexual violence. RVA imagines a world without sexual violence, so we work tirelessly to educate the public about how it affects individuals, families, and whole communities and how we can all help prevent it.

"I now realize that I'm not the only one, and I feel better."

-survivor



Illinois State Police Division of Forensic Services

Catalyzing a Cultural Shift

PROCEDURE CHECKLIST FOR SEXUAL ASSAULT EVIDENCE COLLECTION KIT

This kit was developed for hospital use to (1) Collect specimens from vIn Fiscal Year 2010 RVA's education and training analysis, and (2) Replace or supplement the medical record in sexual assault cases. Both of these utilities may utilitie

"Victims don't always epartment of Public Imembers and tens of thousands of children and resist attackers; in omissions. Do not have partitionants take away from this experience?

Sometimes they are ion Form

Miscellaneous/Debris Collection from paper on which

confused or seared."

-social worker, participant in RVA professional training

Penile or Vaginal/Cervical Specimens

☐ Step 7 — Anal Specimens
☐ Step 8 — Miscellaneous Stains/Bitemark Evidence

"I learned how to talk to my child about dating violence and what gets in the way of sometimes leaving an abusive relationship."

-parent, participant in RVA public training session

☐ Step 10 — Head Hair Combines
☐ Step 11 — Fingernail Specimens
☐ Step 12 — Blood Specimens on Filter Paper
☐ Step 13 — Photographs of Patient's Physical Injuries (if appropriate)
☐ Step 14 — Receipt of Information by Law Enforcement Agency
☐ Step 15 — Patient Discharge Materials

"I'm allowed to use

my voice when I don't

want to do something

—like sex, even though

it doesn't always feel

that way."

-youth, participant in RVA prevention education session

Together We Stand

Beyond our direct services for survivors and our education and training programs, RVA recognizes the work of others concerned about sexual violence and leverages connections to increase awareness of this far-reaching and serious problem. Together, we can lift our own voices alongside those of survivors, breaking the silence that allows sexual violence to continue to occur.

Taking it to the Stage: Raising Awareness Through the Arts

Trust, written by David Schwimmer and Andy Bellin, is a play about an online sexual predator's encounter with a 14-year-old girl that threatens to unravel the fabric of her family. World-renowned Lookingglass Theatre Company selected RVA as its lead community partner for this production, staged in spring 2010. Lookingglass was acutely aware of the potential for Trust to invoke difficult emotions and reactions from audience members, and proactively sought out organizations with the relevant expertise to anticipate these difficulties and provide support and resources if necessary, and to leverage the event to educate the public about sexual violence. Together, our efforts educated more than 10,000 audience members on internet sexual exploitation and how it can affect youth, families and communities.

RVA also partners with Imagination Theatre, whose professional actors lead school-based plays on "good touch/bad touch" and teen dating. RVA educators and counselors are on-board to answer children's questions in classrooms and one-on-one, and to prepare parents and teachers to engage and support them in age-appropriate ways.

The Body Politic

With Center on Halsted, Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation, the Chicago Foundation for Women, and Chicago Metropolitan Battered Women's Network and Loyola University Chicago, on January 21, 2010 RVA co-sponsored the Cook County Board President Candidate Forum to ask candidates about how they would address violence against women, girls and LGBTQ people in our community. Nearly 250 people attended the forum, pressing the candidates on topics including the bullying of LGBTQ students in schools, funding for domestic and sexual violence services, sex trafficking, and juvenile detention issues.

RVA Signature Events

At its annual **Visionary Awards**, RVA recognizes the work of far-sighted leaders who have made a powerful and lasting impact on the issue of sexual violence in Chicago.

2010 Award Recipients:

- Catharsis Productions
- Jane M. Saks and the Ellen Stone Belic Institute for the Study of Women & Gender in the Media & the Arts
- Scheherazade Tillet with A Long Walk Home

100 people gathered in silent solidarity at downtown Chicago's Daley Plaza for the 2010 **Standing Silent Witness**, RVA's annual commemoration of Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Participants stood silently for a single hour, wearing the stories of sexual assault survivors on t-shirts specially printed for this event.

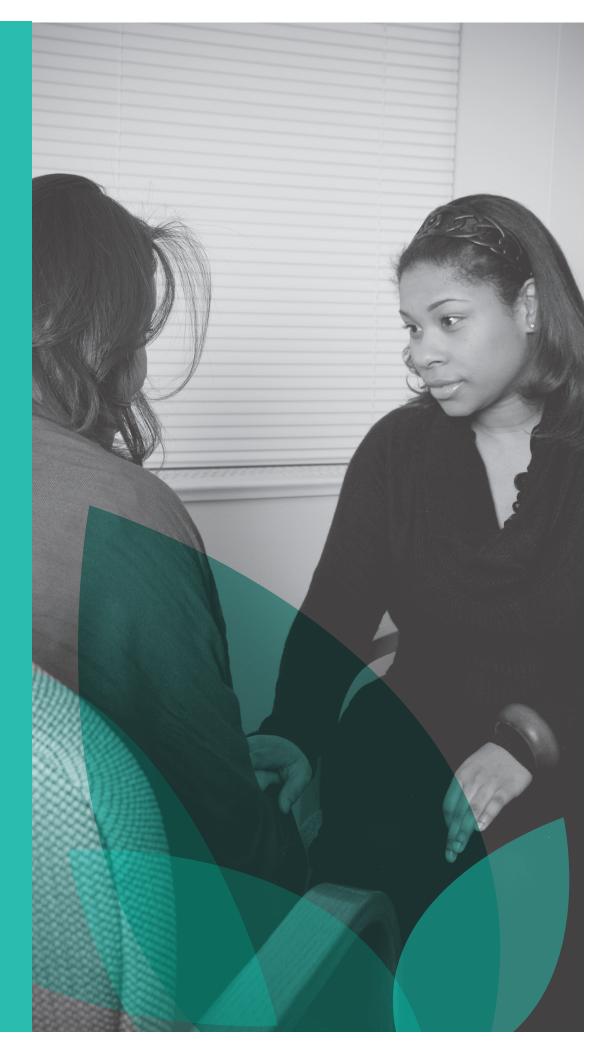


11,433 | Number of hours Rape Victim Advocates' more than 100 volunteers were on-call, collectively, to provide crisis counseling in Chicago hospitals in fiscal year 2010.

RVA Volunteers: A Different Brand of 'Healing Hands'

RVA's more than 100 volunteer advocates are the backbone of our direct services to victims of sexual assault. It is through this intense commitment that RVA is able to provide comprehensive services and see survivors' recovery all the way through. Advocates commit to a full year of service with RVA, being on-call to provide crisis counseling for at least two 12-hour shifts per month after completing our intensive training to become certified Rape Crisis Counselors. They are the people who answer the page from the hospital emergency room—the caring strangers who arrive to hold an unsteady hand, decipher medical and legal terminology and filter through countless paperwork and forms, all to put victims on the pathway to becoming fully healed.

"These women are quite possibly having the worst day of their lives. To share with them, to help them, to do whatever they need—it is a privilege."





What Does it Take to be an RVA Volunteer?

Commitment. Resolve. Compassion.

RVA volunteer advocates are here exclusively to serve the needs of survivors—the sole person on whom survivors can count to protect their rights and ensure consistent, specialized, and humane treatment in the face of such unimaginable trauma. But beyond advocacy, RVA volunteers do so much more—from collecting and sorting donated clothing to facilitating education and training programs to Standing Silent Witness at Daley Plaza each April. RVA volunteers make all the difference in our work to end sexual violence and help every victim become a survivor.

Survivors of sexual assault who were assisted by rape crisis center advocates received more medical and legal services, and were less distressed by their interactions with law enforcement and medical personnel.

-Rape Survivors' Experiences With the Legal and Medical Systems. 2006



Rape Victim Advocates is the only independent full-service rape crisis center in Chicago that is singularly focused on sexual violence

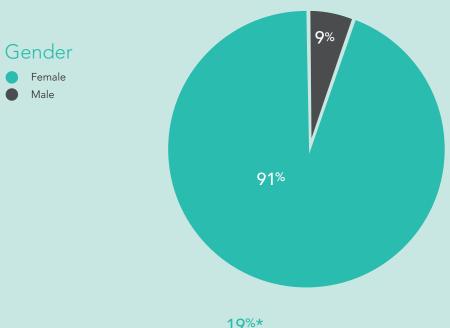
Serving all of Chicago, Rape Victim Advocates reaches across the city's diverse neighborhoods. Through our on-the ground experience helping survivors, RVA is able to connect with the surrounding communities and respond to the specific needs of the people who live there. Specialized services include a full-time children's advocate, off-site counseling and support groups for adolescents and seniors, and staff and materials to serve Spanish-speaking survivors.

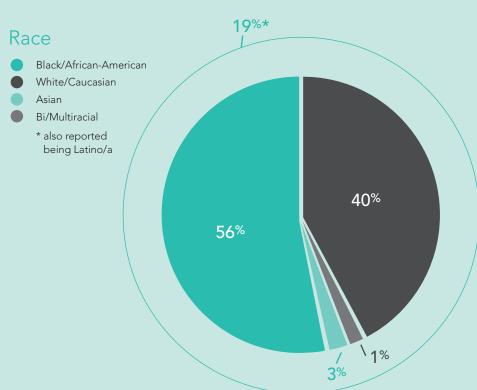
Renewing Our Commitment to Austin

The Austin community on Chicago's West Side has one of the highest reported sexual assault rates in the city. Before RVA located an office there in 1998, there were no sexual assault services offered in Austin. Renewing our commitment to this community, in 2010 RVA moved our Austin office to a new, expanded space to better meet the needs of victims of sexual violence on the far West Side. The new space is equipped to provide the full range of RVA's services to people living in and around Austin. In addition, in April 2010, RVA coordinated our second "Sunday of Sermons" in Austin to break the silence about sexual violence through coordinated sermons that helped dispel myths about rape, discussed the prevalence of sexual assaults, shared available resources, and encouraged involvement.

Who We Serve

RVA provided crisis intervention, advocacy and counseling to 1237 survivors and their significant others in fiscal year 2010, and provided an additional 587 people with information and referral to needed services.

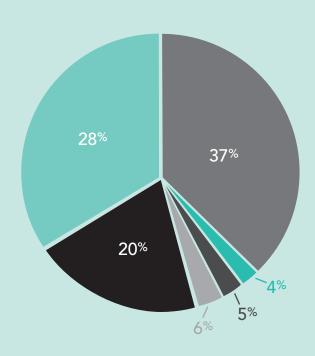




Age



Birth to 5 years



Groups served by RVA's public education and professional training programs in fiscal year 2010

Public Education		
Students ages 5–24	13,512	
Elementary schools	32	
High schools	12	
Civic and community organizations	16	
Universities	13	
Professional Training		
Social service agencies	7	
Teacher trainings	12	
Law enforcement	358	
Medical/healthcare	534	
Other professionals	1,137	

Financials

Property a

Statement of Financial Position / June 30, 2010 and June 30, 2009

Assets	2010	2009
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 106,744	\$ 140,565
Grants and Accounts Receivable	214,984	144,302
Prepaid Expenses	5,820	7,343
and Expenses, Net of Depreciation	8,742	10,417
Security Deposit	12,246	12,246
Total Assets	\$348,536	\$314,873
Liabilities and Equity		
Accounts Payable	\$ 12,177	\$ 18,638
Accrued Expenses	20,273	15,180
Deferred Lease Costs	9,403	12,026
Deferred Revenue	71,153	71,153
Total Liabilities	203,593	116,997
Net Assets		
Unrestricted	144,943	115,213
Temporarily Restricted	-	82,663
Total Net Assets	144,943	197,876
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$348,536	\$314,873

Board and Staff

Board of Directors

as of January 2011

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Alisa Roadcup, Director
Laura Stonikas, Director
Ryan Sullivan, Director
*trained sexual assault crisis counselors

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Megan Blomquist, Stroger Medical Advocate
Cheryl Brown, Director of Development
Chiharu Iwasaki, Adult & Adolescent Counselor
Monica Jones, Part-time Counselor
Sarah Layden, Director of Advocacy
Sharmili Majmudar, Executive Director
LaShanda Nalls, Director of Counseling
Rachel Ostergaard, Children's Legal/Medical Advocate
Erica Sanchez, Advocacy Volunteer Coordinator
Jacqui Scott, Austin Legal/Medical Advocate
Laura Valiukenas, Stroger Legal Advocate
Carrie Wachter, Director of Education and Training
Lynda Wells-Nash, Administrative Services Supervisor

Statement of Activities/Years ended June 30, 2010 and June 30, 2009

Revenues	2010			2009
		Temporarily		
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	
Government Grants	\$434,323	\$ -	\$434,323	\$415,803
Grants-Foundations	89,800	32,500	122,300	252,795
Individual Contributions	24,914	-	24,914	24,918
Service fees	144,000	-	144,000	148,568
Special Events, net	37,630	-	37,630	9,165
Interest and Miscellaneous Income	1,720	-	1,720	2,035
Net assets released from restriction	82,663	(82,663)	-	-
Total Revenues	815,050	(50,163)	764,887	853,284
Expenses				
ICASA Programs	408,462	-	408,462	397,653
Other Programs	270,610	-	270,610	226,129
Total Programs	679,072		679,072	623,782
General and Administrative	106,248	-	106,248	144,879
Total Expenses	785,320		785,320	768,661
Change in Net Assets	29,730	(50,163)	(20,433)	84,623
Net Assets Beginning of the Year	115,213	82,663	197,876	113,253
Net Assets End of the Year	\$144,943	\$32,500	\$177,443	\$197,876

All RVA volunteers are exceptional in their dedication to helping survivors of sexual assault and preventing future violence, but each month we recognize just one whose special efforts inspire others to do even more.

2010 Volunteers of the Month				
January	Victoria Velinski	July	Jennie Situ	
February	Becci Behlen	August	Alana Venos	
March	Denise Hirsch	September	Jennifer Sucech	
April	Joanne von Alroth	October	Tasha Spencer	
May	Kara Guminski	November	Tunisia Frazier	
June	Katelyn Holsclaw	December	Cherrese Davis	

^{*} all staff are trained sexual assault crisis counselors

Donor List

Thank you for your generous contributions in support of our work in Fiscal Year 2010

Public and Foundation Supporters

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\$1,000 to \$2,499

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Mary O. Bishop

Catharsis Productions

Jeffrey Cooper

Jean W. Cozier

Sunny Fischer

Kamilah Foreman

Jennifer Franklin

Katy Hall

Michael R. Happ

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Mallika Kaur and Prabhjot Singh

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Susan Burke, M.D.

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Jonathan Claydon

Ann Crane

Dawn Dalton

Meredith Darnall

Jennifer Dixon Tonya Dixon

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Visit us online to learn more about us or to make a tax-deductible donation to support our free programs and services for survivors of sexual assault.

rapevictimadvocates.org

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- Join our group on LinkedIr
- Follow us on Twitter @ RapeVictimAdv

Thank you to our phenomenal Taproot Foundation team:

Scott Ablin, Account Director
Rebecca Heneghan, Project Manager
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Celina Chatman-Nelson, Copywriter/Editor
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