Uprooting the causes of violence so all Vermonters can thrive
Our purpose is to create a world free of oppression where actions, beliefs and systems support all people to thrive.
What is the change we want to see in the world? The Vermont Network is invested in creating a world where actions, beliefs and systems support all people to thrive. In 2018 we stepped further into our work inspired by this purpose. We worked to manifest the world we want to see within our organization by embracing leadership in all its forms. We convened our most important constituents, our Member Organizations, to offer learning opportunities centered on building a strong anti-violence movement. We co-conspired with our Members and others to advocate for groundbreaking public policies and for the kind of community change that serves to uproot the causes of gender-based violence. This year we told our stories, we listened with open hearts, and we stood together with an ever-expanding group of Vermonters who share our vision for more peaceful homes and communities. Together we fought for all that we love and to make Vermont a place where all people thrive.

Karen
The Vermont Network is the leading statewide voice on ending domestic and sexual violence in our state. We harness the advocacy power of Vermont communities and elevate the voices of survivors in the Statehouse.

• In 2018, we led the effort to pass Act 92 — landmark legislation allowing law enforcement to remove firearms from the scene of a domestic violence incident. Survivors and advocates used their voices to share powerful stories of resilience.

• The Vermont Network also worked with allies to advance legislation for paid family and medical leave, increasing the minimum wage, and establishing employment protections for crime victims.

Governor Phil Scott signing Act 92
“I am proud to use my voice to tell my story and honor Rhonda’s memory. No other mother should lose her daughter this way.”

— Stella Gravel, mother of Rhonda Gray who was killed by her husband in 2013, testified in support of Act 92
We work to change the conversation about domestic and sexual violence in Vermont. In 2018, we communicated with policymakers, allied professionals and community members about the impact that domestic and sexual violence on communities and families throughout our state.

In 2018 we:

- Launched our inaugural *Your Voice Matters, Your Vote Matters* campaign to highlight the power of survivors’ voices at the voting booth. We engaged well-known Vermonters in a series of short digital videos, connected survivors with voting rights information, and organized a statewide candidate questionnaire to find out where candidates stand on our issues.

- Kicked-off our *youth digital narrative project*, providing youth tools to tell their own stories of resiliency.

- Supported *advocates from across Vermont at the Statehouse* in advocacy efforts to change state policy.

- Surveyed *hundreds of youth* for our Youth Survey. Youth across Vermont expressed their desire for more askable and caring adults in their lives.
“Advocacy work was a natural next step for me. I talked to my peers in middle school [about sexual harassment] and they said ‘it happens too much for us to do anything.’ That’s when I knew this was something that I wanted to fix, and something that needed to be fixed.”

— Jordan Brandon-Allen
Vermont Network Intern and Youth Activist
The Vermont Network convenes and facilitates gatherings, trainings and conferences across Vermont to harness collective power and uproot the causes of violence. 2018 highlights:

- The Vermont Network provided training to hundreds of advocates across Vermont.

- Held our largest-ever statewide conference. This year’s conference theme was “One Mountain, Many Paths” and featured keynote speaker Farah Tanis of Black Women’s Blueprint and presenters from many allied social justice movements.

- Provided leadership training and development for leaders in organizations working to address violence in Vermont.

- Convened statewide conversations with stakeholders on critical issues such as how to harness the power of the #MeToo movement.
“When the Network brings together makers, creators, thinkers and advocates in beautiful places from across Vermont, they create the conditions for change, generate power from our work in concert and provide space for a little bit of magic.”

— Kate Rhodenburg, Program Director, Wise of the Upper Valley
Engage and Support Coalition
Uplift Organizations Serving Survivors

Vermont Network Member Organizations

1. AWARE, Inc., Hardwick
2. Circle, Barre
3. Clarina Howard Nichols Center, Morrisville
4. H.O.P.E. Works, Burlington
5. NewStory Center, Rutland
6. PAVE, Bennington
7. Pride Center of VT SafeSpace Program, Burlington
8. Safeline, Inc., Chelsea
9. Sexual Assault Crisis Team, Barre
10. Steps to End Domestic Violence, Burlington
11. Umbrella, The Advocacy Program, St. Johnsbury & Newport
12. Vermont Network, Montpelier
13. Voices Against Violence, St. Albans
14. WISE, Lebanon, NH
15. Women's Freedom Center, Brattleboro & Springfield
16. WomenSafe, Middlebury

Vermont Network at 2018 Pride Parade
“As Member Programs serving our local communities, we rely on the Network to keep us connected, providing a forum for sharing ideas and best practices. The Network keeps us informed on issues of national importance that have an impact on our work. I couldn’t imagine being in this role without the support of the Vermont Network and the connection it provides.”

— Kelly Dougherty
Executive Director,
Steps to End Domestic Violence
Our Team

Staff

Karen Tronsgard-Scott  
Executive Director

Alex Bottinelli  
Resources Coordinator

Kara Casey  
Economic Justice & Housing Specialist

Keri Darling  
Deaf Vermonters Advocacy Services Director

Heather Holter  
Legal Clinic Administrator & Council on DV Coord.

Michele Olvera  
Legal Director

Dana Paull  
Finance Director

Kelli Risitano  
Director of Advocacy & Trauma Healing

Sarah Robinson  
Deputy Director

Anne Smith  
Director of Training & Leadership Development

Chani Waterhouse  
Director of Member Relations

Auburn Watersong  
Policy Director

Breanna Weaver  
Staff Attorney

Contractors

Anera Fočo  
DIVAS Administrative Coordinator

Kira Krier  
DIVAS Program Direct Services Co-Coordinator

Raenetta Liberty, RN, VT SANE  
SANE Clinical Co-Coordinator

Amy Torchia  
Children’s Advocacy Coordinator

Kylen Veilleux  
DIVAS Program Direct Services Co-Coordinator

Tracy Wagner  
SANE Clinical Co-Coordinator

Clockwise from top left, Karen Tronsgard-Scott, Kelli Risitano, Breanna Weaver, Sarah Robinson, Anne Smith, Kara Casey, Auburn Watersong, Chani Waterhouse, Heather Holter, Alex Bottinelli, Dana Paull (Michele Olvera not pictured)
Board

Cathleen Barkley
Mike Bensel
Linda Campbell
Amanda Cochrane
Kelly Dougherty
Kerri Duquette-Hoffman
Becky Gonyea
Linda Ingold
Diane Kinney
Avaloy Lanning
Kristen Lukens
Peggy O’Neil
Anna Pirie
Vickie Sterling
Anne Ward
Financials

2018 Revenue and Expenses

Revenue

- Federal .................. $1,327,311
- State .................... $523,203
- Foundation & Other ..... $226,109

Total ...................... $2,076,623

Expenses

- Support for survivor-centered services .................. 23%
- Specialized programs & support for specific populations ........ 39%
- Social change efforts .................. 13%
- Public policy advocacy ........ 11%
- Internal operations .................. 14%

Total ...................... $2,076,623

Unaudited Financials
With deep appreciation to our individual donors and supporters

Additional Funders
Allstate
NoVo Foundation
U.S. Department of Health & Human Service
State of Vermont
U.S. Department of Justice
Main Street Landing
Montpelier Rotary
Courtney’s Allies Fund
TJ Maxx