



# VERMONT NETWORK



**2018 Annual Report**

**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.**



Cover image: Transformational Leadership workshop for advocates and allies with Norma Wong, July 2018

**W**hat 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*

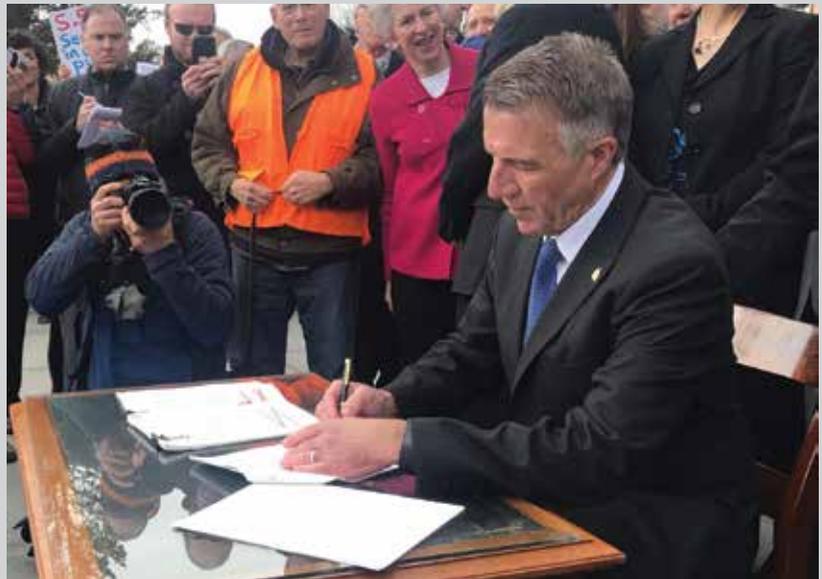


# Advocating

## Amplifying the Voices of Collective Action, Hope, and Resilience

**T**he 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**

# Growing Change

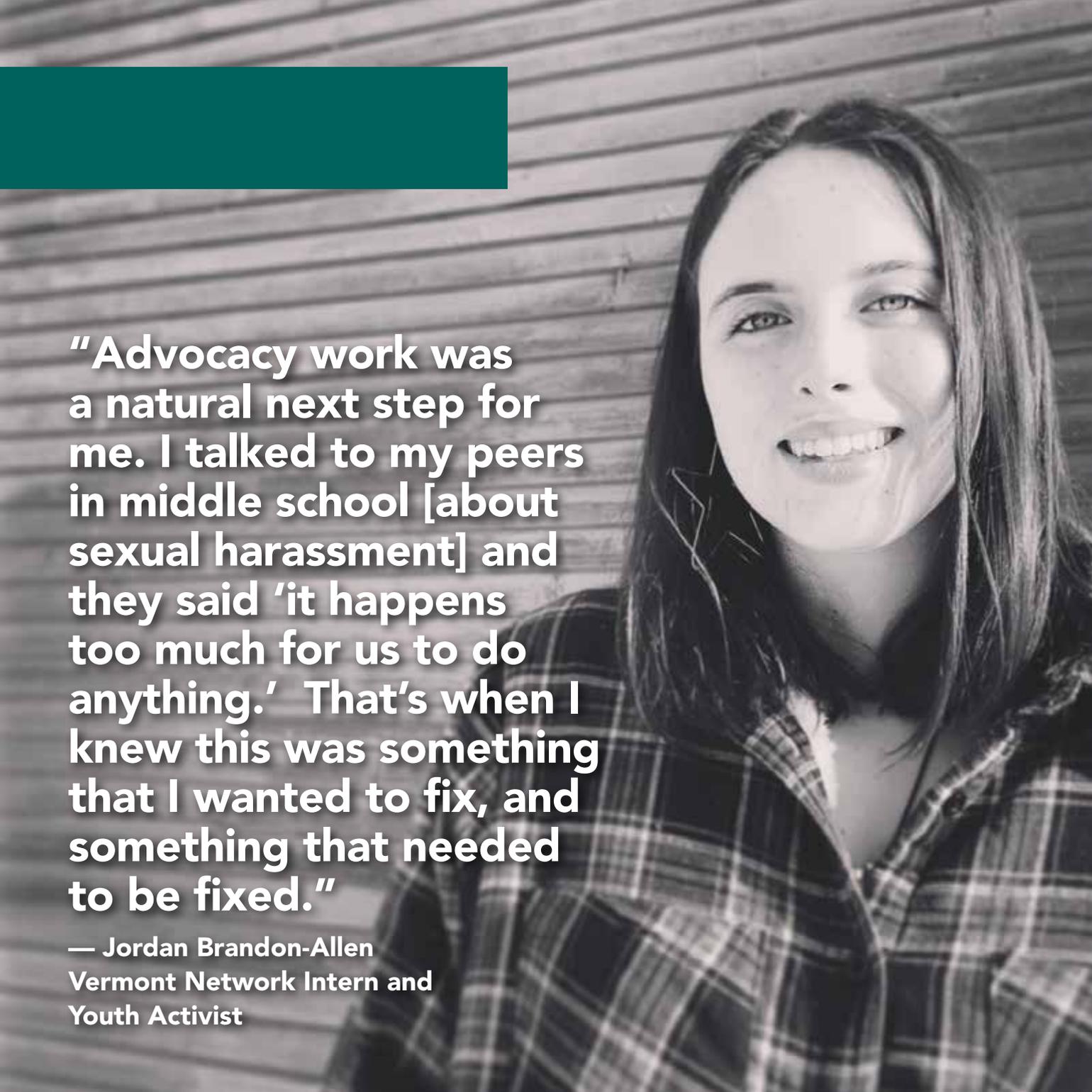
## Changing the Narrative of Violence in Vermont

**W**e 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 has 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.



*Lisa Senecal, Keith Goslant and Anna Nasset were featured in #SurvivorVote digital campaign video*



**“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**

# Convene

## Building Solidarity to Cultivate Collective Power

The Vermont Network convenes and facilitates gatherings, trainings and conferences across Vermont to harness collective power and uproot the causes of violence. 2018 highlights:

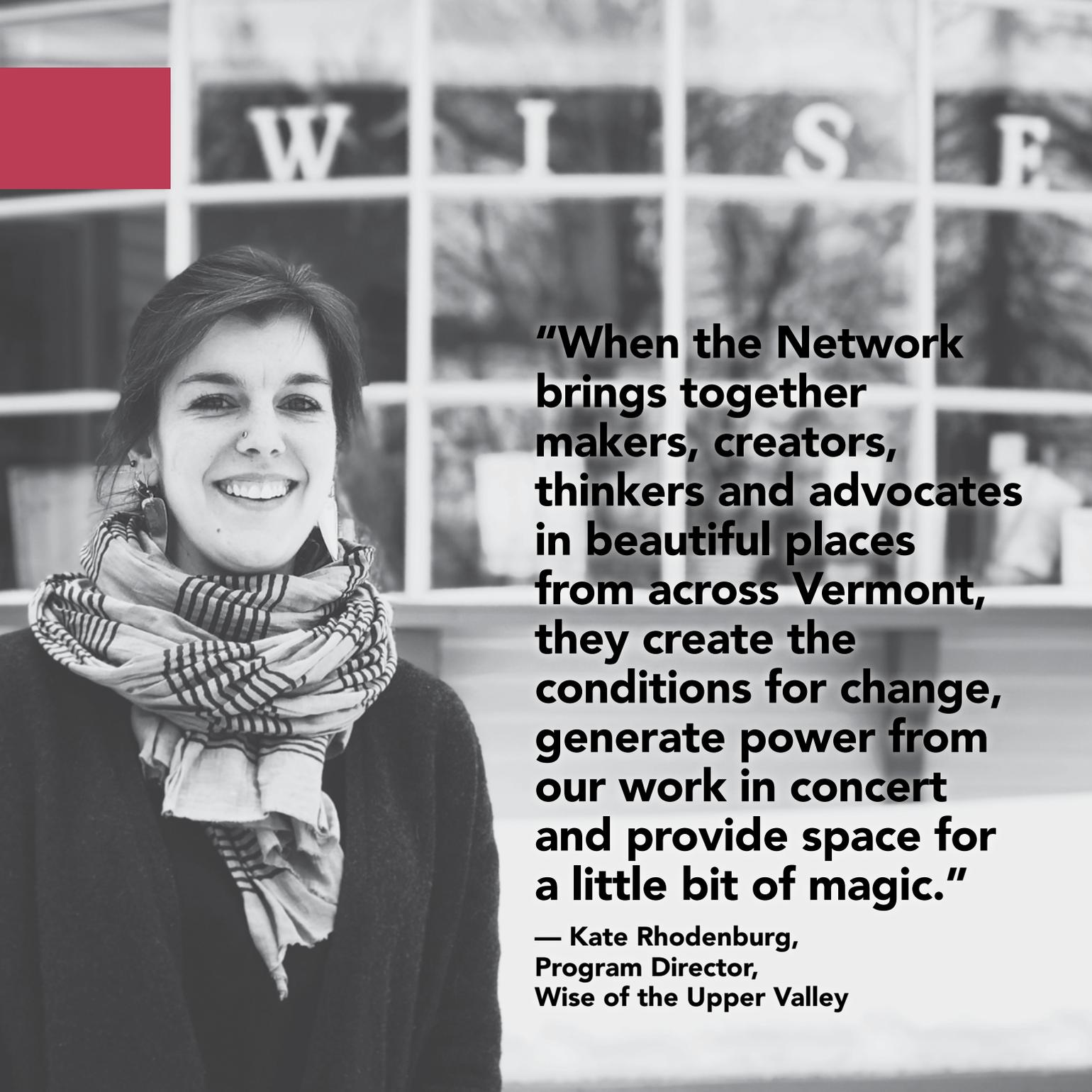


- The Vermont Network **provided training to hundreds of advocates** across Vermont.

- 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 Bense  
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
<b>Total. . . . .</b>	<b>\$2,076,623</b>



### 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%
<b>Total. . . . .</b>	<b>\$2,076,623</b>





**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



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