

## Still standing strong, because you believe



Early this year, I was preparing to tell I,000 supporters in a downtown Seattle hotel ballroom how the King County Sexual Assault Resource Center is responding to a "new normal" in the numbers of survivors and families reaching out for help.

In the course of a week, a global pandemic forced us to shift gears. We canceled the

1,000-person event and began a pivot we never anticipated in order to ensure every survivor who needed help healing from the trauma of sexual assault could still depend on KCSARC.

Nothing has tested us more. KCSARC acted quickly to provide service continuity and respond to the sudden and increasingly complex barriers our clients faced. Therapists who saw clients in person one week continued their sessions via our HIPAA-compliant telehealth system the next. Legal advocates provided real-time information, safety planning, and support amid frightening news of inmate releases and court systems closures. I'm proud to report we remained fully operational throughout, providing critical resources to survivors, their families, and the communities we serve.

Six months into this new reality, we remain strong, resilient, and in some ways, better for the journey that brought us here. Our resilience in responding to the ground shifting under our feet in early 2020 is due to the support we received from people like you in 2019.

### Together, we accomplished so much:

- Direct services helped 4,905 adults and children heal from trauma, and pursue their lives and dreams that were interrupted by sexual assault;
- A growing trust by survivors in the Latinx community in KCSARC's ability to provide a linguistically and culturally relevant response to their needs through our Dando Voz program;
- A move to new office space in Renton, more accessible to clients and better accommodating a growing number of clients and staff;
- Effective prevention education in schools and communities that equipped our next generation with the tools they need to end sexual violence;

- Recognition by Seattle-King County Public Health that sexual assault is a public health issue and a social determinant of health;
- New legal protections and rights for victims under state law, including the elimination of the statute of limitations for victims of child sexual abuse, more resources to speed up testing of rape kit evidence and address the state's woeful backlog of untested kits, and ending the legal burden placed on many rape survivors to prove they did not consent:
- Building the foundation in 2019 for the eventual passage in 2020 of a new law that gives all Washington students access to Comprehensive Sexual Health Education, a vital pathway to ending sexual assault.

The one thing that has not changed nearly enough is the deep and systemic racism that remains part of our world. It is a reason Black, Latinx, Indigenous and other people of color are at higher risk of sexual assault, and are less likely to be believed or get help when speaking up about it. Over the last three years, as policies and sentiment against immigrants and those seeking asylum hardened, we saw a 20% increase in Latinx clients. While the latest Census data show people of color comprise 35% of King County's overall population, 57% of our clients last year identified themselves this way.

In 2019, KCSARC began to examine how we can more effectively and affirmatively practice anti-racism, and better understand the intersection of racism and sexual violence. This important work continues into 2020. We look forward to sharing more progress on this front.

As we tell survivors every day, some pretty horrible things can and do happen that are neither our fault, nor in our control. Yet we can weather even the most traumatic challenges and emerge stronger on the other side when we have support from people who believe in us.

Thank you for believing in the work we do. KCSARC is resilient and an effective voice for survivors because of supporters like you.

My gratitude,

Mary Ellen Stone EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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## **OUR IMPACT**

KCSARC helps survivors heal from the trauma of sexual assault.



In 2019, your support helped **4,905** individuals and their families access direct services at KCSARC.

Service demand spiked in 2018 and has not slowed down. KCSARC served 22% more survivors in 2019 than in 2016.

## 22% Increase

NUMBER OF CLIENTS SERVED

2019: 4,905

2018: 4,888

2017:4,100

2016: 4,007



### 24-HOUR RESOURCE LINE

**3,662** callers accessed information, crisis support, and referrals.



### CLIENT ADVOCACY SUPPORT

**2,608** survivors and families connected to services.



### DANDO VOZ (GIVING VOICE)

**548** Spanish-speaking clients accessed culturally relevant therapy, legal advocacy, parent education, and referrals.



# PREVENTION & OUTREACH

We reached **53,941** individuals with sexual violence prevention education, training, and outreach, both in person and online.



### LEGAL ADVOCACY

**2,454** survivors were supported through the complex and challenging legal system.



### **THERAPY**

462 children, teens and adults participated in trauma-specific, evidence-based therapy that is proven effective in treating trauma.



## PARENT EDUCATION

Parents of **360** children learned how to better facilitate their child's healing.

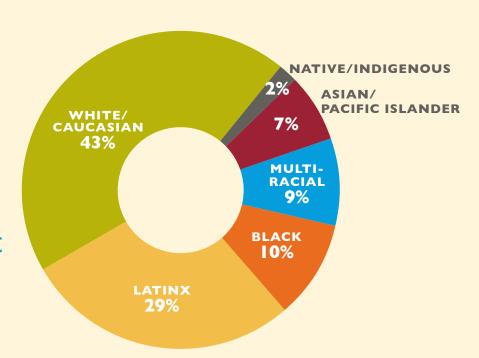
## **OUR REACH**

KCSARC delivers powerful, effective prevention education that helps stop sexual violence.



### Who we serve:

In 2019, **57%** of survivors accessing services at KCSARC identified as people of color.





We have offices in Redmond, Seattle, Renton, Kent, Federal Way, and began serving clients virtually in 2020 to continue meeting all client needs.



Almost half of those receiving help at KCSARC are children and teens.





## **How We Help**

## A family heals and learns how to talk with their children to prevent abuse.

A childcare provider was surprised by the adult nature of a question posed by Allie, the preschooler in her care, who asked: "Do you know what sex is?" The concerned caregiver reported this to Allie's mother, Carolyn. As the child's story unfolded, Carolyn learned her child had been sexually assaulted. Overwhelmed and not sure what to do, the mother called KCSARC for help.

A KCSARC Parent Educator helped Carolyn understand the grooming strategies that offenders use to abuse children. The educator also equipped Carolyn to talk to Allie and her other children to better enable her to detect signs of grooming or abuse. That included the importance of teaching accurate anatomical words for body parts, and preparing her children to differentiate "OK" vs. "not OK" (or confusing) touch. Carolyn found she was able to approach this conversation as naturally as she would about crossing the street and bike helmet safety. In fact, she was surprised that Allie and her siblings did not seem surprised or bothered by these topics. Instead, they just absorbed the information like any other piece of new information. These vital lessons strengthened this family's ability to protect their children.

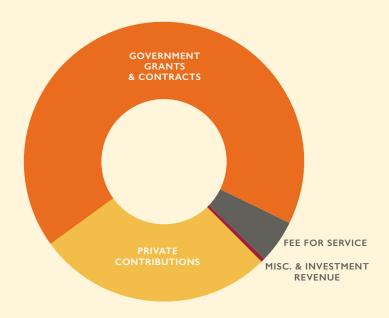
## A survivor finds support and strength as she waits for justice.

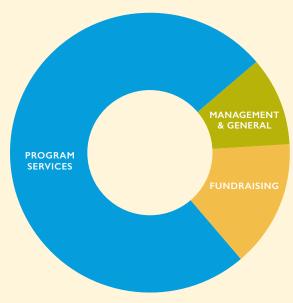
Amanda, like many survivors, just wanted to forget about the assault she experienced a few years ago. But when she learned the person who raped her had moved back to town, it was all she could think about. In particular, she wondered if she could still report this crime. She called KCSARC's 24-Hour Resource Line and was quickly connected with a KCSARC Legal Advocate. Amanda's advocate walked with her through the process of reporting, and kept her informed and engaged as the case proceeded through investigation.

As the COVID-related public health emergency began to shut down court systems, Amanda's advocate kept in touch, offering reassurance the case was proceeding. She was relieved when the person who assaulted her was finally charged and jailed. But she soon had a new reason to worry: the county and state decided to release certain inmates as a way to slow the spread of COVID in jails and prisons. Her Legal Advocate worked diligently to determine this inmate was not among those who would likely be released, and relayed the news to Amanda.

For now, Amanda feels safe. She awaits the re-opening of courts in order for her case to proceed, but says she would not have been able to deal with the complexity of the system if not for her Legal Advocate.

## **FINANCIALS**





#### **SUPPORT AND REVENUE**

\$1,888,686
\$4,587,365
\$333,696
\$12,937

Total Revenue \$6,822,684

#### **EXPENSE**

<b>Total Expense</b>	\$6,524,042
Fundraising	\$948,870
Management & General	\$665,389
Program Services	\$4,911,783



## **KCSARC** is grateful

to the individuals, corporations, foundations, and governments who support our work. For a complete listing of private contributors, please visit **www.kcsarc.org/gratitude.** 

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Nunca es tarde.

Para ayuda o información en español, llama al programa Dando Voz – lunes a viernes de 8am a 5pm:

1.425.282.0324

Línea de recursos de 24 horas: 1.888.998.6423 www.kcsarc.org/dandovozenespanol You've helped ensure KCSARC is here for survivors, always.

Please consider sharing our number with anyone who needs help, whether in Spanish or English.



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Thank you!

www.kcsarc.org

24-HOUR RESOURCE LINE: 888.99.VOICE

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