

# how much is enough?

YWCA OF NORTHWEST GEORGIA

3 Years at a Glance  
7/01/2012 - 6/30/2015

eliminating racism  
empowering women  
**ywca**

northwest georgia

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[www.ywcanwga.com](http://www.ywcanwga.com)



# ywca of northwest georgia

*Your YWCA of Northwest Georgia* is a dynamic agency whose work focuses on programs to reduce domestic violence and sexual assault. We seek to ensure that those who find themselves facing one of these challenges find hope and a renewed sense of purpose.

In 1978, the YWCA opened the first domestic violence shelter in the State of Georgia. Started by advocates who deemed a need for a domestic violence shelter, the program began in a three bedroom house in Cobb County. Now, 38 years later, the request for domestic violence beds has increased significantly and space requirements have changed.

Since 2008, the YWCA has had a 181% increase in requests for services (Legal Advocacy 55%, Sexual Assault 46%, Counseling 41% and Domestic Violence 39%). This increase is linked to community awareness of our programs and services and is believed to be a direct result of job loss, home foreclosures, financial losses, fear of the unknown and anger displacement. The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence states 1 in 3 women will be subject to some form of intimate partner violence in her lifetime.

The increase in victims forced the YWCA to look at their facilities and evaluate how they could help more people. In 2009, the YWCA of Northwest Georgia launched a \$7.2 million capital campaign. The goals were to build 12 transitional housing apartments where the old swimming pool once stood and expand and renovate the counseling/training facilities, computer lab, regional sexual assault center, and existing office space. This first phase of the renovation was completed in the spring of 2012.

The final and most important phase of this project, the domestic violence shelter, began its renovation at the end of 2014. The new shelter expanded from a 32 bed shelter to a 40 bed shelter, with a full kitchen and dining room so families can eat together. Some additional features of the shelter renovation included: play and study areas for the children, an expanded living room, counseling and child therapy rooms, and bedrooms with private bathrooms.

The YWCA of Northwest Georgia's ability to provide a place to call "Home" for those in need of a safe place to rebuild their lives has finally happened because of the tremendous support from our great community. Our donors are giving those we serve the opportunity to rise above the environment they find themselves in and become survivors. They are giving them another chance at a new life. A safe life. A happy life. A violence free life.



**working for a community  
free of domestic violence  
and sexual assault**



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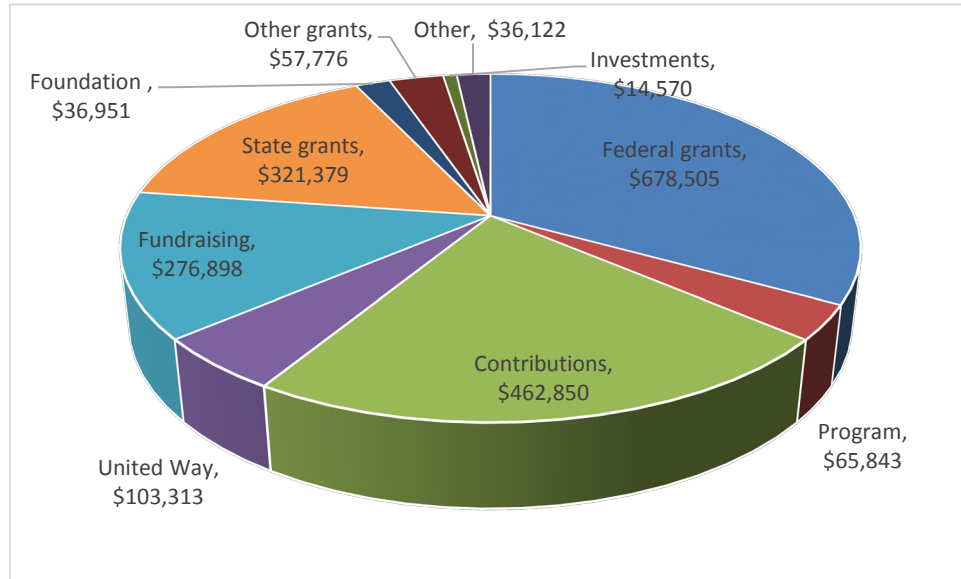
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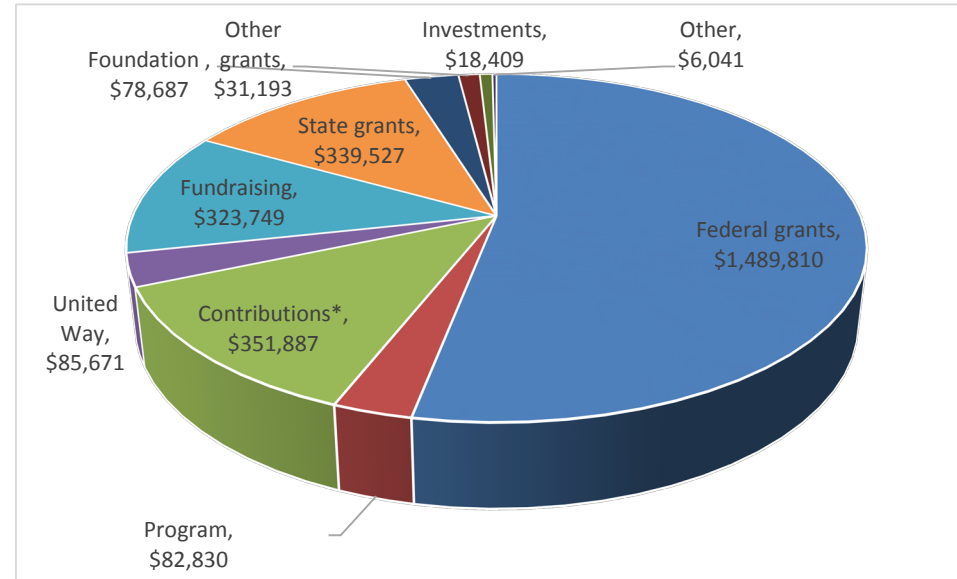
\* During years 2013-2015 we had a capital campaign to renovate our facilities. The revenues and expenses shown here include totals for both operating and capital.

Fiscal Year 2013



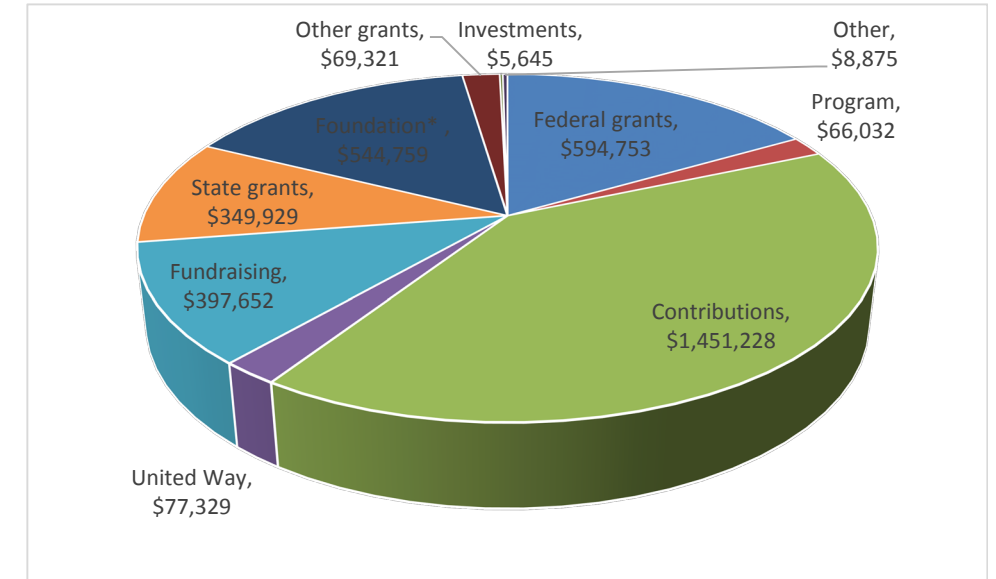
Sources of Revenue - \$2,054,207  
FY 2013

Fiscal Year 2014

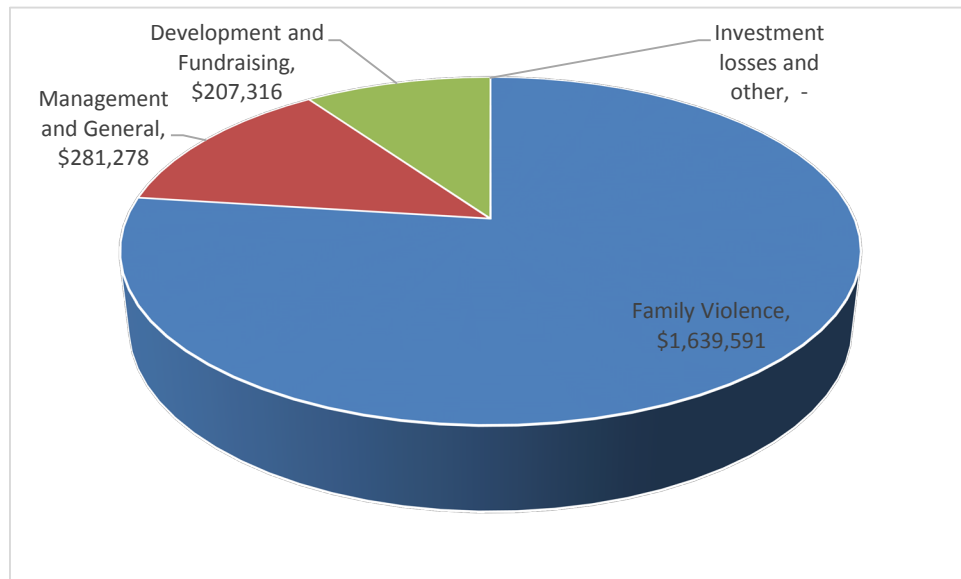


Sources of Revenue - \$ 2,807,804  
FY 2014

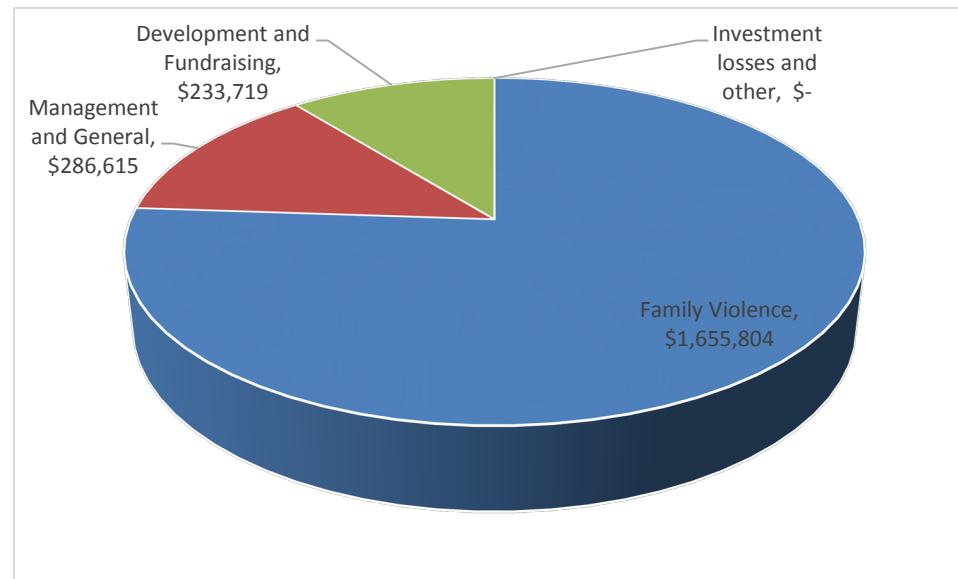
Fiscal Year 2015



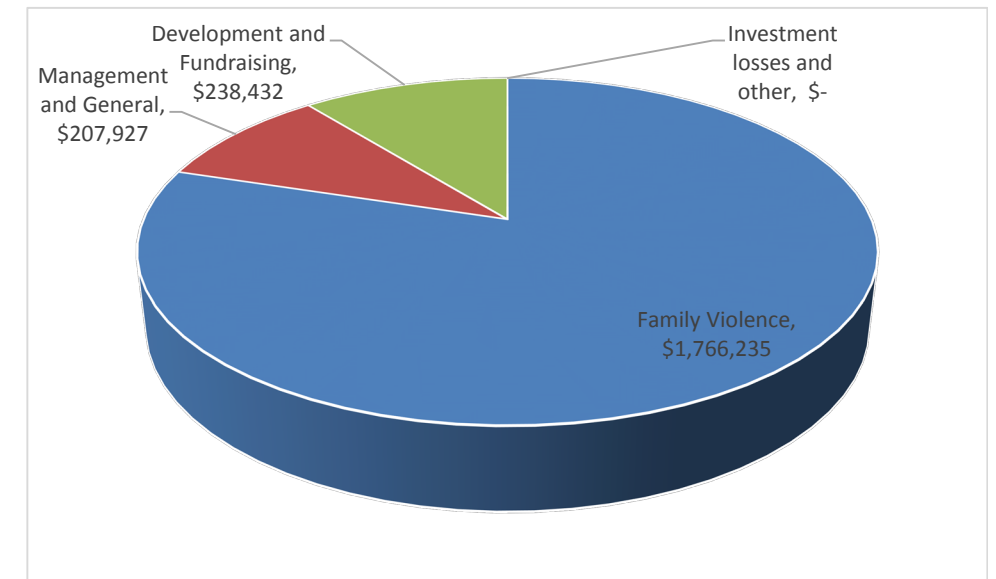
Sources of Revenue - \$ 3,565,523  
FY 2015



Expenses by Program - \$2,128,185  
FY 2013



Expenses by Program - \$2,176,138  
FY 2014



Expenses by Program - \$2,212,594  
FY 2015



# our stories

taking steps to move forward and change from victim to survivor

*Sheri* and her son, Bobby, came to the domestic violence shelter to escape the abuse inflicted by her boyfriend. The abuse was physical and verbal, and Sheri lived with it for 10 years.

After she relocated with her abuser from California to Georgia, Sheri said she was tired of the situation and wanted a change. She confronted her abuser and told him she was leaving. He started hitting her on her head and in her face. Sheri had enough and took her son and left her abuser.

Since the time she arrived at the shelter, Sheri has grown as a person. She has taken control of her life and has been doing everything in her power to be a great mother to Bobby. She tried for several months to get a job, without any success.

Sheri never gave up and kept pushing herself. She went from one interview to another and finally secured a job she is very excited about. Sheri came to the shelter without expecting others to make things happen for her. Her enthusiasm and great personality have brought her the success that is coming her way.

*Carol* came into the shelter as a victim of domestic violence, hindered by emotional, mental, and legal issues. She grew up in the foster care system and still longs for the love and nurturing every child needs from their parents and immediate family. She has not grown into a woman harboring anger and distance, but a woman of kindness and with a genuinely good heart.

Coming into the shelter, Carol not only had to care for herself, but also two pit bull dogs she loves dearly and considers her children. She reluctantly agreed to leave her dogs in the care of an animal shelter, until she was in a position of self-sufficiency.

Carol's road to self-sufficiency and independence was one of ups and downs. She found the strength to win against all odds facing her medical and mental issues, to move on by securing employment and housing within another state. She considers her job a dream job, as she will be working with one of her idols, caring for animals, and getting experience working on a farm. She was also reunited with her two pit bulls. They all ventured together into a new journey and chapter of independence within her life.

*LaSonja* remembers day one of seeking emergency shelter for her and her son as they were in a very damaging situation with his dad. After being physically and mentally abused by him she knew very quickly she wanted to live for her son, so she did what any mother with the love for herself and her children would do. She left. After walking the streets going from hotel to hotel, she found herself financially struggling trying to provide for her son. She remembers one day walking from her son doctor's appointment. It was raining so hard she stopped in at the closest place she could find... Walgreens Drug Store. The clerk looked at her and asked "Ma'am are you ok?" She yelled and told him to leave her alone. She then dropped to the floor and started screaming, crying, and praying to God for help. She told Him that if He provided a roof for them, she was going to work as hard as she could for her herself and her son.

She was referred to the shelter. When she walked into the facility she was amazed at how nice it was. Although she was a train wreck on the inside, she realized she had a fighting chance. Depressed, she cried every night. One day she cried on the floor so much her son crawled to her and lifted her head up. She told God she knew she was in the best place ever and that she needed help to get up, and so she did. She tapped into all the counseling sessions, groups, one on ones and even started getting to know the people around her, which became the best support group a girl could ever ask for.

She had strangers she could now call family. She has an impeccable case manager, Steffani, who taught her how to breathe. Steffani made sure she was available to assist LaSonja with change. She allowed her to find herself as a woman again. LaSonja started hanging up affirmations and pictures of things she knew she could achieve. She hung up a picture of a brand new 4 bedroom home with a full back yard, and 3 baths. She knew she had to work hard to get this home for her and her son. She worked the budget plan Steffani put her on and the rest became history.

LaSonja closed on a brand new 4 bedroom, 3 bath home April 22, 2016. She credits this achievement to her hard work and having a staff member from the YWCA who refused to give up on her.

LaSonja loves this program today. She is a thriving motivational speaker who would love to give back to the YWCA. Her new goals are to show the women who will come after her that this little thing called dreaming can actually become a reality. With hard work and dedication, anything is possible. There can never be enough words to describe the happiness she feels at this time in her life. Her son is so happy and proud they are living in their own home.

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