

# URI: FINDING SOLUTIONS, TRANSFORMING LIVES

2014  
ANNUAL  
REPORT

COMBATING  
DOMESTIC  
VIOLENCE



PROMOTING  
PERSONAL  
EMPOWERMENT



PROVIDING  
SAFETY AND  
SUPPORT

FORGING  
PARTNERSHIPS



DRIVING  
INNOVATION



BREAKING  
DOWN  
BARRIERS  
TO SOCIAL  
CHANGE



**URINYC**<sup>®</sup>  
Urban Resource Institute

The mission of the Urban Resource Institute (URI) is to provide quality, compassionate, and innovative client-centered services to victims of domestic violence and other vulnerable populations so that they may lead the safest and fullest lives possible.

URI is widely recognized for our rich legacy of social service expertise, our deep relationships with the diverse communities we serve, and our flexible, innovative approach to program development and service delivery. These unique assets enable us to provide individuals and families in the New York metropolitan area with the tools and resources to change their lives for the better.

Our individualized, comprehensive programs for domestic violence victims, the developmentally disabled, and other challenged populations touch every aspect of our clients' lives. Our community outreach and awareness initiatives build visibility and support for the issues that have an impact on our clients' quality of life and New York's urban communities.

# MESSAGE FROM OUR LEADERSHIP

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On behalf of the Board of Trustees and staff of the Urban Resource Institute, we are proud to report that 2014 was a year of exciting, innovative accomplishments that not only advanced URI's mission to provide comprehensive, compassionate service and support to New York's vulnerable communities but also promoted wider social change.

The continued growth of our groundbreaking URIPALS (People and Animals Living Safely) program has provided a safe space for an ever-increasing number of domestic violence survivors who seek co-shelter and healing for themselves and their pets. URIPALS has been such an overwhelming success that we have launched a campaign to seek support to expand this one-of-a-kind program to all four of URI's domestic violence shelters.

We also identified a need to bring the pervasive but often hidden problem of economic abuse to the forefront of public consciousness. Economic abuse traps domestic violence victims in a cycle of financial dependency and creates barriers that make it very difficult for victims to leave abusive situations. URI is committed to building awareness about this insidious aspect of domestic abuse and expanding financial literacy and job training opportunities that will help our shelter residents break the cycle and move toward financial self-sufficiency.

Our nationwide #DVFfree media campaign is another example of an advocacy and mobilization effort we launched to promote public engagement and action. We applaud the URI shelter residents and survivors who stepped forward to share their personal accounts of triumph over abuse. Their moving stories have undoubtedly educated and inspired countless people to escape abuse and work to eradicate domestic violence.

In the pages that follow, you will read more about these programs and initiatives and the courageous people who have changed their lives for the better with support from URI. They have become part of the URI family, and we will continue to do all we can to offer others like them hope and opportunity for a better future.

We have forged many partnerships and alliances that have made this critical work possible, and we are deeply grateful for the support of our partners and sponsors. Our ability to attract and sustain new sources of funding has contributed to the strength of our financial position and enabled us to pursue new opportunities to do more for our clients. We thank all of you for your continued commitment to URI.



Whittaker Mack III  
Chair, Board of Trustees



Nathaniel M. Fields  
President and CEO

# PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

## URI DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAMS

One of the largest domestic violence service providers in New York City, URI operates a 24-hour emergency hotline and four shelters (three emergency shelters and one transitional shelter) with separate apartment-style accommodations for individuals and families—a welcoming, secure, healing environment that helps victims and their children recover from trauma and abuse. URI's clients receive a full spectrum of individualized assessment, counseling, and referral services.

## URI PEOPLE AND ANIMALS LIVING SAFELY (URIPALS)

In working with victims of domestic violence, URI identified a great need for domestic violence shelters that accept animals. In response, URI developed URIPALS—People and Animals Living Safely—the first co-sheltering program in New York City and one of few offered nationwide, which houses families and pets together, preserving the welfare and safety of all. Since its launch in May 2013, URIPALS has housed 35 families with 32 cats, 14 dogs, 3 turtles and 1 fish.

## WORKING INTERNSHIP NETWORK (WIN)

Since 1998, the WIN program has provided URI's domestic violence shelter residents with vital financial literacy and computer and job skills training, securing internships for shelter residents in a variety of work settings. In 2014, 80 domestic violence survivors participated in the WIN program.

## LEGAL EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY PROGRAM (LEAP)

URI's Domestic Violence Legal Education and Advocacy Program (LEAP) provides specialized, on-site legal services to the residents of URI's four domestic violence shelters. LEAP served 146 shelter residents in 2014.

## URBAN CENTER FOR THE DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED (UCDD)

URI's Urban Center for the Developmentally Disabled provides individualized treatment and care programs as well as one-on-one job counseling, training, and placement services for developmentally disabled men and women. The center serves more than 1,400 people per year.

## INTERMEDIATE CARE FACILITIES (ICF)

Linden House (14 beds) and the Beny J. Primm Residence (11 beds), both located in Queens, provide 24-hour, full service custodial care for a total of 25 adult men and women with developmental disabilities who have been diagnosed with mild to profound mental retardation.

## INDIVIDUALIZED RESIDENTIAL ALTERNATIVE (IRA)

Ferndale House provides around-the-clock residential care for a total of eight adult men and women who have developmental disabilities and are diagnosed with mild mental retardation, providing them with personalized attention and opportunities for more independent living.

WHETHER THROUGH OUR ONE-OF-A-KIND **URIPALS PROGRAM** (PEOPLE AND ANIMALS LIVING SAFELY), OUR NATIONWIDE **#DVFREE CAMPAIGN**, OUR EFFORTS TO HELP DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SURVIVORS GAIN **FINANCIAL SELF-SUFFICIENCY**, OR OUR OTHER **INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS** TO SOCIAL CHALLENGES, URI OFFERS VICTIMS OF ABUSE THE **TOOLS TO BREAK FREE** FROM THE CYCLE OF VIOLENCE AND CREATE **POSITIVE CHANGE** FOR THEMSELVES AND THEIR FAMILIES.

# URIPALS: PEOPLE AND ANIMALS LIVING SAFELY



**A**s many as 48% of domestic violence (DV) victims stay in abusive situations because they don't want to leave their pets behind. To address this critical concern, URI launched its one-of-a-kind People and Animals Living Safely program—the first program in NYC to co-shelter DV victims with their pets. There are currently 15 URIPALS apartments at URI's Urban Women's Safe Haven shelter in Brooklyn, which have housed dozens of families with their cats and dogs and other small animals. Purina, ASPCA, and the Mayor's Alliance for NYC's Animals have partnered with URI to develop, support, and maintain the program.

URI identified and filled an urgent need for domestic violence shelters that accept animals. In May 2015, URI celebrated the two-year anniversary of the opening of URIPALS. Due to the success of and demand for the program, URI is seeking financial support to expand the program to all four of its New York City shelters.

We hope that this program will serve as a model for domestic violence shelters across the country to adopt co-sheltering so that fewer families will be forced to choose between their pet's safety and their own.

*Through support from Purina, the Purina Play Haven and Dog Park at URI's Urban Women's Safe Haven—the first dog park in a domestic violence shelter—opened in March 2014. Purina also donated much-needed welcome kits tailored to cats.*



**MORE THAN  
70% OF PET  
OWNERS WHO  
ENTER SHELTER  
REPORT  
THAT THE  
ABUSER HAS  
THREATENED,  
INJURED, OR  
KILLED FAMILY  
PETS.**

AS MANY  
AS **48%** OF  
DOMESTIC  
VIOLENCE  
VICTIMS **STAY**  
**IN ABUSIVE**  
**SITUATIONS**  
BECAUSE THEY  
**DON'T WANT**  
**TO LEAVE**  
**THEIR PETS**  
**BEHIND.**

*"At Purina, we share the belief that when pets and people are together, life is truly better. We're very proud to support the Urban Resource Institute and its URIPALS program, which is helping to keep people and pets together during difficult times."*

LINDSEY HOGAN, PURINA



**ONE IN EVERY  
FOUR WOMEN  
EXPERIENCE  
DOMESTIC  
VIOLENCE;  
OF THOSE, A  
REPORTED **25%**  
**RETURN TO  
THE ABUSIVE  
RELATIONSHIP  
BECAUSE THEY  
DON'T WANT  
TO ABANDON  
PETS.****



*"Pets are members of the family. No one, especially victims of domestic violence, should have to make the impossible decision to leave their pets behind during times of crisis. Since launching URIPALS, we've seen how transformative it is for families in domestic violence situations to go through the healing process together with their pets."*

NATHANIEL FIELDS,  
PRESIDENT AND CEO, URI



*Domestic violence survivor Pamela Isaac spoke about the impact of the URIPALS program at the Purina #BetterWithPets Summit in New York City in October 2014. Isaac, who was able to bring her three cats with her into shelter because of URIPALS, spoke movingly about what it meant to her to be able to keep her pets with her.*

# WORKING TO CREATE A #DVFREE WORLD



URI's national #DVFree video campaign features intimate accounts by domestic violence survivors who came forward to tell their stories, vividly highlighting the impact of abuse and the path to healing and recovery. Launched during Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October 2014, the campaign showcases the diverse ways that abuse—whether physical, sexual, emotional, psychological, or economic—has no boundaries and affects people of all ages, races, and socio-economic backgrounds.

The survivor testimonials received more than 60,000 views on YouTube and continue to be shared widely on social networks by people who want to help URI make the world free of domestic violence.

With your support, URI can continue to develop and promote impactful initiatives like this one that increase understanding and awareness of domestic violence.

On this page are some of the survivors who shared their stories.



**ANA** grew up in a home where her father abused her mother. “I thought that was what love looked like,” she admitted. **“When I was in my first serious relationship as an adult, being abused emotionally, physically, and economically felt normal. It was all I knew.”** Ana spent six months healing at one of URI’s domestic violence shelters. “My journey at URI completely shifted my perspective. I hope my story can be a lesson to others about the importance of making all relationships free of domestic violence.”

**MURIEL** broke free of an abusive relationship and entered a URI shelter with her daughter in 2009 but was forced to separate from her dog, Jasmine, since shelters weren’t equipped to take in pets at the time. “An animal is never going to be able to ask for help, but **pets are often subjected to violence and physical abuse in order to manipulate the victims into acting the way the abuser wants them to,**” she said. In 2013, Muriel helped celebrate the launch of URIPALS—People and Animals Living Safely—New York City’s first-ever initiative to enable domestic violence survivors to enter shelter with their pets.

**LINDA**'s story demonstrates that domestic violence can affect any of us. A successful entrepreneur who owns a Manhattan clothing boutique and now sponsors clothing drives and other activities that benefit URI's shelter residents, Linda was in an abusive relationship for 15 years until she finally broke free. **"I want people to understand that there's no typical face of domestic violence—people think it's a problem that only affects lower-income and minority groups, but that's not true."** She added, "I see the impact it has on the women in URI's shelters when I share my story with them. I wish there had been someone to talk to me that way."



*Renowned actors Kevin Bacon and Kyra Sedgwick publicly supported the campaign, sharing the videos with their large network of Twitter followers.*

**TITI** was in an abusive relationship for nearly three years. **To escape the abuse one day, she jumped off her second-story balcony and broke her leg from her knee down to her ankle;** she was hospitalized for five months. As she began her healing process at URI, Titi said, "I feel like I'm releasing a lot of things I went through—all my pain. I don't have to look over my shoulder anymore."

**JOSE** often witnessed his mother being abused by his stepfather. "My mom would always tell me to not get involved, that it was her problem. As a child, you don't want to see your mom going through that. **Domestic violence is not something you want your child around at all,**" Jose said. When his mother left the relationship, he entered URI's shelter with her.



**EBONY** was in shelter at URI for six months. "I always looked at myself as a person who was strong," she explained. "Then I met this one guy who took that all away from me. The worst moment was when my 14-year-old daughter walked into the room, because she heard her mother hollering and screaming. **To hear her say, 'Leave my mom alone'—that's when I felt I had to leave.**"



**ASHLEY** was raised in a physically and emotionally abusive home, and fell victim to the cycle of violence when she wound up in an abusive relationship as an adult. **"I thought this was the person I was going to spend the rest of my life with until the beating started,"** she said. "Ever since I was a kid, I've always had to fight."

# TACKLING ECONOMIC ABUSE

**N**inety-eight percent of domestic violence victims experience economic abuse. With limited resources and options, victims of abuse frequently face a double-edged sword—stay in domestic violence situations, or leave and risk facing homelessness and poverty.

From running up debt on victims' credit cards to keeping them on a strict budget or allowance, batterers use economic abuse—often along with physical, sexual, and emotional abuse—as another means of controlling victims and preventing them from leaving violent relationships. Abusers often restrict victims' ability to obtain or keep a job in order to keep them from achieving financial independence. Economic abuse can affect domestic violence victims' employment, housing, and financial security even after they have left the abusive relationship: Seven out of eight women who return to the abuser do so because of financial pressures that stem from economic abuse.

Economic abuse is too often overlooked or underreported, yet it is a critical contributing factor to keeping people trapped in domestic violence relationships. URI has taken steps to bring awareness to this issue and break down barriers to financial self-sufficiency for domestic violence survivors. Through participation in our Working Internship Network (WIN) program, URI shelter residents receive valuable job training and experience in a variety of real-world work settings, as well as financial literacy training. These opportunities prepare them to enter or re-enter the workforce and empower them to build a secure financial future for themselves and their families.

Through the generosity of donors such as the Mary Kay Foundation, the Avon Foundation for Women, and the BBVA Compass Foundation, URI has expanded programs that promote economic empowerment and help domestic violence survivors overcome economic abuse. With your support, we can do much more.

BATTERERS USE ECONOMIC ABUSE AS **ANOTHER MEANS OF CONTROLLING VICTIMS AND PREVENTING THEM FROM LEAVING.**



*Financial literacy training at URI.*

*“As I rebuild my life at URI, I realize now more than ever the importance of understanding my finances and gaining job skills that will help me get back on my feet.”*

URI SHELTER RESIDENT AND WIN PROGRAM PARTICIPANT.



## 7 OUT OF 8 WOMEN RETURN TO THE ABUSER BECAUSE OF FINANCIAL PRESSURES FROM ECONOMIC ABUSE.

*“We’re in the business of building a better future for people—and there are few things more rewarding than lending your expertise and your resources to truly empower people. URI’s approach to combating domestic violence spoke to us and our spirit as innovators.”*

REYMUNDO OCAÑAS, BBVA COMPASS



*URI shelter residents receive valuable job training and experience in real-world work settings.*

## 98% OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS EXPERIENCE ECONOMIC ABUSE.



*With generous support from BBVA Compass Foundation, URI opened a new computer lab to promote financial literacy, job-training skills, and self-sufficiency for our domestic violence shelter residents.*

## AS MANY AS 50% OF ABUSE VICTIMS REPORTED THAT THEY LOST THEIR JOBS DUE TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

# CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES

Years Ended December 31, 2014 and 2013

	2014	2013
<b>REVENUE AND SUPPORT</b>		
Fee for Service	\$ 11,667,989	\$ 11,395,830
Grants and Contracts	579,690	491,928
Medicaid Title XIX	5,764,401	4,964,078
Billing to Related Entities		
Contributions	123,635	31,074
Patient Fees	236,584	243,755
Interest	2,693	6,349
Other	24,066	27,583
	\$ 18,399,058	\$ 17,160,597
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Urban Women's Residential Facilities	8,857,855	8,647,006
Urban Center for Change	1,567,734	1,596,568
Urban Center for the Developmentally Disabled	483,365	467,748
Urban Center for Alcoholism Services	536,366	503,982
Intermediate Care Facilities/Individualized Residential Alternative	4,899,411	5,175,782
Housing	35,258	32,368
General and Administration	1,696,505	2,232,017
	\$ 18,076,494	\$ 18,655,471
Changes in Unrestricted Net Assets	322,564	(1,494,874)
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	3,556,916	5,051,790
	\$ 3,879,480	\$ 3,556,916
Net Assets, End of Year		

GRANTS AND  
CONTRACTS  
**ROSE 18%** IN  
2014.

EXPENSES  
WERE REDUCED  
BY **MORE THAN  
3%** IN 2014.

REVENUE  
& SUPPORT  
INCREASED  
**7.5%** IN 2014.

CONTRIBUTIONS  
INCREASED  
ALMOST **400%**  
IN 2014.

NET ASSETS  
INCREASED  
**8%** IN 2014.

# YOU CAN HELP US MAKE A DIFFERENCE

**URI** relies on and deeply appreciates the generosity of our donors. Your financial support allows us to provide vital services to thousands of New Yorkers who need us. Please help us continue to develop and expand innovative programs that make a difference in the lives of victims of domestic violence and their families.

To find out more about how you can help, please contact us: call 646-588-0030 or email [info@urinyc.org](mailto:info@urinyc.org).

TO MAKE A DONATION, VISIT  
[www.urinyc.org/get-involved/donations](http://www.urinyc.org/get-involved/donations)

THE ANNUAL  
COST OF  
DOMESTIC  
VIOLENCE  
TO THE US  
ECONOMY IS  
MORE THAN  
**\$8.3 BILLION.**





THE NYC  
DOMESTIC  
VIOLENCE  
HOTLINE  
AVERAGES **270**  
**CALLS PER DAY.**

IT COSTS  
**\$274 PER DAY**  
**TO SHELTER**  
**A FAMILY**  
**OF 3** IN URI  
EMERGENCY  
DOMESTIC  
VIOLENCE  
SHELTERS.



**\$90** BUYS 15  
BAGS OF DOG  
FOOD.

**\$100** BUYS 5  
PET BEDS.

**\$300** BUYS  
ONE URIPALS  
WELCOME KIT.



**URINYC**<sup>®</sup>  
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