



Breaking the cycle of domestic violence

# Family Rescue

## Annual Report Fiscal Year 2018



**Mission Statement**—Family Rescue is dedicated to eliminating domestic violence in the Chicago community by providing comprehensive support services and shelter to victims of domestic violence, particularly to abused women and their children, engaging in advocacy to promote future system change, and encouraging prevention through community education.

**Vision Statement**—Family Rescue envisions a world where safety and well being is a shared responsibility within and among families and communities, achieved only when the most vulnerable among us is safe, and a society free of violence is a reality for all.

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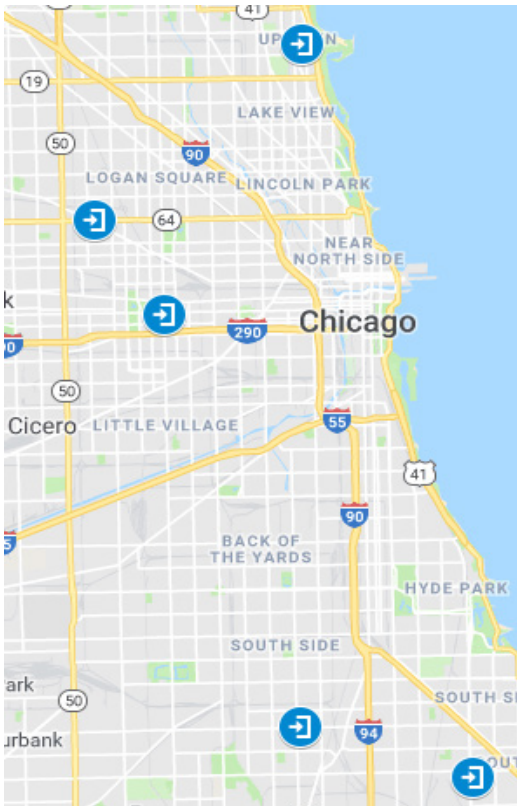
### **Community Outreach Program Director**

Jessica Estrada

# Ridgeland Apartments Sees Massive Renovations

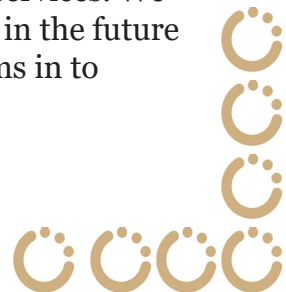
Thanks to a generous grant from Illinois Housing Development Authority (IL HDA), Ridgeland Apartments begun renovations to update its security system and porches, among other things. Most importantly, the IL HDA retired Family Rescue's mortgage on the property itself, which allows us to use those funds for other program expenses. Security is one of the most important aspects of any of Family Rescue's programs, especially in our residential programs. Ridgeland was in desperate need of an update to its buzzer system. It was outdated and unreliable. The new system not only improves the reliability of the buzzer at each gate and door, but also includes video technology so that both staff and residents can see who is at the gate and avoid letting in unknown or unauthorized persons. The video system also records and allows video to be saved for up to three months and accessed remotely. It also allows staff to call directly to the apartments if needed. With security, Ridgeland is also updating all of its locks.

Each apartment at Ridgeland has its own porch however until this year, they have not been safe enough for the residents to utilize. Thanks to the IL HDA funding, residents can finally enjoy relaxing on their porch after a long day without fear of accidents occurring. Other updates include new storm water drainage systems, new concrete walkways, and new fencing. Overall, these renovations not only help Family Rescue and Ridgeland, but also the neighborhood. Family Rescue is proud to be a resident of the South Side and we want to make it the best it can be.



## Community Outreach Expands to Include Mobile Units

Thanks to a partnership with the City of Chicago Department of Family and Support Services (DFSS), Family Rescue opened three offices in DFSS locations to be available to incoming DFSS clients who they identify as domestic violence victims - in Hermosa, Garfield Park, and Uptown. We already had a presence in the DFSS office in Englewood. These offices allow Family Rescue to reach different parts of the city and offer services to clients in other service-poor locations that might otherwise had not received domestic violence-related services. We hope to expand in to other DFSS offices in the future so we can continue to bring our programs in to more Chicago neighborhoods.



# Rosenthal Family Lodge Continues its Life Saving Work

The Brown family arrived at shelter in February 2018. Mom and her five children, ages 6, 4, 3, 2, and 1 years old, had nowhere else to go. The mother made the decision to leave her husband after years of abuse. Mom explained she tried to make her relationship better for the sake of the children, but she now realized things were never going to change. She said she could see the impact the arguing, name calling and violence was having on the children and she did not like it.

All of the children had problems with self-regulation and communication when they arrived at shelter. They would hit, kick, bite, shove, and scream frequently. The younger children had difficulty expressing themselves. Developmental and behavioral assessments were completed for each child and individualized goals and achievement plans were developed.

They attended children's groups regularly, which helped build social skills, and they received individual counseling with assigned advocates. The family participated in family counseling sessions to help them communicate better, improve problem solving, and strengthen the family unit. Staff also worked with mom on her parenting skills and introduced her to strategies to redirect the children's adverse behavior appropriately. When they departed shelter in July, all of the children's behavior had improved. The younger children were talking more, and the older children could regulate their emotions and impulsivity. Finally, Mom was more confident in her role as parent and committed to providing a safe and nurturing living environment.



## Legal Advocacy Continues to Make Strides on the Multi-Disciplinary Team

The Legal Advocacy Program entered its third year as a member of the Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT), which includes the State's Attorney's Office, the Chicago Police Department, and the Illinois Domestic Violence Hotline. The MDT works together to identify and respond to violence against women, specifically in the 3rd District and Area South, which includes 4th, 5th, 6th, and 22nd Districts. With offices in the Area South complex, our advocates are able to increase our participation in felony domestic violence cases. This includes taking shifts at the George N. Leighton Criminal Court Building where we have direct contact with domestic violence victims and witnesses. Our increased presence in both Area South and in the felony court allows us to advocate for upgrading charges to felonies. Our increased participation in felony cases has also given us the opportunity to get to know officers and detectives at Area Central, who relay cases to our advocates on a regular basis. It has also allowed for Family Rescue to be a resource and expert on domestic violence. Court personnel and police often ask our advocates for advice and information because they know us and trust us. Family Rescue values this partnership and looks forward to continuing it through years to come.


# Family Rescue Served 1,749 Clients in FY'18.

## Provided:

30,017.50 hours of service.

25,676 nights of transitional  
housing nights.

11,849 nights of shelter  
nights.



88% of clients  
achieved at least two  
goals on their service  
plans.

Answered 4,396 crisis calls.

Made 110 public awareness  
presentations.

Assisted 459 victims receive emergency  
orders of protection

70% of heads-of-household increased their income  
from residential program entry to exit.

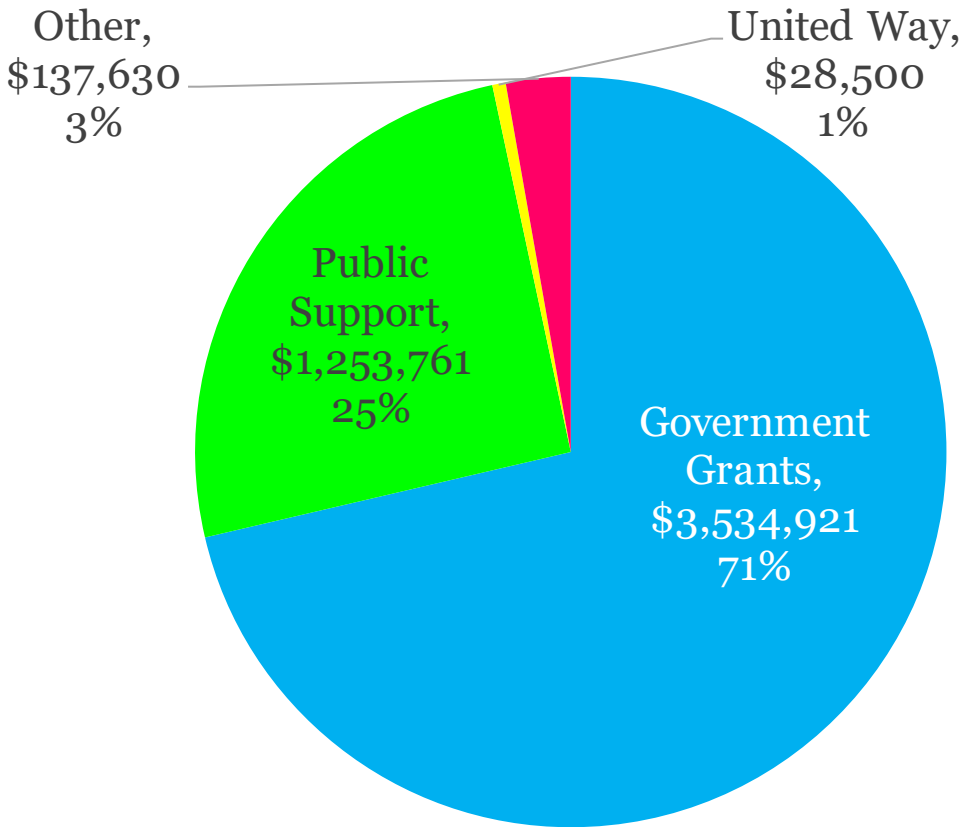
66% of children can identify two sources of safety.

95% of survivors were housed and violence-free at six month  
follow-up\*.

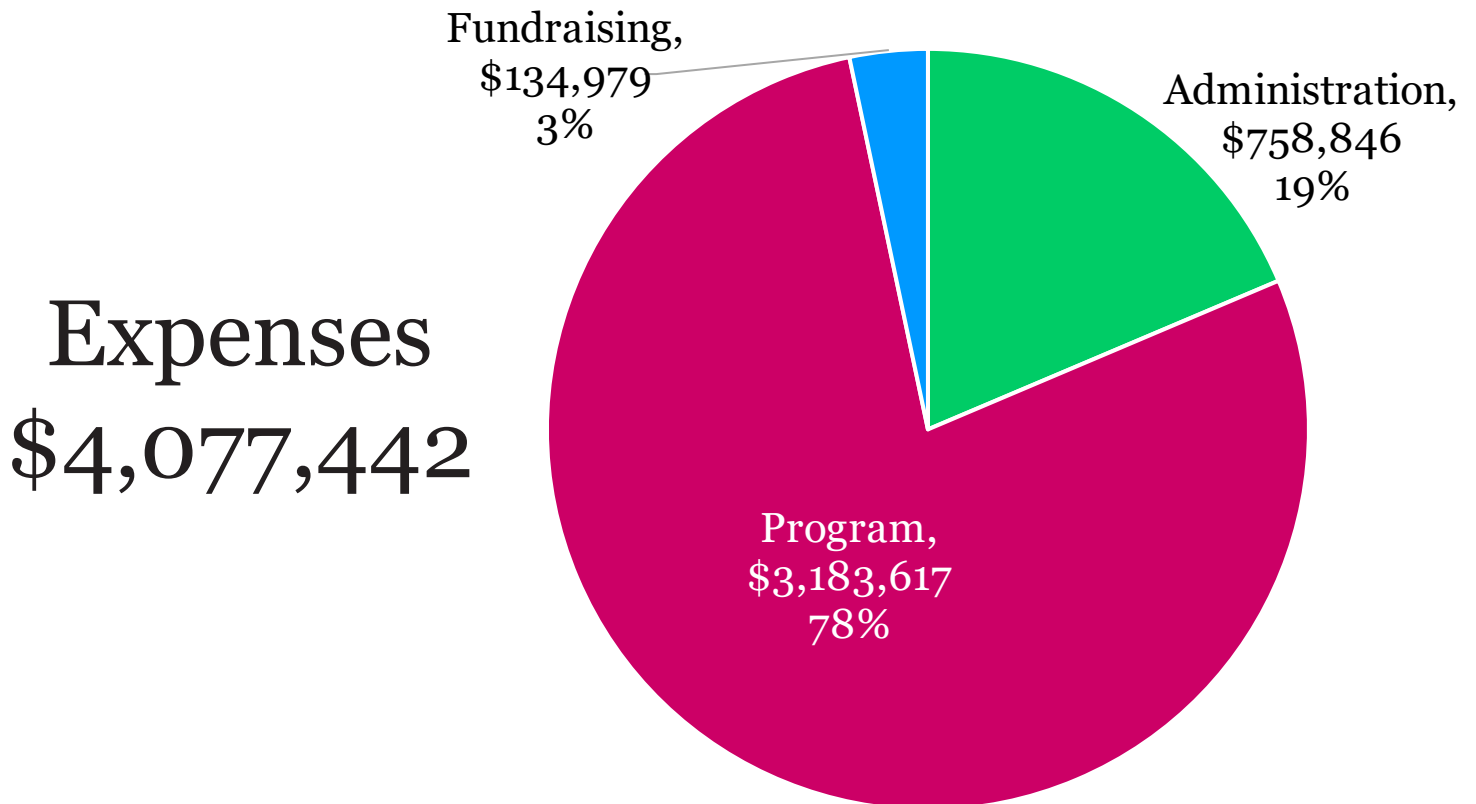
\* = of those surveyed



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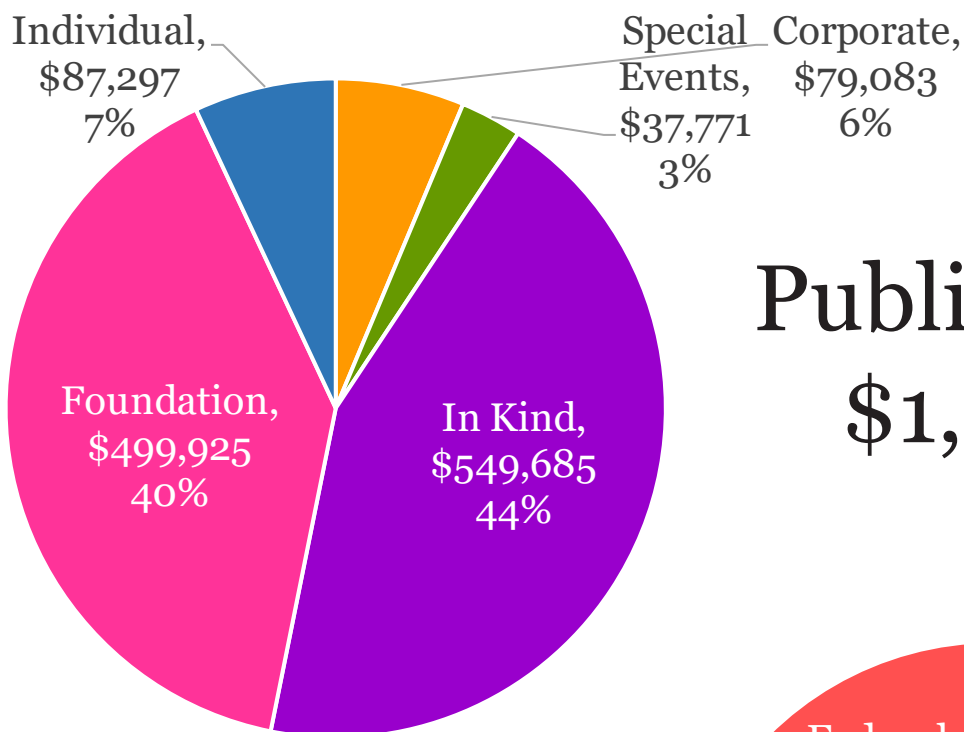


Revenue  
\$4,954,812



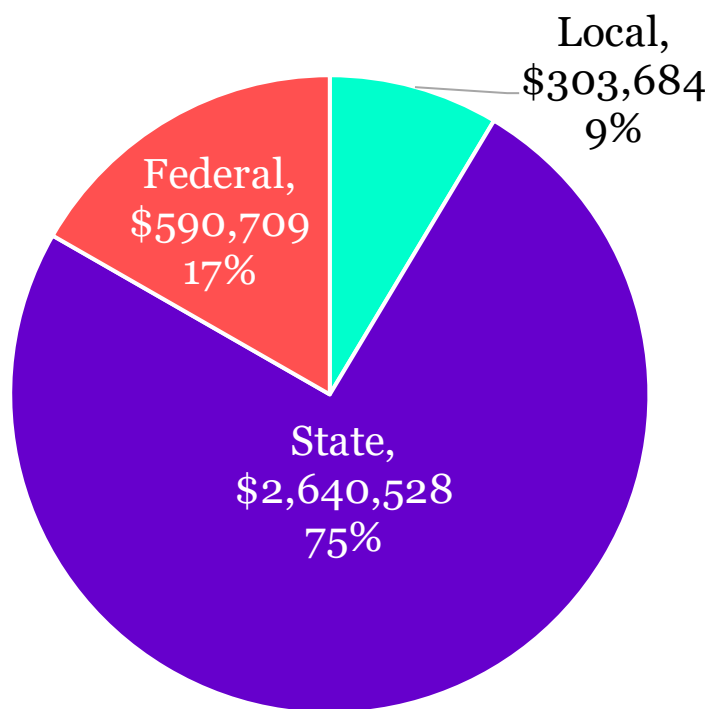
Expenses  
\$4,077,442

# REVENUE BREAKDOWN



Public Support  
\$1,253,761

Government  
Grants  
\$3,534,921



## Increase VOCA Funding Allows Family Rescue to Help More Clients

In FY'18, Family Rescue was blessed with an additional \$675,000 in Victims of Crimes Act funding with an additional \$300,000 specifically for expanding our Community Outreach Program. Passed by Congress in 1984, the Victims of Crimes Act established the Crime Victim's Fund, which compensates crime victims with federally convicted offenders' fines. This additional funding allowed Family Rescue to strengthen our infrastructure, including increasing staff salaries to be more competitive, adding positions to increase service reach, and expanding services available to current and future clients. This is not a one-year increase, but ongoing partnerships that will help Family Rescue continue to bring more positive change to Chicago.

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Breaking the cycle of domestic violence

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For more information, please visit

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