

Annual Report



MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT



"OVER THE PAST YEAR, A THEME WE'VE CARRIED THROUGH MANY OF OUR INITIATIVES HAS BEEN 'PAINTING A BRIGHTER FUTURE.' THAT'S SOMETHING OUR ADVOCATES AND VOLUNTEERS DO EACH DAY IN THEIR WORK WITH CLIENTS, AND IT'S SOMETHING WE'VE BEEN WORKING ON AS A BOARD OF DIRECTORS."

Greetings Gateway Supporters!



It is both a joy and an honor to have the opportunity to serve as the board chair and share this message with you. While it would be impossible to adequately convey the magnitude of the work Gateway's team tackles each day, I believe it's so important to shine a light on work that, by necessity, happens behind the scenes and beyond the public's view.

In 2024, we spent the first full year in our new Emergency Shelter, a space that's been a blessing even beyond our wildest dreams. As you'll see in the "Gateway By the Numbers" feature, the need remains robust – Gateway provided well over 7,000 guest nights of shelter to 195 women and children through the course of the year.

While we concluded one small chapter of our story by closing the Gateway Thrift Store in early 2025, Gateway has been busy finding innovative and creative ways to make an impact against domestic violence in our community.

Over the past year, a theme we've carried through many of our initiatives has been "Painting a Brighter Future." That's something our advocates and volunteers do each day in their work with clients, and it's something we've been working on as a board of directors, recently completing a strategic plan for 2025-2027. We've set goals related to our finances, our people (staff, volunteers, board, interns), and our programs.

Keeping an eye on the future and deciding what is painted on the canvas is as important as ever, especially as we navigate federal funding cuts and other realities that sometimes discourage victims from seeking the help they need.

In my full-time roles as a physician and a mom, I understand how important it is for me to be a steady, reliable presence for my patients and my family. I look at Gateway in a similar way – no matter the circumstances, our community relies on Gateway to meet critical needs that would otherwise go unmet. **For more than 40 years, Gateway has evolved and grown, but has never wavered in its mission to provide safety, shelter and support for those impacted by domestic violence.**

Sincerely,

Nikova Mason

GATEWAY BY THE NUMBERS IN 2024...

195 survivors of domestic violence (and their children) lived in the emergency shelter.

37 nights was the average length of stay in the emergency shelter.

7,276 guest nights of shelter were provided in the emergency shelter.

1,930 hours of volunteer time were contributed.

51 women and children lived in Gateway's long-term transitional housing program.

13 average number of months residents lived in the transitional housing program.

10,935 guest nights were provided in the transitional housing program.

\$12.15 average hourly wage of transitional housing residents

132 adult survivors of domestic violence attended support groups.

158 children participated in support groups.

1,438 total number of clients served through Gateway programming.

\$8,400 average monthly amount Gateway paid to help clients with expenses like transportation, childcare, rent deposits, attorneys and prescriptions.

1,930 number of crisis calls Gateway answered on the 24/7 hotline.

188 survivors were assisted applying for a Temporary Protective Order.

126 survivors received legal representation (an attorney) through Gateway during TPO hearings.

MISSION

Gateway provides safety, shelter and support for those impacted by domestic violence.



Painting a Brighter Future

Our staff, volunteers and supporters have helped us paint a brighter future for survivors of domestic violence, and for that we are forever grateful!



POINTS OF PRIDE



DANICA BARRON, night and weekend house manager, completed her bachelor's degree and published a paper in the *Psi Chi Journal of Psychological Research*.



DAWN COLUMBO, support group facilitator, received her certification as a Registered Expressive Arts Therapist.



JENNIE PLESS, night and weekend supervisor, is a PhD candidate at UGA and published a paper in the *Journal of Interpersonal Violence* and the *Journal of Substance Use & Addiction Treatment*. She also was a presenter at the Georgia Commission on Family Violence State Conference.



TJ JOHNSTON was awarded our inaugural Founders Award at Gateway to Hope in March. TJ has been a Night and Weekend House Manager at Gateway for seven years and is a valued member of the Gateway team.

BOARD MEMBERS & **STAFF**

as of March 1, 2025



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

NIKOVA MASON, *President*
JOY GRIFFIN, *Past President*
ALAINA CONNER, *Vice President*
BRENDA ROBLES, *Secretary*
ANNA MOORE, *Treasurer*

Loveanne Addison
 Lynn Carter
 Nick Challen
 Susan J. Daniell
 Kristy Davies
 Joe Elias
 Jenny Floyd
 Kristi Griffin
 Britteny Hammonds
 Charlie Hawkins
 Heather Hollimon
 Sharon Holt
 Shannon Hughs
 Dawn Justus
 Bernard Larkin
 Kelly Lee
 Jay Parrish
 Rachel Payne
 Kelley Robertson
 Rachel Sprouse
 John Strupe
 Vanessa Sykes

Lee Towns
 Susanne Stribling Turner
 Keith Whitaker
 Tiffany Whitmire

ADVISORY BOARD

Lynda Askew
 Ruth Bruner
 Emily Bagwell
 Maria Calkins
 Tina Carlson-Griffeth
 Cheryl Christian
 Julia Cromartie
 Lydia Ferguson
 Sissy Lawson
 Deborah Mack
 Beth Nott
 Kimberly Dobbs Scott

GATEWAY STAFF

Ray Banwell, *Facility Maintenance*
 Danica Barron, *Night & Weekend Advocate*
 Cindy Bryant, *Director of Advocacy*
 Jessica Butler, *Executive Director*
 Janel Daly, *Night & Weekend Advocate*
 Letecia Davenport, *Family Advocate*
 Jennifer Findley, *Night & Weekend Advocate*

Rachel Flowers, *Family Advocate*
 Christine Hernandez, *Legal Advocacy Manager*
 Maria Ibarra, *Family Advocate*
 TJ Johnston, *Night & Weekend Advocate*
 Lola Longoria, *Shelter Manager*
 Patty Luttrell, *Bookkeeper*
 Argelys Medina, *Night & Weekend Advocate*
 Jennie Pless, *Night & Weekend Supervisor*
 Israel Quintanar, *Legal Advocate*
 Dana Skelton, *Night & Weekend Advocate*
 Adelis Solano, *Child Advocate*
 Karen Staley, *Administrative Assistant*
 Lisa Thomas, *Family Advocate*
 Janet Whittaker, *Director of Operations*
 Cassie Yanez, *Transitional Advocate*

SUPPORT GROUP PROGRAM FACILITATORS

Shelby Adams
 April Atienza
 Faith Boatwright
 Jessenia Caudillo
 Dawn Columbo
 Chloe Cox
 Tiffany Little
 Linda Martinez
 Jess Maynard
 Beth Oropeza
 Savannah Partee
 Aaron Podriznik
 Alex Salazar
 Sarah Sukumaran
 Robin Underwood
 Katelyn Warren