



**The Women's Fund of Essex County Awards
2021 "Above and Beyond Award for Excellence"
to Salem based non-profit, Healing Abuse Working for Change (HAWC)**
The annual award includes an unrestricted grant of \$25,000

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (October 26, 2021) DANVERS AND SALEM, MA - - **The Women's Fund of Essex County** (TWF) is pleased to announce that the Salem based non-profit, **Healing Abuse Working for Change**, better known as **HAWC**, the longest-standing domestic violence agency on the North Shore, has been honored with the **2021 Above and Beyond Award in honor of the Founders' Circle**.

The award is given annually by The Women's Fund to a local non-profit whose exemplary vision and work sets an exceptional standard in addressing complex and overlapping social issues impacting women, families, and communities.

The \$25,000 award was presented to HAWC by The Women's Fund to recognize their dedication and tireless work to create social change by taking action against personal and societal patterns of violence and oppression, helping survivors of domestic violence achieve independence, safety, and a strong sense of wellbeing.

For more than 43 years, HAWC has provided critical services, emergency shelter, and advocacy to survivors of domestic violence residing in 23 cities and towns on the North Shore. The non-profit quickly responded to the unprecedented challenges and barriers for survivors brought by the pandemic, immediately shifting their services to be remote, ensuring they were accessible for those who needed them most. Since the onset of COVID-19 in March 2020, HAWC has provided over 1,500 survivors with more than 19,000 supportive services.

Wendy Roworth, *Co-President of the TWF Advisory Board*, said, "The decision was unanimous for HAWC to receive the "2021 Above and Beyond Award," especially given its 40+ history of empowering a community of survivors. This award recognizes the decades of extraordinary work HAWC has been doing to provide survivors of abuse with the quality, compassionate, innovative services and programs to help rebuild their lives while advocating for an end to domestic violence everywhere."

"The impact of the pandemic has been uniquely fraught for survivors of domestic violence, with one in three women experiencing abuse. During this health crisis, HAWC has been a lifeline for survivors of abuse in our community," added **Trish Moore**, *TWF Advisory Board Co-President*. "As we move forward, we must continue to invest in proven safety nets like HAWC, which are doing the hard work because only by coming together can we create a truly safe and healthy future for women and girls in our community."

"We are beyond humbled and honored that The Women's Fund has chosen to recognize HAWC in this way," said **Sara Stanley**, *HAWC's Executive Director*. "The team at HAWC works hard to empower women and survivors because we feel strongly that our community will thrive if survivors have the tools and support in place to succeed. The Women's Fund's investment and vote of confidence in our work demonstrates that our two organizations are working symbiotically to achieve the same goals."

Established in 2015, the *Above and Beyond Award for Excellence Award* directly reflects the empowering vision of The Women's Fund of Essex County's founding members. The non-profit Foundation's dedicated founders and past board members continue to help the organization realize its mission of investing, impacting, and improving the lives of women and girls by evaluating and recommending each year's deserving award recipient. Prior recipients of the Above and Beyond Award for Excellence are Family Services of Merrimack Valley, Lawrence; Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center, Newburyport; Girls, Inc of Lynn; Boys and Girls Club of Greater Lawrence; YWCA of Greater Lawrence, and Raw Art Works, Lynn.

To learn more about the work of The Women's Fund of Essex County, ways to get involved or support this all-volunteer organization, please visit thewomensfundec.org.

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About TWF:

Since 2003, The Women's Fund of Essex County has raised and awarded more than \$2.8 million to high-impact non-profit partners that provide local women, girls, and their families with the resources they need to find success at work, school, home, and life. The Women's Fund supports a wide range of programming targeted towards helping women and girls from across Essex County thrive and become more self-sufficient. The organization has been recognized with the George Peabody Award for Leadership in Philanthropy by the Essex County Community Foundation and the Champions Award for Community Impact by North Shore Community College, and the Constance Grasso Award from the YWCA of Greater Newburyport. The Women's Fund of Essex County is an all-volunteer organization supported entirely by generous donors whose philanthropy supports a portfolio of programs impacting local women and girls. (thewomensfundec.org)

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