

A SWELL OF
HOPE



turn
AROUND
the first place to turn



*“May my voice, your voice,
and the voices of survivors
continue to flood the earth
with a swell of hope.”*



LaQUISHA HALL

Member, Survivor Leader Network Advisory Board

*This excerpt from the 2021 **Purple Poetry Book** foreword
is used with permission from the author.*

TABLE of CONTENTS

Letter from Our Board Chair	1
Our Mission, Vision, and Values	2
Our Impact in 2024.....	3
Marking Our 45th Year of Service	10
Our Legislative Priorities for 2025	12

FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR

FRIENDS,

During difficult times, it can be hard to see positive changes happening around you. It is natural to get caught up in day-to-day stress and feel like the challenges we're facing as a community are insurmountable. For some, working on issues of intimate partner violence, sexual violence, and human trafficking would feel like an impossible task. However, as the President of the Board of TurnAround, this work is one of the things that keeps me going, because it is the epitome of growth, resilience, and hope.

TurnAround started 45 years ago as the Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Center serving Baltimore County. Since that time, the organization has grown significantly, first into Baltimore City in 1995 to fill a gap in services for sexual violence survivors, and then into Howard County in 2021 to offer our comprehensive anti-trafficking program. During the COVID-19 pandemic, we expanded our community-based services to ensure that we showed up in the spaces where survivors were gathering, rather than restricting services solely to traditional office locations. In 2024, we partnered with the YWCA of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County to open the first safe house in Maryland, and one of only a handful in the country, for children who have been trafficked.

Each cycle of growth is done with intention—we go where the need is in our communities. We do this because our mission is to educate, empower, and advocate for all people impacted by intimate partner violence, sexual violence, and human trafficking. It is too important to stand by the sidelines.

TurnAround is a leader in the movement to end violence and abuse, and we will continue to show up for and with survivors every day across Maryland and beyond. We are inspired by the thousands of survivors we serve every year, each facing their own unique journey, and we work with them to offer hope and healing. As described by Intentional Purpose, one of the incredible artists in TurnAround's 2022 **Purple Poetry Book**, in their beautiful piece "The River," as seen on the inside back cover of this report.

*"My life has many colors – early on it was dark
I did not see the tones that correspond with the season I was in
Now I see bright flashes of hope."*

Sincerely,
Bella Owens
Board President, TurnAround Inc.

OUR MISSION, VISION & VALUES

MISSION

TurnAround's mission is to educate, empower, and advocate for all people impacted by intimate partner violence, sexual violence, and human trafficking.

VISION

Ending and preventing violence and abuse by working together with survivors, their support systems, and our communities.

VALUES

We believe in:

- An accessible open door
- Supporting people of all identities
- Adapting to each individual's needs & goals
- Improving outcomes through education and awareness
- Strengthening care through collaboration and innovation
- We believe all survivors



Left: Advocacy and Resources Program team members
Right: Staff writing exercise



OUR IMPACT IN 2024



In marking its 45th anniversary this year, TurnAround renewed its commitment to its core mission of ensuring that every survivor of sexual violence, intimate partner violence, and human trafficking has access to services to begin rebuilding their lives. Our staff works day in and day out with survivors in their darkest moments because we have hope that brighter days are ahead for them. It's a swell of hope that holds the promise of healing.

CORE SERVICES

TurnAround provides free wraparound services for survivors of human trafficking, sexual violence, intimate partner violence and our communities. These include trauma therapy, case management, advocacy and more.

Crisis Response

Our 24/7 crisis helpline and text line are available 365 days a year to meet a survivor's immediate safety needs. Caring and skilled professionals connect each caller with TurnAround's full range of trauma response services as appropriate. The crisis team links survivors to emergency shelter, transportation, food, clothing and many other resources.

Trauma Therapy

TurnAround's trauma therapy includes free counseling for victims and survivors of intimate partner violence, sexual violence, and human trafficking. Both individual and group counseling is offered. Our licensed clinicians all hold Master's degrees and have specific experience working with trauma survivors. Therapy focuses on providing a safe, supportive and non-judgmental environment to facilitate healing.

Advocacy & Resources

Advocates ensure that the survivor's rights and decisions are respected at all times. They are experts in connecting survivors with necessary resources, including health care, legal services, and safe housing. Advocates also can assist with safety planning at home, school, work, and other places in the community.

Residential Services

Providing 24/7 care for children and youth who have been trafficked.

Legal Services

Through our partnership with pro bono providers including Maryland Legal Aid, TurnAround provides free legal consultation and representation for cases of family law, victim rights, protective orders, and civil law. A TurnAround legal advocate accompanies a survivor to court, interviews, and hearings and assists with reporting to police, school and other authorities.

Community Education

Prevention depends on education and outreach to build a culture of openness. We deliver education and resources to the community through a variety of initiatives designed to reduce risk and enhance protective factors.



NEW

IN 2024

Residential Program and Support for Child Trafficking Survivors

TurnAround has opened the doors of Maryland's only dedicated residence for minors affected by trafficking, in partnership with the YWCA of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County.

Twenty-two months after breaking ground on the facility, TurnAround received the license to operate it and begin providing services to children aged 13 to 17. The residence can support up to 8 youth at a time. Each receives their own room and has opportunities for choice and empowerment throughout their stay, which can last from 12 to 18 months.

The house, known as TurnAround's Monarch Program, provides therapeutic services intended to reduce the effects of human trafficking and prevent re-victimization.

DIRECT SUPPORT

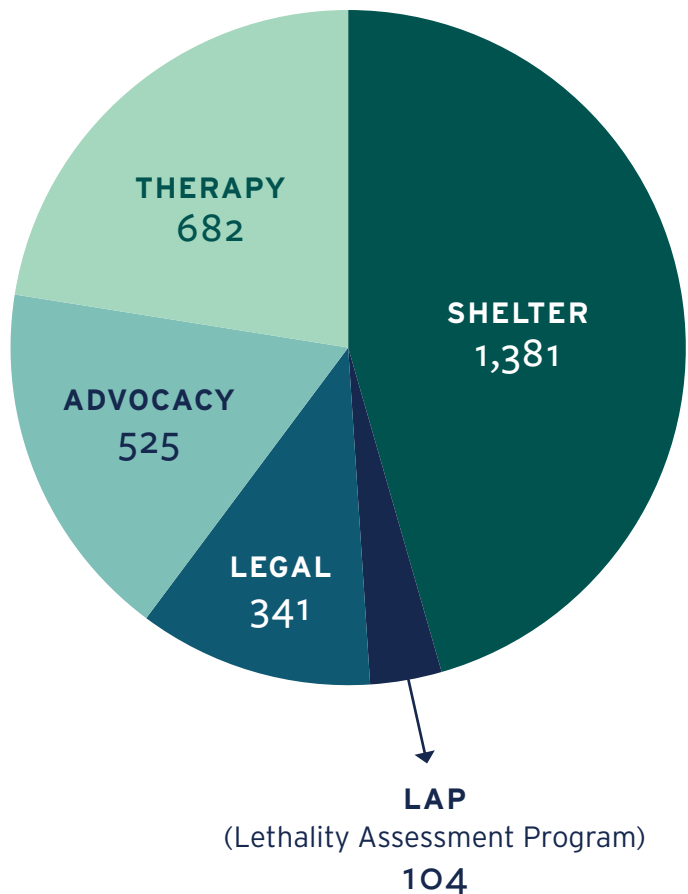
Between July 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024, TurnAround's Helpline team responded to over 2,300 calls, of the over 9,000 calls for support to the agency overall; we provided shelter, advocacy, and therapy support to over 1,200 individuals and their children; and we connected with over 8,600 individuals through various outreach and education initiatives.

19% increase in calls and texts to our helpline

10% increase in demand for support services by survivors of intimate partner violence

50% increase in demand for support services by survivors of multiple victimizations

SNAPSHOT OF TYPES OF SERVICES DELIVERED





ADVOCACY AND PREVENTION

TurnAround's Community Advocacy and Prevention Services (CAPS) team collaborates with a variety of community partners to provide ongoing prevention and intervention services to families affected by intimate partners violence, sexual violence, and human trafficking. We meet families where they are and provide customized, comprehensive services including one-on-one case management, group activities, referrals to additional services and resources, and educational programming. In our last fiscal year, we reached over 200 children, youth, and their caregivers in Baltimore City through this program.

Our Partners

We continued our partnership with **Boys and Girls Clubs of Metropolitan Baltimore**, providing educational sessions about sexual assault awareness and prevention and community-based case management teams. TurnAround's CAPS team is embedded at five Boys and Girls Clubs locations in Baltimore City.



In a new partnership this year, TurnAround joined with **Living Classrooms Foundation's Operation Respond**, a community safety program that provides crisis intervention management in two neighborhoods in Baltimore City. Outreach case managers help individuals create a safety plan, navigate the legal system, and connect with trauma therapy resources and other community services.

Team TurnAround at staff in-service



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND TRAINING

Thousands of Marylanders are impacted by sexual and domestic abuse each year. Awareness of the problem helps reduce the shame associated with abuse, and opens up a community-wide conversation about tactics for prevention. We sought to raise awareness through several new initiatives this year.



*Purple Poetry Book launch event
(Oct 2023)*

Advertising Campaign

To raise awareness about the prevalence of human trafficking in Maryland, we created ads that appeared on buses in Baltimore City and Howard County. The ads also help increase understanding of TurnAround's role as a resource for survivors of human trafficking. We are expanding the campaign to include Baltimore County buses.

Purple Poetry Book Exhibit at the BMA

For one day in April, artwork from past Purple Poetry Books was on display at the Baltimore Museum of Art. For 14 years, TurnAround has published the Purple Poetry Book, a collection of original poetry, artwork, and short stories by survivors of sexual and intimate partner violence. The 14th edition was released in October 2023 at an evening reception at David and Dad's Cafe in Baltimore.

Website and Social Media

We unveiled a new design for our website, turnaroundinc.org, to provide easier access to our online resources. Our helpline and text line are featured prominently in the top right corner of every page, along with the quick exit button.

Coordinating Services in Baltimore County

TurnAround Executive Director Amanda Rodriguez was named an inaugural member of the newly created Working Group on Resource Coordination to Support Victims of Sexual Exploitation, Violence, and Domestic Abuse in Baltimore County. The group is responsible for reviewing resources various organizations currently provide, identifying opportunities to better coordinate existing resources and programs, and making recommendations regarding potential changes to policy to improve collaboration between federal, state, and local government agencies and private providers.



MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS



"Accountability – we hear this word often, usually in reference to someone not doing their job or a lack of transparency. For those of us who work with survivors of sexual violence, intimate partner violence and human trafficking, accountability is almost always in reference to an abusive person being continuously enabled and allowed to escape consequences."

–Op-ed by JEAN E. HENNINGSEN and AMANDA RODRIGUEZ, October 2023



"Our goal is to empower impacted survivors and to ensure their voice is central to this process. These survivors took meaningful steps, with hope, that someday justice would be served in their case -- and now, there is a chance for them to realize that hope. Victim engagement is key. We want to give them back power in a situation where to date they have had none."

– AMANDA RODRIGUEZ, on Baltimore County's campaign to expedite testing of archived GBMC sex assault evidence, April 2024



"The real thing to remember with survivors that come forward in instances when there is someone who is famous is that they're going to be in the public media and scrutinized. That's something that all survivors of sexual violence experience as their cases move forward."

– AMANDA RODRIGUEZ, on CNN News Central speaking about the indictment of Sean "Diddy" Combs on sex trafficking charges, among others, September 2024



"The overarching response I got back [from the staff] was that if you don't mess with bears, they don't mess with you."

– AMANDA RODRIGUEZ, on the "Man or Bear?" viral meme about who women feel safer with, May 2024



VOLUNTEER PROFILE

Joanna Murdick

Just before the Covid-19 pandemic struck Maryland, Joanna Murdick volunteered for the first time at TurnAround's Towson office. A group from her son's high school was volunteering to paint the walls in the office. When they couldn't finish in the time allotted, Joanna offered to come back to complete the project. Then she started helping to organize and stock items in the food and clothing pantries.

Five years later, Joanna remains a weekly volunteer. She packs emergency boxes for shelter clients, helps process donations of food, clothing and toiletries, and inventories the food pantry to learn which items need to be reordered.

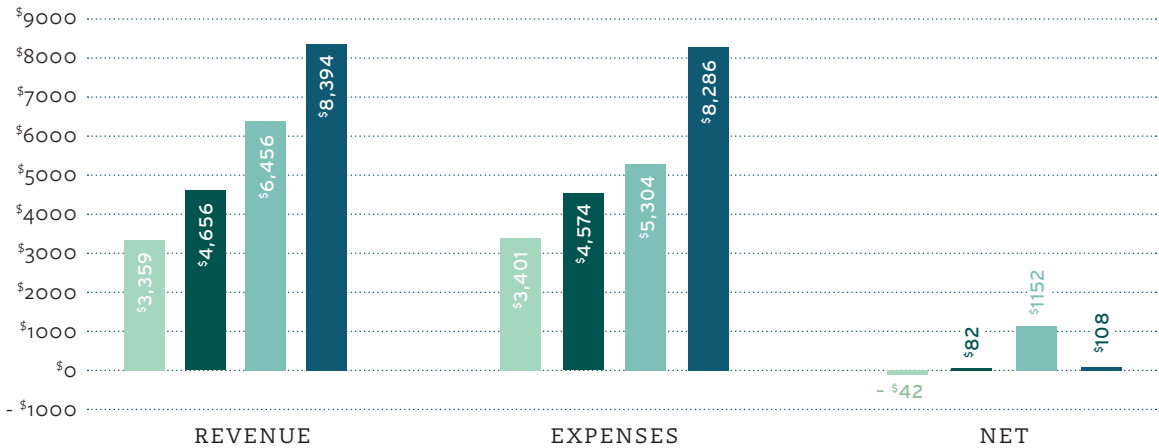
"I'm lucky to get to volunteer with them," she said. "It's incredible to see the impact they're having on this group of people who have dealt with so much, and yet have the bravery to take the next steps."

Joanna encourages other prospective volunteers to get involved. "There's something for everyone to do," she explained. "If you're shy, you can work in the background, sorting gifts for the Hope for Holidays event. If you want a more hands-on approach, there are opportunities with the helplines. There are so many possibilities."

CORE EXPENSES

Revenue, Expenses & Net Income

FY22
FY23
FY24
FY25 budget



THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS

Thank you to our generous funders, donors, and sponsors for your support.
Here is a sampling of some our supporters.

Baltimore County Government
Governor's Office of Crime
Prevention and Policy
Hackerman Foundation
Hoffberger Foundation
Howard County Government
Kaine Investments
Maryland Coalition Against
Sexual Assault
Maryland Department of Health

Maryland Network Against
Domestic Violence
Maximus Foundation
Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety
and Engagement
Office on Victims of Crime
Office on Violence Against Women
Leonard and Helen R Stulman Foundation
Venable LLP
The Harry and Jeannette
Weinberg Foundation

45TH ANNIVERSARY GALA SPONSORS

BUTTERFLY

Bob and Barbara Webbert

PLATINUM

Merritt Companies

SILVER

Alera Group
Arbor Dog Foundation
CareFirst
Romita Solutions LLC
T. Rowe Price
William Blair



MARKING OUR 45TH YEAR OF SERVICE

2000

In celebration of the new millennium, we became TurnAround, Inc., the first place to turn.



Baltimore County Executive and
U.S. Representative-elect, John A. Olszewski, Jr.



1978

TurnAround was founded as the Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Center (SADVC) serving Baltimore County.

1995

We expanded our services to support survivors in Baltimore City

Left Page, top: TurnAround Board Chair Bella Owens with Board Member and WJZ Anchor Denise Koch

Left page, bottom: Angeles Evans, Senior Manager of Community Engagement and Training, and Amanda K. Rodriguez, Esq., CEO of TurnAround, with Purple Poetry Book contributors LaQuisha Hall, Kelly Weckesser, and Malia Scher

This page, top row (L-R): Femi Ayanbadejo, entrepreneur and former Baltimore Raven, with Eena Bass-Feld, former TurnAround Child Art Therapist (1986-2011); Amanda K. Rodriguez and Tracey Collins, Intake Manager, recipient of Team TurnAround Award



Amanda K. Rodriguez with Barbara and Bob Webb, recipients of TurnAround Value Award for Community



Comptroller of Maryland Brooke E. Lierman, Esquire

2011

We initiated a comprehensive program focused on commercial sexual exploitation/human trafficking

2024

We opened the only shelter in Maryland solely dedicated to child victims of human trafficking.

OUR LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR 2025



Each year, TurnAround commits to a specific set of legislative actions aimed at addressing the needs of the core populations we serve: survivors of trafficking, sexual violence, and intimate partner violence. Our focused efforts are designed to enhance protections, ignite systems-level change, hold our systems and leaders accountable, and broaden the resources available to these individuals as they rebuild their lives.

LEGALIZING THE CAPTURE OF EVIDENCE

Maryland law currently prohibits the recording of a conversation happening over a phone line, in person, or through electronic means without the knowledge or consent of all the individuals involved. It is therefore illegal for survivors to use their mobile phones to record sexual assault or intimate partner violence while it is happening, without alerting the abuser. The recording is inadmissible in court, and the survivor can be charged with a felony.

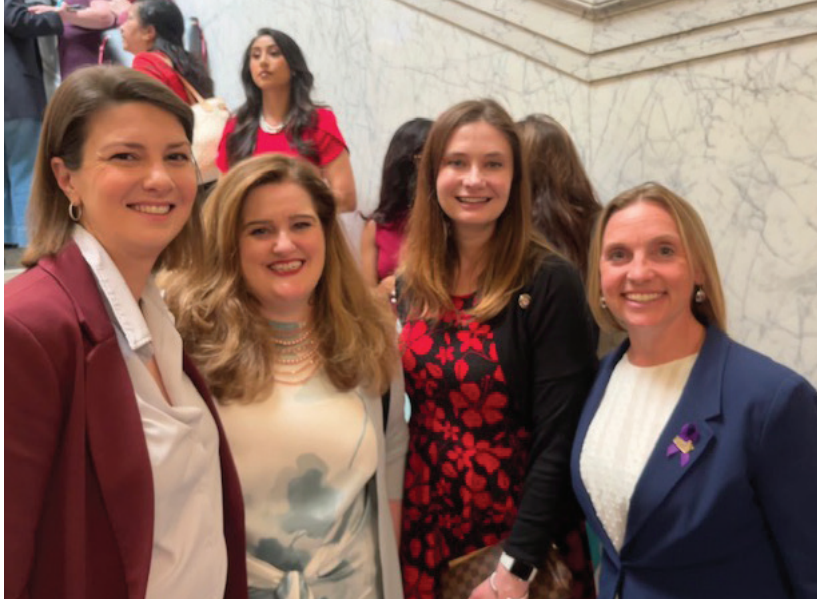
In the 2024 legislative session, TurnAround advocated for a bill that would add an exception to this law for people who are in imminent danger. The exception would legalize the

recording if the person recording it, or another person, has a good faith belief that they are at risk of a crime of violence, stalking, abuse, or violation of a protective order.



Senator Shelly Hettleman with TurnAround CEO and staff

Due in part to our support, the bill passed the Maryland House and was introduced in the Senate, which ran out of time to advance it. We strongly urge the Senate to re-introduce and pass the bill in the 2025 session. Granting survivors the right to capture evidence of crimes while they are being committed will greatly enhance law enforcement's ability to hold perpetrators accountable.



*TurnAround CEO, Senator Ariana Kelly,
Delegate Emily Shetty and staff*



*TurnAround CEO, staff, and Baltimore City
Mayor Brandon Scott*

SUPPORTING IMMIGRANT SURVIVORS

Survivors of sexual violence or human trafficking who are immigrants are an especially vulnerable group. They may be reluctant or afraid to contact law enforcement due to language or cultural barriers or due to their immigration status. About a quarter of Maryland's 1 million foreign-born residents are undocumented immigrants.

Currently, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Department (CIS) offers two types of visas for survivors of these traumas to encourage them to report the crimes: T visas and U visas. Once obtained, the visas enable the survivors to stay and work in the United States legally for up to four years, provided they continue to assist the police in the investigation.

The visa application must be signed by an authorized official of the relevant law enforcement agency. That official must confirm the survivor has been and will be helpful in the prosecution of the case.

The current CIS guidance for law enforcement allows the official to use their discretion in determining how "helpful" a survivor is being or promises to be. This allows room for bias or discrimination to creep in and cloud decision-making.

We strongly urge the Maryland General Assembly to enact legislation that removes personal judgment from this process. The role of law enforcement in the T and U visa application process should be simply to certify that the crime occurred in their jurisdiction. That is the only way to prevent survivors from experiencing further traumatization.



"MCASA and its members, including TurnAround, have encountered multiple cases where recordings of the crime cannot be used as evidence. These have included rapes, other sexual assaults, and even child sexual abuse. TurnAround's advocacy on this issue has been vital to helping the legislature understand the real-world impact of the state's outdated wiretap law. In an era when cell phones are ubiquitous, it makes no sense to punish those who record violent crimes."

LISAE C. JORDAN, Esquire
Executive Director & Counsel,
Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault



Denim Day 2024 Team Photo





Community Advocacy and Prevention Team Members



Seal at Maryland State House

ONGOING ADVOCACY PRIORITIES

In addition to the two specific legislative priorities described above, TurnAround is committed to advocating on behalf of survivors of sexual violence, intimate partner violence, and human trafficking. We seek greater protections and services for survivors, as well as greater accountability for perpetrators of these crimes.

Key areas of ongoing advocacy this year include:

Child welfare policies that impact children in out-of-home care:

Despite the best efforts and intentions of foster parents, out-of-home care can result in increased vulnerability of youth to sexual violence and human trafficking. We want to strengthen the safety net for children and youth in out-of-home care settings, ensuring they are afforded equal protection to children living at home with a parent or legal guardian.

Protection of rights for parents who are survivors

The impact of trauma can be long-lasting and can manifest itself in unexpected ways. Survivors of intimate partner violence who seek to separate legally from a spouse or partner with whom they have children are too often denied custody by our courts. This is due in part to the effects of trauma on survivors, and to the ways our family law system operates. We seek systemic change that will not allow survivor parents to be punished for the crimes of others.

Criminal justice reform for cases involving sexual violence

Criminal cases involving sexual violence and intimate partner violence frequently come down to one person's word against another. The voices and experiences of members of historically underrepresented or marginalized groups are not perceived to hold the same degree of authority as cis-gendered white men. We believe the people of Maryland deserve a criminal justice system that treats all the state's residents equally and we will continue to advocate for those whose voices are silenced or discounted.

A 2024 LEGISLATIVE

SUCCESS

Protecting Children in Maryland

Thanks to the leadership and dedication of Delegate Elizabeth Embry of Baltimore City and Senator Charles Sydnor of Baltimore County, the General Assembly passed and Governor Wes Moore signed a key protection for children who have survived labor trafficking.

This new law defines labor trafficking as a form of child abuse or neglect. It also enables Regional Navigators to connect survivors of human trafficking who are under the age of 25 with services to support them. And, critically, it expands Regional Navigator funding to cover housing costs for these survivors—a foundational and fundamental need. Regional Navigators are designated human services professionals in each county responsible for coordinating services for high-risk and trafficked youth.

The act took effect on October 1, 2024.

As the most vulnerable sector of society, children and youth deserve the most protections by state and local governments. TurnAround applauds the expansion of services to people under the age of 25 in Maryland who are survivors of human trafficking.



PARTNER PERSPECTIVES

“TurnAround is the preeminent service provider for survivors of human trafficking in Maryland. As other agencies expand their services to include people who have been trafficked, TurnAround is a resource that can help them understand the nuances of that specific population. They have both the intellectual understanding and the real-life experiences to share with others about what providing services to this population looks like—both the theory and the practice.”

JENNIFER POLLITT HILL
*Executive Director,
Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence*



“The River” by Intentional Purpose >
TurnAround’s 2022 *Purple Poetry Book*





TurnAround, Inc. is a non-profit organization that relies on our network of supporters to spread the word in our communities, and grants and donations to operate.



@turnaroundinc



@turnaround_inc



@turnaround-inc

TurnAround, Inc. / 410-377-8111 / info@turnaroundinc.org

www.turnaroundinc.org