#### Violence Intervention Program, Inc (VIP)



#### Our Mission

 Violence Intervention Program, Inc. (VIP) is a community based non-profit organization that provides services to victims of domestic abuse, sexual assault, and family violence. Our mission is to lead Latina victims to safety, to empower them to live violence-free lives, and to help them reach and sustain their full potential. We pursue this mission by raising community awareness, engaging in activism, and by providing culturally competent services.

#### Violence Intervention Program Inc (VIP)

 Our unique approach resonated with women from all walks of life, but for 30 years we have been the premier agency for Latina victims looking for help in inhospitable territory.

> Cecilia M. Gaston Executive Director

### **Our History**

- 1984 Established as a Domestic Violence awareness project in East Harlem.
- 1988 Opens Morivivi, A domestic violence shelter for immigrant Latinas in NYC.
- 1989 VIP splits from EHCHS and Opens the Manhattan office, to offer non-residential services.
- 2001 Bronx non-residential office is opened.
- 2005 Opens Casa Sandra, the only transitional housing program at the time to serve DV survivors.

#### Our History...

- 2006 Queens non-residential office opens to provide service to adults, children & youth.
- 2009 The Promotoras initiative empowers survivors to become health advocates & leaders.
- 2010 Economic empowerment services initiative is established.
- 2014 VIP celebrates 30 years of operations.

## Our Programs

- 24/7 Bilingual (English /Spanish) live operated hotline
- Community Education and Outreach (La Voz)
- Residential Programs
  - Morivivi Safe Dwelling (Emergency Shelter)
  - Casa Sandra Supportive Housing (Transitional Housing)
- Non-Residential Programs (Compañeras)
  - Bronx
  - Manhattan
  - Queens



# La Voz- Community Education & Outreach Department (CE&O)

- Works to change social stigma and misconceptions around domestic violence issues and sexual assault.
- We focus on raising awareness of free, confidential, and culturally competent services available to members of the community.
- We promote civil action and community partnerships.
- The program lends a voice to the thousands of victims/survivors and activist standing up against abuse.
- On a policy level, La Voz's influence in the community is due in part to its participation in coalitions, task forces, and demonstrations.



## Why La Voz?

- La Voz translates to English as "the Voice" the Community Education and Outreach Department is " La Voz" of those we serve.
- VIP is a Latina based organization that serve as "La voz" of the immigrant community regardless of their country of origin.
- 80 % of the population we serve are undocumented and therefore "invisible" victims and survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault.

## **Building Community**

- Our collaborative efforts in FY2015 have resulted in the institution of Language Access. Clients gained access to free healthcare through a partnership with the Institute for Family Health.
  - Medical services for our clients at free or low cost.

## Adelante Mujer

- Adelante Mujer is an initiative in which post crisis survivors are trained on a volunteer basis to provide grassroots community education and outreach.
  - Leadership training
  - Skills development
  - DV101
  - Team Building
  - Public Speaking
  - Community Organizing
  - Advocacy
  - Cultural Compentency

## Community Outreach

- La Voz works throughout the community within the five boroughs.
- We conduct Presentations, Rallies, Marches, Protest...
- Adelante Mujer project aimed to promote healing and recovery amongst post-crisis survivors.
- Outreach in traditional settings (such as schools, health fairs, and community centers)
- Outreach in Non-traditional settings (such as bars, beauty salons, nightclubs, restaurants, and dancehalls)



## Coalition Building and Community Organizing

- La Voz actively participates in grassroots coalition building as well as larger scale organizing efforts to develop strategic community action plans to stop violence and inequality against women.
- La voz also participates in annual marches and demonstrations (Brides March, Shine the Light Event, One Billion Rising, Denim Day) our advocacy work empowers women and immigrants through policy reform, particularly addressing the gaps in services to women and the Latino community.



#### **Public Education**



- Public education is the cornerstone of any health campaign.
- La Voz disseminates bilingual English/Spanish educational materials and resources to over 27,316 people annually.
- In addition, our social media and public relations campaigns: help raise awareness, inform the public as regards to their rights, and share information about the services and programs available to victims and survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault

#### The Brides' March

 VIP is a founding member of NY Latinas **Against Domestic** Violence the planning and steering committee for the annual Gladys Ricart & Victims of Domestic Violence Memorial Walk, better know as the Brides' March.



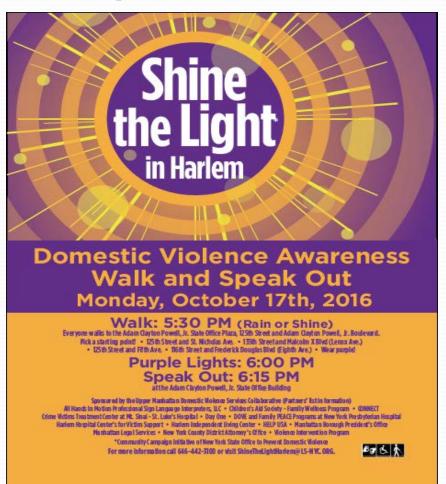
## Denim Day

2016 First Annual **Denim Day** demonstration facilitating simultaneous community events in the Bronx and Queens, and participating in the annual advocacy campaign against Sexual Assault on the steps of City Hall.



## Shine the light

 VIP is part of the upper Manhattan collaborative and one of the planning members of "Shine the Light **Event against Domestic** Violence" this event takes place in Harlem in front of the state building.



#### Children & Youth Involvement



Threatening to take children away from LATINAS if they leave is an special powerful strategy some men use against UNDOCUMENTED, **NON-ENGLISH SPEAKING** WOMEN

**#VIPmujeres** 

#### Youth Curriculum

- In 2016 a youth curriculum was developed to educate/ address violence and domestic violence in our community including
  - Bullying
  - Social Media/Media Violence
  - Respectful Sexuality





## Bilingual Hotline

 VIP manages the only 24/7 live-operated Bilingual (English/Spanish) hotline in New York City.

- Crisis intervention
- Counseling
- Safety planning
- Shelter Space information
- Referrals to other community-based services.
- Calls answered 9,889 in 2015

## Residential Programs

- Morivivi (Safe Dwelling Program)
  - Emergency shelter
  - Up to 55 families are housed in scattered site apartments for 180 days.

- Casa Sandra (Supportive Housing Program)
  - For more than 10 years VIP has been providing families coming out of domestic violence shelters up to two (2) years of transitional housing.

FY 2015- Over 229 Women and Children Served

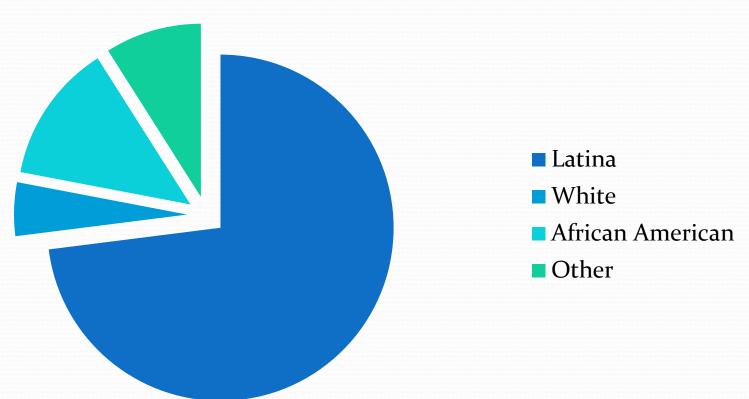
### Non-Residential Programs

#### Bronx, Manhattan, and Queens

- Counseling sessions for women and their children.
- Safety planning .
- Referrals.
- Accompaniment services.
- Advocacy
- FY2015 over 654 Clients Served.

#### Client Profile FY2015

% of Clients Served





#### **Economic Abuse**

- Financial dependence is one of the most common factors for remaining in abusive relationships, especially in cases where the individual is undocumented and cannot access traditional employment.
- Economic abuse is not currently recognized in State or City law as a form of domestic abuse and consists of
  - Incurring debt in victim's name or identity theft
  - Preventing victim from seeking employment or education
  - Preventing victim from banking or controlling spending



#### Client Profile FY2015

- 77% of clients came to VIP for counseling services.
- 27% of clients came to VIP for immigration support.
- 25% of clients came to VIP for housing assistance.
- 25% of clients came to VIP for family law.
- 56% reported that they were not employed during the fiscal year.
- 83% of clients are between 22-45 years old.

#### Client Profile FY2015.....

- 75% of clients have from one to five children.
- 62% have a household income of less than \$10,000 annually.
- 65% were not born in the USA.
- 60% reported Spanish as their primary language.
- 38% of clients have less than a high school diploma.

## **Economic Empowerment**

(Services Promoting Economic Viability)

- VIP has shown that through workshops, one-on-one financial counseling sessions, and community events, clients are better able to develop various financial literacy skills including: how to obtain and retain employment, how to create and legitimize a business, how to repair or establish credit, how to obtain free legal services, tax assistance, and more.
- VIP also continues to achieve much success with its financial literacy workshop, "Mujer y Dinero (Women and Money).

#### **Economic Empowerment...**

(Services Promoting Economic Viability)

- VIP provides incentives to clients who open and maintain their bank account open for a minimum of three months.
- Shopping has also been an eye opening experience for clients. During field trips to the grocery stores, they have learned to take advantage of coupons which has helped them use their limited resources more wisely, and get more for their money.

#### What Is Domestic Violence?

• A *pattern of behavior* used to exert *power and control* by one family member or intimate partner over another in the form of **physical**, **sexual**, **psychological**, **financial**, **legal**, **and digital abuse** (text, email, social media, banking,...)

#### **Domestic Violence is Defined As:**

- Physical abuse
- Psychological or emotional abuse
  - Sexual abuse even rape
    - Intimidation
- Isolation not letting you hang out with your friends or family
  - Verbal abuse name calling, threats
  - Harassment through technology (text, calls)
  - Minimization telling someone they are overreacting
    - Financial Abuse

## **Educational Workshops**

- Domestic Violence 101.
- Dating Violence.
- Sexual Assault.
- Creating a Safety Plan.
- Economic Abuse Awareness.
- The Legal Rights of Battered Immigrant Women.
- Elder Abuse.
- Teen Dating Violence.
- Health Relationship & Self Esteem (Youth 10-12yo).

## **Culturally Competent Programs**

- Compañeras Non-Residential Programs
- Moriviví Safe Dwelling Program
- Casa Sandra Supportive Housing
- Community Education & Outreach

## Social Media (Follow us on)

- Twitter @VIPmujeres
- Instagram @ VIPmujeres\_
- Facebook @VIPmujeresNY
- Website VIPmujeres.org

- Support Groups
- •Financial Literary Training
- Financial and Career Coaching
- Emergency Housing
- •Transitional Housing
- •Case Management
- •Bilingual 24 hour hotline
- •Court Accompaniment
- Public Benefits Advocacy
- Safety Planning
- •Information and Referrals
- Trainings/Workshops
- Victims Compensation Claims
- •Survivor Leadership Development

## Our Services 1(800) 664–5880 www.vipmujeres.org

Empowerment counseling for women and children

If you have any questions please contact: Rocio Garcia at Office:718-402-0951 xt161, Cell: 646-789-8031

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