



April 2025

## Join us for EDEN's Annual Fundraiser: HOMECOMING 2025!

On October 24th, we will host EDEN's HOMECOMING 2025 at the Tremont Cityside Ballroom! It will be a fun-filled Night Under The Stars of great food, exuberant dancing, valuable prizes, and a passionate celebration of EDEN's progress. We expect more than 300 community leaders, stakeholders, and EDEN supporters to attend! All proceeds will be used to further EDEN's mission.

Ways you can help make the evening a *shining success*:

- If you like to plan a good time, let Jacquie ([jacq@EDENcle.org](mailto:jacq@EDENcle.org)) or Judi ([jengel@EDENcle.org](mailto:jengel@EDENcle.org)) know you would like to **join the planning committee**.
- Your “circle” includes family members, friends, and people from other companies with whom you work. Which of them work for companies that can **sponsor the event** or **donate a raffle prize**? Please **personally ask them if they can help out**. You can email them links to the website pages ([www.EDENcle.org/event-sponsor](http://www.EDENcle.org/event-sponsor) and [www.EDENcle.org/event-prizes](http://www.EDENcle.org/event-prizes)) and PDF copies of the packets ([www.EDENcle.org/sponsor](http://www.EDENcle.org/sponsor) and [www.EDENcle.org/prize](http://www.EDENcle.org/prize)). If you want Jacquie to follow up with them, please send her their name, company, email, and address.
- **Create your own raffle prize!** If you have a talent, create a prize for us. In the past, staff have donated artwork, craft items, jewelry, and tickets for events they cannot attend. One even donated a pile of games that her kids never opened. Gift cards to local stores, salons, restaurants, etc., are always welcome. Basically, we are looking for prizes worth at least \$50 that other people would be interested in winning. Better yet, get your department to team up to create your unique raffle basket. Use your imagination!
- **Plan to attend!** Employees will receive a discount for tickets and tables (more information in next months' issue). Also, anyone who volunteers to help decorate, set up the venue, or help clean up afterwards gets a **free** ticket. Let Jacquie know if you want to join a volunteer committee:
  - ★ Decorating — Get the venue looking fun and fantastic!
  - ★ Thursday Set-Up — Help set-up the event the day before!
  - ★ Games of Chance — Help with EDEN's famous Duck Pond!
  - ★ Raffle Prize Helpers — Stroll through the prize area during the event and help attendees with their tickets!
  - ★ Raffle Prize Procurers — Solicit prizes and gift cards!
  - ★ Raffle Prize Set-Up on October 9th — Consolidate the prizes and make them look fabulous!



- ★ Saturday Tear Down — When the party is over, let's all chip in and fold up all the chairs, pack up, and clean up.
  - ★ Ticket Sales — Sell raffle tickets during the event!
  - ★ Volunteers & Selfie Station — Use people's phones to take their pictures at our fabulous selfie area!
  - ★ Welcome & Nametags — Welcome guests and give them their nametags!
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- **We are in need of “vintage” pictures from YOUR homecoming and prom to use in our promotions and event materials.** Please dig out those photo albums and send scans of your pictures to Jacquie at [jacq@EDENcle.org](mailto:jacq@EDENcle.org). Don't have a scanner? Leave the pictures in an envelope with your name on them in Jacquie's mailbox and she will scan and return them. She will also send you the scans!
  - There will also be many opportunities to volunteer in myriad capacities leading up to, on the day of, during, and after the event. Start thinking about what you would like to do.

We will need EVERYONE's participation to make this the event of the year! Stay excited and watch for our announcements as we continue our planning!

## Joyful Easter Meal at Northridge



## What You Should Know About VAWA: Violence Against Women Act

### What is VAWA?

VAWA provides housing protections for people who have experienced domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking ("survivors") and who are applying for or are living in units subsidized, assisted, or financed by certain federal government programs, to help keep them safe and reduce their likelihood of experiencing homelessness.



VAWA, most recently reauthorized in 2022, is a comprehensive federal law designed to improve the nation's response to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking; it specifically includes a number of critical housing protections for survivors and, in some instances, applies protections to other individuals.

### Examples

- "Miguel," an 8-year-old child who resides in HUD Continuum of Care-funded Permanent Supportive Housing, was sexually assaulted by a neighbor and the child's family needs to transfer to other housing.
- "Julia" is a tenant residing in housing supported by Rural Development assistance who is being stalked by an abusive ex-boyfriend. Since he knows where she resides, she is fearful for her safety and is requesting to move to other housing.
- "Elias" was sexually harassed and assaulted at work, and he lost his job as a result and was unable to pay rent or bills. This resulted in an eviction and bad credit. Elias is applying for housing and will use a Housing Choice Voucher under HUD's Section 8 Program, and these adverse factors related to the sexual assault committed against him are on his eviction and credit history.
- "Alex" is a survivor of sex trafficking who involuntarily engaged in prostitution as a result of both sexual assault and stalking. This resulted in a criminal conviction. Alex is applying for a low-income unit in a building that earns Treasury's Low Income Housing Credits. The building owner conducts a background check and finds out that Alex has this criminal record.
- "Gloria", a resident with a mobility disability living in an accessible unit in supportive housing for persons with disabilities (HUD Section 811) was physically abused by her boyfriend who lives with her. She would like to remove her boyfriend from the unit, or move to other safe, assisted housing that is still accessible and meets her other service needs.

### What Are Their Rights?

Under VAWA, consistent with covered housing program requirements, someone who has experienced domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking:

- Cannot be denied assistance or admission to a unit subsidized or assisted under a covered housing program because of the domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking committed against them.
- Cannot be evicted from a unit subsidized or assisted under a covered housing program, nor lose their assistance under a covered housing program, because of the domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking committed against them.
- Cannot be denied admission, denied assistance, evicted, or have their assistance terminated for reasons related to the domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, such as having an eviction record, criminal history, or bad credit history as a direct result of the domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking committed against them.
- Must have the option to stay in their covered housing if there has been criminal activity directly related to the domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking against the tenant or affiliated individual of the tenant.

# Why We Need the Violence Against Women Act

U.S. women who are victims of **domestic violence**:



U.S. women who have **survived** attempted or completed **sexual assault**:



The rate of **sexual assault** has decreased by **63%** since **1993**, **VAWA** was passed in **1994**

People who experienced incidents of **rape** or **sexual assault** in 2016 in the U.S.:

**Over 320,000**

**44%**

Of survivors have incomes below \$25,000

Sources: National Task Force to End Sexual and Domestic Violence, National Sexual Violence Resource Center, and FiveThirtyEight.com

- Can request an emergency transfer from the housing provider for safety reasons related to the domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking committed against them.
- Must be allowed to relocate without interruption of any assistance that the survivor was receiving from a Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher or a Rural Development Voucher.
- Must receive **HUD's Notice of VAWA Housing Rights (Form HUD-5380)** and a **VAWA Self-certification Form** from the housing provider when they are denied assistance or admission to a covered housing unit or a covered housing program, when they are admitted to or provided assistance from a covered housing unit or covered housing program, and when they receive a notice of eviction from a covered housing unit or notice of termination from a covered housing program. (Note that this right applies to all program applicants, participants, and tenants, including survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking).
- Has a right to have information regarding their status as a survivor maintained in strict confidentiality.
- Can request a lease bifurcation from the owner or landlord to remove the perpetrator from the lease or unit, and if the owner or landlord bifurcates, it must be done consistent with applicable federal, state, or local laws and the requirements of the covered housing program.

Some of VAWA's protections also apply to other individuals, such as those who assist survivors or seek law enforcement or emergency assistance for themselves or others:

- Any person who has exercised or enjoyed VAWA housing protections—or aided or encouraged another person in exercising or enjoying VAWA housing protections—cannot be discriminated against or coerced, intimidated, threatened, or retaliated against by covered housing providers.
- Individuals have the right to seek law enforcement or emergency assistance for themselves or others without being penalized based on their requests or based on criminal activity of which they are a victim or otherwise not at fault. This right applies regardless of whether the person seeking law enforcement or emergency assistance is a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking and regardless of whether their housing is assisted under a covered housing program.

## What VAWA Requires of EDEN

Each agency is responsible for implementing VAWA's housing protections as they apply to each agency's covered housing programs, consistent with each agency's legal authority with respect to such programs.

These implementation responsibilities include, but are not limited to, approving a self-certification form that allows survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking to certify their status as VAWA victims; adopting a model emergency transfer plan for use by covered housing providers under covered housing programs; establishing a process by which to review compliance with VAWA and conducting those reviews on a regular basis; providing a reasonable amount of time to establish eligibility for the covered housing program, another covered housing program, or find new housing after a lease bifurcation when the tenant who was removed was the sole tenant eligible to receive assistance under the covered housing program; and issuing regulations which shall, among other things, define standards of compliance with the VAWA housing protections that apply under covered housing programs.

## When You Encounter a VAWA Situation

VAWA is critically important because it provides vital support and protections for people who might be harmed. It requires the person(s) must be experiencing one of the following:

- (1) domestic violence,
- (2) dating violence,
- (3) sexual assault, or
- (4) stalking.



### Citations

<sup>1</sup> Smith, S.G., Basile, K.C., & Krasnow, M. (2022). The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2016/2017 Report on Stalking. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <sup>2</sup> Bevan, K., Catalano, S., & Rissel, M. (2009). Stalking Victimization in the United States. Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics. <sup>3</sup> Mehanovic, K., Maly, J.R., McGowan, M.G., & Williams, J. (2006). The RECON Typology of Stalking: Reliability and Validity Based upon a Large Sample of North American Stalkers. *Journal of Forensic Sciences*, 51(2), 147-155.

**SPARC** STALKING PREVENTION, AWARENESS, AND RESOURCE CENTER  
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Sometimes, people try to apply for VAWA protections because of bad neighbors, bad neighborhoods, area gun violence, etc. These situations will be denied because they do not meet the specific VAWA criteria.

If you encounter a situation where you believe a participant is a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, ask the participant to contact EDEN's Client Rights Officers at [edenclientsrights@edencle.org](mailto:edenclientsrights@edencle.org) immediately. They will be able to walk them through what needs to be done. They might be asked to officially notify EDEN of their situation by completing the form at <https://edencle.org/form/VAWANotice>.<sup>\*</sup> If they feel they need to be **transferred to different housing** due to one of the above four situations, they can complete the emergency transfer request form at <https://edencle.org/form/VAWAtransfer>.<sup>\*</sup>

It is the responsibility of the Client Rights Officers to determine if the criteria for VAWA protections are met. VAWA status is confidential. You will be notified if an emergency housing transfer is approved, but you will not be notified of their VAWA status.

VAWA protections do not impact the participant's housing program. If they are in Rapid Rehousing, they will remain in the program ... just at a different location. Their time limits are not impacted, so if they have three months of Rapid Rehousing remaining, they will still have 3 months when they move to a safer location.

Most importantly, if you believe there is imminent danger, please refer the participant(s) to the Journey Center at 216-229-2420.

"If you see something, say something" is vitally important when it comes to the safety and well-being of EDEN's participants. Thank you for being part of the team!

*\* These links are case sensitive. The forms are also available on the first page of EDEN's intranet under General Documents in the orange EDEN Forms folder.*

## Ribbon Cutting at The Lotus

On April 25<sup>th</sup>, EDEN and its partners celebrated turning a dream into reality—through teamwork!

Thanks to the vision and tireless dedication of our staff, partners, funders, and stakeholders, we have opened The Lotus supportive housing building. The Lotus is the first development of its kind in our community, which provides young adults—and their children—experiencing homelessness with a secure and welcoming apartment to call home, and the wrap-around services to help them lay sturdy foundations for bright futures.



We were so honored to "cut the ribbon," and commemorate the opening of The Lotus with its residents, partners, funders and community supporters!

## Food for the Soul

### If I'm not worrying about the world, who will?

I take "breaks" from social media and the news.

But then I feel guilty.

*If I'm not worrying about the world, who will?*

I watch 90's sitcoms with my wife and for an hour I forget about the plight of the most vulnerable.

But then I feel guilty.

*If I'm not worrying about the world, who will?*

I go on vacation with my parents and for a week and I forget about injustice.

But then I feel guilty.

*If I'm not worrying about the world, who will?*

### Worry is Not Work

Worrying feels like work.

It isn't.

Worrying feels like it matters.

It doesn't.

Worry does not improve the lives of others.

Worry does not mend the cracks and fissures of a hurting world.

Worry does not feed... or clothe... or shelter... or provide hope.

Only actually working for a better world does those things.

### Set Down the Worry

So, set down the worry...

It is just a sack of rocks.

Carrying it around requires effort but accomplishes nothing.

But do **NOT** set down the work...

If you are called to mend the fabric of the world, pick up your needle and thread.

If you are called to build a more just world, pick up your hammer.

If you are called to heal the broken, pick up your balm.

The world doesn't need your worry.

It needs you.

Peace.

- Ryan Dowd, Homeless Library

## Welcome New Hires!

Welcome to everyone who has been hired from January 15 through April 15!

- Anissa Stepteau ..... Harpers Pointe Property Manager
- Brae Harrell..... Inez Killingsworth Custodian
- Casandra Haskin ..... Buckeye Property Manager
- Eddie Graham ..... Housing Specialist
- Herminee Benjamin..... Housing Specialist
- Imani Head ..... West Village Property Manager
- Latia Jerido..... Housing Specialist
- Paul Meadows ..... Southpointe Custodian
- RayShawn Davis..... Housing Stability Specialist
- Ta'Quanna Mitchell .....GreenBridge Custodian
- Tenisha Anderson..... Scattered Sites Maintenance Technician
- Tom Swartz ..... Harpers Pointe Maintenance Technician

## Congratulations to Staff on the Move!

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Congratulations to the following staff who have been promoted, changed positions, or earned certification from January 15 through April 15!

- Anthony Mori ..... Supervisor - Finance Operations
- Armanii Frazier ..... GreenBridge II Front Desk
- Karli Murray ..... Northridge Front Desk

## Current Job Postings

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For more information, visit [www.EDENcle.org/work](http://www.EDENcle.org/work) or contact Toya Jordan at [tjordan@EDENcle.org](mailto:tjordan@EDENcle.org).

- Housing Locator
- Housing Specialist Applications Processor
- Maintenance Technician
- Property Manager of Permanent Supportive Housing Residential Building

## Announcements

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**Breakfast at EDEN!** A thank you to the EDEN Events Committee for putting on the delicious breakfast at HQ last Thursday and to all who provided a dish—and to EDEN’s Senior Management for delivering breakfast treats to the PSH buildings. It was a delicious and nourishing way to start the day.



**Join the Walking Club!** Walking during the workday offers numerous benefits, including improved physical and mental health, increased productivity, and reduced stress. It provides a break from prolonged sitting, boosts energy levels, and can even enhance focus and creativity. We meet at the back door of HQ at noon and will walk until 12:30 each day.

**We want your feedback and suggestions!** We want to hear from you! Your work is very important to us, and we know that you have some great ideas that can help us improve how we do business. Please go to [www.edencle.org/staff](http://www.edencle.org/staff) and submit your feedback and suggestions. Thank you!

**Recognize a fellow employee!** Let’s celebrate excellence at EDEN! If you are aware of a staff person doing something really great, tell us about it! Go to [www.edencle.org/staff](http://www.edencle.org/staff) and click on the link on the right. Just enter the person’s name and why they deserve recognition.

**Look professional in EDEN apparel!** Start spring with new order of EDEN apparel! Get branded t-shirts, polo shirts, hoodies, and a jacket. Go to [www.edencle.org/staff](http://www.edencle.org/staff) for a link to the order form. Melanie Minyard coordinates EDEN’s Apparel Program, and her email is [mminyard@edencle.org](mailto:mminyard@edencle.org).