



ANNUAL REPORT

2024 / 2025

“Enhancing the lives of women in Bermuda”



A MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD



Julia Hawkins
Board Chair

On behalf of the Board of Directors and alongside our passionate and hardworking Executive Director, Juanae Crockwell, I am honored to present this year's annual report for the Women's Resource Centre. This past year has been one of change and resilience with a renewed commitment to our community through our revised mission: To advance the rights, equity and wellbeing of women in Bermuda.

The achievements outlined in this report reflect the dedication of our staff and volunteers; the collaboration forged with community stakeholders; and the courage of the women we serve. From providing critical support services to advocating for systemic change, the Centre has once again demonstrated its vital role as a cornerstone of our community.

The Board remains committed to strong governance practices, ethical stewardship of resources, and transparent operations. We have continued to refine our policies and procedures to ensure we maintain the highest standards of accountability to those we serve and to our supporters.

As we look to the future, we recognize both the challenges and opportunities before us. The Board is committed to supporting strategic initiatives that will enhance our capacity to serve, innovate our programs, and advocate for lasting change.

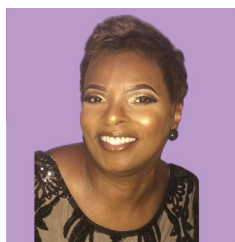
Our heartfelt thanks go to:

- The women who trust us with their stories and their journeys
- Our dedicated staff who bring compassion and expertise to their work daily
- Our volunteers who generously share their time and talents
- Our donors and funders whose support makes our work possible
- Our community partners who collaborate with us toward shared goals

Together, we are building a more equitable future where every woman has the resources, support, and opportunities she deserves to thrive.



**Kinika
Armstrong**



**Chevonne
Francis**



**Alison
Morrison**



**Nadaanja
Bailey**



**Tiffany
Nelms**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REFLECTIONS

The Women's Resource Centre has always been shaped by the voices and needs of women in our community — and FY24–25 was a year of extraordinary growth and evolution.

Our client intake nearly tripled, rising from 36 admissions in FY24 to 97 in FY25. The hours of counselling provided increased more than threefold — from 137 to 529 — reflecting both the growing demand for our services and the deep commitment of our clinical team to meeting that need with compassion and excellence.

This expansion extended well beyond our therapeutic services. In alignment with our strategic focus on supporting women in transition, the Centre broadened its reach and deepened its impact through innovative community initiatives, including Community Birthing Classes (in partnership with the It Takes a Village Foundation), the HERstory Women's History Festival, a collaboration with EmPowerMe Bermuda, and the launch of new community wellness initiatives. Together, these efforts have created meaningful avenues for connection, healing, and growth — reaffirming our belief that transformation flourishes when women are provided with safe spaces to gather, reflect, and thrive.

Our evolution this year was both intentional and informed. Following a 2023 community needs assessment, WRC identified key gaps affecting women in Bermuda, including access to affordable housing, nutritious food, mental health care, legal advocacy and practical education. Our internal data reinforced these findings, with 41.5% of client requests in FY25 related to mental health, 25.2% to legal matters, and 15.5% to financial hardship. In response, we have expanded our service model to offer a more integrated approach, combining counselling and therapeutic support with legal advocacy, hardship assistance, skills development, and mentorship — recognising that women's wellbeing depends on the stability of their social, economic, and emotional lives.

As we move forward, we remain guided by the lived experiences of women in our community. Our growth is not simply about numbers — it is about relevance, responsiveness, and resilience. Together, we are building a Centre that evolves with the needs of women, ensuring that every woman who walks through our doors finds the support, resources, and hope she needs to write her next chapter.



Juanae Crockwell
Executive Director



Sylvia Hayward,
Founder of the Rape Crisis Centre,
precursor to the
Women's Resource Centre

OUR MISSION:

The Women's Resource Centre exists to advance the rights, well-being and equity of women in Bermuda.

Our mission reflects both who we are and what we do: a safe space for healing, a trusted voice for equity, and a connector of women to the resources they need to thrive.

ABOUT US:

The Women's Resource Centre (WRC) has been a trusted voice and support system for women in Bermuda since 1987. Originally founded as the Rape Crisis Centre, our work began with a focus on crisis intervention for survivors of sexual violence. Over nearly four decades, our role has evolved in response to the shifting needs of the community and the broader landscape of women's support services.

In 2015, we transitioned away from direct crisis response, formally transferring our crisis intervention services to the Centre Against Abuse. This pivotal shift marked the beginning of a new era for WRC—one centred on long-term support, personalised case management, and therapeutic intervention.

Today, we provide holistic, trauma-informed services designed to meet women where they are and walk alongside them as they navigate life's challenges. Our core offerings include free counselling, case management, legal advocacy, wellness support, and educational workshops. We work intentionally to remove barriers to care by offering services without co-pays or insurance requirements.

As Bermuda's only female-focused non-profit of its kind, our work is grounded in the belief that when women are adequately supported, they can build safe, stable, and fulfilling lives. From emotional healing to practical assistance, WRC creates space for women to reclaim their stories, strengthen their wellbeing, and move forward with confidence—on their own terms.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

We are proud of what we've accomplished in FY25 and are energised by the path ahead. With clear priorities and a community-driven approach, we are well-positioned to deepen our reach, refine our impact, and strengthen our role as a vital resource for women across Bermuda.



IMPACT:

Delivering responsive, data-informed programmes that directly support women and mothers in building safe, stable lives.



BRAND:

Raising awareness of WRC's work through consistent messaging and stronger public engagement.



REVENUE:

Building long-term financial sustainability through strategic fundraising, diversified income streams, and ethical financial practices.



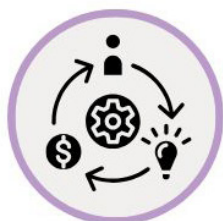
GOVERNANCE:

Strengthening Board leadership, risk management, and compliance to ensure effective oversight and accountability.



PEOPLE:

Fostering a healthy workplace culture that supports staff and volunteers while growing organisational capacity.



OPERATIONS:

Investing in the systems, tools, and processes that enable us to deliver services effectively and meet regulatory standards.

MISSION DRIVEN

At the Women's Resource Centre we support and advocate for the wellbeing of women in Bermuda through trauma-informed services, community education, and systemic advocacy.

Our mission reflects a deep and ongoing commitment to helping women access the tools, care, and support they need to move through hardship and toward healing.

We fulfil this mission through a range of core services — including no-copay counselling, peer support groups, holistic case management, legal advocacy, and educational workshops — all designed to meet women where they are and respond holistically to their needs. Whether navigating trauma, legal challenges, or everyday stressors, women receive compassionate, client-centred care at every stage.

As we continue to evolve, our focus remains clear: to provide services that are not only accessible but also intentional, trauma-informed, and aligned with the lived experiences of the women we serve.

We believe that when women are fully supported, they create ripple effects of healing and stability that benefit families, communities, and generations to come.





ADVOCACY IN ACTION:

Between April 1 2024 and March 31, 2025, the Women's Resource Centre responded to 977 individual requests for support from women across Bermuda.

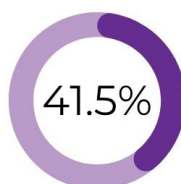
These requests reflect the most pressing challenges facing women in our community, and the areas where our services and advocacy are most urgently needed.

These figures reflect more than just statistics — they tell a story of women seeking help, resources, and hope.

At WRC, each request is met with compassion and a commitment to walking alongside women on their journey toward safety, stability, and healing.

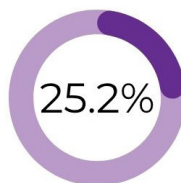
“Our vision is a Bermuda where all women have the resources, opportunities and support to live safe and fulfilled lives.”

Mental Health:



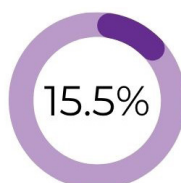
Nearly half of all requests were for counselling or therapeutic support, showing the urgent need for safe spaces where women can heal and build resilience.

Legal:



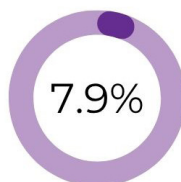
One quarter of all WRC support requests involved custody, divorce, or other legal issues, underscoring the need for accessible, affordable legal guidance for women.

Financial:



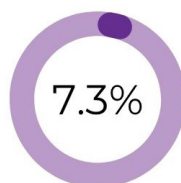
Women frequently contacted WRC in need of hardship support such as food, utility support and essential living vouchers, reflecting the financial pressures women are facing in our current economy.

Abuse:



Nearly 8% of requests related directly to domestic or sexual abuse and harassment, reinforcing the ongoing urgency of coordinated responses to Bermuda's abuse epidemic.

Housing:



Safe, affordable housing remains a major challenge for women, especially mothers of young children, with many seeking stability and security for their families.

The impact of the Women’s Resource Centre extends far beyond the individual women we serve. When women are supported, families thrive, communities strengthen, and cycles of trauma and instability begin to break.

Every counselling session, support group, or referral creates a ripple effect - fostering resilience, connection, and long-term change. At WRC, we are not only investing in women—we are investing in the future of our entire community.

“Women are the backbone of many structures. When you build women, you have built those structures.”

-Gift Gugu Mona

FY25 IMPACT SNAPSHOT



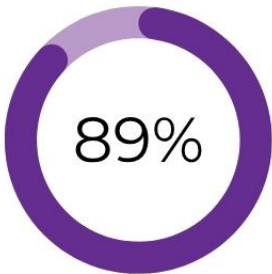
of women who received counselling



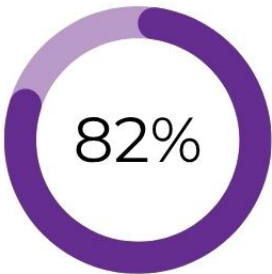
of hours of therapeutic support provided



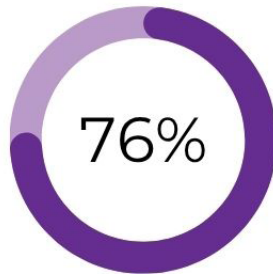
of women who received Hardship Support



Reported improved mental and emotional wellbeing



Developed clearer personal and professional goals



Increased confidence in decision-making

THERAPEUTIC SERVICES

Counselling, Support Groups & Wellness Events

At the heart of the Women's Resource Centre is our commitment to creating safe, supportive spaces where women can heal, grow, and thrive. Our therapeutic services are designed to meet women where they are — whether that means navigating life transitions, processing trauma, or strengthening emotional wellbeing.

Through counselling, peer support, and wellness events, we provide women with the guidance, support, and connection they need to build healthier, more resilient lives.



HOW WE SERVE:

Individual Counselling

We provide women with access to private, confidential sessions with trained counsellors to address and manage mild to moderate mental health challenges, including anxiety, depression, grief, postpartum depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder. Counselling also offers valuable support for women navigating major life transitions or healing from past trauma.

Support Groups

Our peer support groups connect women with shared lived experiences, creating a safe and supportive space where they can be heard and understood. From grief support to mothers' groups, these circles foster connection, safety, and relatability.

Wellness Events

We regularly host wellness workshops and events that equip women with practical tools to strengthen their mental and emotional wellbeing, supporting healthier and more balanced lives.

Our Therapeutic Services are generously sponsored by:



GOVERNMENT OF BERMUDA
Ministry of Health



IN THEIR OWN WORDS:

The Living Impact of Our Work

The true measure of our impact isn't just in the numbers—it's in the women who walk through our doors and into healing, stability, and renewed strength. Their stories are powerful reminders that our work is living, breathing, and moving throughout our community every single day.

These voices reflect what we already know to be true: when women are supported without judgment or barriers, they transform not only their own lives but the lives of their families and the communities around them. At the Women's Resource Centre, we are redefining what support looks like—making space for women to be seen, heard, and held with care.

Here are their experiences:

"I have wanted to have counseling for the last eight years but could not afford it. I am very grateful that WRC kindly made it possible and to the donors." — **C.A.**

"My experience with my counselor was very helpful. I've learned ways to manage my reactions and emotions when it comes to certain things that are sent to disturb my peace."

"WRC gave me the support I needed during a very hard time in my life, by way of counseling, helping me find a lawyer and also helping with groceries for my son and I. I am most grateful for the women at WRC!" — **J.E.**

"As a person that puts everyone else first, at WRC I am able to have a moment to put myself first, without the guilt. As I progress with each session, I feel more empowered to put myself first every day now. I wish I found them sooner, but I am happy and blessed to have found them at all." — **S.M.**

"The WRC has helped me through grief of a parent, emotional and mental abuse. I feel stronger and more stable than I have in a long time. The WRC is a great safe space to get therapy and have a happier life."

2025 INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

On March 7, 2025, the Women's Resource Centre proudly hosted our annual International Women's Day (IWD) Celebration at Pier 6 in Hamilton. This year's event welcomed 280 attendees and embraced the global theme, "Accelerate Action."

The celebration honoured the remarkable achievements of women in our community while shining a light on the importance of equity, representation, and collective progress.

We were thrilled to name Lisa Lister-Reed as Bermuda's 2025 Woman of the Year. A trailblazer in finance, government consulting, and human rights, Lisa has spent decades advocating for policy reform, disability rights, and community mentorship. Her unwavering commitment to inclusion and social justice has strengthened Bermuda's human rights framework and created lasting opportunities for underrepresented communities.



Shia Bean
2025
Teen of the Year



Lisa Lister-Reed
2025
Woman of the Year

This year, we also introduced our Teen of the Year Award, with Shia Bean recognised as the inaugural recipient. Shia was celebrated for her leadership, dedication to community service, and artistic expression. As a youth leader, prefect, dance choreographer, and entrepreneur, she embodies the power of young women to inspire change and uplift those around them.

All funds raised through our International Women's Day celebration directly support the WRC's Advocacy Programme, helping to advance our public education and awareness initiatives that drive systemic change on the social issues disproportionately affecting women.



1ST ANNUAL PURPLE THURSDAY GALA

On October 17, 2024, the Women's Resource Centre proudly hosted its first-ever Purple Thursday Gala at the Hamilton Princess & Beach Club, bringing together over 130 guests in a powerful show of solidarity with survivors of domestic abuse. The event aligned with the global Purple Thursday campaign and served as both a fundraiser and a call to action—raising awareness about domestic violence and mobilising support for those affected.



In the room were advocates, health care providers, legislators, law enforcement officers, survivors, and community supporters - all standing united in the shared belief that every woman deserves safety, dignity, and the opportunity to rebuild. The evening featured a deeply moving “Empty Chair” ceremony to honour lives lost to domestic violence, followed by a keynote address from Tawana Tannock, who spoke powerfully about the importance of advocacy, justice reform, and the urgent need to recognise coercive control and emotional abuse under the law.



With the support of generous sponsors and partners, the gala raised critical funds for WRC's Hardship Fund, which provides therapeutic, legal, and practical assistance to women in crisis. The success of this inaugural event not only amplified the voices of survivors—it also laid the foundation for an annual tradition rooted in remembrance, resilience, and collective action.





HERSTORY Women's History Month Festival

On March 29, 2025, the Women's Resource Centre brought the streets of St. George's to life with its first-ever HERstory Festival. This free, family-friendly event featured a vibrant mix of historical tours, cultural workshops, artisan showcases, and live performances, celebrating the stories, creativity, and contributions of Bermudian women.

Curated by Kristin White of Long Story Short, the festival welcomed community members, artists, historians, and entrepreneurs into a dynamic and immersive experience that honoured women's history while creating space for joy, connection, and community pride.

The day concluded with music and literary performances that captured the heart of the event, amplifying women's voices and strengthening the bonds that unite us.

The HERstory Festival marked the beginning of a new tradition rooted in celebration, reflection, and collective empowerment.



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

We know that achieving our mission and vision is only possible through strategic, intentional partnerships with organisations pursuing the same goals. We are deeply grateful for these collaborations, which expand our reach, strengthen our services, and amplify our impact in the community.



We partner with the Centre Against Abuse to provide comprehensive support for women affected by domestic and sexual abuse. By combining CAA's crisis intervention services with WRC's short- to medium-term therapeutic care, women receive consistent support at every stage of their journey toward healing and stability.



We partner with the It Takes a Village Foundation to provide accessible, evidence-based birth education for women across Bermuda. Our Community Birthing Class equips mothers with knowledge and confidence to support informed decision making and healthier outcomes for both women and their babies.



In November 2024, WRC transferred our Transformational Living Centre programme to our community partner, HOME.

This third-sector collaboration reflects our commitment to collective action and ensures continued, coordinated support for women, while allowing WRC to focus more deeply on our core therapeutic and advocacy programmes.



SUPPORTING WRC:

JOIN THE MOVEMENT. BUILD COMMUNITY. CHANGE LIVES.

There are many ways to support our mission of advancing the rights, equity, and wellbeing of women in Bermuda.

Volunteer

Join our team of dedicated volunteers who give their time, skills, and energy to help deliver programmes, events, and administrative support. Your involvement helps us reach more women and families each year.



Join the WRC Circle

Become part of a community of monthly supporters by joining the WRC Circle. With a contribution of \$30 a month or \$360 a year, you help ensure that women across Bermuda continue to access counselling, hardship assistance, and educational support when they need it most.



Corporate Advocacy Partners

Corporate partnerships are key to sustaining our impact. Through sponsorship, staff engagement, and advocacy, your company can help us create a stronger, more equitable Bermuda for all women.

To learn more about supporting our mission, visit www.wrcbermuda.com or email wrc@wrcbermuda.com.





CHARITY #267

Women's Resource Centre

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