



ESCADV

Snapshot

June 2020

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted each of us. For individuals living in violence, where safer-at-home is not safer, the availability of a safe shelter can be the difference between life and death. Since March 18, ESCADV has been sheltering each individual/family separately rather than in a congregate setting, to provide an opportunity for those fleeing violence to have an alternative to remaining in an abusive home without the additional fear of being exposed to COVID-19 by other individuals in the shelter. ESCADV was also provided advocacy and other services to meet the needs of survivors. Shelter and other services were made possible by the amazing support of the community and grant funders. Words cannot express our appreciation; however I will share the words of a survivor who says it so much better than I can:

“I was in a mentally and physically abusive marriage, I wanted to be free from it, but I felt that there was no way out. One day, I confided in a co-worker about the abuse I was suffering in my home- and she referred me to the Domestic Violence Coalition of the Eastern Shore. The advocate was very helpful and assured me when I was ready to leave they would be there to assist myself and my children. One day I had enough courage to leave and the Coalition welcomed my kids and I. They have been a tremendous help to us. We are now in a safe place- free of abuse and free of pain. If it wasn't for this program and my advocate, I'm not sure how things would have turned out. My children and I are forever grateful.”

- *From a grateful, strong, independent, beautiful, anonymous women*

During April and May ESCADV provided services to 73 individuals (21 children and 52 adults). The services included over 845 nights of shelter to 21 individuals (including 10 children) and over 430 hours of advocacy.