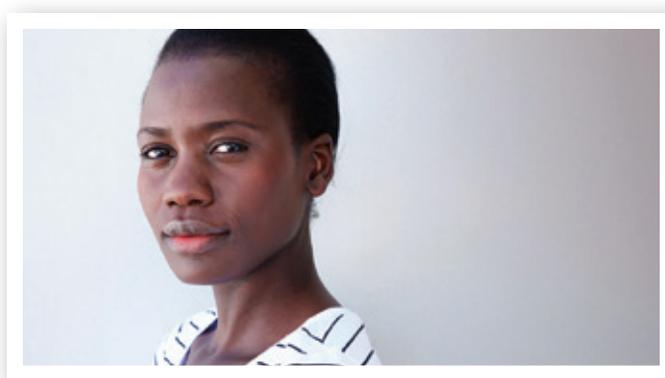


Success stories

Since we opened our doors in 1982, **LifeWire** has served more than 141,000 domestic violence survivors across King County. But to us, success and impact aren't just measured in how many 24-Hour Helpline calls we answer and how many people we house. Success is measured by:

- How safe and independent a survivor feels after leaving an abusive partner.
- The long-term stability of a family after their lives have been uprooted by violence.
- The hearts and minds we change through education and training.

Read on to see how your support has made a difference to survivors in our community. By working together, we can fulfill our mission to end domestic violence and create a world where every person lives in a safe environment, free from oppression, and with the opportunity to thrive.



Amira's Story

Even though she'd left him, Amira's abuser kept coming back. He forced and intimidated his way into the home that Amira shared with their five-year-old daughter Hana. He regularly followed her to work, harassing Amira in front of her customers and coworkers. Things became so bad, the 25-year-old Sudanese immigrant was forced to leave her job. Pregnant with her abuser's child and unsure how to support two children on her own, Amira reached out to LifeWire.

With the help of her advocate, Amira connected with local resources to help meet her basic needs. She began meeting with a LifeWire mental health therapist, who helped Amira process some of the traumas she experienced after years of physical, emotional and sexual abuse. Amira worked with her advocate to create a safety plan, which included seeking a protection order. LifeWire's legal advocate connected Amira with a pro bono attorney who helped her obtain a protection order and set up a parenting plan.

Since Amira obtained her protection order, her abuser stopped contacting her. Instead of worrying about her safety, Amira now has time to spend raising Hana and her infant son Abdi. Amira is working hard on her long-term goals of raising healthy children, having safe and stable housing, returning to the workforce, and becoming a U.S. citizen.

24-HOUR HELPLINE
425-746-1940 or 1-800-827-8840

VOICE/TTY/INTERPRETERS
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Monday – Friday

BUSINESS 425-562-8840
FAX 425-649-0752

WA STATE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOTLINE
1-800-562-6025

LifeWire
P.O. Box 6398
Bellevue, WA 98008-0398

www.lifewire.org

Supported by
United Way of
King County.



Renata's Story

Renata was both relieved and afraid to learn her husband was behind bars. She felt safe, but knew that wouldn't last. He could be released at any time. Renata wanted to protect herself and her two daughters, but she didn't have any place to go. And without immigration papers, the Mexican-born woman didn't have many options. Sensing Renata's distress, the police officer assigned to her domestic violence case referred her to LifeWire.

With the help of her housing advocate, Renata and her kids relocated to My Sister's Home, LifeWire's emergency shelter. My Sister's Home provided the family with the space and resources they needed to begin healing. After meeting with her legal advocate, Renata learned that as a survivor of a violent crime she was eligible to apply for a U Visa. If awarded, the visa would allow her to live and work legally in the U.S. LifeWire connected her to a pro bono immigration attorney, who helped Renata apply for and receive the temporary visa.



As Renata prepared to leave the shelter and move into her own apartment, she learned that she had to provide a higher security deposit due to her limited rental history. LifeWire was able to use flexible funds to assist with her move-in costs and her first month's rent.

Today, Renata and her kids are healing. She still attends group therapy sessions and social gatherings with other survivors. Renata wants to help other survivors the way LifeWire staff and volunteers helped her.

Bailey's Story

Bailey seemed tentative when she approached the LifeWire advocate. The sophomore health class had just finished an hour and a half training on domestic and teen dating violence. Working in pairs, the students acted out different dating scenarios designed to teach them how to recognize the warning signs of unhealthy relationships. Bailey told the LifeWire advocate that she recognized several of these signs in her own relationship.



She had been dating a boy at her Eastside high school for several months. Over time, he became increasingly controlling. He checked her texts, demanded she spend time with him and refused to listen when Bailey tried to break up with him. But, because he had never hit her or yelled at her, Bailey hadn't considered their relationship unhealthy.

For twenty minutes Bailey talked with the LifeWire advocate about how to approach the break-up she planned for the next day. Together, they created a safety plan, discussing where the break-up would take place and how she would get support from friends and family.

Thanks to partnerships with local high schools, colleges and universities, LifeWire uses innovative exercises to engage students like Bailey and provide them with the skills they need to have healthy relationships. These trainings also open the door for students to talk about teen dating violence and receive the support they need to live healthy lives.

Mission: LifeWire's mission is to end domestic violence by changing individual, institutional and societal beliefs, attitudes and behaviors that perpetuate it.

Vision: Domestic violence is a human rights issue. LifeWire envisions a world in which every person lives in a safe environment, free from oppression and with the opportunity to thrive.