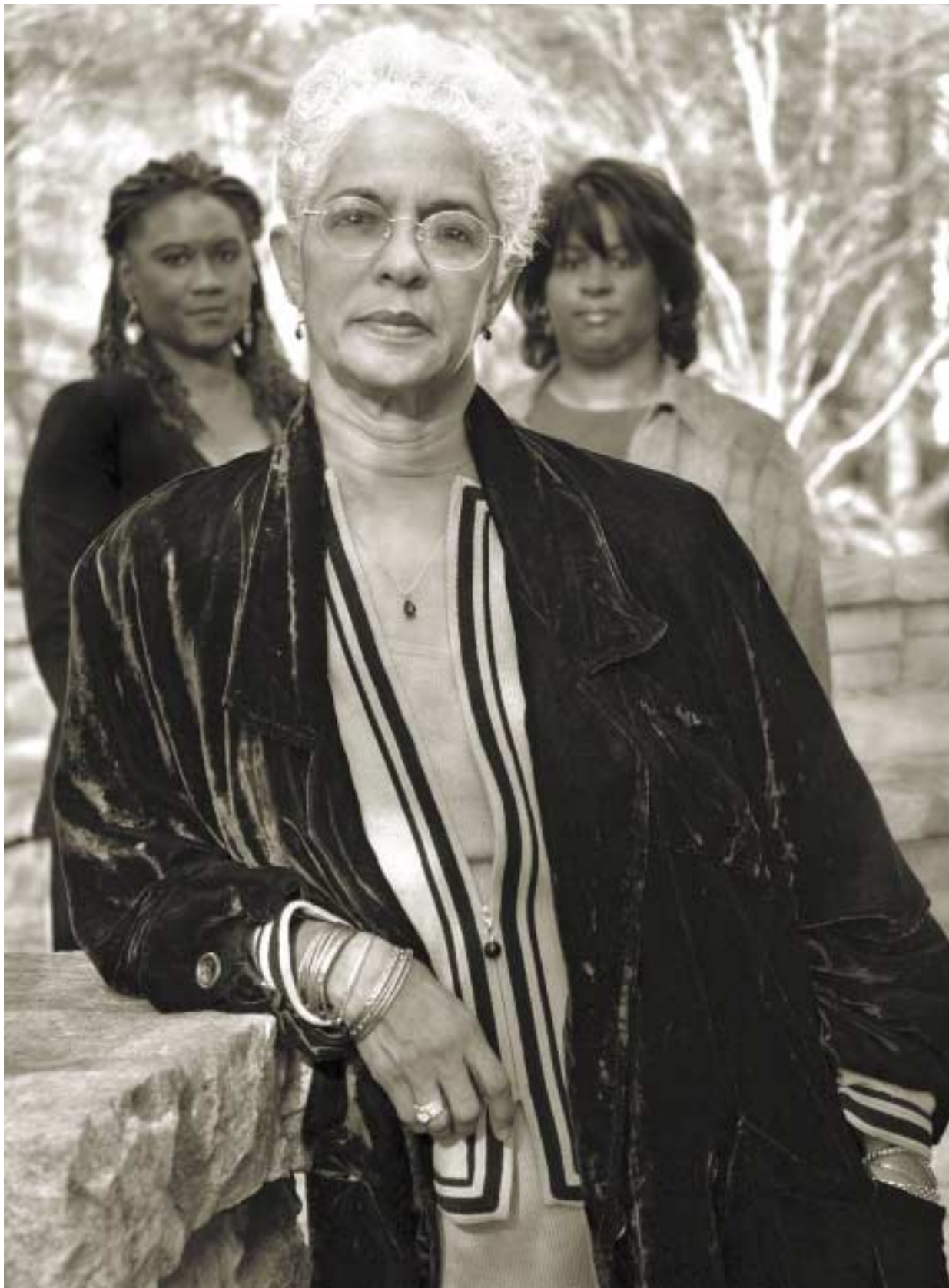


Profiles of Women with Courage





Dear Friends,

We have had the honor and privilege of working with hundreds of domestic violence survivors this past year as we do every year. Contrary to general public perceptions, these women are brave, wise, successful, strong and smart. They are survivors not victims. All too often we measure a person's success by what they have achieved and accumulated over the years. But here at PADV, we have learned to redefine success in terms of the obstacles a woman has overcome. It is this definition of success that we recognize and celebrate every day.

PADV has supported thousands of women who have experienced hardship, sacrifice, terror, marginalization, minimization, brutal violence and psychological warfare. But through self-determination, love for their children, courage, strength, and support from PADV staff, volunteers and donors like you, these incredible women are now living their lives violence free and are well on their way to achieving greatness in their individual pursuits.

We have profiled five survivors on the following pages. As you read their stories, we invite you to take a glimpse for a moment into their lives, to learn a little about who they are, where they have been and where they are now. We are sure their stories and their lives will touch you and inspire you as they have us.

So please join us as we honor all domestic violence survivors through these five women. Help us recognize their strengths and skills, and celebrate them not for their material possessions but by what they have overcome. Thank you for your generosity and support. Because of you, we have had the privilege of providing a safe refuge for battered women and their children so that they can reach their life goals and dreams.

In the Spirit of Community,
Cathy Willis Spraez
Chief Executive Officer

Tracye T. Miller
Board President



For over a quarter of a century, PADV has supported women and their children in their efforts to live violence free.

At one point in my life, I felt that I needed a husband.

I think most women do, especially women who grew up in my era. After marriage and divorce in 1997, I met a man who literally swept me off my feet. I believe, and I don't say this egotistically, that I am an intelligent woman. I am not naïve. I've been exposed to life. I know my way around so I didn't think that I could be taken advantage of, but I was wrong. We married and moved out of state. I sold my home and said goodbye to my friends and family.

Once we were married, he told me what to wear straight down to my undergarments. He even styled my hair. He nearly ruined my consulting business that had taken me years to build. He spent most of my savings and proceeds from the sale of my house in Atlanta. From the moment I woke, I was afraid that I might say or do something to

"I am an intelligent woman. I am not naïve. I've been exposed to life. I know my way around so I didn't think that I could be taken advantage of, but I was wrong."

set him off. He called me "devil," "bitch," and "whore" every day. He threw things at me in anger. He did all of these things in the name of "God." He even invited a minister to our home to try and help him justify his treatment of me. I was afraid that he would hurt me. At this point, I realized that the people that I wanted to share my life with were back in Atlanta. I didn't want someone to be afraid of. So after accepting the fact that I made a big mistake, and I couldn't fix it, I packed my bags and came home.

— Bunnie Jackson Ransom



We
are wise...

Bunnie serves on the Board
of Directors for PADV.

Where do I begin? My memories are scattered, but like a quilt I'm beginning to piece things together. The following entries were taken from my journal. It was a typical week in my life back then.

November 24, 1996 – I made the shopping list wrong. He asked me, "What can I do right?" I got shoved around for every wrong item.

"He said it would be better for the kids and him if I just died."

November 25, 1996 – I know he said we were going shopping today. I made sure to be ready on time, but he looked at me and laughed and then he told me how dumb I was—he said he would not be seen with "something" that stupid and ugly.

November 27, 1996 – I overslept, and his grits were not done right. My back still hurts. He hit me with his work boot.

November 28, 1996 – Thanksgiving Day – He went crazy because I made canned corn not corn on the cob. He punched my face and my arm and threw corn at me. He told the children how dumb their mom was. I tried, but I got it wrong. . .

November 29, 1996 – Finally got some rest. Still hurt all over but he said no doctor visit. Why waste his money? He said it would be better for the kids and him if I just died.

Well, I didn't die. I left with my kids in secret while my husband lay sleeping. I'm blessed with three beautiful children: two daughters and a son.

–Lynette Ward

We are brave. . .

Lynette is a Women's Advocate with PADV.



My story is dark and it's difficult to describe. How can I convey what it's like to wake up every day of your childhood and wonder if today is the day your father will kill your mother? How can I describe the terror of waking up in the dark of night to screams and opening your bedroom door to see your mother cowering on the floor as your father punches her again and again and again? How can I explain the horror, the fear, the helplessness, and the despair of watching your father hold a gun to your mother's head?

My world stood still that night. I remember a single scene, nothing more than a snapshot really: My father standing over my mother, menacing and sinister, and the gun—that shiny, silver gun. It was such a small thing, so small, but I knew what it meant—the end of my world as I knew it. She was my rock, the center of my universe, and he was going to take her away from me. There is a tightness in my chest even now describing this scene to you. My mother

survived that night, but their marriage didn't. She rebuilt herself after the divorce and poured all she had into giving my sisters and me a better life.

“How can I explain the horror, the fear, the helplessness, and the despair of watching your father hold a gun to your mother's head?”

Suddenly a single mom, she gave up a lot of her own dreams to help us succeed. Though she doesn't have a prestigious job or a lot of money, she is the proud mother of three daughters, one of whom is a lawyer, another who is a director of a mental health center, and the youngest who is a high school senior who will likely graduate first or second in her class. She is my hero.

—Melanie Crowe



We
are strong...

Melanie serves on the Board
of Directors for PADV.

My name is Carrie and I came from a loving and stable home. I met my ex-husband in 1996 and we were married less than five months later. I was a prisoner in my own home. Afraid to leave, afraid to stay. He would get mad over the smallest thing. The abuse and control extended to every aspect of my life. From what or if I ate (within a 6 month period, I had lost 40 pounds. Starving me was part of his abuse), to the clothes I wore, to when I was allowed to sleep, how I wrote my name, who I talked to. He abused

A lot of people have asked me why I did not leave him. Fear becomes your enemy. It makes you unable to react. Steven was a typical abuser. He knew what made me afraid. He knew what to say to me to drive fear into my heart, to control me. He would say, "Go ahead, try to leave. You'll be dead before you reach the front door," or "Sure, go ahead and leave. But you cannot fit all of the animals into your car, and what I cannot do to you, I will do to them."

I was a victim. I am a victim no more. I am a survivor. I escaped while visiting my parents on September 9, 2002.

– Carrie Kerr

"I was a victim. I am a victim no more. I am a survivor."

me in every way possible. He yelled and cursed at me and called me names. He strangled me. He raped me. He told me what to think and how to act.

We are successful . . .

Carrie is a member of PADV's Speaker Bureau to help dispel the myths about domestic violence and raise public awareness.



Nineteen years ago, I met a man from Nigeria, whom I believed was a responsible person of integrity. Soon after we married, I realized he wasn't the man that I thought he was. I was expected to walk several steps behind him, my daughter and I were forced to wear our hair short, we weren't allowed to turn on the heat during winter. And, one year, my daughter was forced to wear an old pair of my husband's shoes because he wouldn't permit me to buy her new shoes. My husband had several bank accounts to which I had no access. He constantly criticized me and mocked my career and educational aspirations. We were divorced after twelve years of marriage. I feel that I have come full circle. I'm not where I want to be but thank God I am not

"I feel that I have come full circle. I'm not where I want to be but thank God I am not where I used to be. I am so on my way..."

where I used to be. I am so on my way... spiritually, mentally, emotionally, socially and economically. My two oldest daughters are recent college graduates and my youngest daughter is seven years old. I am a survivor, I am surviving...

— Sonya Wright Omotayo



We are survivors...

Sonya is a Legal Advocate
Volunteer with PADV.



Shelter Programs and Services

- 24-Hour Crisis Line/14,441 calls received
- Emergency Shelter/841 battered women & children housed & 20,145 bednights provided (number of times our beds were used)
- Parenting Groups/473 women participated
- Children and Youth Program/388 children participated

Community Based Services /1,535 women supported

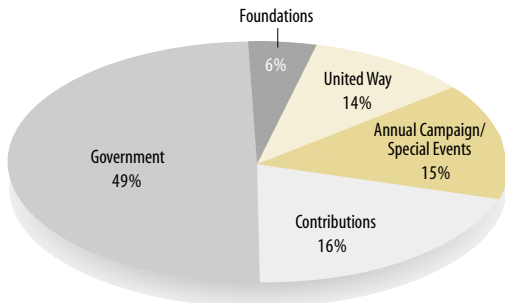
- Transitional Services Program
- Legal Advocacy
- Community Support Groups for Women
- Welfare Assistance
- Teen Dating Violence Program
- Services to Women with Disabilities

Volunteer Program

- 4,212 hours in childcare, legal advocacy, crisis line management, facilities assistance and support group facilitation

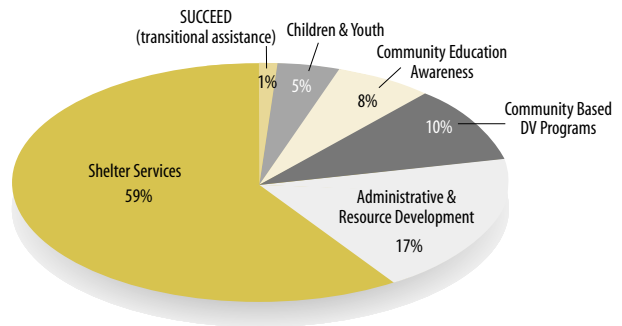
Financial Overview of FY 2004

Your Investments



Total Contributions
1.8 million

Your Investments At Work



Donors

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AGL Resources, Inc.
AmericasMart Atlanta
Amica
Anheuser-Busch, Inc.
APCO
Avon Products, Inc.
Bentley Investments, Inc.
Biosense Webster
Books Are Fun, Ltd.
Careerbuilder.Com
CompuCredit Corporation
Duluth Multicare, Inc.
Equifax, Inc.
Exemplary Performance Solutions
FedEx Services
Fulton County Daily Report
G.E. Energy Services
Georgia Power Company
Georgia-Pacific Foundation
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ODL, Inc.
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Spanx, Inc.
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The Insurance House
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Washington Mutual
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Foundations

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Atlanta Thrashers Foundation
Atlanta Women's Foundation
Community Foundation for Northeast Georgia
David H. Couchman & Melanie J. Noble-Couchman Foundation
DeKalb School Employees Foundation
Dillon Family Fund of CFGA
Lee Bachman Youth Fund
Mid Shore Community Foundation
Nordson Corporation Foundation
Oxford Industries Foundation
Second Mile - John Wieland Homes
The Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta
The Imlay Foundation, Inc.
The Marilyn and Bill Voss Fund of the CFGA
The Rao and Rani Varanasi Fund of the CFGA
The Wiggle Bug Foundation

Organizations

Alpha Chi Omega - Atlanta Alumnae Chapter
Alpha Delta Kappa - GA Delta Chapter
Atlanta Women's Network, Inc.
Begin Again Ministries
Bethsaida Baptist Church
Cathedral of St. James
Christ the Lord Lutheran Church
Church Women United in Atlanta
Design for Living Club
Dorcas Sunday School Class, Brookhaven Baptist Church
Family Recovery, Inc.
Fidelity - Open Door Class
Goddard School PTO
International Association of Administrative Professionals
International Union UAW Local No. 10 Women's Committee
Junior League of Atlanta
Junior League of Gwinnett & North Fulton Counties
Les Tres Soulette Social Club
Level Creek United Methodist Church
MARTA Employees Charity Club
March of Dimes, Georgia Chapter
Mrs. Eleanor Weatherly
New Hope Christian Church
New Hope United Methodist Church
Once For All Trust, FHLB
Open Word Christian Ministries, Inc.
Presbyterian Women
Rainbow Class
The Road To Recovery, Inc.
SafePlace
St. Oliver Plunkett Catholic Church
Stone Mountain Belles
Trinity Lutheran Church Women of the ELCA
United Methodist Women
United Trinity Class
United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta-Combined Federal Campaign
West End S.D.A. Church

Government

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council
Department of Housing and Urban Development
Fulton County Department of Human Services
Georgia Department of Community Affairs
Georgia Department of Human Resources
Georgia Department of Labor
Gwinnett County Charitable Contribution Committee
Gwinnett County Department of Community Services
Gwinnett County Public Schools
Office of School Readiness
Operation Weed and Seed

\$5000+

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Scott Dorfman
Sheryl Sellaway

\$2500 - 4999

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Having a verbally abusive partner is a variable "most likely" to predict that a woman would be victimized by an intimate partner. This finding supports the theory that violence perpetrated against women by intimates is often part of a systematic pattern of dominance and control.

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Thirty-seven percent of all women who sought care in hospital emergency rooms for violence-related injuries were injured by an intimate partner.

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\$50 - 99

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Every nine seconds a woman is battered in the United States.

Each year, an estimated 3.3 million children witness their mothers or female caretakers being abused.

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Melanie Mitchell
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Mom & Me Group
Moms Club of Dacula/Hamilton Mill
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Domestic violence is the leading cause
of injury to women.

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dish Restaurant
Lori Dobash
Dogwood Brewing Company
Dollar Tree Stores, Inc.
Brian and Vicki Dominick
Andrea Doneff
Sharon Donegan
Angela Doofe
Maureen Dowson
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Margaret Fedorick
Cindy Fentress
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First Baptist Church Duluth
First United Methodist Church of
Lawrenceville

An average of 3-4 women are killed every day
by their intimate partners.

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P.F. Chang's China Bistro
Panache Consignment
Laura Pappas
Parisian
Parsons Elementary School
Michael Paul
Vicky Payne
Susan Peacock
Gene Pease
Linda Peek-Schacht
The People Network
People's Bank & Trust
Perimeter Landscape Management, Inc.
Debra Peters
La Rue Phillips
Lillie Phillips
Nikki Phillips
Pizza Hut
Lynn Plait
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Bonnie Pope
Marissa Pope
Stephanie Porter
Julie Potts
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Sue Saleska Hamilton
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Janna Shannon
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Joe Shelton
James Shock
Ted Shoop
Silverwear
Sara Simmons
Louise Sindos
Sisters of Imani # 699/Order of Eastern Star
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Clarence Smith
Jim Smith
Lori Smith
Valerie Smith
Smoke Rise Baptist Church
Annie Smokes
Michael Soap
Ana Soler
Spa Sydell
Eileen Spiers
Linn Spieth
Sprayberry Travel
Stan Milton Salon
Starbucks Coffee Company
Michelle Stegall
Renee Stein
Ellyn Stephenson
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Sutherland Asbill & Brennan, L.L.P.
Michael Swick
Michael and Stephanie Szalkowski
Heather Talipsky
Donna Tallent
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Sarah Teffere
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Susan Terhune
Sara Thawley and Sandra Wielmarth
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Tammy Tindol
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Trade Secret Hair Salon
Travel Inc.
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Maxine Wright
Toni Wyman
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Laurie Zimmerman
Zion Hill Baptist Church
Zoo Atlanta

The mission of Partnership Against Domestic Violence (PADV) is to support women and their children in their efforts to live violence free. PADV works to end domestic violence by:

- offering safety and shelter for battered women and their children
- restoring power, self-sufficiency and control to domestic violence survivors
- educating the public on the dynamics of domestic violence

For over a quarter of a century, PADV, the largest nonprofit domestic violence organization in Georgia, has provided professional, compassionate, caring and empowering support to battered women and their children in metro Atlanta. PADV began as an all-volunteer agency in 1975 and incorporated in 1977. Today the agency has over 40 full and part-time staff with an administrative office in downtown Atlanta, and two 24-hour emergency shelters in Fulton and Gwinnett counties.

Join PADV! For more information about gift or volunteer opportunities, please contact us at 404.870.9600 or visit www.padv.org.



**Partnership Against
Domestic Violence**

The mission of Partnership Against Domestic Violence (PADV) is to support women and their children in their efforts to live violence free.

619 Edgewood Avenue, Ste. 101
Atlanta, GA 30312

Phone: 404.870.9600

Fax: 404.870.9611

E-mail: info@padv.org

Web Address: www.padv.org



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