

# DAP

DOMESTIC ABUSE PROJECT

June 17, 2019



Dear Friends of DAP,

As I enter my fifth month in the role of Executive Director, I am writing to report our progress. **Together, we have moved from a time of transition to a time of stability.** Our next chapter will focus on grounding and building to ensure that Domestic Abuse Project (DAP) continues to be an innovative hub for transformational care, family healing, and community-led trauma informed practices. We have two significant initiatives to share today that demonstrate our commitment to transformational care.

**PARTNER INVESTMENT** - Over the past four months, DAP has continued to prioritize our clients and communities. This, along with rebuilding our organizational strategies and leadership has resulted in exceptional results. We are pleased to share with you that we have been awarded a significant grant from our partners at Otto Bremer Trust (OBT) due to our responsiveness in addressing sustainable practices. Charlotte Johnson, OBT's Co-CEO and Trustee shared that, "Domestic Abuse Project continues to provide vital services to those who are victimized by domestic violence, including crisis intervention, advocacy, therapy programs for women, men, children, and youth. We support the critical work they do in the greater Twin Cities."

**CHANGE STEP** - Following more than a year of advocacy at the Capitol, a funding allocation has been approved to sustain our Change Step program in FY20 and FY21. Our innovative Change Step program supports veterans, active service members, and their families, working with those who have used abusive behaviors in an effort to stop the intergenerational cycle of violence. Participants learn about the cycle of abuse, discuss gender norms, practice communication, take responsibility for an abusive incident, and work to understand the effects of that violence on children. Many regain healthy relationships with their families and children and 96% of clients who graduate from the Change Step program do not reoffend within a year. We would not have had the opportunity to have our bill considered if it were not for the support of our authors, Senator Anderson and Representative Johnson. It was the voice of a Change Step graduate, Daren, that opened hearts and minds to the idea that through our model of therapy, peer support, education, and a commitment to change, healing is possible. You can hear [Daren's story here](#).

Both funding opportunities will allow DAP to continue to innovate and serve thousands of clients annually, inclusive of every member of the family, in moving from crisis to healing. Thank you to those in our community who have shown your support of DAP's mission. Our work is not done and we look to you to walk with our families so that they may experience healthy, safe, and equal relationships. Join us as a contributor, volunteer, share your story, connect someone you care about with our services.

United in our shared commitment to end domestic violence,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which reads "Annie Van Avery". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Annie Van Avery, Executive Director