

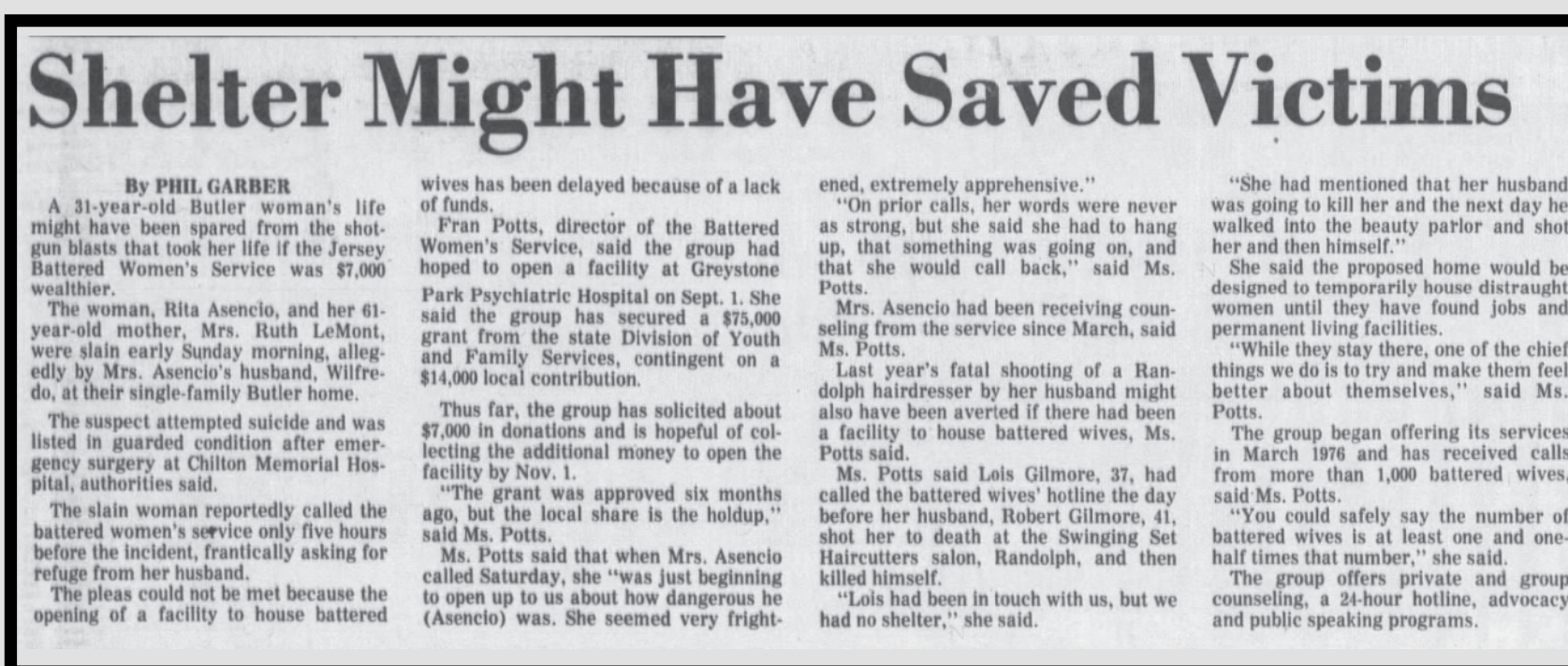
JBWS' Early Beginnings



1976

JBWS is Formed

Judy Todd founds Jersey Battered Women's Services (JBWS). Todd and a group of local woman establish a hotline and system of private homes as temporary shelters.



1977-1978

Two Victims Are Killed

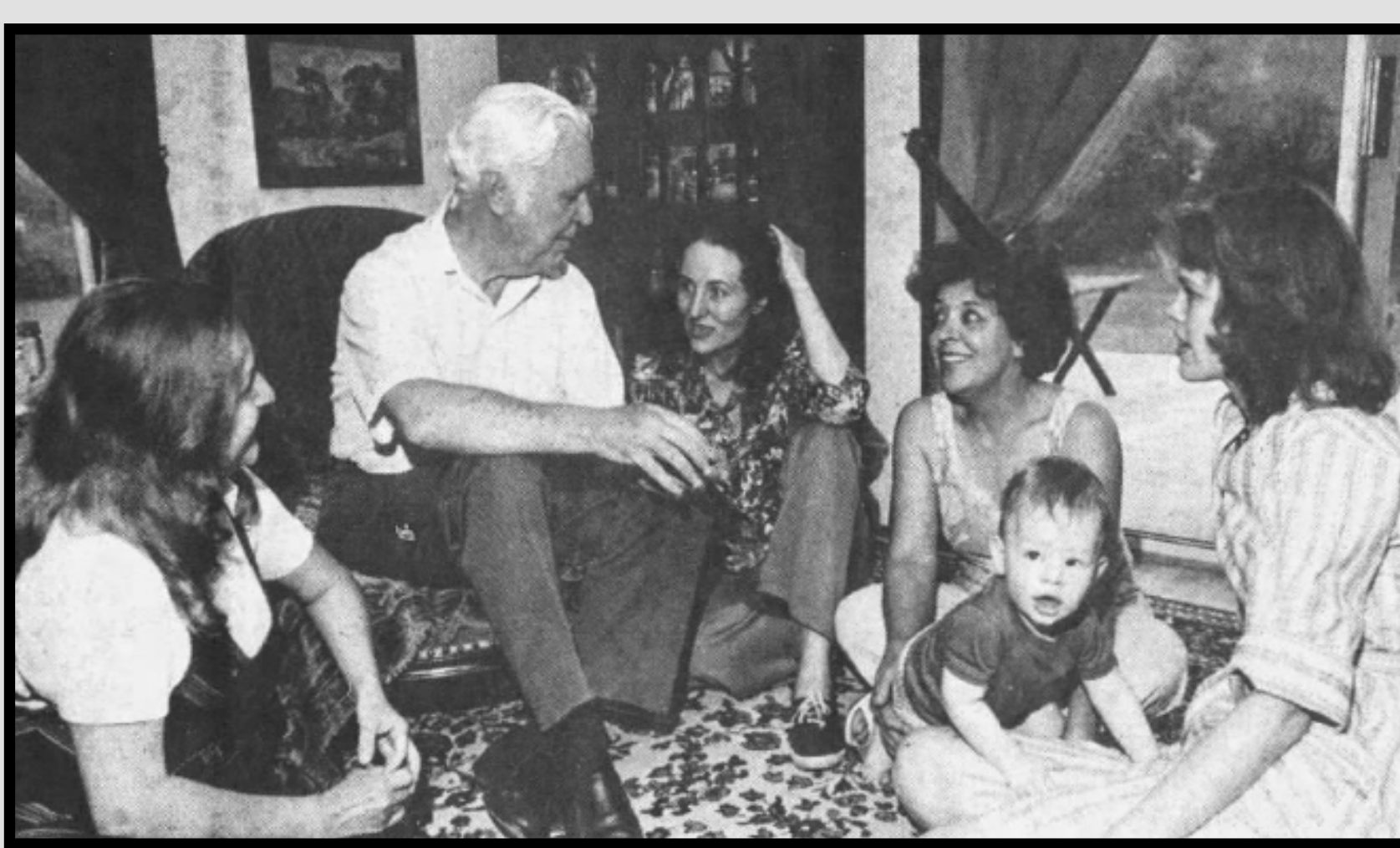
Lois Gilmore and Rita Ascenio are murdered by their husbands. Both women utilized JBWS' services and tried to seek refuge in JBWS' shelter. Tragically, due to lack of funding, the shelter didn't open in time to protect their lives.



1978

Shelter Opens

On December 26, 1978, JBWS opens a 5 bedroom Emergency Shelter. By New Years Eve, the shelter is at capacity.



1980

Specialized Counseling

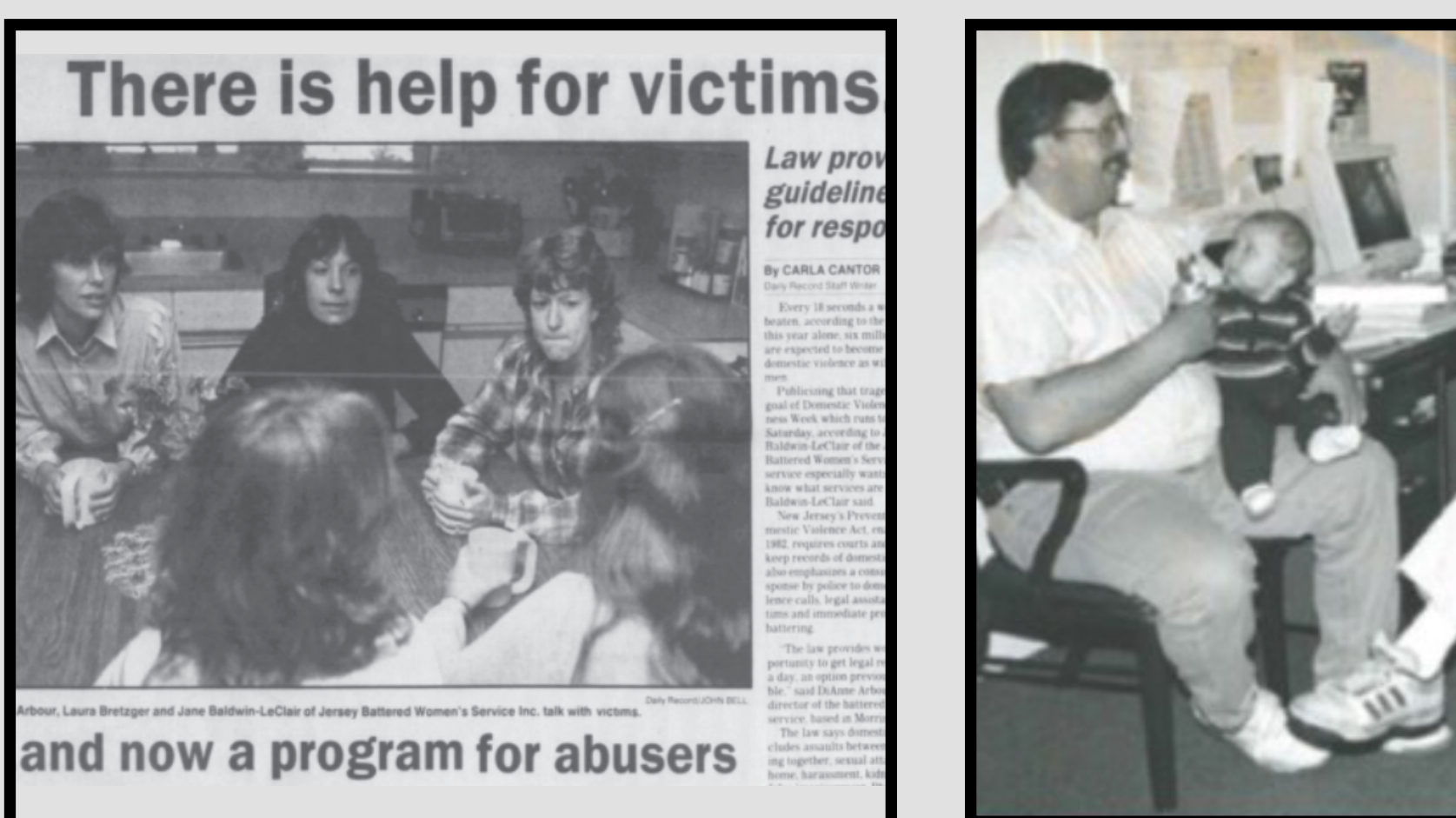
Informal counseling sessions took place on a volunteer's living room floor in 1970s. In 1980, specialized counseling programs are developed for victims residing in the shelter.



1982

Services for Children

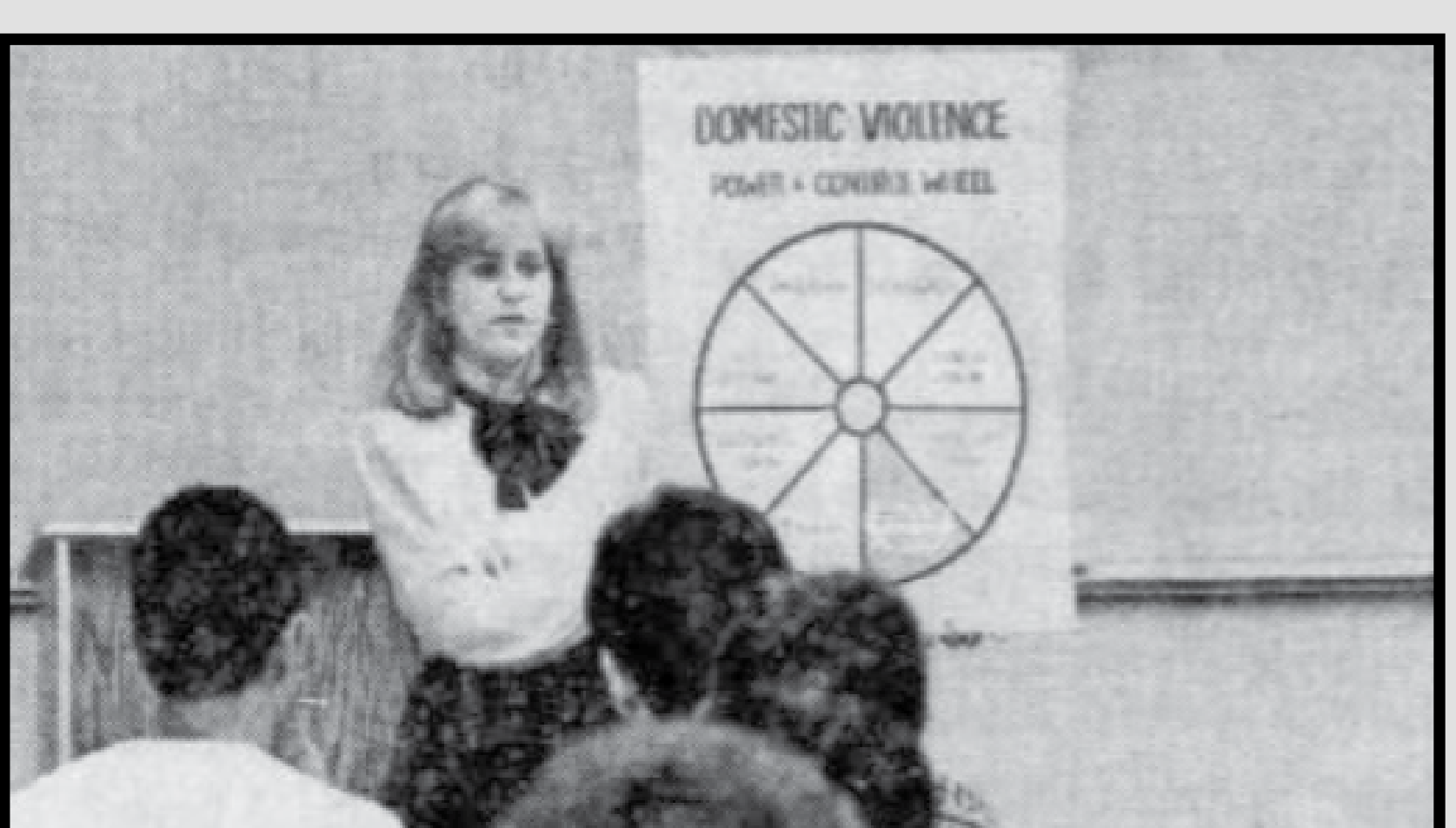
Counseling and therapeutic recreation services for children are created.



1983

Abuse Intervention

JBWS launches ACT (Abuse Ceases Today), a group counseling program for men who have caused harm in their relationships to encourage behavior change and accountability.



1984

Community Education

JBWS establishes the Community Outreach Program to provide counseling and advocacy for victims in the community who do not require the protection of the shelter.



1987

Services for Teenagers

JBWS launches the Dating Abuse Prevention Program, a prevention and early intervention program for high school students.



1989

First Shelter Expansion

JBWS expands and renovates its 8,100 square foot emergency shelter. The construction expands the kitchen, increases the number of bedrooms and adds a dining room, living room, resource center, conference room, volunteer office, and private counseling offices.

"We will not go away until the sobs of the last woman who is being beaten are quieted."

-Judy Todd, March 26, 1976

1990's - 2010's



1992

Legal Advocacy

The Battered Women's Legal Advocacy Project is created to provide access to free legal representation for domestic violence restraining orders through collaboration with the Morris County Bar Association.



1996

Crisis Response Team

The first federal grant to establish Crisis Response Teams in area police departments is received in 1996.



1998

Bilingual Counselors

JBWS hires bilingual counselors for the shelter, abuse intervention program, and legal advocacy programs.



1999

Simon House Opens

With a \$1,000,000 donation from Carol Simon, the Carol G. Simon House: A Transitional Living Resource Center opens. It is comprised of 11 apartment units and a resource center.



2003

Abuse Intervention for Women

JBWS develops a new community counseling group, VISTA, designed for women who have used abuse in their intimate relationships.



2004

Project Prevention

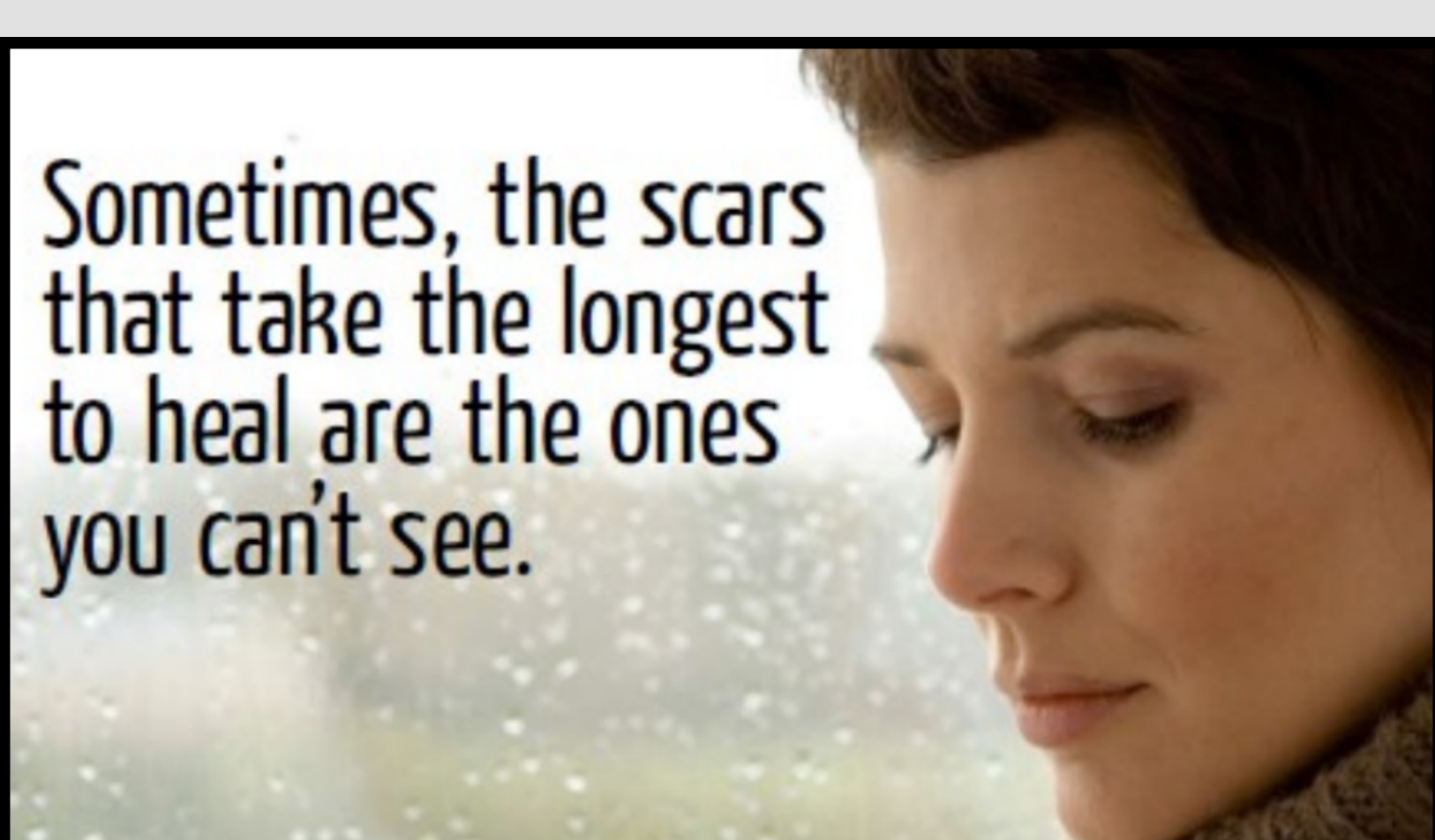
JBWS launches Project Prevention. Strategies to prevent abuse begin gaining momentum through community outreach to men, leadership groups, and more.



2007

Partnership with Girl Scouts

The partnership with Morris Area Girl Scouts leads to the creation of the Interest Project Award called REACH for Healthy Relationships.



2008

Center for Health Relationships

JBWS launches the Center for Healthy Relationships to reach middle and upper income members of the community.



2010

Increasing Access

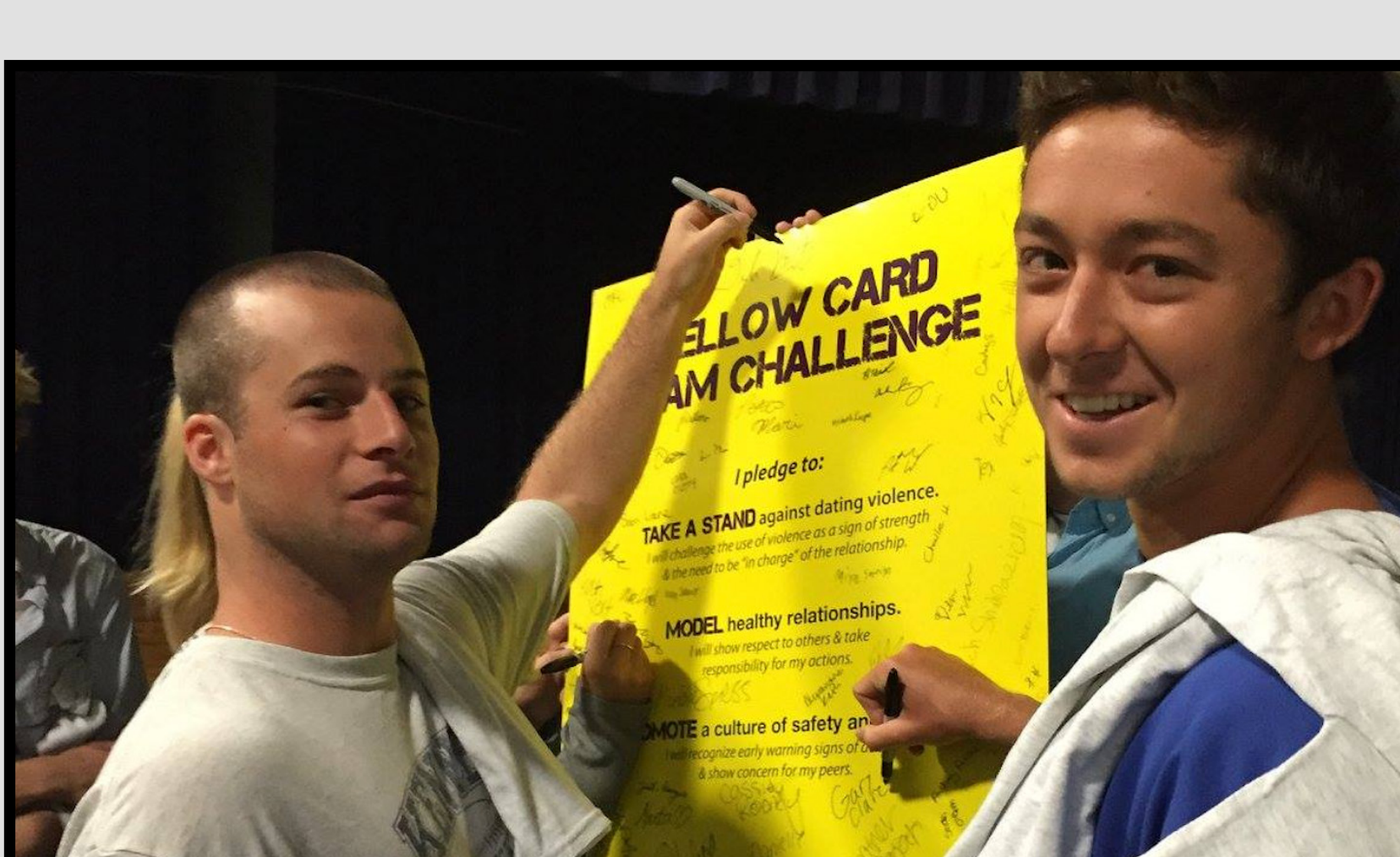
Disabled victims of domestic violence receive improved access to care through the No Wrong Door Project.



2011

Another Victim Loses Her Life

Nazish Noorani is murdered in Boonton. This tragedy opens a dialogue between the Islamic community and JBWS, affording us opportunities for community education, training, and service delivery.



2015

The Yellow Card Campaign

The Yellow Card Campaign, an outreach program to athletes, is launched. This campaign encourages young athletes to support and model healthy relationships.

2010's to Today



2016

MFJC Opens

The Morris Family Justice Center opens to provide services a victim needs in one place. JBWS is the lead agency of the MFJC.



2017

Camp Hope

JBWS establishes New Jersey's first Camp Hope. The Daniel J. Wilcox Camp HOPE-NJ supports children who have been impacted by domestic violence. It helps them find a pathway to hope through the life-changing summer camp modality.



2019

Rapid Re-Housing Program

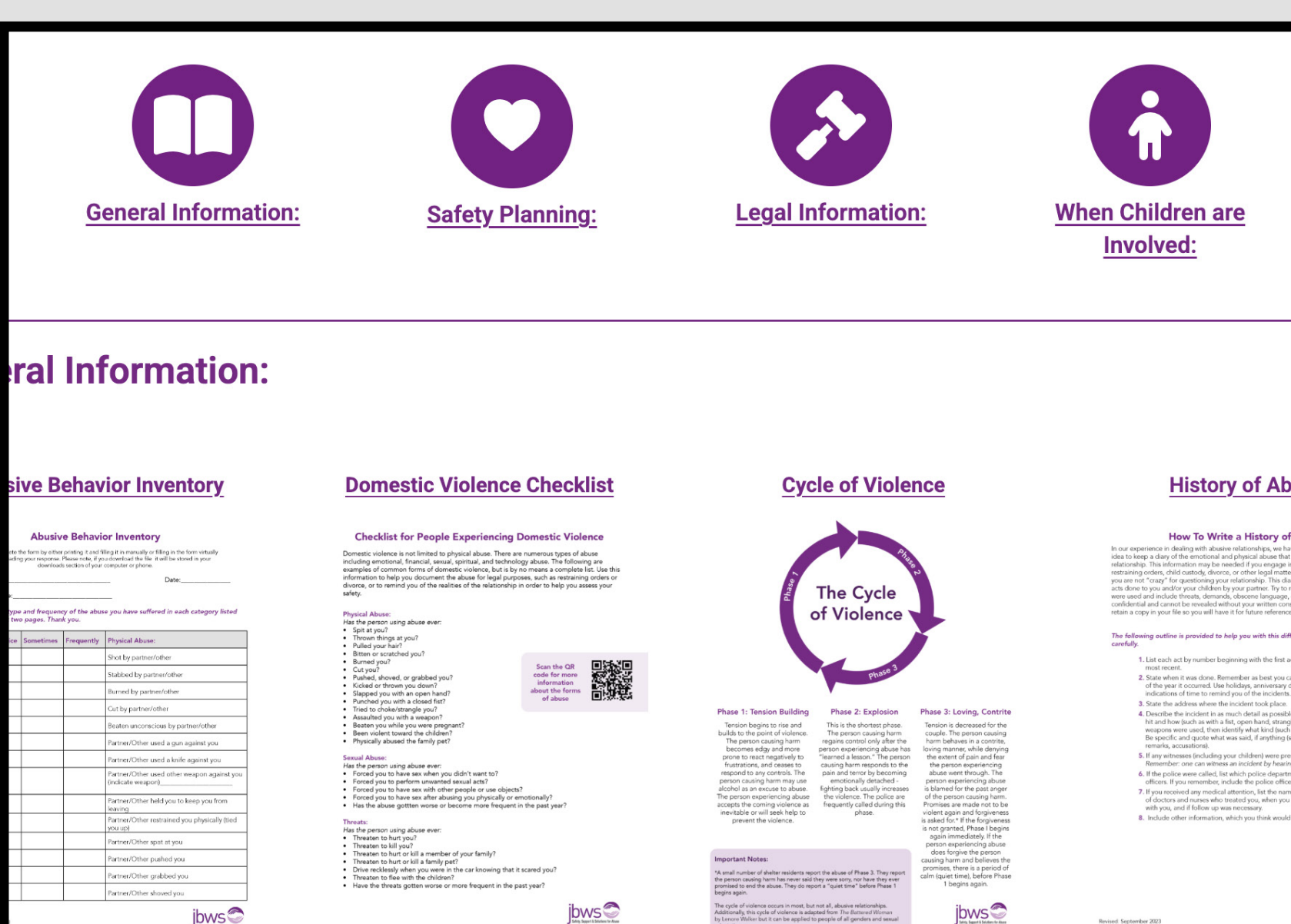
JBWS establishes the Rapid Re-Housing program which provides survivors with a quick transition from emergency shelter to rental housing in the community. It provides rental assistance for up to one year, along with case management and support.



2020

Global Pandemic

COVID-19 results in forced isolation and the closing of community resources. This creates a particularly dangerous atmosphere for victims. In response, JBWS' emergency safe house and transitional living building remained open.



2023-
2024

Increased Communications

JBWS develops content about domestic violence on the website to ensure all victims have access to support. JBWS also launches Unsilenced: Real Conversations About Abuse, a podcast designed to educate the community about domestic violence.



2025

Expanding into Passaic County

JBWS receives a contract to provide services to victims of domestic violence in Passaic County.



2026

Second Shelter Expansion

JBWS breaks ground on an expansion of our Morris County shelter. This expansion allows JBWS to provide additional rooms for victims of domestic violence and presents an opportunity to address a serious need to create a pet-friendly facility.

“Living in the darkness of abuse for so long, I never thought I’d find my way out. JBWS became a light for my family, leading us into our new future .”

-Survivor of domestic violence