

## CLSACC's PROJECT FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND CHILD SUPPORT

Last year, CLSACC's Family Law Project for Domestic Violence and Child Support assisted 295 women and their children in securing long-term protection from violence and abuse, safe custody and visitation arrangements, child and spousal support, and access to health care. With child and spousal support, victims are able to achieve greater economic self-sufficiency and are less likely to return to an abusive partner.

The family law unit at CLSACC prioritizes services to the most vulnerable clients: women highly traumatized by domestic abuse and refugee and immigrant victims who often do not speak English. CLSACC's family law staff and volunteer attorneys provide expert legal advice to victims of domestic violence, and CLSACC offers a range of services to achieve the best outcomes for these clients, including legal counsel and representation in family, immigration, and housing law and culturally sensitive mental health and social work support services. Clients leave CLSACC with not only a greater sense of safety and strength, but with the promise of emotional and mental stability for themselves and for their children.

### GOVERNOR WARNS PUBLIC ABOUT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CRISIS

Domestic violence homicides have nearly tripled over the last two years, prompting **Governor Deval Patrick** and state health officials to issue an advisory warning the public about this crisis. **Domestic violence accounted for nearly one death per week last year, the highest rate since the 1990s.**

LOOK FOR OUR FRIENDS APPEAL  
LETTER IN NOVEMBER

While the economic downturn affects us all, none are more vulnerable than those who turn to CLSACC for help. Please take a few minutes this year to make a gift and return it to CLSACC at your earliest convenience. **Thank you!**

CLSACC WELCOMES NEW STAFF

In September, CLSACC hired **Lauren Shebairo**, LICSW MPH, as a part-time social worker to provide casework and counseling for immigrant and refugee victims of crime.



Lauren earned her MSW and MPH at Boston University. She has worked with refugees, asylees, and political asylum seekers at the Boston Center for Refugee Health and Human Rights, Department of Psychiatry, Boston Medical Center, and the International Institute of Boston.

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