

Naide Aymelek, Advocate

Naide has spent over 20 years advocating to better the lives of women and children in Rhode Island. From her first days volunteering at the Domestic Violence Resource Center, Naide understood domestic violence is the root cause of so many community issues: Homelessness, poverty, and substance abuse, to name a few.

Naide says, "I continue working with victims of domestic violence because I have personally witnessed that support, validation, and compassion can change the trajectory of someone's life for the better, and this has continued to motivate and inspire me over the years."

Naide began volunteering for DVRCSC in September of 1999. She has held all sorts of positions over the years, listening to countless survivors tell their stories. Now she teaches our DV101 training course and leads support groups for victims.

We asked her what someone entering this field could expect? "For anyone considering a career in Domestic Violence, please know that working in this field can be quite challenging because of the complexities of domestic violence but it can also be enormously rewarding. The most valuable lesson in this position I've learned has been never to underestimate how small acts of kindness can have a big impact on a victim's life."

Naide certainly is kind, and fierce, and advocates for all victims. We asked her to let us know something a person might not know about DV. "What you may not know about Domestic Violence is a victim's decision to leave an abusive relationship is an extremely difficult one to make because it involves losses i.e. home, children, job, status, family, love, and in some cases their lives." Certainly true, it is why we need to keep our doors at DVRC open so we are available when a victim decides to take that step toward freedom. And when they do, Naide will be there to help them navigate the way.