has been another year of growth and development for WE CAN. The successful conclusion of a capital campaign enabled us to **enlarge our building, completely upgrade our technology**, and, perhaps most important, **expand our service delivery**. Increased engagement with other Cape non-profits, a growing roster of wonderful volunteers, our highly skilled (albeit small) staff, and a significantly improved ability to gather and analyze data about our programs have helped to make us an even more responsive and effective part of the Cape community.

### HIGHLIGHTS

We continued our commitment to collaborate with other Cape non-profits to deliver services that women need to change their lives. As an example, we offered **1-1 legal and recently, financial and work support consults in collaboration with the Falmouth Service Center,** to better meet the needs of women on the Upper Cape. The number of grandparents who are raising their grandchildren continued to grow in 2015, fueled in part by the opioid crisis on the Cape. In response to this development, with the MA Commission on the Status of Grandparents Raising Grandchildren and the Cape Cod Neighborhood Support Coalition, we offered **“Legal Issues for Grandparents Raising Grandchildren”**. As with many of our programs, childcare was provided. We began offering monthly **1-1 legal consultations on Immigration**, thanks to volunteer attorneys with expertise in that area. We launched **“Money $en$e: The Basics of Money Management”** in several locations across the Cape. Given the seasonal nature of the Cape economy, the demand for such a workshop is great. Also in response to a clear need, WE CAN staff collaborated with a volunteer attorney and accountant to develop and deliver a **Bankruptcy Overview workshop**. And thanks to volunteer professionals, we now offer **two different 8 week personal development workshops on both the Lower and Mid-Cape.**

We are tremendously grateful for the financial support that made these and other WE CAN programs possible. This support came from individuals, businesses, grants and events. **Over 460 people attended the 11th annual “A Day of Words, Wit and Wisdom”, emceed by author Anne LeClaire.** Thanks to a small army of volunteers led by WE CAN board member Margie Huggard, the first WE CAN Cape Designer ShowHouse, in Osterville, brought new revenue, and, equally important, new community members to WE CAN. Team WE CAN/United Way for the 62 mile Last Gasp bike ride included several riders who have done all 5 rides, many first-time riders, and the event’s “Most Experienced” man and woman!

Several supporters of WE CAN hosted special fundraisers: **Orleans Wine and Spirits’ Grand Wine Tasting; Puritan Clothing and Cape Cod Magazine’s Girls Night Out; Chatham Girls Night Out; Current Quarterly magazine’s fashion show; the West Dennis Yacht Club Book Club’s Author’s Luncheon; and J. McLaughlin’s Sip and Shop.**

This year, WE CAN mourned the passing of founding board member Richard “Dick” Sullivan. From its beginning, for nearly 15 years, Dick inspired, guided and was head cheerleader for WE CAN. Our work serving Cape Cod women in transition will continue to benefit from his leadership.

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**Sharon Hawkins, President, Board of Directors**  
**Andrea Genser, Executive Director**
From its beginning in 2001, WE CAN has focused on helping Cape Cod women of all ages and life situations navigate major life transitions or crises. WE CAN’s programs and services have evolved in direct response to clear but unmet needs in our community, and some are delivered in collaboration with other Cape non-profits. All are designed to foster independence and empower our participants to create lasting positive change for themselves and their families.

Information and Referral
- Situation and needs assessment
- Identification of appropriate resources
- Introductions to other service providers and resources

Mentoring with PathMakers
- 10 month program offers one-to-one and group mentoring for women
- Setting and achieving individual goals
- Mutual learning and support

Legal, Financial and Work Support
- One-to-one consultations with an attorney, including on family law, landlord-tenant, wills and estates, and workshops on various aspects of family law – Harwich Port and Falmouth
- One-to-one consultations and workshops with financial professionals on managing money, debt, and savings planning – Harwich Port and Falmouth
- One-to-one work support consultations, from career exploration through resume prep to job interview coaching, and the Suit Yourself program

Transformations through Personal Development Programs and Support
- “From Surviving to Thriving”, offered by a Certified Professional Life Coach
- “Design Your Life”, led by an LICSW and Certified Professional Life Coach
- Divorce Support Group

6,925* Calls & Walk-Ins
501* Combined Attendance
785* Program Participants
192* Combined Attendance

* Statistics Reflect January — September 2015
**Information and Referral**: When a woman calls WE CAN or walks into our office, the very first thing we do is listen. While she may have called WE CAN because she wanted, for example, an attorney to help with a landlord/tenant issue, there may be underlying financial problems. Our staff are skilled at understanding each woman’s situation. Through our extensive referral network, we can direct her to the most comprehensive set of resources needed, including, of course, WE CAN programs and services.

There are literally hundreds of non-profits, and myriad other resources, on the Cape. Add to those, applications and other forms that may be important, and it’s easy to understand how a woman might need help not only identifying the resources she needs, but also help navigating through them all. “Information and Referral” may not sound like a significant service, but it can be life-changing.

“I’m grateful there’s a special place that’s safe, where women of the Cape can feel heard and taken care of.” — T.

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**Mentoring with PathMakers**: Women (called PathMakers) seeking mentors are paired with mentoring Partners through a speed dating-like process that allows the PathMaker to be completely involved in the selection of her Mentoring Partner. The Mentoring Partners are volunteers who support PathMakers on their journey of transition and personal growth. Each PathMaker and Mentoring Partner pair meets individually and the entire PathMaker group comes together monthly for workshops. There are also monthly meetings for the Mentoring Partners to facilitate sharing experiences with each other and to help support them in their roles as mentors. PathMaker graduates have published books, returned to school, secured new jobs, started their own businesses, launched or changed careers, bought homes. Many women also join the program for added support as they travel through a difficult life transition such as a serious illness, personal loss, or challenging divorce.

“My mentor helped guide me on a path to recognize my own self-confidence! Her mentorship has helped me believe that I already have everything that I need to conquer my battles, and with time, I will.” — S.

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**Legal, Financial and Work Support**: In addition to one-to-one legal consultations, WE CAN’s volunteer attorneys offer several workshops, including “Everything You Wanted to Know about Family Law But Were Afraid to Ask,” and one aimed at helping grandparents with the legal issues involved in raising grandchildren. Low to moderate income women can also obtain guidance and direction on a wide range of financial matters. The Financial Empowerment Program complements existing programs on the Cape by assisting women who may need more individualized attention than they could receive in a group setting. WE CAN also offers workshops such as Money $en$e and a bankruptcy workshop with an attorney and a CPA.

The agenda for all Work Support consultations is determined by the participant and her needs. And the Suit Yourself program enables WE CAN program participants to –at no cost to themselves –obtain women’s clothing and accessories to augment their personal and/or professional presentation from any of the thrift stores partnering in the Suit Yourself program.

“This service [Work Support 1-to1 consultation] gives me a more in-depth look at how to present myself or “sell” myself on paper.” — P.

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**Transformations through Personal Development Programs and Support**: From Surviving to Thriving, an 8-week program offered in Harwich Port, is designed to bring women out from behind what holds them back, focus on what is important for them and their family, and to identify available opportunities. In addition to developing new skills and ideas, participants develop a one-month plan, a six-month plan, and a one-year plan to achieve their goals. Design Your Life is a new 8-week program created to empower women to design the life they want to live. This program, offered in Barnstable, will help the participant build a fulfilling career or business, cultivate passion, achieve optimal health, create financial abundance, enjoy rewarding relationships or take on any other goal in their life. WE CAN also offers a 6-week session support group for women in the process of, or dealing with the aftermath of divorce or the breakup of a long-term committed relationship.

“I was thrilled [with this workshop] as it helped me to understand why I was frozen and how to get moving again.” — D.
Documented Geographic Growth Comparisons: First 9 Months 2011 & 2015

2015 Income

2015 Expenses

Comparative Data Highlights
First 9 Months 2011 & 2015

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* WE CAN Champion — monthly/sustaining donors or those individuals contributing $1,000 or more per year.

We apologize for any omissions or errors and trust that you will bring them to our attention. Special thanks to our program participants, who remain anonymous, but whose courage inspires us daily.

2015 Annual Report

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