Up to 90% of women who come to WAW have never been to school or held a job. They cannot read or write in their own language, and do not speak English. Many do not know how to take public transportation and cannot do daily transactions in English. This isolates and prevents them from participating in community life. For survivors of domestic violence, these limitations keep them from getting out of their abusive situations.

As a result of our education and economic empowerment programs, women we serve successfully and confidently lead more fulfilling lives—whether it is finding jobs for the first time, getting around and doing things on their own, understanding their worth, or finally getting out of their abusive situations.
At WAW, ROYA found the strength and support to leave an abusive relationship and rebuild a better life for her and her children. Roya has been an ESL student for years but never disclosed her domestic violence situation to WAW.

However, in September, she was beaten so brutally by her husband that she had to go to the hospital. The hospital contacted WAW, and she was immediately taken to family court. WAW’s caseworker was by her side as she navigated through the court system to get a temporary order of protection and file a case of domestic violence against her husband.

Roya endured emotional, psychological, and financial abuse in front of her children for 30 years. She was isolated and not allowed to go to school or work, except for attending classes at WAW where she learned English.

As Roya took additional actions to leave her husband, his family threatened to harm her family back in Afghanistan. Since his family could realize this threat easily, Roya decided not to go to court. However, she has refused to go back to him and has filed for divorce and child support.

Though Roya was kept isolated and disempowered, she found the strength to support her family. With WAW’s assistance, she is currently taking a course to become a certified home health aide and studying to get her driver’s license. Roya is getting counseling and shares that her focus now is to find healing for herself and her children.

VISION FORWARD:
We will continue our life-changing education and skills-building programs and find new ways to uplift survivors of domestic violence. We are especially focused on growing our economic empowerment work with the goal of connecting double the number of women to jobs so they can help their families live better.