



The Rowan Center
A Sexual Assault Resource Agency
Empower. Educate. Eliminate.

Annual Report

2020-2021



A Leadership Message

Dear Friends of the Rowan Center,

Last year, despite the pandemic, The Rowan Center set forth an ambitious agenda to expand its services and to reach more of our community in need of our help and resources. We committed to providing more counseling, more education, and more advocacy to more survivors. We hired more staff, started the process of creating a new innovative curriculum, and formed a student advisory council which has been a resounding success as we tap into the hearts and minds of our young people. They have spearheaded critical discussions within their schools, and have become ambassadors for our mission.

Sexual violence is hard to talk about- even to think about- for many people. Survivors still rarely report cases to law enforcement and many victims are shamed into silence. Justice for victims remains elusive. To address this issue, The Rowan Center hired a justice advocate this year whose sole responsibility is to collaborate with law enforcement and victims to make the legal process more accessible to everyone.

By the end of our fiscal year, we were relieved that we had taken steps to expand our reach. Demand for our services has soared. New clients requesting our free counseling services increased 86% and we were able to counsel each of them. Hospital calls for sexual assault victims were up 32% last year - every one of these calls requires an advocate and staff member to guide a victim through the process. Hotline calls were up 62%. This hotline is staffed 24 hours a day, every day with volunteers and staff back-ups. We trained 50 new hotline volunteers this year to keep up with the increased demand. Finally, though we had to be flexible, we were able to educate over 10,000 of our students and expect this number to almost double this year as our educators get back into the classroom.

Because of our generous supporters, The Rowan Center continued to offer our services every minute of every day of the year. The pandemic may have created challenges for our staff, but we are filled with gratitude that those challenges never prevented us from providing the care to our community that was so essential.

We were able to support our community and even expand our reach. This success is possible because of our dedicated supporters- we could not do this difficult work without you. We thank all of our generous donors and volunteers for their support and invite you all to read about our people, our progress, and our plans in the pages that follow. Together, we can continue to eliminate sexual violence in our communities.

Mary Forman Flynn
Chief Executive Officer

Sharon Walker Epps
Chair, Board of Directors



Board of Directors

Sharon Walker Epps
Chair, Board of Directors

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Stamford Public Schools

Gayle Weinstein
Former Board President &
Former First Selectman of Weston

The Rowan Center Staff

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Chief Operating Officer

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Director of Development

Jessica Feighan
Director of Advocacy and Training

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Marketing Manager

Sarah Malhotra
Education Program Manager

Brooke Antonopoulos
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Sara Correa
Bilingual Advocate

Kelly Idarraga
Bilingual Community
Collaboration Coordinator

Marsha Placide
Bilingual Crisis Counselor &
Volunteer Coordinator

Juliana Serrano
Program & Development Associate
& Bilingual Advocate

Danielle Walker
Community Educator

Emma Zelenak
Community Educator



About The Rowan Center



The mission of The Rowan Center is to provide counseling and support services to victims of sexual assault and to eliminate sexual violence through community-wide education programs.

The Rowan Center has provided critical 24/7 support to victims of sexual violence in the eight towns of lower Fairfield County since 1979. The eight towns we serve include Darien, Greenwich, New Canaan, Norwalk, Stamford, Weston, Westport, and Wilton. We provide in-person advocacy at our local hospitals, police stations, and courts, as well as free, confidential crisis counseling to victims and their families and loved ones.

The Rowan Center also provides age and developmentally appropriate awareness and prevention education for K-12 students, colleges, corporations, law enforcement, community organizations, and more. All of our services are available free of charge to individuals of all genders and nationalities, for ages 14 and up, and are available in English and Spanish. Our counseling services are also available in Haitian-Creole.

2020-21 Impact

60%

Increase in hotline calls answered

44%

Increase in clients that were under the age of 23

40%

Increase in clients identifying as Latin or Hispanic

868

Education programs were provided to local K-12 and adult communities

62

Hospital accompaniments were completed

78%

Increase in individual client counseling sessions

18k+

Website views

22%

Increase in social media followers

50

New trained hotline volunteers

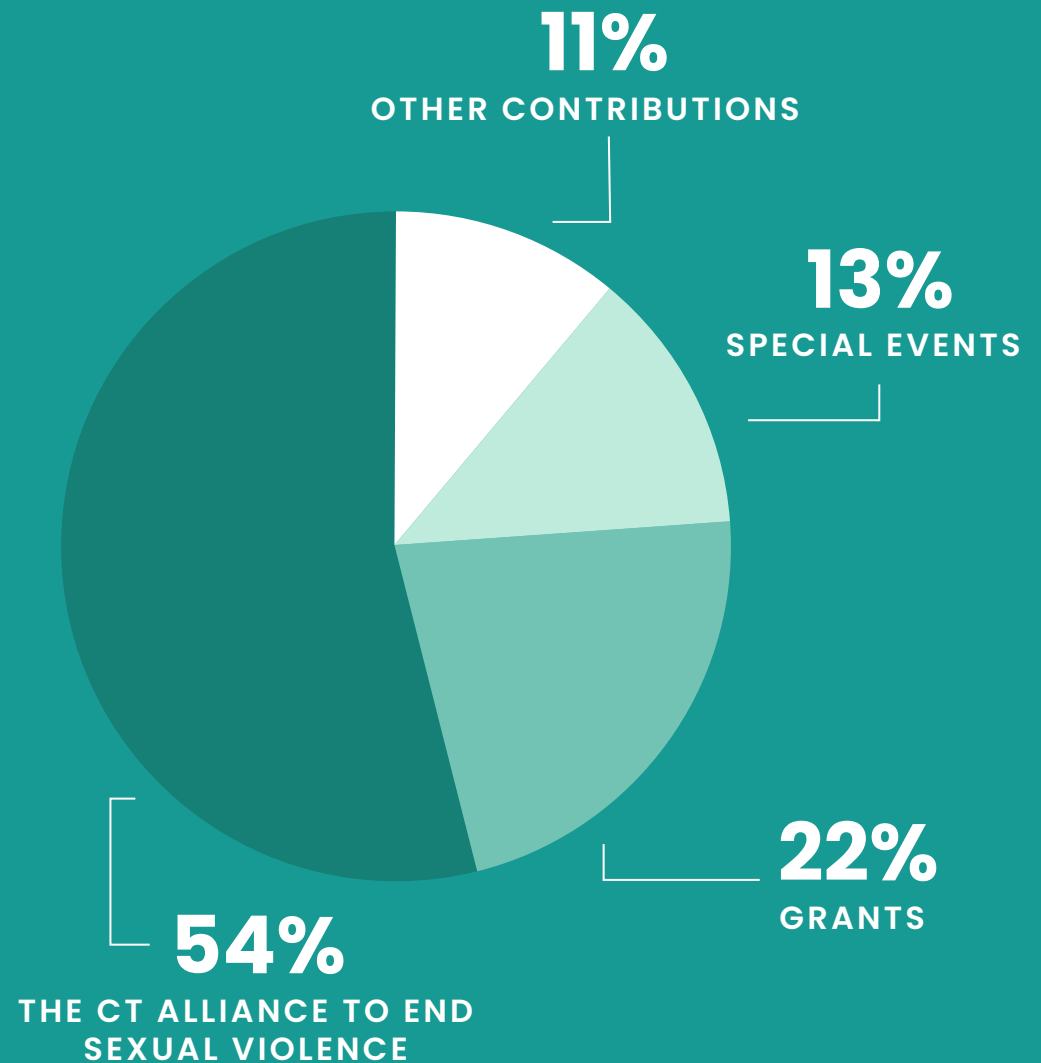


2020-21 Financials*

OPERATING REVENUE

THE CT ALLIANCE TO END SEXUAL VIOLENCE	\$499,855
GRANTS	\$202,193
SPECIAL EVENTS	\$125,008
OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS	\$101,927
TOTAL REVENUE	\$928,938

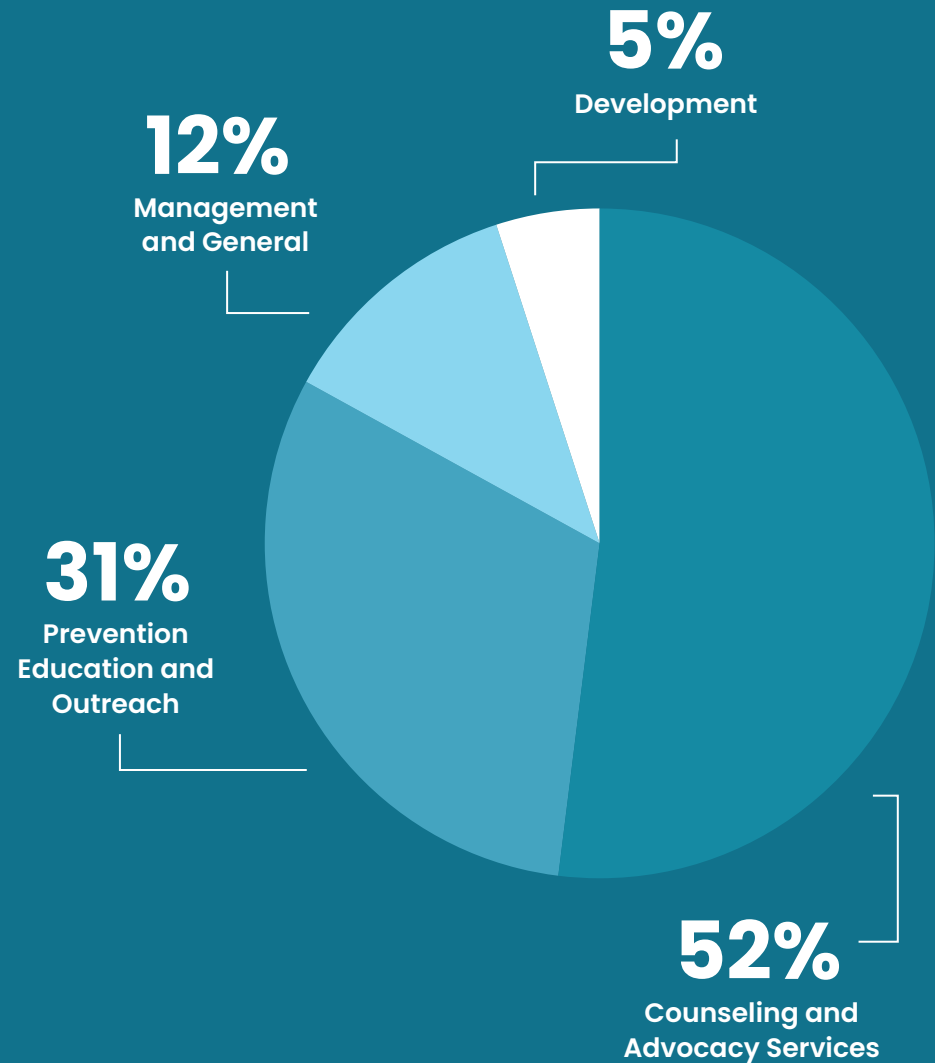
* Fiscal Year: July 1st 2020 — June 30th 2021



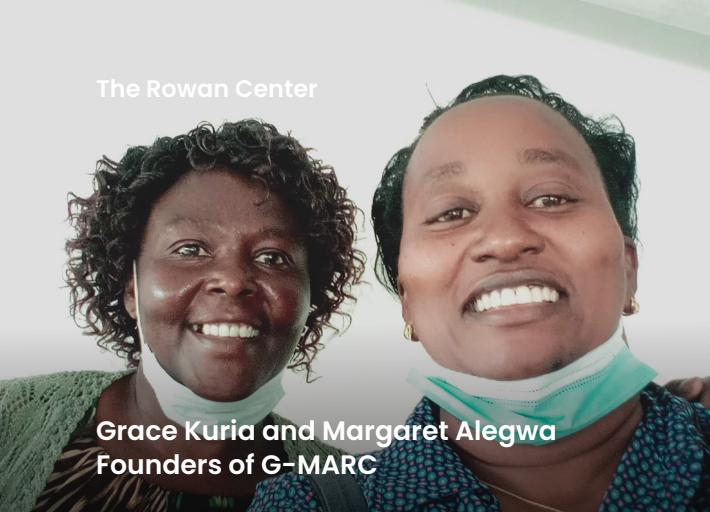
2020-21 Financials*

OPERATING EXPENSES

COUNSELING AND ADVOCACY SERVICES	\$455,702
PREVENTION EDUCATION AND OUTREACH	\$271,668
MANAGEMENT AND GENERAL	\$105,162
DEVELOPMENT	\$43,817
EXPENSES	\$876,350



* Fiscal Year: July 1st 2020 — June 30th 2021



Grace Kuria and Margaret Alegwa
Founders of G-MARC



G-MARC Safe House
Eldoret, Uasin Gishu County Kenya



G-MARC Safe House
Eldoret, Uasin Gishu County Kenya

Share the Gift of Counseling

// I take this opportunity to say thank you so much to you, to my counselor, and The Rowan Center fraternity at large. You have changed my life so much, I would not be where I am today if it was not for you guys, I will be forever grateful to you. I feel at peace now and I am equipped with the tools that will help me overcome any flashbacks and overwhelming moments thanks to my counselor. Thank you also for introducing Grace and Maggie from G-MARC to me, we've only just spoken, but I already feel that they are going to be my support system here in Kenya.

At The Rowan Center, our mission is to provide counseling and support services to victims of sexual assault and to eliminate future sexual violence through community-wide education programs. Historically, our efforts have been confined mostly to the eight towns of lower Fairfield County, dating back to the late-1970s. However, this past year, we found ourselves serving a client over 7,000 miles away.

In October of 2020, we received a request for service through our website, coming from someone in the United Kingdom. This UK-based individual informed us that she was reaching out on behalf of a friend, a sexual assault victim residing in Kenya. The Rowan Center provided this client with remote counseling services, connecting them with one of our Masters in Social Work counseling interns, part of our new internship program started in the Fall of 2020. Towards the end of services, as is the protocol of the Counseling Department, the team began researching agencies in Kenya to which this client could be connected or referred for ongoing support. This led the team to Grace Kuria and Margaret Alegwa, the founders of an organization called Gender Mobilization of Activities and Response Centre, or G-MARC.

G-MARC was founded in 2014 and is located in the Uasin Gishu County of Kenya, specifically the town of Eldoret. G-MARC believes that all child survivors of sexual abuse and assault in the Uasin Gishu County of Kenya deserve a safe space to heal and an enlightened, safe community to return to when they are able.

The center focuses primarily on vulnerable groups such as children and young women living in abusive homes by providing all of their services on the grounds of a purpose-built safe house.

The Rowan Center paid for G-MARC to send two representatives to meet with this client in person and were pleased to receive the following message from the client after that meeting:

Education Impact

The Education Department at The Rowan Center is dedicated to providing prevention education and awareness throughout lower Fairfield County. We educate students in our K-12 public and private schools and offer adult programs in community centers, churches, corporations and more.

This past year, during the pandemic, we introduced an exciting new program that we call "Rowan Roundtables". This program provides discussion groups for high school students on topics related to sexual violence including gender identity and bias, bystander awareness, college readiness, and laws pertaining to consent. We are currently experiencing an epidemic of sexual violence within our teen populations, and **students have been requesting more information from us on these topics** (see right).

Each roundtable consists of between 10-20 students, facilitated by a staff member from The Rowan Center. The goal is to create an open forum and safe space for students to talk with friends about these complex topics and for us to answer the myriad questions we hear on a daily basis.

Based on the successful results of our pilot year, we are excited about the expansion of this program and hope to offer roundtables in every high school in lower Fairfield County.

We will continue to offer new and innovative education programs in the future. We know that education is the key to ending the epidemic of sexual assault in our communities.



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Here are some questions we are being asked by students from our local high schools:

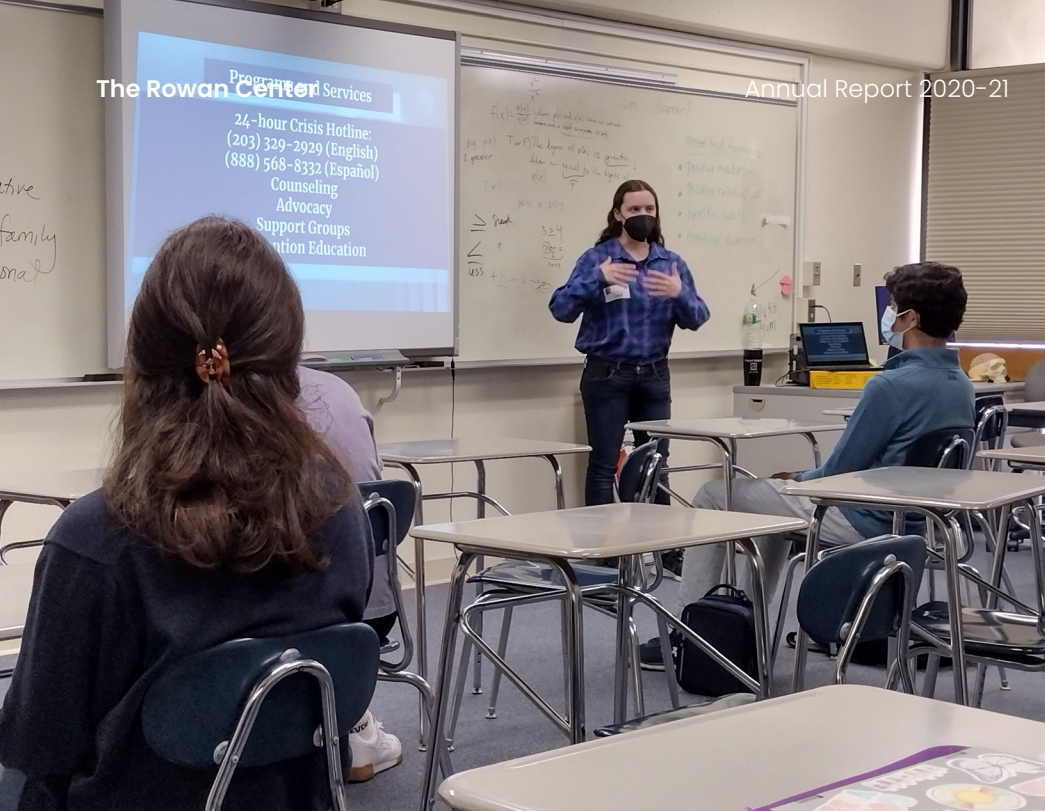
Where can you go to report sexual assault or harassment?

Do you think sexual harassment is somewhat embedded in our society/culture?

Can two people who are drunk consent to sex with each other?

What determines if something is sexual assault vs. sexual harassment?

How does someone know if they have given consent to their partner or vice versa?



//

We are appreciative of the time, energy, and passion The Rowan Center brings to educating our juniors about sexual violence. It is imperative to discuss the topics of boundaries, consent, and resources for help with our students so they can make the best sexual decisions both now and in the future. I am so very proud of my students and the discussions The Rowan Center fosters in class, which can truly make a positive difference within our society. We look forward to continuing our partnership with The Rowan Center; it is so important for students to put a face and a name to an organization that offers help and resources.

Kathy Steiner
Teacher, Greenwich High School

The Power of Volunteers

The Rowan Center receives support from a wonderful group of hardworking and dedicated sexual assault volunteer advocates. Our volunteers staff our 24-hour hotline, speaking to sexual assault victims and supporting them at our three local hospitals.

Here is what one of our volunteers said about their experience as an advocate:

//

Being a volunteer for The Rowan Center has given me a sense of belonging and purpose because I know that I am making a difference in the lives of others and the community. The advocacy training is insightful and informative about what sexual violence is, and provides tools for us to support a survivor. During the training, we learn how to empower the victim and support them through their trauma.

It never gets easier doing hospital accompaniments because each survivor is unique in what they have experienced. However, I learned all that truly matters is that I am there for them with a kind word or holding their hand through the process. As a volunteer, we do the best we can to offer our help and be there for the victim at that moment and give them the power to make their own choices in the future. It makes me feel so good when I see how the victim feels supported and knows they have an advocate there. I am just happy to help!





ACTIVE VOLUNTEERS

Charley Allen

Christopher Anghel

Sarah Anzalotti

Grecia Arteaga

Jasmine Bailey

Ana Karen Barragan

Elizabeth Boolbol

Emily Brown

Giovanna
Caccialanza

Anthony Carreno

Jenna Cohn

Wendy David

James Duffy

Lizzy Epps

JoAnne Ettore

Marissa

Ferrao

Pam Graber

Sheri Graham

Michelle Gucik

Ruth Hannover

Allisan Hoard

Tunisia John

Kimberly King

Mykah Knight

Grace Leone

Raquel Lopez

Jeanine
Maldonado

Julia Merrill

Hillary Miller

Leighann Muldoon

Jami Nicholson

Brittany Ortiz

Elizabeth Ostertag

Heidi Pineda

Thelma Pineda

Cesar Poma-
Rodriguez

Susan Pomerance

Johany Quiroz

Miranda Rector

Kathleen Romania

Katherine Samy

Luz Sanabria

Kiesha Scott

Juliana Serrano

Megan Silk

Heather Smith

Frank Villagomez

Hannah Vogel

Sharon Walker

Stacey Walker

Alison Waller

Kinsey Watson

Nicole Weiss

Dr. Jan Yager

Emely Yanes

Thank You to our Donors

\$20,000+

The City of Norwalk
CT Alliance to
End Sexual Violence
Fairfield County's
Community Foundation-
Fund for Women and Girls
Greenwich United Way
Tudor Foundation Inc.

\$10,000-\$19,999

Jennifer & David S. Barnard
Community Fund of Darien
Grace & Nick Leone
Odyssey Group Foundation
PJT Partners
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Jenny & Don San Jose
Stamford Public Schools

\$5,000-\$9,999

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& Robert Boolbol
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Kaysie Uniacke
& Murat Akgun
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Fairfield County
Gayle & Seth Weinstein
Westport Women's
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& Robert Wyckoff
Suzanne & Thomas Zarrilli

\$500-\$999

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Kelly Ambrose
Kim Ambrose
Chris Andrade
Christopher Anghel
Sarah Anzellotti
Melanie Armstrong
Katherine Baldwin
Michelle & Jeff Barman
Susan Barr
Ana Barragan
Tammy Barry

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 Nancy Gault

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 Erin Glasebrook
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 Lee Ann & Bruce Heller
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 Caroline Hoffman
 Laura Holleran
 Alexa Horton
 Arlene Howard
 Selina Huber
 IBM Employees Service Center
 Suann Ingle
 Nasima Islam
 Karen Jacobs
 Jaffe Family Fund
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 Janeen Savini
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 Daria Timasheva
 Philanthropy Tisbest
 David & Hildi Todrin
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 Faye Tresvik

Tracy Troy
 Megan Tuvlin
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 Lauren Wagner
 Elisabeth Walsh
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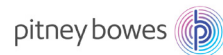
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(203) 348-9346



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