



SAFE PASSAGE BOARD OF DIRECTORS & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR POSE FOR PHOTO AT LOVE FUNDRAISER

# The Quarterly



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## Spring is here!

2019 is flying by and we can hardly believe spring is just around the corner! Safe Passage has been as busy as ever. We continue to be busy serving clients, operating a shelter that is almost always at capacity and providing 24/7 crisis support to our community. We celebrated the New Year and welcomed the new possibilities of a coming capital campaign to create a new shelter to better house and support the growing needs of our community. We hosted our first annual LOVE: Love Over Violence Event and Blumen Gardens and had a wonderful time raising support for our organization and honoring healthy relationships for Valentine's Day! We continued to provide counseling, legal advocacy, and more to brave survivors in DeKalb County and beyond.

We're looking forward to April, Sexual Assault Awareness Month! We hope you'll spend a little time reading through this newsletter and learning about our upcoming activities and opportunities to get involved. As we look to Spring, we're looking forward to continuing the lifesaving work of domestic and sexual violence prevention and survivor support. There isn't a day that goes by that we don't see what a difference our staff make in our community and what a difference the brave survivors we support make in our world. Thank you for being a part of our work!



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## *New Location for Safe Passage!*

You may have heard the news: Safe Passage is moving! Over the last several years, it has become clear that our current space no longer meets the needs of our clients, staff, and community. As more and more clients utilize our services, we simply need more room! Our dedicated board has

been diligently searching for the right space that will allow us to provide our life-saving services to every survivor in need of support. After years of looking, dreaming, and planning, we're so thrilled to say we've located the perfect spot and we're moving forward into the next stages. We look forward to sharing more details in the very

near future. We're grateful for the incredibly generous community we live in as we think about undertaking a capital campaign and we hope you will consider financially supporting this next move into a safer, healthier future for survivors in DeKalb County.

## *Office Opens in Sandwich*

In order to better serve our clients in the southern end of our county, we recently opened an office space in Sandwich. Here, we will be able to meet clients for counseling and legal advocacy. If Sandwich is a more convenient location for you and you would like to meet with a counselor or legal advocate at this location, give us a call at 815.756.5228. If you'd like to learn from our prevention department, free trainings and presentations are available in the Sandwich area as well. To get something scheduled, please contact our administrative line at 815.756.7930.

## *A Message from Safe Passage's Volunteer Coordinator*

**Written by Pamela Rosales**

2019 has been a great year so far for the Volunteer Program! We started the year off with our 65 hour Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault training. We welcomed four interns and four volunteers as they start their service with us starting April through August. In March, our volunteers and interns that attended the training in September finished their 6 month commitment. We are very fortunate that over half of them will continue volunteering with us!

We're looking forward to implementing new changes into the volunteer program. I've met with Residential Case Managers, Counselors, Interns and Program Directors to learn ways in which we can improve the program for a more enriching experience. These changes will help our programs run more efficiently, which will ultimately serve our clients better. If you have any suggestions on how we can improve the volunteer program, please let me know!

It's internship fair season! Prevention specialists Kelly and Kaiya have joined me as we continue to connect with students from the social work field at Aurora University and all majors at Northern Illinois University.

If you would like to learn more about the volunteer and internship program, or set up a presentation regarding these opportunities with your organization, please contact Pamela Rosales at [prosales@safepassagedv.org](mailto:prosales@safepassagedv.org) or by phone at 815.756.7930 x 144

## Love Over Violence Event

On February 15, we hosted our first annual Love Over Violence Event at Blumen Gardens. The event served as our replacement for the Evening of Chocolate Fundraiser, but still incorporated a romantic feel complete with homemade desserts.



Our attendees enjoyed a free signature drink by Taxco Mexican Cuisine of Sycamore and a large spread of appetizers prepared by Voluntary Action Center's Primer Catering.

Local Musician, Bob Palmer, performed acoustic music throughout the evening and a dance instructor provided small dancing lessons for those interested in improving their skills! Glidden Florist was with us too and hosted a bouquet creation station for our guests.

A big crowd pleaser was our raffle! With the help of our generous community, we were able to provide 5 raffle baskets and a free overnight trip for two. The baskets included Bulls tickets, admission to the Morton Arboretum, gift cards to local restaurants and spas, local wine and whiskey, and much more! Attendees were also able to participate in a wine pull throughout the evening.



Thank you to our sponsors, attendees, and community for supporting our event! Because of you, we were able to raise nearly \$8,000 to help survivors of domestic and sexual violence.

## Counselor's Column

Written by Lisa Casner, Domestic Violence Counselor

One of the key elements in providing effective counseling services to survivors of domestic violence is the ability of the therapist to assist the client in identification and processing of traumas experienced throughout their lifespan. Statistically, a majority of survivors of domestic abuse have had a history of some type of childhood trauma and/or level of dysfunction within their family of origin.

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Addressing these past maladaptive experiences allows the client a better perspective of how the circumstances of their childhood and adolescence may have impacted their susceptibility toward becoming enmeshed in unhealthy, emotionally, and physically abusive intimate partner relationships. Although the experience of each client is unique, there is often a common thread of some type of emotional, physical, or sexual abuse present in the client's life prior to becoming involved with an abusive intimate partner. Through the processing of these life events, clients and therapists are able to work together to better focus on the necessary healing and empowerment of the survivor as they move forward toward a more positive and embracing life.

## Mark Your Calendars

**We hope you can join us!**

April is Sexual Assault Awareness month and our agency continues to provide opportunities for our community members and clients to raise awareness to the important issue.

We're kicking off the month with our 4<sup>th</sup> annual Walk a Mile. The event serves as an opportunity to stand against sexual violence by putting yourself in the shoes of a sexual assault survivor for a mile long walk in high heels. Men, we even have shoes for you to borrow!

The event will be held at Sycamore High School Field House on April 6<sup>th</sup>. Registration and check in begins at 10:00 AM with the walk starting at 11:00 AM. Register online at [www.safepassagedv.org/events](http://www.safepassagedv.org/events). Team discounts are available!



On April 16th, join us for Take Back the Night at the Egyptian Theatre from 6:00 – 8:00 PM!

We will stand together with survivors and community members to say sexual violence is not tolerated in our county. Together, we will march downtown DeKalb and let our voices be heard. Immediately following, survivors will have a chance to share their stories. Light refreshments will be served.

Signs are available to use at the event, but you can also bring your own.

On April 30, help us honor the resiliency of sexual assault survivors by joining us in "Voices" an art gallery debut, as we end sexual assault awareness month. Over 15 pieces of artwork, created by survivors of sexual violence, will be on display at the DeKalb Area Women's center. Join us from 6:00 – 8:00 PM for a brief program, gallery showing, light snacks and refreshments. This event is free and open to the public. Please direct questions to Liz at [estevens@safepassagedv.org](mailto:estevens@safepassagedv.org).

## Stay Updated!

Are you interested in learning more about domestic violence and sexual assault? Do you want to become involved in our events? Are you curious how to help Safe Passage? Stay tuned by following us on Facebook (Safe Passage, INC.), Instagram (safe\_passage\_dekalb) and Twitter (Safe\_PassageDV). Learn from our blog: [www.safepassagedv.com](http://www.safepassagedv.com).



We understand society lacks education on domestic violence and sexual violence. By joining the conversation and sharing our posts you can help us educate and reach individuals in our community.

**Help us go green!** If you are interested in being added to our electronic mailing list, please visit our website, [www.safepassagedv.org](http://www.safepassagedv.org), and sign up on our home page. If you wish to continue receiving a hard copy, please contact Kendal Baker at 815.756.5228 or through email: [kbaker@safepassagedv.org](mailto:kbaker@safepassagedv.org).