



Safe Passage Monthly Update

Sycamore's Cinco De Mayo chose our agency to support as part of their annual celebration!



May at Safe Passage

Your monthly update:

Thank you all, SO much for helping our agency raise over \$40,000 during Give DeKalb County! These funds help ensure our services remain free and confidential for all who may need them.

Multiple staff members attended the Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault Statewide Conference. They attended sessions on group therapy, racial justice, advocating for marginalized populations, and more!

Volunteer Coordinator, Pam, has started to prepare for the upcoming volunteer and intern training. If you are interested in joining our team, please send in your online application by June 17th: www.safepassagedv.org

Counselor's Column

Written by Safe Passage's Director of Counseling Services, Melissa McGraw

Counselor's In-Service Training

The counselors at Safe Passage presented an in-service training for staff on May 15. Together, they answered questions as a panel on

the following topics:

- Defining trauma-informed therapy
- Adverse Childhood Experiences and the emotional and physical effects of abuse and neglect on clients.
- How brain functioning impacts clients and determines the level of care clients need.
- The differences between advocacy, counseling, and therapy.
- Group counseling services, including DV and SA support groups, DV children's group, SA art group, and self-esteem group.
- How play and art therapy services are used with adult and child trauma survivors in counseling at Safe Passage.
- How to work with clients who are resistant to change.
- Working with clients with severe mental illness or substance use disorders.
- The challenges and rewards of working with survivors of domestic and sexual violence.



This event was a great opportunity for counselors to share their work and for staff in other departments to ask questions about the counseling services available at the agency. In upcoming counselor columns, we will be expanding on the topics we presented on at the in-service.

If you'd like to connect with a counselor at Safe Passage, please call 815.756.5228.

Join our Board!



Safe Passage is currently accepting applications to serve on its Board of Directors! The board is a group of active community members dedicated to the mission of the organization to promote the right of all to nonviolent and abuse-free relationships through advocacy, intervention and prevention in DeKalb County. Anyone interested in supporting Safe Passage in its efforts to reduce or prevent domestic violence and sexual assault is welcome to apply.

- Board members are expected to attend a board meeting each month.

- Board members are expected to serve on one or more committees of the board and to actively participate in committee work.
- Board members are expected to responsibly represent Safe Passage to their respective communities and to advocate for the mission, programs, and services of the agency as appropriate.
- Board terms last for three years and board members can serve for two consecutive terms.

Individuals interested in joining the board may complete the board application form located on the agency website. <https://www.safepassagedv.org/about-our-board/>

If you have questions, please contact Safe Passage Executive Director Mary Ellen Schaid at 815-756-7930.

[Upcoming Events](#)



[Sandwich Chamber Ribbon Cutting: June 4, 4:00 PM](#)

Have you heard the news? We recently joined the Sandwich Chamber! Join us for an official welcome and ribbon cutting June 4th at the Sandwich Area Chamber (128 E Railroad St, Sandwich). Learn about our new office, services, and opportunities! Snacks and drinks provided!

[Pokanoka's Run / Walk: September 28](#)

Join us for a 10K trail run or 1.8 mile walk through the historic woods of Shabbona Lake State Park. More information to come!

[For more information on upcoming events, click here.](#)

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