SafePlace Housing

New housing support brings additional resources for survivors

SafePlace is excited to share news about the implementation of our new Housing Assistance Program to support survivors of domestic and sexual violence in achieving long-term stability.

This program builds on SafePlace’s 37 years of experience working with survivors to find and secure permanent housing and access housing resources through partnerships with local housing providers.

Our Housing Program Manager Erika describes the program as, “A way to support survivors by initially offering financial assistance obtaining housing while providing ongoing case management, which is designed to help them achieve self-sufficiency.” Erika continues, “Survivors residing at our shelter who become enrolled in our Housing Assistance Program, have access to flexible funding support to assist with rent and other approved expenses as they begin re-building their lives.” In the first year, we expect to be able to serve more than 20 families as they transition from our emergency shelter to permanent housing.

Partnersing with landlords in our community is critical to the success of the program. “This is a very tight housing market and sometimes landlords are reluctant to rent to someone leaving a domestic violence situation,” said Erika. “We want to assure landlords that we are working very closely with each family in our program to support them getting back on their feet as quickly as possible. Right now we are looking to build our resource list of potential landlords who would like to play a part in changing lives.”

Participants will engage in ongoing

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SPEAKing Up!

SPEAK Peer Youth Educator Program- youth talking to youth

The SPEAK (SafePlace Peer Education, Action and Knowledge) youth leadership/peer education group at SafePlace, actively engages teens in learning about consent, healthy relationships/healthy boundaries, and skill building around how to incorporate these ideas into their lives. Last year alone, SafePlace engaged over 3,000 youth through ‘Healthy Relationships, Boundaries & Consent’ presentations and workshops all over Thurston County.

“I really liked going over relationships and thought it was very helpful for high schoolers who are starting to date.”

-youth participant

Sierra, SafePlace’s Youth Education Specialist, has been doing presentations at area middle and high schools, at the CYS Youth Housing & YouthBuild programs, GRuB &
As domestic and sexual violence remain on our local and national radar, it’s hard not to pay attention to the impactful stories of survivors in the news. The more the stories are revealed, the more impossible it becomes to deny that these situations happen across all identity lines, and that none of us are immune from the impact of violence.

Movements like #metoo and #timesup have dramatically changed the face of what it looks like to come forward and share triumph over violence. Like any movement in the age of social media, the openness of interfacing also opens up each disclosure for critique and the qualification, or disqualification, of validity. Questions arise about motivation for disclosure, the reliability of the source, and the reasonability of consequence that comes for each of the abusers.

I hope in times like these we can focus on the larger picture: the fact that we still live in a society where people don’t always feel safe; that we share community with people who are holding their survivorship in secrecy out of fear for retaliation and/or public ridicule; that we live in a community that has seen more violence than necessary, and it continues to occur over time.

As we strive daily to end violence in our community, SafePlace is actively standing in the gap for our survivors. Our services offer all community members a place to land when the challenges of enduring violence come to a head. I am thankful for the increased opportunities that survivors have in this social climate to openly share their stories, and are met with support, acceptance and understanding.

What we know is that one journey hardly ever looks like the next, and what’s needed in each of these rarely looks the same.

As a community, we must continue to expand the space available to meet one another with survivor-centered care, while decreasing the safety that people feel to abuse our neighbors among us.

What we know is that one journey hardly ever looks like the next, and what’s needed in each of these rarely looks the same. We also know that the details of the events don’t deter us from showing up for our people, nor do the severity of the situations, or the perception of how serious it seems from the outside. Until all of us are free from violence, none of us can ever truly be free.

In solidarity,

Sarah M. Lloyd, Executive Director

“I was afraid of heights—now I am afraid NOT to take the chance to fly.”
-SafePlace client
Legal Advocacy Support for Survivors

The legal system can be an intimidating and overwhelming experience for anyone, especially someone who has experienced significant trauma. Legal advocacy is part of SafePlace’s Community Services Program and is designed to assist survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault in establishing their legal rights.

Survivors, especially those with limited English proficiency or no legal status, may need support if they decide, for example, to pursue legal protection from their abuser or to apply for relief. Our legal advocacy services include in-person and phone advocacy, court accompaniment, a twice-monthly free legal clinic in partnership with Thurston County Volunteer Legal Services (TCVLS), immigration related advocacy, and monthly mobile advocacy in Rochester and Yelm.

Our Legal Advocate is available to accompany survivors to their court hearings in Thurston County and also accompany survivors to make police reports. Oftentimes for survivors, this is the first time they have decided to report abuse to the legal system, and it can be very empowering and also very frightening. The abuser is often in court as well, making this more traumatic for a survivor. Court advocates are not there to speak for clients, but their physical presence can be a powerful support for survivors.

Our goal is for the survivor to feel heard, understood and protected.

One client stated, “Thank you from the bottom of my heart to accompany me for my hearing. You being there meant more than words I can put together.” Our goal is for the survivor to feel heard, understood, and to feel protected during such a difficult time. After a court hearing has taken place, our Legal Advocate provides ongoing advocacy if requested.

SafePlace also offers in-person and phone support for survivors of domestic and sexual violence who need help with safety planning, understanding the processes and procedures involved in civil litigation, and making referrals to attorneys and other community resources that may be able to provide additional guidance.

The legal clinic offers survivors guidance and the opportunity to have their questions addressed in a safe and confidential manner by TCVLS attorneys and also provides SafePlace advocates who are able to safety plan with survivors and provide additional resources. Some of the most common legal issues brought to the legal clinic are divorces, dissolutions, parenting plans (including modifications), child support and protection orders. Our bilingual SafePlace advocate is available during the Legal Clinics and works to ensure everyone gets seen and has sufficient time with an attorney.

SafePlace is proud of the work that is done in assisting survivors as they navigate legal channels. The confidential, comprehensive, and compassionate services we provide empower survivors as they establish freedom from sexual and domestic violence.

The SafePlace legal clinic is held on the first and third Thursdays of each month from 6-7:30 pm at our downtown Olympia Community Service Center at 521 Legion Way SE.

More information about our legal advocacy may be found on our website (www.safeplaceolympia.org) or by calling 360-786-8754.

Upcoming Events

**Free Legal Clinics**
First and Third Thursday of each month
6-7:30PM
SafePlace Community Service Center, 521 Legion Way SE, Olympia.

*In honor of Sexual Assault Awareness Month:
Benefit concert at Rhythm & Rye*
Friday April 6, 2018, doors open at 8PM, show begins at 9PM.
Rhythm & Rye, 311 Capitol Way N
Featuring:
Erina, Heat Shimmer, and Cedar Sap.
Suggested donation $5-10

**Flapjack Pancake Fundraiser—A Short Stack for a Tall Cause**
Organized by the SafePlace Board
Saturday April 7 from 9-11AM
AppleBee’s (Capital Mall) $10 per person
Tickets at http://weblink.donorperfect.com/safeplace/lapjack

**Spring Arts Walk**
Friday April 27, from 5-9PM
SafePlace Community Service Center
Artist:Simona McEwen, Nature Photographer

**Advocate Core Training**
May 7-30th
SafePlace Community Service Center
For more information contact Madison at madisonj@safeplaceolympia.org

**Spar Friends and Family Night**
Sponsored by McMenamins Spar Cafe
50% of the evening’s proceeds to benefit SafePlace.
Tuesday May 15, starting at 5PM
McMenamins Spar Cafe, downtown Oly.

**Wine Event**
Organized by the SafePlace Board
Saturday June 23
Check our website for more information

**SafePlace Summer Event at Harley Davidson**
Organized by the SafePlace Board
Stay tuned for more information
Updates available online at www.safeplaceolympia/events-2

**Summer BBQ**
Organized by the SafePlace Board
Check our website for more information

**Speak Up, Speak Out Gala**
Friday September 14, 6:30PM
For more information contact Lisa at lisag@safeplaceolympia.org

Find the latest updates and information about upcoming events on our website by clicking on ‘News and Events.’

We look forward to seeing you!
Olympia native Sloan Jackowich was looking for a way to spotlight October’s Domestic Violence Awareness Month and raise funds for SafePlace. As a military spouse who has had family members experience domestic violence, she has tried to stay aware of local resources no matter where she’s lived in order to be a better support person.

In researching fundraising ideas, Sloan liked the idea of a coffee fundraiser. Being a frequent customer at Olympic Crest Coffee Roasters in Lacey, she approached owner Chuck Kennedy about collaborating on a coffee sales fundraiser for SafePlace.

Chuck was on board and they created a specially labeled bag of coffee to be sold, with 50% of the proceeds to SafePlace. Coffee was ordered directly through Sloan, sold online, and available inside Olympic Crest Coffee Roasters store. Chuck also set up special displays in Ralph’s and Bayview Thriftway stores.

Sloan set up a donation page on Facebook to raise even more funds. Sloan said, “It was really enjoyable. It was a lot of fun being out there and finding different ways to contact people.”

The fundraiser was a success, raising $2500! Additionally, it provided the opportunity for Sloan to speak with business owners and others to bring awareness about domestic violence and share statistics. This encouraged Sloan, as she comments, “I learned that if you speak up and speak out, people are more willing to give than you realize. People do want to help and do something.”

Through community benefit events such as the coffee fundraiser, SafePlace receives much needed funds to support our crucial programs and services, and broadens the awareness of our resources for survivors of domestic and sexual violence in our community.

Company co-owner Thomas Baxter first offered support to SafePlace in 2014, when he learned about plans to remodel the recently purchased building to be used as SafePlace’s Community Service Center. Thomas says, “I reached out with an offer to help with brains or brawn.” A crew of 15 showed up one day and generously donated their time doing demo work, getting a lot done in a short amount of time.

Fast forward to 2016, and Thomas’ desire to support SafePlace through the Big Rock Construction holiday party. Employees were invited to donate money, gift cards, and items from the SafePlace wish list. This was repeated in 2017. Thomas shared that this has been a unifying event for the company. “As an organization we may not all work on the same project, but we can all give to the same non-profit” Thomas says. He adds, “Rather than just celebrating ourselves, we are celebrating our employees and promoting SafePlace and its needs.”

Thomas was surprised by the generosity of the field staff. He was touched that so many demonstrated compassion for this cause. When asked why SafePlace was chosen as the cause to support, Thomas said that he knows too many people affected by domestic and sexual violence. “People don’t know that services exist. If people knew that, it would be easier.” For one survivor in particular he shares, “If there was something available, her life could have had a different outcome.”

Thomas attended the Speak Up, Speak Out Gala last fall, and was moved by the success stories he heard, and learning more about the impact of SafePlace’s services on survivor’s lives. Thomas sees Big Rock Construction’s involvement with SafePlace as, “Part of a deeper mission to use the platform to affect the most good that we can.” He continues, “When you have a company that is producing profits and you don’t support causes in the community, it’s foolish and missing an opportunity.”

Last year, businesses that work with Big Rock Construction were also invited to donate to SafePlace. This resulted in donations from GTS Interior Supply and Thomas Architecture Studios. Thomas hopes their next holiday party will include even more people. He adds, “It’s surprising what people will give if you just ask.”

“Rather than just supporting ourselves, we are celebrating our employees and promoting SafePlace.”
If you are interested in putting on an event, contact lisag@safeplaceolympia.org

Sofie Landis, owner of Sofie’s Scoops decorates the Giving Tree at the 222 Market

Commemorative Gifts 9/17/2017 to 1/31/2018

MEMORIALS
In memory of Alice Cosgrove by Sandra Milano
In memory of Al Rogers by Charles MacFarland
In memory of Ellen Wells by Jamie M. Moore
In memory of Helen Louise Chitty by Kathryn & Robert Long
In memory of Judy Bricker by Robert & Linda Tjossem
In memory of Nixon Munley by Charles MacFarland

HONORARIUMS
In honor of Andie Moss by Carol Porter
In honor of Charla Dunham by Margaret Colvin & Doris Penfield
In honor of Bill & Jackie Gavin by Cheryl Duryea
In honor of Bob & Lynn Brunton by Cheryl Duryea
In honor of Melanie Stewart & Wayne Williams by Cheryl Duryea
In honor of Phyllis Mandel by Cheryl Duryea
In honor of Sandy & John Parry by Cheryl Duryea
In honor of Sandy Swarthout & Vernon Stoner by Cheryl Duryea
In honor of Carolyn Lakewold by Fred Goldberg
In honor of Carolyn McIntyre by Vonda McIntyre
In honor of Deborah & Tim Reynolds by Christina Wellman
In honor of Dr. Samantha Ritchie by Tom & Suzanne Fell
In honor of Jack & Sharyn Merrigan by Alison J. Spencer
In honor of Jean Hamblin by Joan R. Osborne
In honor of Julie Boyer by Charla Dunham
In honor of Lucy Clifthorne by Mary Pontarolo
In honor of Matt & Jennifer Gerard by Christopher Brunson
In honor of Monica Taylor & Van Stevens by Tom & Valerie Stevens
In honor of Nate Naismith by Katherine Hoffman
In honor of Patricia Baron by Carl & Theda Baron
In honor of Ray & Pam Brunson by Christopher Brunson
In honor of Robert Findlay & Lee Haugen by Diane Malick
In honor of Sally Kaufman by Walt Waitkevich
In honor of Sheila Swalling by Mary Pontarolo
In the name of all refuge and immigrant women in need of SafePlace’s important and vital services, by Anonymous Donors

Community Benefit Events - Helping Hands

In 2017, hundreds of members of our community generously gave of their time and talents to raise funds in support of survivors.
Over the course of the year there were over 100 separate Community Benefit Events and donation drives in support of SafePlace, garnering over $54,000 dollars, plus thousands of dollars worth of in-kind items such as sheets, towels, and diapers to help keep our emergency shelter running smoothly.

Community Benefit Events
from 9/17/2017- 1/31/2018

Attorney General’s Office Government Compliance Holiday Event
Boston Harbor Neighborhood Holiday Party
Big Rock Construction Holiday Party
Brotherhood Lounge New Year’s Eve Party
Calcara Chiropractic Patient Appreciation
Department of Revenue Holiday Event
Ecology Division
Environmental Protection Agency Luncheon
Kroger Shoppers Rebate
Lott Clean Water Alliance Event
Melanie Bakala – State Farm Insurance
Moda Capelli Salon
Olympic Crest Coffee Roasters Coffee Sale
Phillips Burgess Law
Port of Olympia Holiday Auction
Sparkles $5 Paparazzi Promotion
SCA Barony of Glymm Mere Event
Selden’s Furniture Promotional Event
South Sound Women’s Clinic Blue Friday
Storman’s Shoppers Rebate
The Clipper Pouring for a Purpose
Thurston Co. Realtors Association Holiday Event
222 Market Giving Tree

If you are interested in putting on an event, contact lisag@safeplaceolympia.org
case management and supportive services including safety planning, skills development, income support advocacy, financial education, referrals to community resources, and continued relationship building with landlords. Additionally each client will have access to all other wrap around services currently provided by SafePlace.

“We want to assure landlords that we are working very closely with each family who is accepted into our program, to support them getting back on their feet as quickly as possible.”

Our primary partner for this program is the Housing Authority of Thurston County (HATC). We will work with HATC to provide a collaborative response to the long-term housing needs of survivors of domestic and sexual violence. This partnership will include landlord education about facets of survivorship and the special needs they have, as well as support for survivors on how to be a responsible and good tenant through the ‘Ready to Rent’ educational program classes.

If you know a landlord you think

We all know the housing situation in Western Washington is really tough right now. Can you imagine coming out of a traumatic situation such as leaving domestic violence and starting all over again in this tough rental market?

The way we can make this work is by connecting with our amazing community to gather support around survivors.

Do you know a landlord who would like to help out? Do you or someone you know have super skills around helping find donated resources to outfit a survivor in need? Would you or someone you know like to donate their time to help support this program?

We’d love to hear from you!

Please contact Erika at erikaj@safeplaceolympia.org

Erika should meet in our community, or other housing related resources you think she should know about, contact Erika at erikaj@safeplaceolympia.org or call (360) 786-8754 ext 105.

SPEAK Youth Peer Educators

Freedom Farmers, various Pizza Klatch groups, and was recently a guest facilitator at the YWCA Girl’s Circle. She also continues to go to the Juvenile Detention Facility where she has begun presenting to juvenile detention’s new probation violation diversion program. In the 2017-2018 school year so far, over 1,600 youth have participated in these discussions.

As one teen commented, “I think I learned a lot today and will remember this information to help me with my friendships.”

Sierra is passionate about working with youth and shared a moving testimonial about the importance of continuing these conversations. “A student approached me after my presentation and said that she saw this presentation last year in middle school right before getting into an unhealthy relationship, and that it was this presentation that helped her see that it was unhealthy.”

Sierra also provides leadership to the SPEAK youth cohort, teens aged 15-18 who are peer educators to youth and community members.

Youth participating in our teen SPEAK group are drawn from throughout Thurston County and represent a cross-section of our community, including child survivors of domestic and sexual violence.

Youth participants guide development of SPEAK and demonstrate competency as peer educators so they are prepared to engage in peer education around sexual and domestic violence. Sierra shared, “I recently got accepted to speak at TOGETHER!’s Healthy Futures conference in April where I will be presenting on SPEAK and the unique way it practices prevention. SPEAK youth will join me for this as well.”

One thing we’ve learned these last few years, is that these messages are incredibly powerful when presented by youth who feel dedicated to issues around healthy relationships.

If you would like more information about joining SPEAK or would like to find out more about ‘Healthy Relationships, Boundaries & Consent’ presentations, please contact Sierra at 360- 786-8754 ext 102 or sierraa@safeplaceolympia.org

SPEAKing Up continued from page 1
Apoyo de abogacía legal para sobrevivientes

El sistema legal puede ser una experiencia intimidante y abrumadora para cualquier persona, especialmente para alguien que ha experimentado un trauma significativo.

La defensa legal es parte del Programa de Servicios Comunitarios de SafePlace y está diseñada para ayudar a los sobrevivientes de violencia doméstica y agresión sexual a establecer sus derechos legales. Los sobrevivientes, especialmente aquellos con dominio limitado del inglés o sin estatus legal, pueden necesitar apoyo si deciden, por ejemplo, buscar protección legal de su abusador o solicitar ayuda.

Nuestros servicios de defensa legal incluyen defensa en persona y por teléfono, acompañamiento judicial, una clínica legal gratuita dos veces al mes en asociación con Servicios Legales Voluntarios del Condado de Thurston (TCVLS), defensa relacionada con la inmigración y defensa móvil mensual en Rochester y Yelm.

Nuestro Defensor Legal está disponible para acompañar a los sobrevivientes a sus audiencias judiciales en el condado de Thurston y también acompañar a los sobrevivientes para que realicen reportes policiales. A menudo, para los sobrevivientes, esta es la primera vez que han decidido denunciar el abuso al sistema legal, y puede ser muy enriquecedor y también atemorizante. El abusador a menudo también está en la corte, lo que hace que esto sea más traumático para un sobreviviente.

Los defensores de los tribunales no están disponibles para hablar en nombre de los clientes, pero su presencia física puede ser un apoyo poderoso para los sobrevivientes. Un cliente declaró: “Gracias desde el fondo de mi corazón por acompañarme a mi audiencia. No hay palabras que puedan describir lo que significa tener a alguien a mi lado apoyándome.”

Nuestro defensor bilingüe de SafePlace está disponible durante las Clinicas Legales y trabaja estrechamente para garantizar que todos sean vistos y tengan suficiente tiempo con un abogado. SafePlace se enorgullece del trabajo que se realiza para ayudar a los sobrevivientes a navegar por los canales legales.

Los servicios confidenciales, integrales y compasivos que ofrecemos capacitán a las sobrevivientes a medida que establecen la libertad de la violencia sexual y doméstica.

La clínica legal SafePlace se lleva a cabo el primer y tercer jueves de cada mes de 6 a 7:30 pm en nuestro Centro de Servicio Comunitario Olympia en el centro de 521 Legion Way SE.

Se puede encontrar más información sobre nuestra defensa legal en nuestro sitio web (www.safeplaceolympia.org) o llamando al 360-786-8754.

Gracias desde el fondo de mi corazón por acompañarme a mi audiencia. No hay palabras que puedan describir lo que significa tener a alguien a mi lado apoyándome.”

INCOME
Private
Community Support: $430,989
Event: $80,155
Foundation Grants: $91,902
In-Kind Contributions: $33,449
sub total private: $636,495
Public
Government Grants: $1,183,299
sub total public: $1,183,299
Other Revenue
Rental income, misc. $2,903
TOTAL INCOME: $1,822,697

EXPENSES
Program Services: $1,439,920
Administration & fundraising: $278,975
Depreciation: $124,864
TOTAL EXPENSES: $1,843,759
Save the date
Friday Sept 14, 2018

More information at www.safeplaceolympia.org

Join us for the annual
‘Speak Up, Speak Out’ Gala
live music & swing dancing,
program, silent auction,
artisan food & cocktails by
Dillingers Cocktails & Kitchen