

HANDBOOK FOR SERVICES



Post Office Box 3572
Gettysburg, PA 17325

Hotline

717-334-9777 or toll free 1-800-787-8106

Administrative (non-emergency) line

717-334-0589

www.survivorsservices.org

Responding to the needs of those who have been
battered or sexually assaulted in Adams County

Se habla español

Mission Statement

Survivors supports those who experience domestic violence or sexual assault and strives to create a world in which violence against women and children is unthinkable.

How We Began

Survivors, Inc. started as a group of local women who came together to provide support and discussion to one another as a result of their individual experiences with violence. This first meeting occurred September of 1982, and the recurrent thread was one of survival. The group formalized and took a name, Survivors, to honor that theme in their work together.

Following the initial gathering, a needs assessment was conducted among human service agencies and other professionals, and at that time 759 women had accessed those organizations seeking help from battering in a 12 month period. Recognizing an unmet need, the volunteer group mobilized.

A short time later Survivors incorporated, applied for tax exempt status and sought to be recognized as a nonprofit organization. At this point the first training for volunteer advocates and hotline workers was completed by 47 community members, both men and women. June 1983 marked the implementation of the 24 hour hotline.

The Board of Directors decided in December of 1985 to extend its services to include victims of sexual assault in collaboration with the district attorney's office. Additional training on sexual assault issues was offered to staff and volunteers. Survivors then became a member of the local Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) policy board as a result of that collaboration, setting the stage for increased capacity and growth. 1985 was also the year that Survivors, Inc. was funded by Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence. Ten years later Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape answered Survivors request for funding.

Collaboration continues to be one of the strengths of Survivors, Inc.; from our beginnings as a grassroots organization to our more formalized partnerships of today. We could not exist without the ongoing and generous support of the community and the cooperative relationships that ensure our success- such as our work with Gettysburg Hospital, the criminal justice system, and the local human services agencies just to name a few. As we look to the future, this is an exciting and challenging time of change and growth so Survivors can continue to meet the needs of those impacted by domestic and sexual violence in our community in an empowering, client centered and driven manner.

How Survivors, Inc. can assist you, free of charge and with the utmost care to confidentiality...

If you are experiencing domestic violence we offer:

- A 24-hour hotline 717-334-9777 or 1-800-787-8106 available to men and women which includes:
 - crisis counseling over phone
 - safety planning
 - arrangement for shelter, counseling, accompaniment, other services
- Shelter Services
 - Women and their children (we accept all minor children or those who are legally dependant) seeking safety and immediate respite from domestic violence may qualify for up to 30 days of Emergency Shelter in one year. Eligibility criteria do apply- those accessing the shelter are assessed for appropriateness for 24-48 hours.
- Transitional Housing
 - Women and their children who left their home due to domestic violence and need additional support to their path of independence may qualify for temporary housing for up to a year. Eligibility standards apply, and space in the program is limited.
- Supportive Counseling
 - One-on-one counseling is meant to provide individuals (men or women) coping skills to deal with any applicable history of abuse, to provide information about options available, to empower access to available options, and to provide the resources so the healing process may begin.
- Support Group
 - Occurs weekly with childcare offered.
- Children's Support Group
- Legal Advocacy
 - Assists those who have experienced domestic violence and choose to pursue a Protection From Abuse (PFA) Order in

preparing information to be submitted. Information and referral services regarding civil system and criminal system as well as accompaniment to court.

- Accompaniment
 - To hearings, to court, to the hospital, to human service agencies as requested and allowed by confidentiality and the individual's consent.
- Bilingual and bicultural staff



If you have experienced sexual assault we offer:

- 24-hour hotline which includes
 - crisis counseling over phone
 - safety planning
 - arrange for counseling, accompaniment, other services
- Supportive Counseling
 - One on one counseling to provide coping skills, information about available options, courses of action, and to empower access to options available so that the healing process may begin.
- Support Group
 - Offered weekly with childcare offered
- Significant Other Support Group

- Children's Support Group
- Legal Advocacy
 - Information and options are provided on the criminal system, as well accompaniment services to hearings and/or court appearances.
- Accompaniment
 - To the hospital, human service agencies, police department, etc. as requested and allowed by confidentiality and the individual's consent
- Bilingual and bicultural staff

All Sexual Assault Services are available to men, women, children and their significant others – with the exception of the perpetrator.



Quick Response

To provide support for those who have experienced domestic violence or sexual assault, Quick Responders will respond to the police call and provide crisis intervention at the police station - or some neutral place. They cannot come to the home or site where the abuse took place.

- Spanish speaking
- Will work with victim
- Will not translate for abuser
- Will transport victim to shelter or hospital if victim wishes it

If a police officer deems it necessary for a victim of Domestic Violence or Sexual Assault to have immediate crisis intervention and accelerated access to Survivors' services, a Quick Response Advocate may be called directly. The mobile number can be acquired through Adams County Control.

If a police officer thinks a victim can make the necessary contacts, the victim can be given our hotline number - 717-334-9777 or 1-800-787-8106.



Community Education

- Sexual Assault and Relationship Violence Programs for Schools
- Training for Criminal Justice Personnel
- Training for Hospital Personnel
- Education Sessions and Activities for Civic Groups, etc.
- And many more interactive and awareness raising activities



How you can assist Survivors, Inc.

Volunteer Opportunities and Requirements:

Are you someone who would like working with people whose lives have been impacted by domestic violence and sexual assault? If so, we may have volunteer opportunities for you!

To become a volunteer, you may contact the Administrative Office at 717-334-0589 and ask for a volunteer application, or you may visit our website at www.survivorservices.org and fill out the application and submit it.

To volunteer, you must successfully complete 60 hours of training as a Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Counselor Advocate as per 23 PaCSA 6116 (A domestic violence counselor/advocate may accompany a party to any legal proceeding or hearing under this chapter) and 42 PaCSA 5945.1(Confidential communications with sexual assault counselors). Training services for direct service volunteers are held in the spring and in the fall of each year.

Available volunteer opportunities include:

- Helping with child care at domestic violence or sexual assault support groups.
- Taking hotline calls and providing crisis intervention and options/peer counseling.
- Co-facilitate domestic violence group, sexual assault group, children's groups, or the prison group.
- Provide accompaniment through the legal, judicial, and medical systems.
- Providing transportation from neutral locations to service provision meeting.
- Contacting police, district justices, and the hospital or on-call district attorney on behalf of survivors of sexual assault or domestic violence.
- Contacting on-call staff regarding shelter accommodations and information on emergency PFA's.
- Provide clerical help in the Administration Office
- Speakers bureau or assisting with public awareness displays
- Assisting with fundraising events and task groups

Additional ways to assist Survivors in advancing their mission

Cell Phone Collection to benefit Survivors, Inc.

We collect wireless (cellular) phones that are no longer being used in order for those living with domestic violence to call 911. Even if the phones are no longer connected, 9-1-1 calls are still enabled on the phones.

"Drop Boxes" will be available in neighborhood locations or Survivors, Inc. Office. You may also start a box in your business, and when it is full, please call 334-0589 to arrange pick up.

The following items are an ongoing need for the Shelter:

Food

Non-perishable (i.e., Cereal, boxed potatoes), canned goods, canned hams, canned tuna, coffee, creamer, tea bags, ice tea mix, etc.

Paper Products

Toilet paper, paper towels, tissues, napkins, Styrofoam cups, beverage cups, etc.

Miscellaneous

Gift cards for the following: Gasoline, haircuts, Wal-Mart, restaurants, women/children's clothing stores, shoe stores, ice cream stores, and grocery stores. Also needed: Kids/ladies underwear, hair products for women of color, hair dryers, pressing irons and/or curling irons, etc.



Other ways to assist:

Both the newsletter and the website have ways to assist and lists of items needed for the office or the shelter. Keep checking back or feel free to call the main office 717-334-0589 to inquire of items that are needed.

Staples or other office supply gift cards

Amazon gift cards- give the gift of education for books, movies, and other educational materials.

When you order office supplies, give Survivors, Inc. a call for needed items, and add those additional items to your order. When they arrive, call 717-334-0589 for pick up.

Planned giving- remember Survivors, Inc. in your will, and continue your legacy of generosity in supporting those who have been in abusive households or have been sexually assaulted. For more information call 717-334-0589 extension 22.

Make a tax deductible contribution to Survivors, Inc. by mail, responding to the newsletter or donating from the website www.survivorservices.org

Get active in the fight against violence!

- Tell others about Survivors, Inc.
- Invite a speaker from Survivors to your group's next meeting
- Spread the word - violence in the home or sexual violence is unacceptable.

