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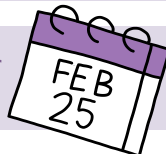
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WINTER 2022



It's our anniversary! This Valentine's Day marks
17 years of serving survivors in 17 Kentucky counties.

Save the date! Registration opens for the Summer Flower
CSA on **February 25**. More at GreenHouse17.org.



Green House17



Nurturing lives
harmed by intimate partner abuse.



For questions and more information about this publication,
call 859.519.1904 or email contact@greenhouse17.org

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"This is the first time I can tell my story and not cry. I want to show my son that's not how women are treated. I want my daughter to grow up and recognize red flags. I will not let my children be victims. My strength, my faith, is about breaking the cycle - not just for my family, but for any woman and any woman of color."

takiyrah's story

"It's not over, but I also know I'm not afraid anymore."



I was established in Chicago. I had my own childcare facility, condo, and car. I was in college at the time and wasn't into the whole dating scene.

He was super persistent and very handsome. He just wore me down. It was a typical relationship in the beginning. But there were little red flags.

He was very jealous. I just brushed it off because in the African American community, having a jealous boyfriend is a win. Then he started popping up at my house at 3 in the morning—popping up at my job.

I told him it's over but found out I was pregnant. He came to my house and said, "You're stuck with me until the child is 18."

When I had my daughter, I moved an hour away. It was my first attempt to get away from him. Everything settled, but I began to feel like somebody was watching me.

Then I saw him one day. It was like seeing a ghost. He was living in a building across from mine. He could see my bedroom light and when I came or left.

He started showing up at my apartment. I called the police so many times. I would yell and scream. No one would help, even though my nose is busted and my eyes are black.

"A conversation with a stranger can change your whole life"

By the grace of God, I finally got an EPO and moved to Lexington. On lunch at work, I met this girl who told me about this place. A conversation with a stranger can change your whole life.

I got a call one day at my hotel. It was him. GreenHouse17 moved me to a different hotel and said we have a room at shelter.

They helped me heal physically and mentally. You don't have to have all the answers. There's still trauma and pain there. I know that I have a team of people. If I need anything, they will support me and my children.

It's not over, but I also know I'm not afraid anymore.

This is only part of Takiyrah's story, in her own words, shared with her permission.



AWARENESS & RESPONSE

community collaboration

The Lexington-Fayette Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention Council (DSVPC) represents a collaboration of individuals and organizations committed to ending domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

Recent awareness projects such as Wake Up Lex and Peace Pumpkins engaged local businesses, while the Green Dot violence prevention program trains individuals to be active bystanders.

"I think we do better work when we do it in partnership with one another. It makes the sharing of information easier," shares Diane Fleet, our associate director and current chair of the DSVPC Board of Directors.



DSVPC also publishes a survivor handbook, which details the process of obtaining an EPO and the court journey, available in five languages, as well as a 'Supporting Survivors' guide for the community.

"We do better work when we do it in partnership with one another"

"It really requires a community effort," explains Stephanie Theakston, program coordinator. "GreenHouse17 has been a part of the coalition since the beginning and has informed so much of our work about specific needs of survivors."

building connections

CHILDREN'S SAFE EXCHANGE AND VISITATION

The Children's Safe Exchange and Visitation program was launched in 2018 to support children whose parents and families have a history of intimate partner abuse, substance use, child abuse, or neglect.

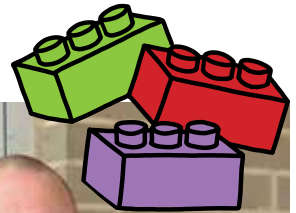
Nearly 10,000 safe visitations and exchanges have been provided since the program began. Services are provided from two locations in downtown Lexington and Georgetown.

Visitations and exchanges are facilitated without contact between adult parties, so children and parents can feel safe while building positive parent-child relationships.

"This is a unique place where young survivors can have some time together with their families in a safe and warm environment," shares Scott Lancaster, program manager.

Services honor the importance of the parent-child relationship in the healthy development of children, while committing to safety and reducing worry about conflict.

AU Associates, Inc. donates the program's Lexington office space, while Georgetown Police Department provides in-kind space for services in Scott County.



"This program was developed to assist families until they can find a long-term, safer option," explains Melis Kahraman, visitation and exchange advocate.



"Business is my education, but what I'm passionate about is serving others and helping folks in the community," shares Jake.

PLANNING FOR GROWTH

Alltech Partnership

An exciting partnership with Alltech recently launched to expand nature-based opportunities for survivors of intimate partner abuse.

Jake Taylor was hired by Alltech for assignment at our shelter and farm during the next two years. He will be working alongside our staff, with the support of Alltech leadership, to develop a plan for the next phase of the farm.

"This is the perfect opportunity to marry my experiences and my passion to a position"

"Recognizing the capriciousness of grants and other funding, we want to assist this vital organization in their efforts to build a more sustainable revenue source through their handmade goods," said Mrs. Deirdre Lyons, co-founder and director of corporate image, design and construction at Alltech.

Vegetable harvests from the farm offset food costs at the shelter, while revenue from flowers and handmade goods cover production costs, but full operation still relies on grant funding.

Jake is charged with helping to map a plan for long-term sustainability, eventually providing living-wage social enterprise employment for survivors—in a safe, trauma-informed workplace.

"I am grateful Alltech was willing to listen, hear, and create solutions for our organization," says Darlene Thomas, executive director.



Mrs. Lyons adds, "It is our hope that this unique partnership will ultimately help lead to the life-changing support of more survivors and their families."

hope and healing

SUMMER FLOWER CSA

Flowers harvested from our farm make beautiful arrangements, but hope and healing often come from watching the blooms grow.

A survivor who participated in weekly nature-based programming on the farm last summer wrote this lovely poem in reflection of the experience.

*Life peeks out from the Earth
Then grows taller every day
And when a tiny bud forms
A flower will soon brighten
Your day*

Survivors who help to grow and care for flowers receive a stipend for their contributions to the farm. Early spring activities focus on planting and seeding the flowers.

As temperatures warm, survivors tend to the garden - watering, weeding, and harvesting the bountiful blooms.

Planning has already begun for the summer growing season. Shares of the flower harvest will again be offered to the public through a community-supported agriculture (CSA) model.

Although varieties of blooms change throughout the season, our most prolific flowers include calendula, snapdragons, ageratum, rudbeckia, celosia, zinnia, gomphrena, and sunflowers.

With the support of community partners, several convenient pickup locations are offered.

Delivery in Lexington is also available for an additional weekly fee.

A member of last year's Summer Flower CSA said, "My flower delivery was the highlight of the week!"




Registration for the Summer Flower CSA opens Friday, February 25. When you become a member, you're investing in local farming and nature-based healing opportunities on the farm for survivors. Look to our social media and website to register for a share of the harvest.


COMMUNITY CARE

nurturing lines




Although the work to end intimate partner abuse always will be difficult,  safer tomorrows are possible in a community that cares about survivors.

(top left to right) Harbor Steel & Supply Corporation employees visited shelter and surprised us with a gift of \$10,000!


Thank you to everyone who delivered or shipped holiday gifts for survivors! Your gifts create positive memories for children and adults alike. 

We Serve International Foundation provided a meal to residents and staff in memory of Mr. Sivaraman Harihara Subramanian.


Shout out to all the volunteers who have helped us over the past few months – Commonwealth Credit Union, Sims-Lohman, and Block + Lot Real Estate.

Handmade by Survivors products shipped from Brooklyn to San Francisco during the holiday season! The online shop is re-stocked with soaps, lip balms, 

bath salts, and candles for gift giving and self-care throughout the year.

Mulberry & Lime donated beautiful scarves and ruanas to keep survivors warm and toasty during the chilly months. 

The Winchester Elks Lodge hosted a fundraising breakfast that raised nearly \$2,000 to support survivors.

We are very grateful to have been the Dine out for Charity choice at Sedona Taphouse -Palomar in December. 

Thank you to long-time supporter Liz Hodge! Each year Liz and her family go on a shopping spree to purchase gifts for every survivor living at the shelter.

Thank you to everyone who made a gift during the GoodGiving Challenge! We send our appreciation to Blue Grass Community Foundation and Smiley Pete for making this week of giving possible.



Do you have a great idea to support survivors?
Let's chat! Reach out to Reena at call 859.519.1911 or rmartin@greenhouse17.org.

