

STORIES FOR PEOPLE
WHO SUPPORT SURVIVORS

bloom

SPRING 2023



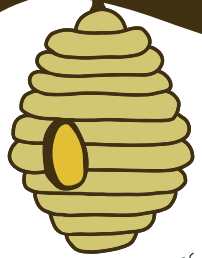


The Kentucky Coalition Against Domestic Violence estimates domestic homicides related to intimate partner abuse increased 86% last year. Please reach out to our 24-hour hotline if you or someone you know is being abused: **800.544.2022.**



Remembering Lydia

**"There is no normal anymore.
You've got to find the new normal."**



Early last year Lydia Cassady, a devoted mother of two teenagers and a certified clinical medical assistant, was preparing to flee the abuse of her longtime partner and father of her children. He shot and killed her in their home before she could escape.

"She was my younger sister, 12 years younger, so I kind of raised her," shares Carolyn Hundley. "She was so creative. If you needed something fixed, an outfit made, a wreath for your door, she could do it."

After Lydia's death, Carolyn received a call from an advocate at our shelter offering support. Darlene, our executive director, attended Lydia's funeral service, an act of kindness that touched the family.

With every tragic loss, loved ones are left to grieve while trying to understand the violence.

"I think with anyone close to these situations, there's guilt," shares Carolyn. "My grief group tells me all the time, 'you can go there, but you can't stay there.'"

In the months following Lydia's murder, her family and friends began to explore meaningful ways to honor her life.

"We needed something to divert from all the doom and gloom. Lydia's middle name was Blanche, so everyone called her Aunt B. She had tons of stuff with bumblebees on it."

Inspired by this memory, they started a small business selling crochet bees and other bee-themed items at BHiveStrong.com to raise awareness about domestic homicide.

The hive represents Lydia's family, and they donate 25% of sales to support our services for survivors of intimate partner abuse.

**"We find the strength
to continue without
her by working
to help others"**





handmade by survivors

RETAIL PARTNERS

Handmade by Survivors products ship to destinations from coast to coast, but our retail partners in Kentucky help promote local sales and mission awareness.

Wild Birds Unlimited in Lexington brings people and nature together, and the store has sold our products for several years.

"The customers love the products. The fact that they're all natural and handmade fits right into what we do here," explains Nic Patton, manager. "It's easy to order, and they usually deliver really quick,

which is nice right now with the long lead time for other products."

Eve Guilbault with Origin Hotel, is proud to support both our flower and handmade product enterprises. The hotel is a Summer Flower CSA pickup location and often features flowers from the farm in their restaurant.

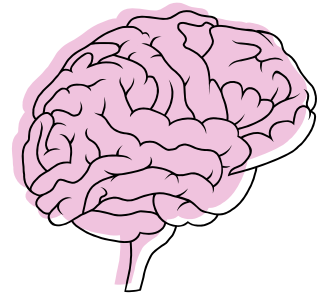
"Now, we carry their handmade soaps, bath salts, and lip balms," she shares. "That way our guests can take home a little piece of GreenHouse17."

Handmade by Survivors has a new look! Shop at these retail partners or our website for gift giving and self-care throughout the year.

invisible injury

NEW RESEARCH

The University of Kentucky Center for Clinical and Translational Science recently started gathering voluntary data from survivors receiving our services for a study on traumatic brain injuries.



"Brain injury due to intimate partner violence has been regarded as an invisible injury and overlooked public health issue," explains Dr. Justin Karr, Assistant Professor of Clinical Neuropsychology, Principal Investigator.

"There has been a lot of focus on brain injury in athletes and Veterans, but much less focus on survivors of intimate partner abuse."

Decreased coordination, inability to concentrate, and lapses in memory are associated with injuries which can make it harder for someone to escape abuse, find safety, and begin to heal. These common symptoms can often be missed during standard evaluations.

"We're hoping to learn more about the unmet health needs that survivors experience following a brain injury so that we may determine how to best address those needs," explains Dr. Karr.



Women who are 18-64 years old and have experienced intimate partner violence during the past five years could be eligible for participation in the study. **Scan this QR code** to learn more.

responding to need

ENHANCED PROTECTIVE ORDER PLAN



A new partnership will make it easier for survivors to file petitions for protective orders in Fayette County.

The Enhanced Protective Order Plan is a pilot project coordinated by Kentucky Courts in partnership with the Office of the Fayette Circuit Court Clerk and Lexington-Fayette Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention Council.

A ceremony at the shelter launched the effort, which allows GreenHouse17 advocates to process protective order petitions for survivors in Fayette County already receiving services from our organization.

The project is informed by the 2020 Violence Against Women Statewide Needs Assessment Findings & Recommendations Report. Surveys of survivors identified transportation and safety concerns as barriers to filing a petition. Support from a Certified Domestic Violence Advocate can ease fears and improve documentation during this traumatic time.

"It's critical for survivors," explains Darlene Thomas, our executive director. "It can be difficult to describe the abuse only hours or days after fleeing. Survivors deserve compassion and support while putting their experiences into words, so the judge understands the severity of the abuse and risks to their future safety."

The Office of the Fayette Circuit Court Clerk will continue to be available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to process petitions at courthouse offices.



During a recent event at the emergency shelter, Vincent Riggs, Fayette County Circuit Court Clerk, **deputized five GreenHouse17 advocates** to process protective order petitions for survivors in Fayette County already receiving services from our organization.



SONGS TO UPLIFT

aisley autumn

Aisley Autumn first connected with us five years ago when she performed at the ribbon-cutting event for the Children's Safe Exchange and Visitation program.

"I was really moved by your mission," she shares.

While talking with staff after the event, Aisley shared that she had written a song called "Set Her Free." The lyrics were inspired by her mother, a survivor of intimate partner abuse before meeting Aisley's dad.

"My mom had told me stories about the emotional toll, how trapped she felt, and how freeing it was to escape that dangerous situation."

Her broken smile and eyes to the floor
She can't decide what'll hurt her more
The truth is she's not alright
But she'll hide it in another lie

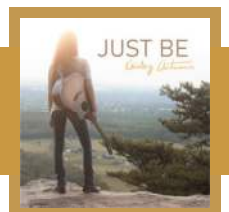
Aisley has since performed "Set Her Free" during two LUNAFEST Lexington events. In 2018, Aisley made her international radio and television debut on WoodSongs Old-Time Radio Hour alongside Chris Barron of the Spin Doctors.

She will graduate from the University of Kentucky this spring with marketing and vocal performance degrees.

Her first single, "Just Be," was recently released on Spotify, and she is working with a team in Nashville to begin her career as a professional singer-songwriter.

"As a musician, I think about how I can best serve and uplift others through my music. I'm so thankful for your all's encouragement and support of me as a songwriter. You have genuinely changed my life for the better."


You can find Aisley on Instagram at [@aisleymusic](https://www.instagram.com/aisleymusic) and listen to her new single on Spotify.



COMMUNITY CARE


nurturing lives



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) Thank you to the Hillenmeyer Christmas Shop for donating a tree to shelter each year.

The International 'We Serve' Foundation hosted a holiday party at the shelter that provided food and a gift to each resident.

Hamburg Pavilion hosted a variety of free community holiday events including a toy drive for families receiving housing services. 

Our community went above and beyond donating gifts for the Holiday Gift Drive. Thank you for helping make the holidays bright for adults and kids at the shelter.

The Winchester Elks Lodge supported survivors by hosting a breakfast fundraiser that raised over \$2,000.

Lexington's new campaign – It's Time – brings awareness to domestic violence with support from community leaders. Darlene, Diane, and several of our current and past board members are featured, including Judge Melissa Moore Murphy.

Broomwagon hosted Cranksgiving – a challenge where bicyclists rode to stores to see who could bring back the most donations for survivors.

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 these days of giving possible.

Thank you to everyone who participated in a charity ride at CYCLEBAR which raised \$650.

Boone, our longtime shelter neighbor, joins Morris, our beloved farm kitty, to celebrate all the community support in this issue. 

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



It's Time.



Non-Profit
Organization
US Postage
PAID
Permit #1
Lexington, KY

Printed on recycled paper
♻️ Please recycle ♻️

To opt out visit GreenHouse17.org/nobloom



Tuesday, May 9 is **Kentucky Gives Day**, a 24-hour online giving event organized by our friends at the Kentucky Nonprofit Network.



Platinum
Transparency
2022
Candid.

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

24-HOUR CRISIS HOTLINE 800.544.2022

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