

STORIES FOR PEOPLE  
WHO SUPPORT SURVIVORS

# bloom

SUMMER 2023



# HOLLERGIRL

## healing harmonies

"Women need to be heard."



The second annual HollerGirl festival happens later this summer. The female-forward weekend highlights Kentucky music, workshops, and art to promote healing.



"I wanted to combine the idea of highlighting female musicians with raising awareness for domestic violence survivors," explains Kristen McClure, festival founder. "I am a survivor myself, and my grandmother was also a survivor."

The lineup includes Senora May, Bee Taylor, Mama Said String Band, Possum Queens, and many more. The festival also features family-friendly activities for kids of all ages.

"It's super important to me that my children, they're 8 and 10, are surrounded by this sort of atmosphere where women are empowered," shares Kristen.

"The festival encourages kids to be strong and understand their place on this earth and what it means to be a good person."

Workshops will be offered on music and writing. Local women artisans, vendors, and food trucks will join the event, and a silent auction will raise funds for our mission.

*"The local musicians we have around here are incredible."*

Alyssa, an advocate on our staff, hosted an informational table at last year's event. "The festival was a safe and comfortable space for people to ask for resources and share their stories, experiences, hopes, and dreams," she shares.



"This year, we plan to bring more advocates, more resources, and our brand-new loom to create a community art project."



HollerGirl takes place August 11 – 13 at Rockcastle Riverside in Livingston, KY. Tickets include tent and car camping for the weekend. Find all the details and purchase tickets on their website - **HollerGirl.live**





# creative partnership

## TABLETOP ART

DV8 Kitchen serves more than delicious baked breads and meals. They provide second chance employment opportunities for people who are in substance abuse recovery.

The restaurant's dining tabletops at the Broadway and East End locations in Lexington feature lovely artwork related to the missions of nonprofit organizations in the recovery community.

Hope Center, Chrysalis House, New Vista, and many more of our community partners have painted tables. By featuring these missions, DV8 Kitchen raises awareness about the variety of services available in Lexington to everyone who visits their restaurants.

You can dine at a table designed and painted by Kristin Carpenter, our communications specialist, at both locations.

"Our tables show greenhouses, a place to grow and start fresh, surrounded by flowers and vegetables we grow on our farm



to represent nourishment, growth, and change," shares Kristin.

"Conversations need to happen more often about intimate partner abuse, and I hope they happen around these tables."

**Getting and staying sober takes courage**, especially if you're a survivor of intimate partner abuse. National research finds that 67% of women accessing substance use treatment services have suffered intimate partner abuse during the previous six months.

# faith and flowers

## INVESTING IN DIGNITY

Every summer Sunday, the altar of St. Michael the Archangel Episcopal Church displays flowers grown by survivors on our farm.

Reverend Laurie Brock, Rector, is also an attorney who helped write domestic violence laws in her home state of Alabama. When she came to St. Michael's in 2010, supporting local survivors was a priority.



"If you have a Sunday morning attendance of 100, 25 of those people are experiencing some kind of intimate partner violence," explains Laurie. "Domestic violence is in many ways the silent pandemic because there's so much shame wrapped up in it."

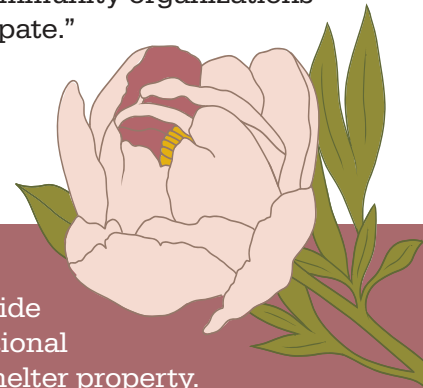
Laurie, on behalf of the church, has been a member of our Summer Flower CSA for many years, and she is proud to spread the word to her parishioners and the community.

"I would rather get flowers locally, and we know it's more than just flowers," she shares. "They represent people finding out that they are worth living a life of safety."



"It is an investment in people's dignity. I think that as faith communities we are called to prioritize our funds for that. I would love to see more churches and community organizations participate."

**Faith-based partnerships** have helped us to expand programming, provide holiday food to survivors living in transitional housing, and maintain the emergency shelter property.



## FIELD-TO-TABLE

# nature's nourishment

With summer in full swing on the farm, plentiful vegetables fill the fields and the shelter's kitchen.

Hattie and Finley, advocates on our staff, work together to provide nutritious farm-to-table meals for survivors. Sweet potato enchiladas, tomato soup, and big salads are among the favorites of residents.

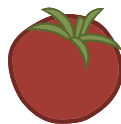
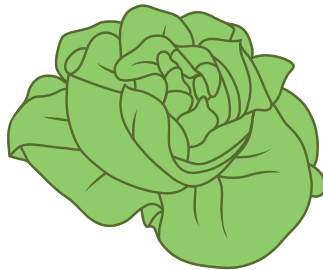
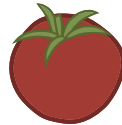
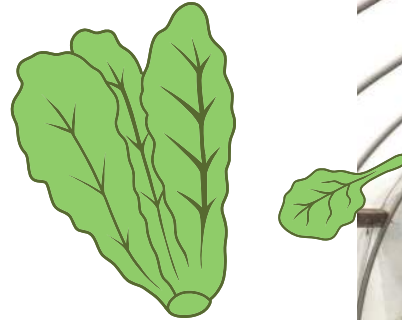
"Our kitchen garden allows us to incorporate fresh fruits and vegetables into our programming and start a conversation around where our food comes from," explains Hattie Nunley, farm advocate. "But more importantly, it encourages residents to be present in nature during the healing process."

Finley Yuttayong, dining and nutrition advocate, recently completed trauma-informed nutrition training and wants to help survivors reflect and establish a healthier connection with their bodies and food.

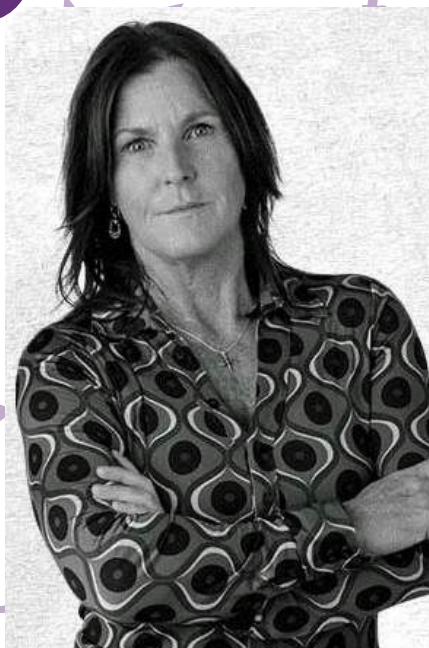
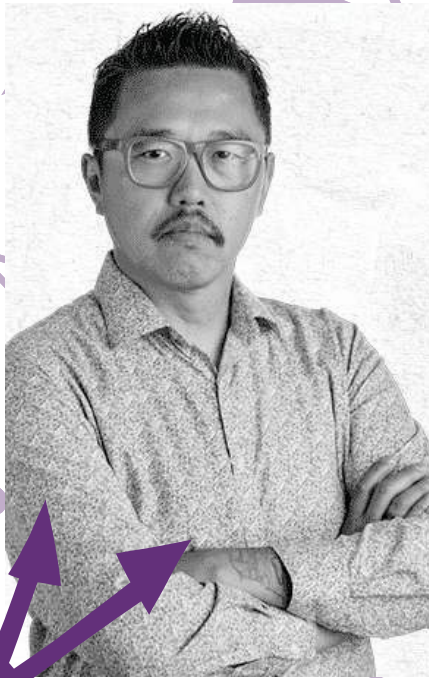
She says, "We want our kitchen to be a place where survivors can safely take part in the pleasure of food, shame-free, and take a step towards a healed relationship with their bodies."

## Access to nutritious food matters.

Beyond the physical and emotional wounds of **intimate partner abuse**, research has found long-term health complications. Increased rates of chronic pain, gastrointestinal disorders, and heart disease are common.







# It's Time.

"I'm a visible advocate for survivors.  
It's time for you to be too."

Lexington Mayor Linda Gorton speaks this call to action in the "It's Time" awareness campaign organized by the Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention Coalition.

Featuring dozens of Lexington leaders, the campaign began last year in response to an increase in the city's domestic violence homicides.

"It's time for all of us to make sure we speak up, step in, and stand up for victims of domestic abuse," says Chief Lawrence Weathers, Lexington Police.

Vice Mayor Dan Wu, Judge Melissa Moore Murphy, and Sheriff Kathy Witt lend their voice to the campaign. Several of our organization's board members, staff, and partners are also featured.

"It's time to believe survivors of all ages," says Tanya Torp, executive director of Step By Step.

"Those at the greatest risk for violence are between the ages of 14 and 24."

The campaign debunks the myth that domestic violence is a private issue. It's our responsibility to have open conversations, model ways people can support survivors, and hold people who abuse accountable.

"It's time for us to acknowledge that victim blaming and shaming does nothing but harm us all," says Sam Fore of Tuk Tuk Sri Lankan Bites. "Acknowledging the realities of abuse shouldn't be limited to when it's convenient or when it's someone you don't know."

"It's time to know that your words matter," says Pat Gerhard, owner of Third Street Stuff & Coffee. "Respect is super-important. We are all one community."

Look for the campaign across social media and visit the website for information about services, support, conversations, and prevention: **[ItsTimeLexington.org](https://ItsTimeLexington.org)**



## 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) The UK College of Pharmacy team presented the results of a 3-year onsite health fair project for survivors.

Thank you to Boy Scout Troops 56 and 562 for hosting an egg hunt for kids living at the shelter.

Alpha Chi Omega at UK hosted their Derby for Domestic Violence Awareness Gala and raised \$10,000 to support survivors.

Diane, Fleet, associate director, was interviewed for the Community Action Council's Unapologetically Woman series to share her story about advocating for survivors.

The American Association of Women Dentists chapter at UK held the Carabelli Masquerade Ball to raise \$2500 to support the dental fund for survivors.

Staff supported the It's Time Lexington campaign during the annual Wake Up Lex event. Local cafes provided special drink sleeves to bring awareness to domestic and sexual violence.

The Kentucky Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators recognized us at their Spring Conference and donated \$700 to the mission.

Keller Williams Commonwealth Realty hosted an incredibly special Mother's Day tea party at shelter.

Thank you to our Summer Flower CSA pickup partners – Third Street Stuff, Vine & Branch Wine, Grassroots Pharmacy, Origin Hotel, and Smithtown Seafood.

Thank you to everyone who made a gift during KY Gives Day. Your gifts remind survivors that there is a community that cares for them and their safety.

**Do you have a great idea to support survivors?**  
Let's chat! Reach out to Reena at 859.519.1911  
or [rmartin@greenhouse17.org](mailto:rmartin@greenhouse17.org).



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Visit our **merch shop** to purchase t-shirts, bags, stickers, and more to raise awareness about services for survivors.



# Green House17



Nurturing lives

harmed by intimate partner abuse.

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