

STORIES FOR PEOPLE
WHO SUPPORT SURVIVORS

bloom

SUMMER 2021





Photo credit: Randall Routt

I identify as a survivor after everything I've been through and accomplished—and talk to my girls about their standards and self-worth. I am in the process of trying to register my own business to work with special needs beauty pageants. I'm really excited to get started with my daughters and get that off the ground. It's been something that I always wanted to do.



rose's story

“Trauma is not always visible,
and it's easy to get lost”

They learn how to gain control over you, get inside your head, and make you feel less than what you really are. I don't want nobody to ever be in that position, definitely not one of my girls.

When things started to cave in on me, I went to a local homeless shelter, and from there my caseworker connected me with GreenHouse17. I was very humbled to realize how bad of a situation I was in with him. It helped me to realize he was a toxic person.

I was able to transition into an apartment on the backside of the facility, and from that moment things started getting better for me. A door was opening, which made it possible for me to go back to school and get my Medical Administrative Assistant and EHR certificate. I'm very proud that I graduated in October.

Though at first, there were a lot of issues because I didn't have a car. I tried Uber for a bit, but it wasn't working out. I was able to get a car on payments, and I just paid it off.

Every part of the program was helpful. It is what me and my girls needed. It brings me joy to spend time with my kids. We love watching movies and going to church together. We're now in pageants together, so we have been doing a lot of those lately.

“The more power I get back, the
more I am able to do for myself”

I really want to make a difference for anybody that's been through domestic violence like me. GreenHouse17 is my charity through Amazon Smile, and anytime I buy something a portion of the sales goes towards supporting other survivors.

I want people who've been through my struggle to know that it gets better. You deserve your happiness.



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

IT'S SO EASY. 

Facebook Fundraisers

Many nights while bartending at Arcadium in Lexington, Kellen Macklin wears a purple mask with the words “support survivors” to spark conversations about our mission.

“My life hasn’t directly been affected by domestic violence, but I’ve been very close to people whose lives have been for many years. I believe it’s a cause that deserves more awareness.”

The past two years, near the time of his birthday, Kellen launched Facebook Fundraisers. He asked friends and family to make a donation to GreenHouse17 instead of giving him a gift. His efforts have collected more than \$1250 to support survivors.

“I was initially pretty apprehensive about using Facebook Fundraisers, but it’s so simple. Maybe takes 30 seconds to set up everything.”

Donors can choose if their donations are public or private, and Facebook covers processing fees for gifts made to registered charitable organizations. When the fundraiser ends, donations are deposited directly to the organization’s bank account.

“Even if you only raise a few dollars for whatever organization you choose, it’s more than they had before.”





Kellen and Tabitha hope others will be inspired to expand their support to survivors on social media. If you're not on social media, consider connecting your Amazon Smile or Kroger Rewards account with our organization. **Visit the "Give Support" section on our website to learn more.**

Magical Connections

SOCIAL INTUITION

When Tabitha Dial, an intuitive tarot and tea leaf reader, moved from Colorado to Lexington six years ago, she felt called to support our mission.

"I have known a few women who have revealed their stories of domestic partner abuse to me, and I know there are many, many unheard stories that remain."

Tabitha began her support by offering donation-based readings at Third Street Stuff. Since then, she's been one of our most engaged social media followers and always finds creative ways to celebrate nature-based healing on social media.

While a member of the Autumn Vegetable and Herb CSA, Tabitha was inspired to write "Green Soup," an award-winning poem featured in Kentucky Monthly's Annual Writers' Showcase.

"When I think about my intuitive reading and your mission, the word magical comes to mind," she says. "We're both caring about the community, as well as the individual, to support them in finding their voice."





Home Safe

STARTING OVER AFTER ABUSE TAKES TIME

Survivors often leave behind more than a home. Many begin again without furniture, clothing, and a vehicle. Sometimes the abuser has maintained power and control by sabotaging their employment or not allowing a survivor to work.

"I have no family support and had nowhere to go," shares a survivor who asked to remain anonymous. "I couldn't afford daycare to work full-time and provide as a single mom."

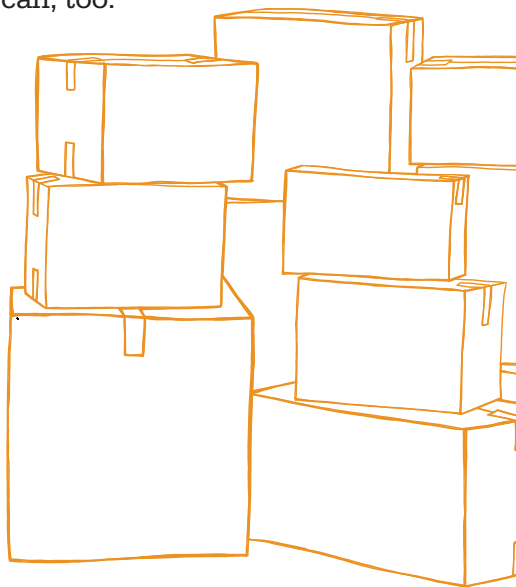
Supportive housing responds to these challenges. While beginning to heal from the physical and emotional wounds of abuse, survivors meet with housing advocates to create an individualized housing plan. Early conversations imagine possibilities and identify barriers.

Legal advocacy, credit repair, benefit applications, and budgeting assistance chip away the obstacles. Partnering organizations provide job search, childcare, and other resources to help make the transition possible.

Some survivors transition to apartments in their home county or near supportive family and friends, while others move to apartments in the KCADV Homes II project.

Twelve of these units are scattered near downtown Lexington, with easy access to public transportation, and twelve cottage-style duplexes are nestled on the backside of the emergency shelter's property.

"I can feel safe and my children can, too."



"I always felt supported while in the program, and my abuser never knew where to find me."

fe Home



Our housing team (pictured here) partners with dozens of organizations, companies, and landlords to support survivors during the transition to safe and affordable housing. Jubilee Jobs of Lexington offers job search services; Habitat for Humanity ReStore provides vouchers for furniture purchases; and Wildcat Moving, 2 Dudes Moving, and College HUNKS Moving offer services at no cost or reduced fees.



Funded in part with support from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Violence Against Women, Victims of Crime Act, and Department of Housing and Urban Development.





HEART OF THE MISSION

Volunteers



Service Learning

Whether pulling weeds on the farm or organizing supplies in the basement, youth from the Redeemed Christian Church of God show up to help.

Lexington's parish is affiliated with the church's headquarters in Nigeria, and members represent cultures from across Africa. Carla Matamoro-Small, VISTA Volunteer Coordinator and associate with the church, says working with this young group of change-makers has been a joy.

"They are very interested in how the community can teach them different things. Their mission now is to go out there and stir the community up—let them know there's a place you can go and a number you can call."

Good Focus



Doing good is central to the Warby Parker business model, and each employee receives annual paid leave to volunteer in the community.

Carly Hayes, social innovation lead for the retail location at The Summit at Fritz Farm, reached out to explore ways to support survivors during the pandemic.

After talking about a few ideas, Carly and her team made lovely handwritten cards for adults and video readings of classic story books for children.

"It was fun to work with Carly to develop these socially distanced projects during the pandemic," says Reena Martin, Community Engagement Manager.

"Community connection is so important while healing."

Heavy Lifting



Every year, employees from CLARK Material Handling Company, a global manufacturer of forklifts and spare parts, volunteer to maintain the fence that surrounds our emergency shelter's property.

Replacing broken rails and removing dense brush is hard work, but CLARK employees come prepared with the tools, energy, and commitment to get the job done.

"The fence around the property runs for almost a mile," explains Darlene Thomas, Executive Director. "Upkeep would be daunting if not for the longtime support from CLARK employees."

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) Moody Mike's, Lexington's first vegan food truck, collected donations of much-needed items for the emergency shelter.

Thank you to TJ Maxx in Danville for making a generous donation of masks and sanitizer to keep staff and survivors protected during the pandemic.



Toyota USA in Georgetown donated many inspiring kids care packages for the little ones we serve. Each bag included a special note of encouragement.

The Lockaways, a local Celtic-inspired music duo, released their first album and donated \$1 for every sale to support survivors.



Do you have a great idea to support survivors?

Let's chat! Reach out to Reena at rmartin@greenhouse17.org or call 859.519.1911.

Thrive Empowerment Center in Covington and A Bazaar Universe in Somerset join as our two newest Handmade by Survivors retail partners.

Thank you to Possum Queens and other local musicians for bringing music out to the safety of the shelter for survivors to enjoy this summer.

We celebrate Pride in June and the next month and the month after that because LGBTQIA+ people deserve safety, love, and respect.

Look for our table painted by Kristin Carpenter at the new location of DV8 Kitchen on the corner of Midland Avenue and Third Street when it opens.



Uma Jewels and Empress XXXIX partnered with the Imperial Court of Kentucky to bake up some goodies on their Drag Queen Baking Show and raise funds to support survivors on International Women's Day.

Thank you to every volunteer and shopper who helped make this year's Shop and Share event such a big success!





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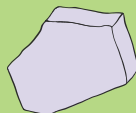
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Handmade By Survivors products make wonderful gifts.
Local pickup or nationwide shipping available.
Visit GreenHouse17.org to shop.

Green House17

Nurturing lives

harmed by intimate partner abuse.



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