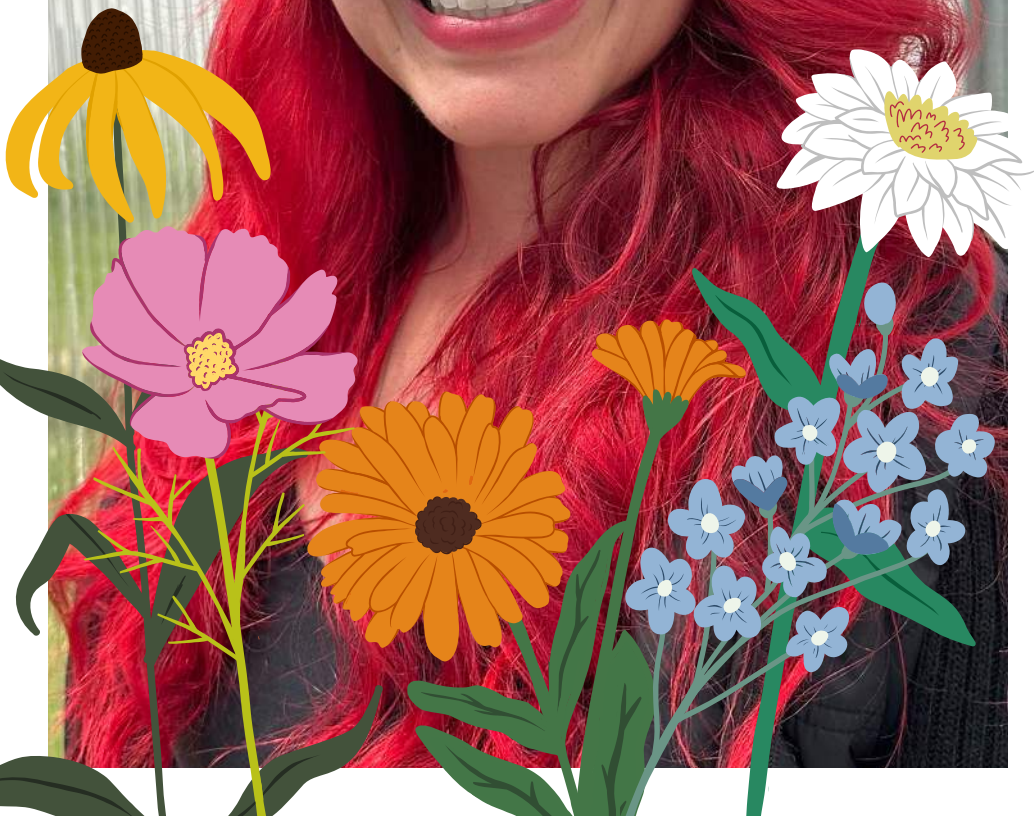


bloom

STORIES FOR PEOPLE
WHO SUPPORT SURVIVORS

SUMMER 2024



Chelsea's story

"I was scared and trying to leave this relationship, trying to get my ducks in a row."

A childhood friend recommended she reach out to ask for our support. Chelsea was pregnant when she and her two-year-old arrived at the emergency shelter.

"I would spend hours walking back and forth on the front porch with him in the stroller. I couldn't get him to sleep and didn't want to disturb anyone else."

"My life and stability were up in the air"

Those first few weeks living at the shelter weren't easy. "I was hyper-focusing and overthinking everything. It was really hard on me, being pregnant. My life and stability were up in the air."

She stayed busy on purpose.

"I was meeting with my advocates, doing therapy, or doing groups. We would talk

about boundaries and red flags, green flags, even yellow flags."

During one group activity, Chelsea remembers writing a note to her younger self and a note to the abuser to burn in the fire pit.

"We talked about boundaries and coping techniques. I always did the mommy and me groups. We did pottery and yoga under the pavilion."

Although put on bed rest during the final weeks of her pregnancy, Chelsea was able to move into a transitional apartment with her son before the baby was born.

"I was in a different elementary school each grade of the year, so stability was always a real big thing for me. When I had kids, I knew that I needed stability because I never had it."

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

When asked what she would tell someone coming into shelter, Chelsea said, **"You're here to heal.** If you come with that mindset, you're going to feel like a totally different person. But remember not everybody is going to understand what you went through, so not everybody deserves your story."



a clean start

DONATION DRIVE PARTNERSHIP



Paige Swope holds the Ms. Kentucky Festivals 2023 title, and her platform is awareness for intimate partner abuse.

"I endured every form of abuse from a partner for several years," she shares. "Women, and especially children, who are suffering through a domestic violence relationship lay heavy on my heart."

Paige began her support for our organization during this year's Shop & Share event in February. "It brought tears to my eyes seeing how much support the community was giving."

The experience inspired Paige to do more. She recently organized an online donation drive for self-care items to support survivors and their children living at the shelter.

"There were many times I went days without brushing my teeth, combing my hair, or showering," she remembers. "I want women and children to never have to worry about having access to basic hygiene necessities."

"It took me years to physically and mentally heal from the abuse I endured, and now that I am free, I want nothing more than to be able to give back and contribute to such an important organization."



strut your smile

DENTAL CARE PARTNERSHIP



Dental health matters to the physical and emotional well-being of survivors. Many have been denied medical care and suffered tooth trauma before fleeing the abuser.

For nearly two decades, a partnership with the American Association of Women Dentists (AAWD) at the University of Kentucky College of Dentistry has responded to the need.

Seven survivors are currently receiving dental care and

treatment from the university's Student Dental Clinic.

AAWD members organize an annual fundraiser to replenish the survivor dental fund. This year's event, Strut Your Smile, included a fashion show and silent auction.

"We get to fundraise, and then see them as a patient," shares Ciara Sandefur, past president of the university's AAWD chapter and Strut Your Smile committee member. "I think that is so cool."

One survivor who received dental care and treatment through the AAWD partnership shares, "It's given me my life back. I'm able to smile. I'm able to laugh again. I've had people tell me, **'You've got a beautiful smile.'**"





Photo by David Young

The Pearse Lyons ACE Foundation is a nonprofit organization that supports the philanthropic endeavors of Alltech and the Lyons family. **The foundation's spirit of giving is reflected in every corner of the world.**

ALLTECH DONATION SUSTAINS & NOURISHES THE MISSION



transformative giving

Dr. Pearse Lyons founded Alltech with the vision of sustaining and nourishing the world's plants, animals, and people. A recent \$100,000 donation from the Pearse Lyons ACE Foundation to support our mission echoes this commitment.

The generous gift, made possible by the success of the second annual Alltech Make a Difference Golf Scramble, expands on previous investments in our small farm.

"A contribution to GreenHouse17 creates a home for healing and regeneration, as well as the ability to serve thousands of survivors each year through legal advocacy, affordable housing assistance, children's safe exchange and visitation, and countless other services," said Deirdre Lyons, Alltech's co-founder and director of corporate image, design and construction.

"GreenHouse17 saves and transforms lives," said Dr. Mark Lyons, president and CEO of Alltech. "Our partnership goes beyond the funds we can donate but extends to exchanging ideas around future fundraising opportunities and business outlets that help to further their mission, which we profoundly believe in."

"Ending intimate partner abuse must be a community effort"

"We can't do it alone," says Darlene Thomas, our executive director. "Ending intimate partner abuse must be a community effort. Alltech's longtime support for our farm's goals to foster stability for survivors and generate sustainable revenue for our mission is a testament to the possibilities of partnership."



SUMMER ON THE FARM

natural healing

The summer months are busy on our 40-acre property. From healthy cooking workshops using vegetables from the farm to trauma-informed yoga under the pavilion, residents reflect and find healing in lots of ways.

Although many adult survivors living in shelter and transitional housing take part in the farm's six-week curriculum to develop job skills while earning a weekly stipend, the commitment can be too physically or emotionally intensive for survivors who have recently escaped abuse.

"The healing garden allows survivors to be even more involved with our therapeutic horticulture and farm-to-table dining programs," explains Hattie, a farm advocate. "Residents can help tend to flowers, vegetables, and herbs that will eventually make their way into the shelter."

This garden is a space reserved for survivors and their children to experience the benefits of nature together without worries of making mistakes. There's something special about eating a dinner made with ingredients you helped grow and harvest.

"The farm awakens a part of me that makes me feel strong and peaceful"


"It's a chance for residents of all ages to come and experience the healing powers of the farm," adds Ryan, an advocate focused on nature-based experiences. "Going outside is important for our brains and bodies. To come out and spend just a couple hours learning a new skill or interacting with a living thing can really make a difference in a day."



Nature-based healing on the farm is supported by grants from United Way of the Bluegrass, Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government Extended Social Resources, and BGCF365.


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.

The University of Kentucky Center for Clinical and Translational Science is gathering data on traumatic brain injuries. Women who are 18-64 and have experienced intimate partner violence in the past five years could be eligible. Scan the QR code for more information.


BGCF365 awarded us a \$5,000 grant after a presentation at their finals to support our farm stipend program!

 We are very honored for the continued trust and investment of 100 Women in the mission.

A team from the University of Kentucky College of Pharmacy is volunteering for a service project focused on the health and nutrition of children living at the shelter.

Thank you to J&H Outdoors for choosing to feature our organization in this year's Bags to Riches campaign.

It was a delightful day of volunteering with Gray Ground-breaking Women! Thank you for your commitment to our mission and helping get things organized at the shelter!

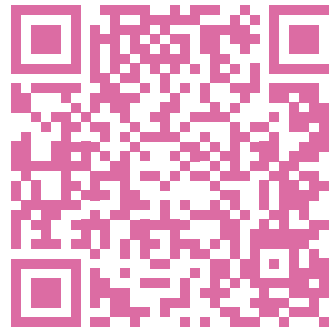
We were voted a top nonprofit in the "Best of Lex" issue of the Chevy Chaser and Southsider published by Smiley Pete! 

The Heart of Kentucky United Way recognized our efforts in partnership building during the annual Awards Luncheon in April.

Staff and residents enjoyed the lovely weather on the front lawn of the shelter and celestial themed snacks while watching the eclipse.



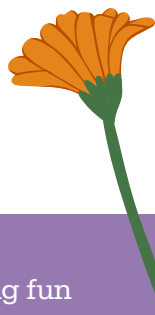
Do you have a great idea to support survivors?
Let's chat! Reach out to Hallie at 859-519-1911 or hlintner@greenhouse17.org.



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Summer flowers are calling your name!

Reserve your bucket for some flower picking fun
on August 3, September 7, and October 5.
Tickets at GreenHouse17.org.

Green House17

Nurturing lives

harmed by intimate partner abuse.



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

Mailing Address: PO Box 55190, Lexington, KY 40555
Phone: 859.233.0657

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