

STORIES FOR PEOPLE
WHO SUPPORT SURVIVORS

bloom

FALL 2025



tanya's story



In the beginning of our marriage, he was very abusive and controlling.

The physical abuse had ended, but the mental, emotional, and financial abuse continued. I took off numerous times and went back because it was familiar.

I just woke up one morning and was like, I can't do this anymore. I have custody of my grandson and packed his things. My best friend came and got me.

I was on the verge of going back home, but my daughter had a co-worker who told her about this place. Thank God GreenHouse17 picked up the phone and had a bed for me.

I was there from October to the end of March. They helped me balance my biggest issues and taught me boundaries. I've always said that I was a caretaker, but sometimes people can abuse that.

There was another young lady at the shelter, and we became really close. She asked if I'd be

willing to keep her dog, Roscoe. He's been with me ever since.

"Emotionally, he is my everything"

I'm so glad I was able to keep him. I didn't know if I could do it because I've never owned a pet before. I've cried with Roscoe, talked to him.

Transitioning into my new apartment was scary. Every little noise made me think, is someone here with me? I don't know what I would have done without this fella. Emotionally, he is my everything.

Don't give up hope. Just reach out. It doesn't matter your situation—there's always help. I know what it's like to be afraid. It's hard, I get it. But you can do it.

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

Before getting a safe place of her own, Tanya participated in our Handmade by Survivors product stipend program. The experience inspired her to start her own small business. She's enrolled in a Goodwill computer class and plans to complete a business course soon.





healing together

A PLACE WHERE ANIMALS BELONG

Pets are more than companions for many survivors. They're lifelines. Abusers often exploit this bond, using threats or harm to animals as a way to maintain control.

For those seeking safety from intimate partner abuse, leaving a beloved pet behind can feel impossible. That's why our 40-acre farm is a place where survivors and their animals can heal together until it is safe to begin again.

A few animals on our farm never leave because we are their forever home. Horses Solo and Saucy graze in quiet pastures, waiting at the fence for children coming home from school.

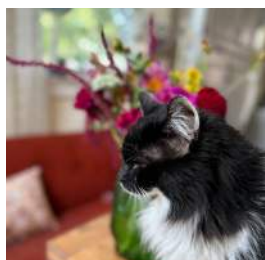
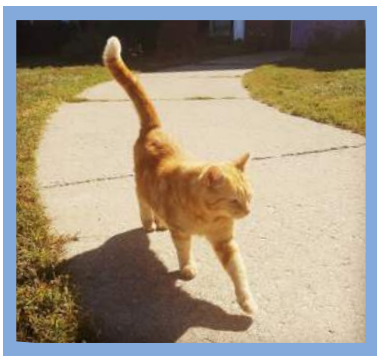
Farm cats wander the summer flower rows, dodging attempts to capture them in photos, and find refuge in their handmade winter condos when the temperatures cool.

Other animal friends drop in for a visit from time to time. We love when service puppies-in-training hang out on the porch to practice their social skills. Past visits from Timber's Grateful Companions, Mater the goat, and his sister Itty Bitty Betty have made hard days lighter.

Survivors and animals deserve to rediscover what safety and connection truly feel like. Because love, in all its forms, is healing.

Forever Part of Our Healing Home

We dedicate this issue to three animal friends gone too soon. Morris, our first property cat, passed years ago but today serves as our unofficial mascot. Boone, our neighbor dog, never belonged to us but found a special place in our hearts with his regular visits. JB, the beloved horse of Lyndsay, a longtime advocate in the mission, lived with us on the farm for many years. His hooves may rest, but his spirit still runs deep.





paw sitive care

HELPING LEXINGTON PETS

The mission of the Lexington Pet Pantry is to keep pets with their families. The group provides essential pet food and supplies to those in need.

Founder Amber Litwiller reached out earlier this year, and our partnership began. "If you're in a crisis, you don't want to lose something that helps you," says Amber. "Keeping people with their pets is what we're all about."

The self-serve pantry at our emergency shelter is stocked regularly with pet food and supplies for res-

idents, helping survivors care for their animals while they focus on healing.

Pet Pantry volunteers also stock public self-serve pantries at the Living Arts and Science Center and Blue Stallion Brewing Company.

"The shared health of people, animals, and our environment is all interconnected," adds Amber.



For many survivors, their animal companions are also victims of abuse. Although the shelter is not a good fit for every pet, our advocates provide support and resources for animals so survivors can find safety without worry.



pawsitive partners

PROTECTION AND CARE

Lexington Fayette Animal Care and Control is on a mission to protect the health and safety of the community and its animals.

“We are privileged to have partnered with GreenHouse17 for the last decade to ensure animals in difficult circumstances remain safe and well cared for,” shares Ashley Browning, Assistant Chief. “No one should have to choose between their safety and the safety of their pet.”

Research finds up to 40% of survivors delay leaving an abuser

because they are unable to take their pets with them. Thanks to community-coordinated care, survivors in central Kentucky have options.

“Our daily focus is to provide resources and services that help pets stay in the care of their owners. Our partnership with GreenHouse17 is an extension of that goal,” explains Ashley.

“If that means a brief stay for an animal in our care, or a low-cost vaccine, we are happy to help.”

Did you know that Kentucky orders of protection can also include pets? Coercion, control, or revenge directed against a pet to control a spouse or dating partner is considered domestic violence.

**THIS IS
WHAT
SAFETY
LOOKS
LIKE**

October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Survivors and their children deserve to feel safe in their homes and communities. We can all help make safety visible, real, and possible.

Safety for Survivors

Our hotline is answered 24/7 by Certified Domestic Violence Advocates. Together, safety plans can be developed that meet the unique needs of survivors and their children. Advocates can assist in finding emergency shelter, accompaniment to court proceedings, share information on support groups, or just be there to listen.

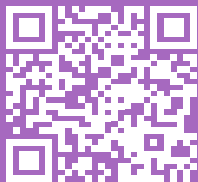
Being a Safe Person



You can be a safe person for friends and family who are being abused. Educate yourself about intimate partner abuse, believe the stories they tell you, and listen more than you speak. Say you are really worried and ask if they have a safety plan. Suggest they call our hotline to speak with an advocate. You can call us, too, and learn how to offer support.

Safety in our Community

Create safe workplaces. Ask if your workplace has a policy on intimate partner abuse. If they don't, share toolkits from It's Time Lexington with your company. Hang our crisis hotline tear-off flyers at your workplace and in community spaces like coffee shops to make safety visible and accessible.



Save the date for this year's Purple Thursday on October 16. This day of wearing purple raises awareness and shows survivors our community cares! Follow the QR code to GreenHouse17.org for a calendar of regional events.

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) During Bystander Awareness Week, staff joined the Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention Coalition to roll their big green dot around Lexington to raise awareness on how to recognize warning signs of power-based violence and how to safely intervene.

We were grateful to be the charitable partner once again for Alltech's Make a Difference Golf Scramble. Alltech also visited the emergency shelter for their Make a Difference Volunteer Day where they helped tidy the kitchen and made welcome bags for new residents.

Forever 24 hosted their 3rd annual Let's Ride For Caleb motorcycle ride and we were the charity beneficiary.

North Lime Coffee & Donuts joined us as a retail partner and now carries Handmade by Survivors products.

This summer's U-Pick Days on the Farm were magical. We enjoyed spending time on the farm with everyone and celebrating the beautiful buckets of flowers picked.

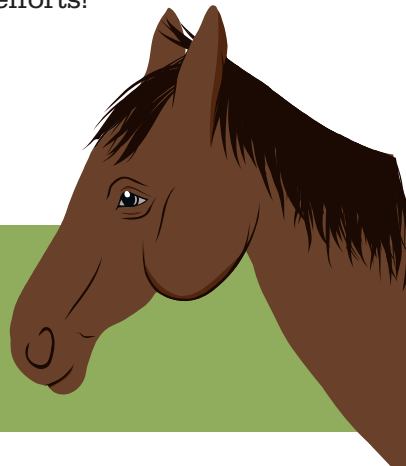


Darlene was honored to participate in the 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb at Kroger Field. The event was organized by the Lexington Fraternal Order of Firefighters.

Big thanks to volunteer groups from Gray, Hyland, and CarMax for painting our very long fence and helping on the farm and in the shelter. And special thanks to Cincinnati Cares and Points of Light for their support of these special efforts!



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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October is **National Domestic Violence Awareness Month**, a time to take action and identify yourself as an advocate for survivors. Learn more in this issue.

Save the date for **Bluegrass Gives** (formerly the GoodGiving Challenge) on Tuesday, December 2.



Green House17

Nurturing lives

harmed by intimate partner abuse.



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24-HOUR CRISIS HOTLINE



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