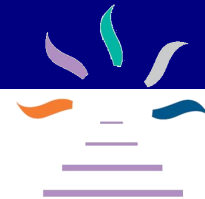


The VOICE



UNDERGROUND RAILROAD, INC.

Summer 2017



5647 State Street
Suite A
Saginaw, MI 48603

Administrative Offices:
(989) 399-0007

Safety & Resource
Center:
(989) 755-0413

24/7 Helpline:
(989) 755-0411

OUR MISSION:

Empower survivors and
create a culture of
safety and respect in
our community.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

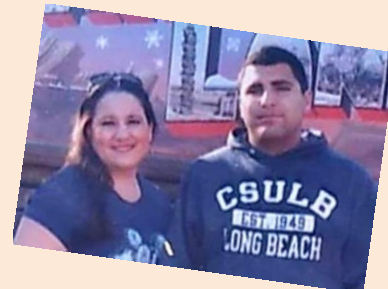
Sue Sulfridge - Chair
Valerie Hoffman - CEO
Mari McKenzie - Vice Chair
Terrie Chronowski - Treasurer
Sonia Severin - Secretary
Jayme Grzegorzcyk
Barbara Boggess
Terri Carmichael
Sharon Hopper
Kimberly Horne
Darlene Krumpholz
David Nall
Jon Pickelman
Melissa Wallace
Matthew Tarrant
Archia Jackson
Jamie Nisidis, Advisory Member

IN THIS ISSUE

Survivor Story	1
Upcoming Events.....	1
CEO Letter	2
GOTR Corner	2
Donor Spotlight	3
URR Resale	3
Legacy Gift	4

At the end of February, we received a special message to our Facebook page. We're elated to see Cristina and her son happy and healthy, and to share their story of inspiration.

Twenty-three years ago, I was taken to your shelter with a newborn who was a few days old. I had been beaten and strayed away from my family in California. Your immediate assistance, in the middle of the night 23 years ago, gave me the opportunity to obtain my graduate degree, and now my son is in his final semester at California State University Long Beach. For years, I have thought about reaching out to you. I have never forgotten that because of you, my son and I have not just a life, but a successful one. Please let your staff know that the work they do is AMAZING. May God bless each and every single one of you. - Cristina Rosales



SAVE THE DATE



OCTOBER 25

6PM - 9PM, Bavarian Inn Lodge

The 2017 Empowerment Dinner and Celebration honors Janie Gugino for her community leadership and commitment to helping others. Enjoy cocktails, fine dining, and a behind-the-scenes look at our mission and work.



NOVEMBER 18

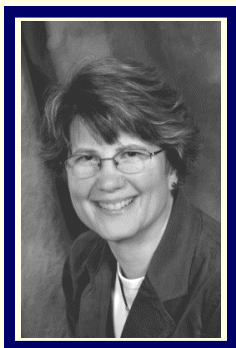
Downtown Saginaw

The Girls on the Run 5K will once again lead the Saginaw Holiday Parade. The run is open to the community. It finishes at the Andersen Enrichment Center with hot chocolate, and a winter market. Register at www.gotrsaginawbay.org



Girls on the Run Saginaw Bay is an affiliated program of URR

A Note From the Executive Director



Dear Friends,

May 5th marked Underground Railroad's 40th anniversary. In 1977 we opened our doors, and became the first free-standing shelter for battered women in the State of Michigan. Since then, you've helped us grow from a 4-bedroom shelter to a

46-bed shelter, and add countless programs to empower survivors in Saginaw County. We recently had the honor to reflect with Louise Boyd, one of our founding mothers, on the last 40 years and the legacy of URR.

I'm so thankful for this program, and it has so much history. When we found the original property it was an old women's hospital with relic beds. We purchased it for \$1. The growth since then is unbelievable. The types of things the Underground Railroad does today are things we spoke about and prayed about all those years ago. To see it be fulfilled is amazing. I'm so proud to be a part of this story. To know the many, many women and children Underground Railroad has helped – that's the blessing.

-Louise Boyd, Founding Mother

We're 40 years strong because of the vision of our founding mothers, and the continued support of our donors, volunteers and community partners. Thank you for believing in Saginaw County survivors, their families, and their futures.

Valerie Hozman

Join the Girls on the Run Movement!!

Now accepting
Fall 2017
Coach and Site Applications.

Learn more about coaching or starting a site
at your location at www.gotrsaginawbay.org



It's about keeping in shape physically, but also in an emotional way. The things she would come home and say - I believe it made her a more independent, confident, and compassionate young girl.

–Parent

About a week after our lesson on how to respond in a positive way to a difficult situation, one of our girls told us at the beginning of a practice how she used this strategy in a personal situation. I had tears in my eyes! It was really cool to see her confidence in how she responded. I was so proud!



– Coach



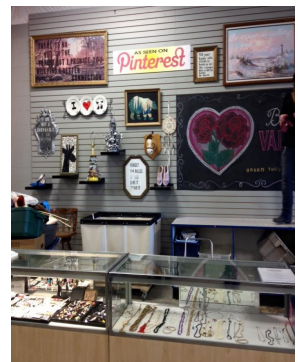
Donor Spotlight

Christine Church

I became interested in services for victims of domestic violence much before I was ever involved with URR, partly because of my own family. It was something that was only talked about quietly. Back then we didn't have the words, "domestic violence." Incidents of family violence were called an accident or a "bad day for dad." Alcohol, stress, trying to find rational reason why someone would hurt someone they love – they're still excuses we're arguing against today, but it is getting better. We now have terms and verbal skills to talk about it. It's a crime now. I met Valerie Hoffman, CEO of URR, in the mid-nineties. I had returned to school to get my MSW from University of Michigan. Until then I had not known anyone whose purpose in life was to change the perception of domestic violence and how we would address it as a community. She invited me to join the Board of Directors. Being on the Board at URR, I realized how well this non-profit was fulfilling their mission statement. They were providing not just the community awareness, but the services – the actions- to stop the abuse. It's a passion and a commitment, and I've seen so much progress in the community because of Underground Railroad. Seeing this progress, combined with my own passion about violence against women, Underground Railroad was the only possibility as a beneficiary of my estate so I can make an impact even beyond my lifetime. I feel better about myself because I'm doing *something*. I know that the best predictor of the future is the past. I'm not as powerless as I felt as a young woman when I was thinking, "Oh my gosh, how am I ever going to help? What will ever change?" URR has done so much to create that change while I've been a part of the organization, and I believe they will continue that for a long time.

Garage SALE SEASON

Garage sale season means lots of great new inventory at Underground Railroad Resale! Stop in this summer to check out all the new arrivals including clothing in current and vintage styles, accessories, books, movies and music, fabric, linens and craft items, puzzles, games and toys, home decor, furniture, sporting goods and more! We have something for everyone!



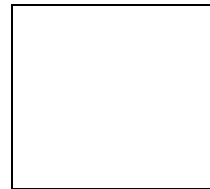

UNDERGROUND RAILROAD
RESALE

Store Hours:
Monday-Saturday
10am - 7pm
5647 State Street



UNDERGROUND RAILROAD, INC.

5647 State Street, Ste. A
Saginaw, MI 48603
Business Phone: 399-0007
Fax: 399-0010



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



www.facebook.com/UndergroundRR



www.twitter.com/URRSaginaw



www.undergroundrailroadinc.org



what is YOUR LEGACY?



Leave a Legacy Gift and support Underground Railroad's impactful mission of safety, empowerment, and change. Your Legacy Gift will reflect your lasting compassion for the next generation. Planned gifts offer you an important opportunity to provide meaningful support for URR's work.

There are many simple ways to make a Legacy Gift to URR including:

Gift Type #1: Make a gift to Underground Railroad in your will or trust

Gift Type #2: Make a meaningful gift and, in exchange, receive guaranteed lifetime income from URR

If you have already arranged for a Legacy Gift to Underground Railroad, thank you. Please let us know so we can thank you for your support.

If you are considering leaving a Legacy Gift to Underground Railroad and have questions or need more information, please contact Valerie Hoffman, President/CEO of Underground Railroad, at 399-0007 or at vhoffman@undergroundrailroadinc.org