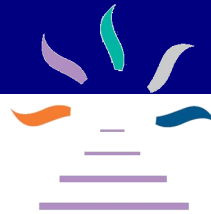


The VOICE



UNDERGROUND RAILROAD, INC.

Fall 2017



A Survivor's Story.

Candace has been receiving counseling services from Underground Railroad for over a year since surviving a sexual assault. She had made progress in dealing with the trauma she endured, but suffered a setback when her fiancé passed away unexpectedly eight months ago. As she struggled with her grief, her health rapidly declined and she became immobile. For the past few months, she has been discussing loss and coping during her therapy sessions with Underground Railroad staff. Candace recently had a breakthrough that helped her get back on the path to hope and healing. She told her therapist:

"I realize now what you meant by 'you become what you think.'" Since I lost my fiancé, I've spent my nights reading sad, depressing quotes - trying to match the words to my pain. But if I fill myself with more grief, how can I expect to move forward? Now I read positive, uplifting quotes instead. And I know I can get through this."

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:

Barbara Boggess
Terri Carmichael
Terrie Chronowski
Valerie Hoffman
Sharon Hopper
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Thank you so much
for everything. We feel
so blessed to know that
there are still those
who care so much about
others! You've made my
children's Christmas happen,
and I couldn't be more
grateful ♡♡

In addition to monetary donations, URR has several opportunities to give this holiday season.
For more information visit our website at undergroundrailroadinc.org/holiday-giving-programs.html

A Note From the Executive Director



Dear Friends,

As many of you know, I will be retiring as CEO of Underground Railroad on December 31st. Starting in 2018, I hope to spend more time with family, enjoy nature, and live slow for the first time in many years. I write my last column to you with a mix of sadness and excitement, but especially of gratitude.

In the past two decades we have expanded our facilities, stabilized our financial future, grown our partnerships, and added an incredible depth and breadth of services for survivors of abuse in our community. Your tireless support of these survivors over the past 23 years has made it tremendously clear that the spirit of Saginaw County is strong, and its generosity is remarkable.

To the URR staff, board and volunteers, thank you for your unyielding passion and dedication to ending violence against women. Each day you face odds that seem unbeatable, yet each day your voices remain clear and loud as you fight for those who have lost theirs.

To our donors, funders, and allies, thank you for believing in the importance of this work. Thank you for trusting me to be a steward of your support, and lead the mission of Underground Railroad. You've given us the tools to make change, and each day your contributions save lives.

Lastly, to the tens of thousands of survivors that have been served by URR during my tenure, thank you for allowing me to play a tiny role in your story. For the past 23 years, your successes have been my motivation, and your courage has been my inspiration. You humble me.

Underground Railroad is a special organization, but it is much bigger than myself. I am confident that you - the incredible people who surround it - will continue to help it grow and thrive under a new leader. It has been an honor to serve this community as the CEO of Underground Railroad. I look forward to the next new and exciting chapter in its legacy.

Valerie Hoffman

OCTOBER IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

Here are some events taking place in our region



Day of Unity, October 3rd

**8:15 am, Saginaw County Courthouse
Board of Commissioners Room**

Law Enforcement and community members will help proclaim October Domestic Violence Awareness Month with a ceremony and refreshments. Law Enforcement will be encouraged to place purple ribbon magnets on police cruisers and county vehicles throughout the duration of October. The Day of Unity will also take place in Bay, Midland and Mt. Pleasant counties.



Wear Purple Day, October 19th

**Region Wide
Saginaw, Bay, Midland
& Mt. Pleasant**

The Purple Heart is presented to those who have been wounded while serving. For survivors of domestic violence, who may also be wounded both physically and emotionally, the color is meant to be a symbol of peace, courage, survival, honor and dedication to ending violence.



DV Vigil, October 26th

**6:00 pm, Freeland SportsZone
Pavilion**

In celebration of the 30th Anniversary of Domestic Violence Awareness Month Underground Railroad, Bay Area Women's Center, and Midland Shelterhouse will host a regional vigil to honor survivors and secondary survivors of domestic violence. The community is welcome to gather for music and refreshments beginning at 5:30 pm.



Donor Spotlight

Jay Peplinski

"I choose to support Underground Railroad because I have friends and family that were in a position where they needed the services Underground Railroad offers. When I was thirteen years old my friend's mom came to our house in the middle of the night. She had been beaten by a boyfriend. She had nowhere to go. Scripture tells us to care for the widows and orphans. While URR's services are not specific to widows and orphans, I believe through URR I am fulfilling the spirit of that command. I have volunteered with the organization for over two years, helping landscape, installing playground equipment, and recruiting additional volunteers through my place of employment. My wife and I have supported the organization through monetary donations as well. I have raised money for Walk A Mile in Her Shoes, served as a table host for Advocates for Change, and coordinated fundraisers through my church to benefit the agency. Underground Railroad has opened my eyes to a great need. I live among the recipients of the work that URR does. I have seen women that have been abused and had nowhere else to go. Underground Railroad helps with the immediate need for shelter and protection, legal services, and advocacy. They fill a need in serving human trafficking victims. They call for men to step up and say no to violence. Supporting Underground Railroad has given me a tangible way to make a difference. I am grateful for the staff and volunteers that are doing the work of URR. I am thankful that they have allowed me to share in that work. I know the difference that Underground Railroad is making - the depth of caring for the people they serve."



5647 State St.
(989) 249-1924

Business Hours:
Mon-Sat
10am-7pm

Donation Hours:
Mon-Sat
10am-5pm

Decorating for the holiday?

Change up your décor at Underground Railroad Resale!
Or donate your unwanted items to bring cheer to the homes of others, and make an impact in our community.



In August, Underground Railroad completed its State Quality Assurance Review by The Michigan Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention and Treatment Board. MDSVPTB is legislatively mandated to review programs and services every five years. Executive Directors and high level staff from domestic violence/sexual assault programs have been selected to accompany MDSVPTB staff in a unique peer review program. Peer reviewers are provided training and draw on years of experience in reviewing other programs. We're excited to share that Underground Railroad scored 100% on our review, which means we meet or exceed all the standards set forth by the board. MDSVPTB reviews the following:

- Policy and Governance
- Community Relations & Fund Development
- Program Administration & Service Delivery
- Staff & Volunteer Management
- Systems Change
- Financial Management
- Facility, Safety, Security, & Health
- Contract Requirements
- Transitional Supportive Housing

A huge thank you to staff and board members for all their work to prepare, and their continued dedication to survivors!



MAKING PLANS FOR YEAR-END GIVING?



Contact us at (989) 399-0007 with questions
about year-end giving

Did you know there are other ways to give which may result in more tax advantages than gifting cash and taking an itemized deduction?

1. **Qualified Charitable Distribution from an IRA** - Have an IRA and need to withdraw your required minimum distribution (RMD) before year end? – Give directly from the IRA and avoid realizing the amount of the gift as taxable income!
2. **Gifting appreciated stock in kind** – Receive income tax deduction for the FULL market value of securities on the date of the gift. Also avoid any future capital gains tax if you were to sell the security. This could be stock, ETF's, Mutual Funds, etc.



HOLIDAY GIVING MADE

— *easy* —

**STEP
1**

Book our truck for your staff holiday party or company giving drive.

**STEP
2**

Encourage your employees, customers, or community members to help fill the truck with gently used clothing, furniture, toys and household items.

**STEP
3**

We pick up the truck when they're done!
All donations help make spirits bright this holiday season for Saginaw County survivors of abuse.

To book the truck, check the availability of your dates,
or for more information, contact:

Jessica Schluckebier
(989) 399-0007 ext. 107
jschluckebier@undergroundrailroadinc.org





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

A recent independent study provides compelling evidence that Girls on the Run is highly effective at driving transformative and lasting change in the lives of 3rd-5th grade girls. Girls on the Run participants scored higher in managing emotions, resolving conflict, and helping others than participants in organized sport or physical education. The study was conducted by Maureen R. Weiss, Ph.D, an expert on youth development.

What we do

Using an intentional curriculum that integrates physical activity, our trained coaches teach girls critical life skills and strategies they can apply to all aspects of their lives.

Why it matters

- Girls' self-confidence begins to drop by age 9
- 50% of girls ages 10 to 13 experience bullying such as name calling and exclusion
- Physical activity levels decline at age 10 and continue to decrease throughout adolescence

Our results*

85%
IMPROVED IN
CONFIDENCE
COMPETENCE
CARING
CHARACTER
OR CONNECTION



GIRLS WHO WERE
LEAST ACTIVE
AT THE START
INCREASED IN
PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

BY MORE THAN
40%



Girls on the Run has a **POSITIVE IMPACT** on girls during the program and **BEYOND**.

Girls on the Run makes a **STRONGER IMPACT** than organized sports or physical education programs in teaching **LIFE SKILLS**.



Where girls made the greatest gains

CONNECTION
How supported they felt by their peers



CONFIDENCE
How much they liked the person they are



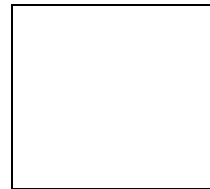
I will continue to **teach others what I learned** at Girls on the Run, and carry it with me **FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE.**

<http://www.gotrsaginawbay.org/>



UNDERGROUND RAILROAD, INC.

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Business Phone: 399-0007
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www.facebook.com/UndergroundRR



www.twitter.com/URRSaginaw



www.undergroundrailroadinc.org

UPCOMING EVENTS



Empowerment Dinner & Celebration

OCTOBER 25

6PM - 9PM

Bavarian Inn Lodge & Conference Center
1 Covered Bridge Lane, Frankenmuth

The 2017 Empowerment Dinner and Celebration honors Janie Gugino for her community leadership and commitment to helping others. Enjoy cocktails, a world-famous Frankenmuth chicken dinner, and a behind-the-scenes look at our mission and work. Tickets are \$75 per person, and all names will be held at the door. **Reservations must be made by October 20th.** For more information, or to purchase tickets, contact Karen Sova at (989) 399-0007 ext. 100



Girls on the Run Annual 5K

NOVEMBER 18

Registration: 8:00am, Run: 10:45am
Downtown Saginaw

The Girls on the Run 5K will once again lead the Saginaw Holiday Parade. The run is open to the community, and begins at the Castle Museum at 500 Federal Avenue. It finishes at the Andersen Enrichment Center with hot chocolate, the Downtown Saginaw Farmer's Market winter market, a cookie house display, and a front-row seat to the Holiday Parade! Register at www.gotrsaginawbay.org