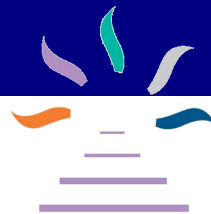


# The VOICE



UNDERGROUND RAILROAD, INC.

Fall 2018



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:

Christi Birchmeier  
Barbara Boggess  
Terri Carmichael  
Terrie Chronowski  
Sharon Hopper  
Shane Hunt  
Darlene Krumpholz  
Mari McKenzie  
David Nall  
Jamie Nisidis  
Jon Pickelman  
Matthew Tarrant  
Melissa Wallace  
Jennifer Wysong

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### **The following is a poem written by a survivor while receiving services from URR. It is shared with her permission.**

You couldn't simply show me love,  
Although I know you tried  
With every kick and punch  
It killed you when I cried

Expensive gifts to make up for it all  
The times you beat me down  
But in my eyes you were my king,  
I still gave you the crown.

I wanted you to love me,  
In words and actions too.  
But loving me with all your heart  
Was what you couldn't do.

I gave you every bit of me  
Right down to the last drop.  
But the pain you caused by hurting me,  
Just refused to stop.

I lost it all to be with you  
My kids, my house, my life  
Why would you do all these things to me  
Yet still want me for your wife

So I had to break a promise,  
And that's not in me to do,  
But loving you was killing me  
And baby, now we're through.

So I sincerely hope life treats you way  
better than you did me  
I had to escape and run for my life  
In order to be free

Now my life without you  
Is slowly on the mend  
It is sad that for me to have happiness  
Our story had to end.

You didn't have to break me,  
Just to make me stay  
Although I saw you wouldn't change  
I loved you anyway

Just know that I don't hate you  
I wish you love on end.  
But from you I have to stay away  
So that my heart can mend

I thought this was forever  
And together we'd grow old  
I wish you would've opened your heart  
Tried not to be so cold

Now that our chapter's over  
A new one can begin  
And down the road, sometime from now  
We can try just being friends

But if that just can't happen  
If it's something you cannot do  
Please know I tried with all I had  
To give my love to you

Now I must do what I hate most  
And that is say goodbye  
Farewell my friend, find love again  
Don't let it pass you by

We didn't fail, we tried so hard  
But it wasn't meant to be  
Just love the next one in your life  
With the love you learned from me.

## A Note From the Executive Director



Dear Friends,

When I accepted the position of Underground Railroad's CEO just one year ago, I knew the year ahead would be a whirlwind. In taking a new position and learning a new organization it's easy to fill the days reviewing policies, procedures, grants, and requirements. It's easy to watch the hours go by in back-to-back meetings. It's easy to glance back at the clock only to realize an entire year has passed. What is often not so easy is staying connected to what makes it tick. To me, this means being able to see and experience firsthand the impact of Underground Railroad's programs, and how they transform the lives of those we serve. During this journey, I have been grateful for the clients, staff, volunteers, and donors who have pulled me aside during the rush and allowed me a moment to be slow, to watch our programs work, and to gather strength from their successes. When I visit with survivors I am awed by their courage in the face of threats to their very lives. When I speak with staff, I'm reminded that I lead a team of professionals who have dedicated their careers toward building a more just and equitable world. When I meet our volunteers and donors, I am greeted with extraordinary compassion, solidarity and generosity. I continue to be moved by the incredible goodness that I witness every single day at our facilities and throughout our community of supporters. Watching the clock tick this year often meant one more meeting attended, one more email answered, one more policy updated. But it also meant one more person educated, one more child comforted, one more life saved. Thank you for helping me stay grounded and humbled by this inspiring work—for this year and many years to come.

*Christi Birchmeier*



## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

During the month of October Underground Railroad will be promoting the **#1thing Campaign** on social media. The national campaign, developed by the Domestic Violence Awareness Project, reinforces that change can begin with just one small action. Domestic violence CAN be prevented through the collective voice and power of individuals, families, institutions, and systems. Each "one thing" adds a valuable and powerful component to transforming our communities. Visit our Facebook page and add your **#1thing** in support of eliminating abuse. You may have a chance to win cool prizes just by letting your voice be heard! [facebook.com/UndergroundRailroadInc](https://facebook.com/UndergroundRailroadInc)



Give the **GIFT**  
of **THRIFT!**



**gift cards**  
now available

  
**UNDERGROUND RAILROAD**  
**RESALE**

**BIG SALE**

**BLACK FRIDAY**

**NOVEMBER 23RD**

**ENTIRE STORE 50% OFF**

**NOVEMBER 24TH**

**SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY**  
NOVEMBER 26



5647 State St.  
(989) 249-1924

Business Hours:  
Mon-Sat  
10am-7pm

Donation Hours:  
Mon-Sat  
10am-5pm





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

The Girls on the Run annual 5K celebration will once again lead the Positive Results Downtown Saginaw Holiday Parade. The run is open to the community. It begins at 10:45am at the Castle Museum and finishes at the Andersen Enrichment Center with hot chocolate, a winter market, and an opportunity to check out an awesome cookie house competition inside the Center.

Visit [www.gotrsaginawbay.org](http://www.gotrsaginawbay.org) to learn more about volunteering and registration.



In addition to monetary donations, there are several opportunities for holiday giving:

**Adopt a Family:** You are matched to a specific family of your choosing. You are provided with a list of the ages, genders, sizes, needs and wants of family members. Specific family information is available on October 1st. Shopping for your family members can continue throughout the season.

**Giving Tree:** Instead of being matched to a specific family, you'll receive a list of items that reflect the typical requests of a client of your chosen gender and age range. These items ensure a happy holiday for survivors and their children who unexpectedly enter our emergency shelter near the holiday season.

**Adopt the Emergency Shelter:** You help supply our emergency shelter with items needed for daily living. You'll receive a general list of necessary supplies that include pajamas, underwear, socks, paper products, health and beauty items, bath towels, sheets, blankets, and pillows.

My children were so excited that Santa came to the shelter! We were all afraid Santa wouldn't find us this year.





## Donor Spotlight

Sylvia Reimus

I have known of the existence of Underground Railroad for years, but have never personally known of anyone needing their services. After delivering clothing to the shelter, my daughter began volunteering there. Through her I got to know the needs, and what I could do to support URR and its clients. Now knowing most of the staff personally, I made it clear to them that I wanted to know what their needs were. This has been a win-win for both of us. When I am purchasing a large quantity of an item, clerks or customers often ask what I will do with the purchase. I very happily tell them it's for URR. I spread the word of shelter needs to anyone who will listen to me. The shelter is always full. This organization has been a Godsend for those in need of immediate assistance after leaving a bad situation. I am personally thankful for the shelter staff who lovingly serve their clients on a shoestring budget. It warms my heart to know that clients appreciate this sharing. After supplying food for a meal, a client wrote a thank you note which was given to me. I treasure it. The staff works miracles on a small budget. As I prepared well for retirement, God has guided me to share with those not as fortunate as myself. To perpetuate this sharing after I am gone, URR is part of my planned giving through an endowment fund at the Saginaw Community Foundation. I am happy to leave this legacy to URR and our community.

## Join us for the 1st Annual Love Shouldn't Hurt Charity Hockey Game

**CHARITY HOCKEY GAME** ★ ★

**Love Shouldn't Hurt**

**SATURDAY JANUARY 12** | **7:05 PM**  
The Dow Event Center

To purchase tickets call the Saginaw Spirit at (989) 497-6506  
Or online at [saginawspirit.net/groupsales](http://saginawspirit.net/groupsales)  
Group ID: Love  
Password: Spirit

Ask for a CHARITY TICKET and \$5 will support the fight against domestic violence. The charity ticket is a \$13 Upper Level ticket

UNDERGROUND RAILROAD, INC.  
BAY AREA WOMEN'S CENTER  
shelterhouse  
hope, healing & empowerment

SAGINAW SPIRIT VS Spitfires

SEE YOU ON THE ICE



# October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month



UNDERGROUND RAILROAD, INC.



1 in 3 three women has been beaten, coerced into sex, or otherwise abused during her lifetime.



Every 9 seconds in the US a woman is assaulted or beaten.



Studies suggest that up to 10 million children witness some form of domestic violence annually.



The cost of intimate partner violence exceeds \$5.8 billion each year



Violence is a bigger threat to the health of women ages 15-49 than cancer, malaria and traffic accidents combined.

In 2016,  
there were

**92,823**

reported incidents of  
**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**  
in Michigan



LAST YEAR

**SAGINAW**

COUNTY POLICE

responded to

**2099**

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

INCIDENTS

## How we help

Annually Underground Railroad provides...



1 or more services to over 4,000 families in Saginaw County



over 13,000 nights of emergency shelter for women & children



violence prevention education to over 4,000 Saginaw County students



Over 4,000 hours of individual and group counseling



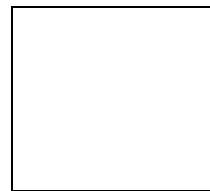
Community presentations to over 100 groups





UNDERGROUND RAILROAD, INC.

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Saginaw, MI 48603  
Business Phone: 399-0007  
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[www.facebook.com/UndergroundRR](http://www.facebook.com/UndergroundRR)



[www.twitter.com/URRSaginaw](http://www.twitter.com/URRSaginaw)



[www.undergroundrailroadinc.org](http://www.undergroundrailroadinc.org)

# SHOP FOR GOOD

# AT NO COST TO YOU



Shop, swipe your Plus Card, and earn rewards for Underground Railroad! Here's how to enroll:

1. Visit [KrogerCommunityRewards.com](http://KrogerCommunityRewards.com)
2. Locate your state and click "Enroll Now"
3. Sign in to, or create your online account
4. Search for Underground Railroad, Inc. (organization #JM648)
5. Select Underground Railroad & click "Save"



**amazon**smile  
You Shop. Amazon Gives.

**Earn money for Underground Railroad every time you shop. Here's how:**

1. Visit [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) through your existing Amazon.com account
2. Search for and select Underground Railroad, Inc. as your charity of choice
3. Shop as normal. Most items are eligible for donations, and will show the icon below

Eligible for **amazon**smile donation.

