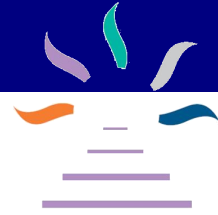


The VOICE



UNDERGROUND RAILROAD, INC.

Fall 2019



“I can’t take this with me.”

Celeste told us the same thing after every support group. She’d hand back all her papers—the brochures, the safety plans, the resource lists. If he found them, he’d know she was trying to leave. And then things would turn scary.

We worked to find her shelter while her self-esteem grew every week at support group. Then came the day that she kept those papers.

“A room opened up! I’m safe now!”
Now Celeste is healing, and celebrating her freedom in small ways. Just last week she was able to paint her nails for the first time in years.

**Thank you for helping
Celeste be herself again.**



A Note From the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

We took a big hit this year. After twenty years of crucial prevention work in Saginaw County, we learned in June that our Rape Prevention Education funding would not be renewed beginning October 1st. Though the monetary loss was substantial, even more crushing was realizing what this setback might mean for our community. For twenty years we've been gaining momentum in an initiative that can ultimately eliminate domestic and sexual violence in Saginaw County— working on community-wide change to challenge and reverse the norms that allow this violence to exist. To think twenty years of work could be lost was gut-wrenching. **But instead of writing to tell you of its failure, I'm writing to thank you for saving it.** While our staff and Board of Directors are still exploring additional options for funding, we know that the costs to operate the program can be covered thanks to the generous donations you provide each year. Thanks to you we can keep educating students about safe relationships. Thanks to you we can keep working with businesses to develop practices that promote equality. Thanks to you we can keep mobilizing men and boys as allies. And thanks to you we can keep influencing legislation that protects and empowers women. Your support means that Saginaw County can still be violence-free. Your belief in our mission is a belief that a better future is possible. Thank you for believing.

Best Wishes,

Christi Buchmeier



GIVE BACK THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

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

To participate in any of the programs below, contact Karen Sova at (989) 399-0007 ext. 100



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.



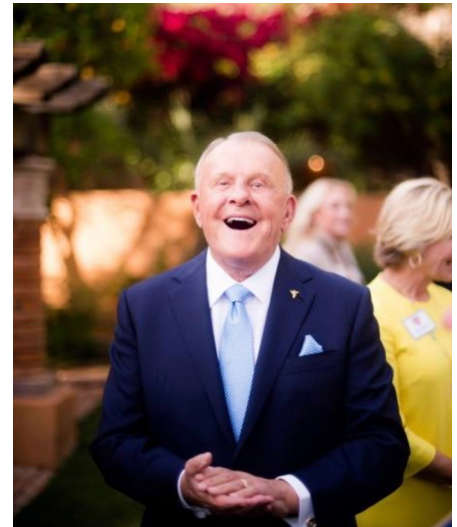
Adopt the Emergency Shelter:

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.

donor spotlight



Bruce Halle left a legacy bigger than tires and treads. Last October was the first time we had heard the name of the late founder of Discount Tire, when a representative from the company reached out about adopting families for the holidays. Since then, the Discount Tire family has been eager to share the philosophy that Halle instilled in each of them, simply to “pay it forward” whenever possible. They speak of Halle with a combination of fondness and reverence, and it’s clear his generosity lives through his company’s employees. Underground Railroad has been a fortunate recipient of this generosity. With Discount Tire stores in three states participating in last year’s holiday giving programs, over 235 women, men, children and pets were adopted, and surplus donations have kept our emergency shelter running smoothly even while at or over capacity. Underground Railroad is also being considered for a Discount Tire Driven to Care grant to help fund prevention education programming. Driven to Care strives to improve the quality of life for those in need within the regional Discount Tire communities. We couldn’t be more grateful for their support, and the lesson that came with it. Once known as the “wealthiest man in Arizona” we now know that Halle’s wealth was more than just dollar signs— it was a deep understanding that kindness is the greatest currency.



Bruce Halle always wore an angel pin, believing that each person has a Guardian Angel that watches over them wherever they go. His angel pin served as a daily reminder to do the right thing, help others, and pay it forward.

2ND ANNUAL ★ ★ CHARITY HOCKEY GAME ★ ★ SATURDAY | JANUARY 11

7:05 PM **Dow Event Center**

To purchase tickets call the Saginaw Spirit at (989) 497-6506 or online at saginawspirit.net/groupsales
Group ID: Love20 Password: Spirit

Ask for a CHARITY TICKET and \$5 will support the fight against domestic violence. The charity ticket is a \$14 Upper Level ticket





What the
girls
are saying



"If you are a girl who is bad at making friends and nobody understands how you're feeling, and you sit alone each day...that was me. Then, I joined Girls on the Run. IT CHANGED MY LIFE! Now I have people who understand me. I love my life because of GOTR"



SAVE THE DATE

NOV. 23 2019

Presented by:



Early registration by October 31 - \$25
Registration after Nov 1 - \$30

Discount of \$5 off each registration for families of 4 or more. The race begins at the Castle Museum and concludes at the Andersen Enrichment Center with hot cocoa, cookies, a cookie house display, the farmers market & a front row seat to the Positive Results Downtown Saginaw Holiday Parade! All community participants and volunteers will receive a pair of foam antlers. Community participants will also receive a ceramic finisher's medallion locally hand-painted by a Girls on the Run program participant. To register to run, walk or volunteer, visit www.gotrsaginawbay.org



OCTOBER IS domestic violence awareness month


It's time we do better for survivors of abuse. Just once a week this month, consider sharing these common myths about domestic violence, and the supportive responses we should be having. Change is possible one conversation at a time.

If you hear:

"I DON'T WANT TO GET INVOLVED IN A PERSONAL MATTER."

Try:

"TALKING ABOUT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HELPS END STIGMA & LETS SURVIVORS KNOW THEY ARE NOT ALONE."



If you hear:

"BUT I'VE KNOWN MY FRIEND FOR YEARS - HE WOULD NEVER DO THAT."

Try:

"ANYONE CAN BE AN ABUSER & ABUSE IS OFTEN HIDDEN. YOUR FAVORITE COUSIN, COLLEAGUE, OR TEAMMATE COULD BE ABUSING THEIR PARTNER & YOU COULD NEVER KNOW."



If you hear:

"WHY DON'T VICTIMS JUST GO OFFLINE?"

Try:

"MANY OF US LIVE & WORK ONLINE. SURVIVORS NEED TO BE ABLE TO STAY SAFE & CONNECTED TO THEIR FRIENDS & FAMILY."



If you hear:

"WHY DON'T VICTIMS JUST LEAVE?"

Try:

"WHY DO ABUSERS CHOOSE TO ABUSE?"



If you hear:

"I'M NOT GOING TO HELP THEM ANYMORE UNTIL THEY'RE READY TO LEAVE FOR GOOD."

Try:

"SURVIVORS SHOULDN'T HAVE TO LEAVE TO BE SUPPORTED. ABUSERS SHOULDN'T BE WELCOME UNTIL THEY STOP THE ABUSE."



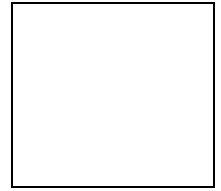
**Stand Up!
Speak Out!**

For more myths and responses that challenge them, visit the National Network to End Domestic Violence on Pinterest



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www.facebook.com/UndergroundRR



www.twitter.com/URRSaginaw



www.instagram.com/undergroundrailroadinc



www.undergroundrailroadinc.org



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. **Giftting 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.

- \$500 Answers one week of calls to the 24 hour crisis helpline
- \$1,000 Shelters a family of four for one month
- \$2,500 Educates 1250 students about healthy relationships
- \$5,000 Feeds our shelter residents families for 6 months