

The Sojourner Truth

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE FRIENDS OF SOJOURNER

40TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

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*Our Mission:
 To provide safe shelter
 for women & children,
 advocacy and education
 for individuals and
 communities victimized
 by domestic violence.*

What 40 Years Means

This year, Sojourner is honored to recognize our 40 years of commitment to providing life-saving and life-changing services to those victimized by domestic violence. Sojourner has evolved through the years and continues to adapt and change to meet the current needs of the community and those we serve. Over the years, countless individuals, groups, faith communities, law enforcement members, and businesses have contributed to Sojourner's growth and ability to provide exceptional services and programs. We continue to be touched by the generosity of those who have continue to support the work we do!

Over the past 40 years, we have increased the safety of thousands of victims of domestic violence and responded to tens of thousands of calls on the crisis line. We have provided community education to increase awareness and prevent future victims and abusers to thousands of community members, businesses, and youth. As a result, we believe we have contributed to increasing the overall safety of the communities in our service area.

The partnerships we have maintained with law enforcement are invaluable to all that we do to increase the safety of those victimized by domestic violence, sexual assault, and elder abuse. But, Sojourner's key asset is our employees! The dedication, passion, professionalism and commitment of current and past staff members have made Sojourner a strong leader in the field of domestic violence. Some of our advocates have been a part of Sojourner's efforts to support victims for over 20 years.

We recently celebrated 40 years of providing hope and stability with a celebratory event on September 19th (check-out the pictures inside) at Brookview in Golden Valley. It was wonderful to see so many supporters in one room! We are so grateful to all who have supported the work we do on behalf of those we serve and we thank you for 40 years of supporting the journey from fear to hope.



Sojourner's Holiday Appeal

Please watch for Sojourner's Holiday Appeal Letter in the next few weeks! Your gift this season will help support Sojourner's ability to provide critical services to those victimized by domestic violence and sexual assault.

A Story of Survival and Hope

Joy, a young mother of a new baby, lived with her boyfriend and his family. Although this should have been a very happy time for the couple, the baby's father became verbally abusive and controlling. Joy grew increasingly uncomfortable as his behavior grew uglier and more often. However, Joy did not anticipate what would happen next.

One day, Joy's boyfriend beat her so badly that she was taken to the hospital where she required emergency surgery. When the decision was made to release Joy from the hospital, she became very frightened. The police had arrested her abuser and he was in jail, but she had no idea when he might be released. She knew he was scheduled to appear in court that day and there was a chance he could be released on bail. She was frightened and needed somewhere

to go that was safe and supportive while she recovered from her injuries and figured out what to do next. She called Sojourner's Crisis Line and arrangements were made for her to enter the shelter.

Advocates prepared for her arrival at the shelter and upon her arrival, she met with an advocate who addressed her fears and concerns. Her advocate listened, provided support, told her about her rights and steps she could take to keep herself safe. A legal advocate from Sojourner's Community Legal Advocacy Department worked closely with Joy and her shelter advocate to put a safety plan in place. They kept Joy apprised of the charges her ex-boyfriend was facing and helped her obtain an Order for Protection. Joy attended support group while staying at the shelter and met with Sojourner's therapist. She

also attended parenting classes to help her be the best mom she could be to her baby.

Joy had to take a medical leave from work and had very little money. The medical bills were piling up from the care she received after the assault. Her car needed repairs and she needed to find childcare during evening hours so that she could return to work. Joy's advocate helped her find the resources she needed to obtain childcare, repair her car, and find a small, safe and affordable apartment for herself and her baby. Her advocate also referred her to a resource that gave her a bed, a crib and some kitchen supplies. She continues to work with her advocate and attends support group occasionally. When we called to ask her if we could use her story Joy said

Remembering Yvonne

We want to honor one of Sojourner's most dedicated advocates, who sadly passed away on April 20th, 2019. Yvonne Nimbar worked at Sojourner from May 1986 until October 2017. She began her career at Sojourner as an advocate at the shelter, which she did until the mid-1990's when she took a position as a Legal Advocate in Sojourner's Community Legal Advocacy Department.

Throughout her 31 years at Sojourner, Yvonne made a huge impact on the thousands of victim/survivors who were fortunate enough to work with her. She tirelessly advocated for them in court, assisted them in obtaining protection orders, supported them through lengthy divorces and custody cases, and gave them helpful and meaningful encouragement as they moved through scary, unpredictable and

often violent times in their lives.

Yvonne also developed, planned and implemented Sojourner's women's support group for many years. She facilitated over 1,000 support groups, providing vital information and care to victims. Women who attended her groups routinely commented how much her groups helped to change their lives and increase their hopefulness for a more stable life.

During her 31 years at Sojourner, Yvonne was also an incredible team member and source of knowledge and strength for all of the staff, volunteers, and interns with whom she worked. She mentored interns, trained and assisted volunteers and offered her wisdom and guidance to newly hired advocates. She always stepped up to support her co-workers at the shelter and in the community program whenever anyone needed



help. We will remember her enduring dedication to Sojourner's mission, her ability to make deep connections with victims, and her willingness to do whatever was necessary to support her clients and co-workers. We greatly appreciate and miss Yvonne. She gave Sojourner and her clients her best and much more than words can express.

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS

On September 19th, almost 200 people came to celebrate 40 years of life-changing and life-saving services for individuals, families, and the community. It was an evening filled of joy and hope! Thank you for all who attended and to all of the generous donors who helped to make this night so special!



Thank you to all of the volunteers and staff who contributed in big and small ways to ensure the success of this celebratory event! We are incredibly grateful for their support and their contributions to make this evening so special!



Remember to follow us on Facebook!
Type in the link below to go directly to our page.

[Facebook.com/sojournerproject1](https://www.facebook.com/sojournerproject1)



Check out our Amazon Wishlist which is updated regularly! Needed items are shipped directly to Sojourner! Log-in to amazon, click on "find a list or registry" and type in "Sojourner Project"....our list will pop right up! We appreciate the support!





P.O. Box 272, Hopkins, MN 55343
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If you would like to receive future newsletters and communications by email or if you would like to be removed from our mailing list, please contact the Program Support Coordinator at 952-351-4062.



Women's Gift Ideas

- Slippers/Robes/Pajamas
- Journals
- Scarves/Mittens/Hat Sets
- Lotion or Body Wash Sets
- Small Gift Cards (\$20-\$30) for:
 - Target
 - Gas Stations
 - Cub Foods

Baby and Children's Gift Ideas

- Lego Kits
- Toy Household Appliances/Toy Tools
- Multicultural Dolls
- Art/Craft Sets
- Board Games

Teen Gift Ideas

- Sports Jerseys Hoodies & Baseball Caps
- Wallets & Purses
- Makeup & Nail Kits
- Footballs & Basketballs

Your financial support truly impacts our programs, clients, and their children year round. Every day we are reminded of your generosity and kindness. Thank you! The holiday season can be an especially difficult time for the families in our program. Below are some suggested gift ideas for our annual Holiday Boutique. Please visit our website at www.sojournerproject.org for a more detailed list.

Gifts will be accepted December 2nd - December 13th, through appointment only. If you have questions or to set up an appointment, please contact Becca at 952-351-4067 or becca@sojournerproject.org. We are so grateful for your support and compassion.

Holiday Boutique Wishlist