

Response



Providing Hope & Healing Since 1980

Purpose: To help survivors of sexual and domestic violence through outreach, advocacy, education and supportive services

WE ARE RESPONSE

Since 1980, Response staff has had the distinction of being the only agency in Shenandoah County that is dedicated to assisting those affected by sexual and domestic violence. Begun as a grassroots effort in 1980 to fill a need in our community, Response has grown over the years into an agency that provides shelter, as well as extensive support services, both in- and out-of-shelter.

Response serves as a resource for advocacy, education, awareness, and prevention of domestic and sexual violence. Our advocates are here to serve men, women, and children who are survivors of physical, sexual, emotional, psychological, and financial abuse.

Some of our advocacy services and programs include court advocacy, domestic and sexual violence services, and children and youth services.

The court advocacy program provides accompaniment, support, referrals, and information for survivors throughout the legal process.

The domestic and sexual violence advocacy program provides immediate responses to crisis situations and addresses safety needs of survivors and their families. This program includes case management, individual support, and assistance in planning for the survivor's safety and personal needs.

The children and youth services program provides short-term support and education to juvenile survivors. This program excels in providing various support groups and educational presentations to students in the local elementary, middle, and high schools.

For further information about the services offered, please contact Response at (540) 459-5599 or visit our new website at www.responseva.org.

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OUR BOARD

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Vice-President: Rhonda Lively
Treasurer: Ardie Wykoff
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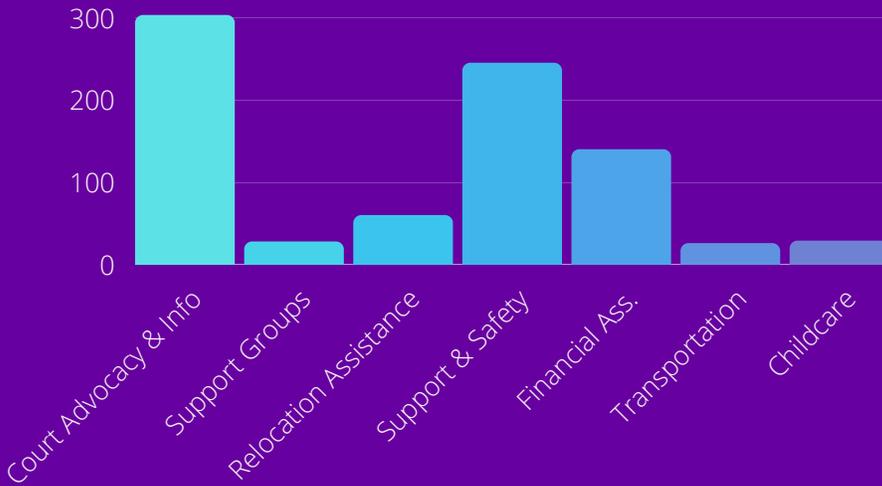
MEET THE TEAM



OUR STAFF

Executive Director: Beth Ogle
Program Director: Sabrina Shirkey
Shelter Services: Stephanie Good
Sexual & Domestic Violence Services: Sarah Hulver
Children & Youth: Jenna Bradley
Court & Community: Kylie Stottlemeyer
Volunteer & Outreach: Lynn McKee
Shelter Supervisors:
 Vivian Rinker
 Barbara Copp

400



SERVICES PROVIDED

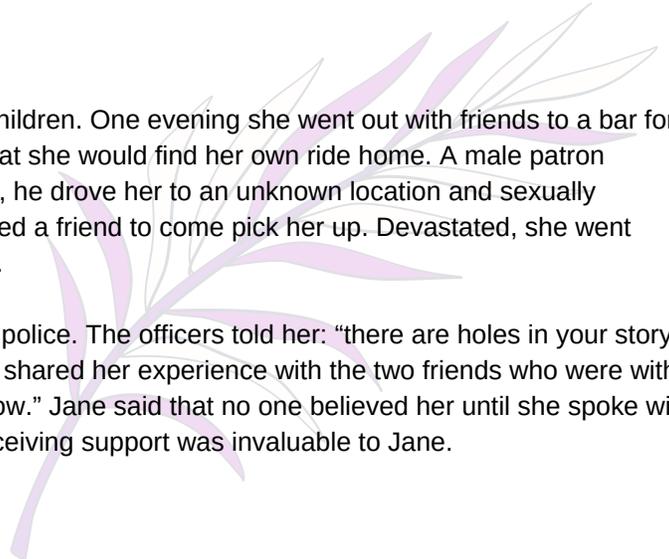
HOTLINE CALLS
355

NEW CLIENTS
76

SURVIVOR STORY

“Jane” is a recent divorcee and now a single mother of three young children. One evening she went out with friends to a bar for a rare night out. When the friends were ready to go, Jane told them that she would find her own ride home. A male patron offered her a ride later that evening. Instead of taking her to her home, he drove her to an unknown location and sexually assaulted her. Afterward, he drove her to a gas station where she called a friend to come pick her up. Devastated, she went home, showered several times, and put her clothing in a garbage bag.

It wasn't until two days later that she felt strong enough to contact the police. The officers told her: “there are holes in your story”, and “you wouldn't have taken the clothes off if it were true.” Jane also shared her experience with the two friends who were with her that night; they also did not believe her because “she seems ok now.” Jane said that no one believed her until she spoke with an advocate at Response. The relief she felt at being believed and receiving support was invaluable to Jane.

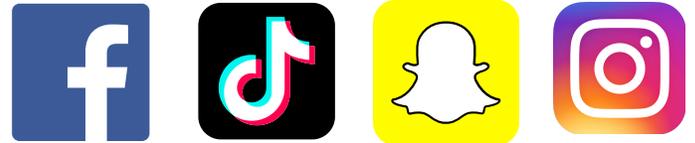


THE MORE YOU KNOW

CONSENT IN A DIGITAL AGE

We tend to think of sexual assault and harassment as taking place in person, but this form of abuse is increasingly becoming more common online as well. Sharing photos without consent, making inappropriate sexual comments, sending unsolicited pictures, making disparaging remarks about one's gender, and grooming children with the objective of sexual abuse, are all forms of sexual violence. Since so much of our time is spent on apps like Facebook,

TikTok, Snapchat, Instagram, etc., it's important that we educate ourselves and our children about the inappropriate behaviors that can happen on these platforms and to be sure we aren't creating an unsafe space for others on our own social media pages. Visit www.nsvrc.org/blogs/saam/digital-consent-age-covid-19, for advice on consent in a digital age.



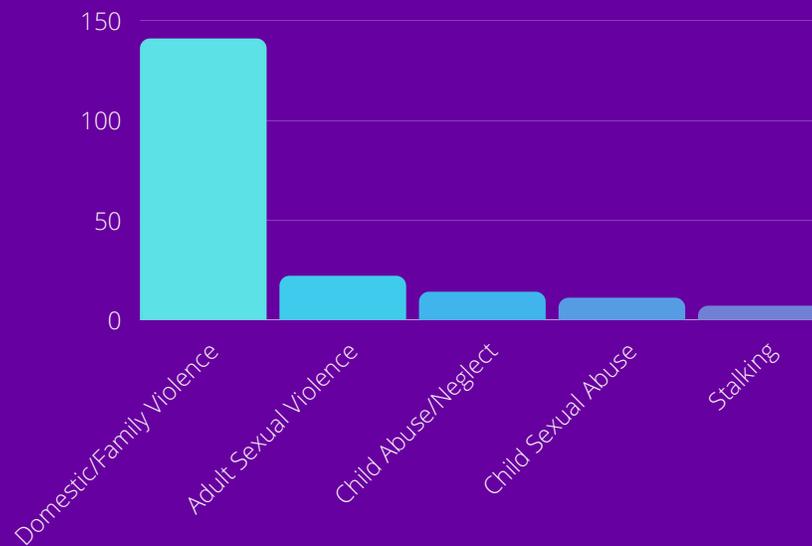
SHELTERED ADULTS

54

SHELTERED CHILDREN

22

VIOLENCE EXPERIENCED



Response Services Report
07/01/20 - 03/31/21

PINWHEEL GARDENS

This April, Response participated in Pinwheels for Prevention for the 8th year. Its goal is to raise awareness about the prevalence and impact that child abuse and neglect have on our children and on our community. Response staff and community members, including law enforcement and town officials, planted pinwheels in Strasburg, Woodstock, and New Market, along with new signs explaining the pinwheel movement. This year we had a total of 38 volunteers come out to help us with the gardens in the sun, rain, and wind!



UPCOMING EVENTS

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

JUNE

*World Elder Abuse Awareness Day
(June 15)*

The day aims to focus global attention to the problem of physical, emotional and financial abuse of elders. On this day, we will spread awareness and educate our community on Elder Abuse and the various forms it takes.



OCTOBER

*Domestic Violence Awareness Month
(Oct. 1—Oct. 31)*

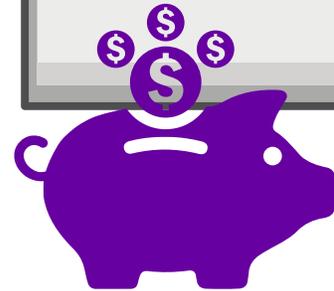
This October, in honor of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Response will host a 5K at the County Park (Saturday, Oct. 2) and candlelight walks throughout the county to honor survivors and victims of domestic violence.



NOVEMBER

*Giving Tuesday
(Nov. 30)*

Celebrate Giving Tuesday by making a charitable donation to Response! Stay tuned to our social media pages during the month of November to see how you can contribute.



EMPOWERMENT PARTNERS

Would you like to be part of our effort to assist survivors of domestic and sexual violence in their journey to independence? Welcome to our newly redesigned “Empowerment Partners” program.

As with most non-profit agencies, Response is continually looking for ways to fund the services that we offer to our community members. Federal, state, and local grants provide most of our operating costs, but there are so many goods and services that are not covered by these sources yet are necessary to provide the help that our clients need. Examples of some of these items are medications, fees to replace lost or stolen documents, car repairs, and gift cards for everyday necessities.

In the past, our “100 Women Club” has been essential in helping to provide these vital services for our clients; in light of the growth and change that has been happening at Response in the past year, we are redesigning this program in order to allow all who wish to participate a convenient way to do so.

In order to become an Empowerment Partner, we are asking folks to pledge \$120 annually, which can be set up as a \$10/month recurring donation. You may visit our website at responseva.org/programs to join online. For those who would rather pay by check, please make the check payable to Response, Inc., designate it for “Empowerment Partner” in the memo line, and send to Response, PO Box 287, Woodstock, VA 22664.

Thank you so much for your support which will open opportunities for the journey to independence!

START BY BELIEVING

WE CAN ALL BEGIN BY SAYING, “YOU ARE WORTHY, I AM HERE FOR YOU, AND I BELIEVE YOU.”

“Start By Believing”. This phrase refers to victims of sexual assault, and is such an important component of a survivor’s experience that there is an entire campaign devoted to it. End Violence Against Women International launched this initiative in 2011 in an effort to end the cycle of violence and change the way society responds to sexual violence.

Why is believing survivors so important? First of all, survivors report that having a supportive person who believes that the assault happened makes a huge difference in their recovery. In addition to emotional support, survivors may receive important information and help with tangible needs as a result of disclosing to a family member, friend, or advocate. Survivors who share their experience with a supportive person are also more likely to report their assault to law enforcement.

This assistance is vital since victims of sexual assault historically have a very low rate of reporting to law enforcement; only 230 out of 1000 survivors choose to make a formal report. One of the most common reasons for not reporting is that the victim thinks they will not be believed and that the police will not do anything to help. Until our society accepts sexual assault reports as valid, the rate of reporting and bringing the perpetrators to justice will remain low.

Since it seems that believing sexual assault survivors is a critical part of helping them, why are folks reluctant to believe? This is a complicated issue, the root of which goes back centuries and is a result of the view that women are legally and socially worth less than men. This view, combined with the stereotype that females are more prone to hysteria, has created a culture in which women are not trusted or believed about many things, including rape and sexual assault.

An accusation of rape is a serious one, so what about false reports? Many people hesitate to believe survivors because if they are lying, there is the potential to ruin an innocent person’s life. Statistics tell us that false allegations of sexual misconduct fall somewhere between 2 and 10 percent, which is the same rate as for other crimes. And when we look at the reasons why reports might be classified as false, we find things like delayed reporting, inconsistencies in details, or a victim’s decision not to cooperate with investigators; all of these reasons commonly occur with traumatized assault victims and are not necessarily an indication of a false report, but rather a reflection of the victim’s emotional state.

It is important to know that believing survivors is not a substitute for investigation and due process, but rather a call for survivors’ voices to be taken seriously. As we encourage our communities to “Start By Believing”, the hope is that we will improve our societal response to survivors of sexual violence by providing much needed support.

connect with us



540-459-5161



info@responseva.org



**Follow @responsedvsa on Instagram
to see what we're up to!**



**Join Response, Inc. on Facebook for
news and event/awareness updates.**



**Visit www.responseva.org to find
helpful resources and ways to get
involved or donate.**

**ALL SERVICES ARE
FREE & CONFIDENTIAL &
CAN BE ACCESSED 24-7.**

LA HISTORIA DE GERARDO

MALTRATO Y ABUSO DE LAS PERSONAS MAYORES

Gerardo, quien tiene 73 años, tuvo un derrame cerebral que lo dejó incapacitado para cuidarse por cuenta propia. Su hijo se ofreció a ayudarlo y Gerardo se mudó con él y su familia. Pero el hijo y la nuera de Gerardo trabajaban todo el día y estaban ocupados con sus hijos por las noches. Gerardo odiaba ser una carga para ellos y trataba de cuidarse a sí mismo.

Un día, Carmen, una amiga de Gerardo, vino a visitarlo. Se sorprendió al ver que tenía manchas de comida en su ropa y llagas en los talones. Además, su habitación olía a orina. Gerardo parecía deprimido y retraído y no se parecía en nada al hombre alegre y ocurrente que había sido su amigo durante tantos años. A Carmen le preocupaba que la familia de Gerardo lo estuviera descuidando.

El maltrato y el abuso puede sucederle a cualquier persona, sin importar la edad, el sexo, la raza, la religión, o el origen étnico o cultural de la persona. Cada año, cientos de miles de personas mayores de 60 años son maltratadas, abandonadas o económicamente explotadas. A esto se le llama maltrato o abuso de ancianos.

El maltrato de ancianos puede ocurrir en muchos lugares, incluso en el hogar de la persona mayor, en la casa de un familiar, en un lugar de vivienda asistida o en un hogar de ancianos. El maltrato a las personas mayores puede darse por parte de familiares, desconocidos, proveedores de atención médica, cuidadores o amigos.

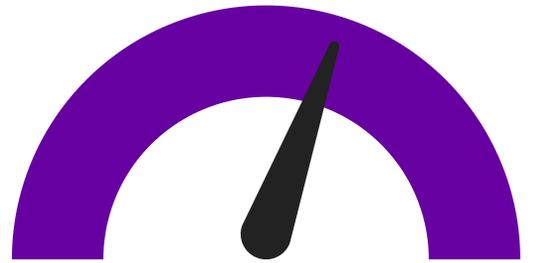
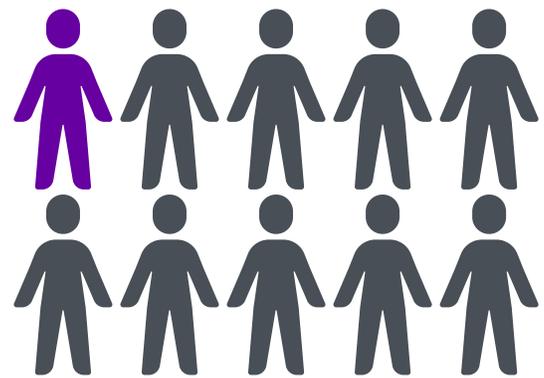


ELDER ABUSE FACTS

WHAT IS ELDER ABUSE?

ELDER ABUSE INCLUDES PHYSICAL, EMOTIONAL AND SEXUAL ABUSE, EXPLOITATION, NEGLECT AND ABANDONMENT.

APPX. 1 IN 10 AMERICANS AGED 60+ HAVE EXPERIENCED SOME FORM OF ELDER ABUSE



IN ALMOST 60% OF ELDER ABUSE & NEGLECT INCIDENTS, THE PERPETRATOR IS A FAMILY MEMBER

AN 8-WEEK SUPPORT GROUP FOR
THE 60+ COMMUNITY

LOOKING FORWARD

Safety planning, Budgeting, Coping, Support,
& more.

RESPONSE, INC.

Contact Sarah Hulver
540-459-5599
sarahh@responseva.org

JULY 7,
2021
TIME TBA

Response, Inc.
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Woodstock, VA 22664

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DONATIONS

THANK YOU FOR YOUR MONETARY AND IN-KIND DONATIONS FROM
JANUARY 15TH 2021 TO APRIL 30TH 2021

Individuals

Michael & Heather Ashley
Charles & Linda Bailey
Bill & Judy Beavers
Barry Vincent Bergey
Sally Bowers
C Wesley & Mitzi Burgess
Elaine La Chapelle
Christiana Crabill
David & Catherine Christovich
Danelle Delozier
Sally Domen
Frances Edwards
Clare Ellis
Lori Fadely
Elizabeth S. Fowler
Shelba Funk
Nita Gates
Charlene Good
Susan Harper
Steven & Cecilaine Hecker
Cecil & Ella Heishman
James & Harriet Hiner
Thomas & Linda Hodges
Richard & Linda Howell
Joe & Robin Jackson
Cheryl Kerr
Anna Lamma
Lola Lane
Barbara Lafever
Denise Liller
Doris Lineweaver
Tammy Lewis
Christopher & Candice Lopresti
Judith Marden
Bruce & Valetta McClinton
Chanda Miller
Mary Miller
William & Shirley Moyers
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Karen Olson
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• Ken & Sandra Pruet
• Ida May Pugh
• Jim & Donna Rhodes
• Johan & Tisha Richman
• Shannon Roberts
• Daniel & Brenda Rosenberger
• Leo & Gloria Ryman
• Bonnie Semans
• Robert & Linda Schmidt
• Brandi Sheetz
• Kirk & Linda Shipley
• Judy Sine
• Karen Ashcraft Smallwood
• Walter & Margaret Mary Smith
• James & Kim Stevenson
• Linda Suter
• Susan Sutphin
• Gary Tiller
• Charles Thomas & Rhonda Zingraff
• Mary Thompson
• Phyllis Umberger
• William & Susan Walls
• William & Meta Wender
• Amy Whittington
• Douglas Woodward
• Ardith Wykoff
• Henry & Laura Zimmerman

Businesses

• Blue Ridge Housing Network
• Fidelity Charitable
• Haun-Magruder
• Lee's Auto Repair
• Lee's Trucking
• Main Street Teaze & Tweeze
• Monica P. Johns, LPC
• On Second Thought
• Pershing
• Regulas Group
• Shentel
• Sprint

• Stuart Leake Realtor
• Trex

Schools

• SHES Sunshine Committee
• SKMS FCCLA
• Strasburg High School

Churches

• Bethel Church of the Brethren
• Bethel Lutheran Church
• First Baptist
• Lighthouse Marketplace
• Ministries
• Maurertown Brethren
• Mt. Olive Methodist Church
• Missions Committee
• Oak Level Church
• Saint Mary's Pine Lutheran Church
• VA Hills Church
• Valley Pike Church of the Brethren
• Woodstock UMC
• Wakemans Grove Church of the Brethren
• Wakesmans Grove
• Peacemakers

Empowerment Partners (Formerly 100 Women Club)

• Patricia Albaugh
• Joan M. Anderson
• Judy Beavers
• Carol V. Boyer
• Rhonda Buckley
• Judith Buechner
• Catherine Christovich
• Kay Crawford
• Patricia Fisher
• Marian B. French
• Robin Grubbs

• Susan Harper
• Doris Hepner
• Lynn R. Holtzman
• Robin Hottle
• Robin Jackson
• Cheryl Kerr
• Janet Kilby
• Barbara Kirkland
• Pamuela Kitner
• Susan Koller
• Sarah Kohrs
• Candice Lopresti
• Suzanne Montgomery
• Sally Montrey
• Marjorie Van Nest
• Betty Phillips
• Joan Reistetter
• Brenda Rosenberger
• Suzanne Roulston
• Wilhelmina Santiful
• Janet N. Sommerfeldt
• Jeanne Teller
• Margaret A. Trott
• Karen Whetzel
• Ardith Wykoff
• Laura Zimmerman

Organizations

• Amazon Smile
• Gelco Philanthropic Foundation
• Network For Good
• Shenandoah Community Foundation
• Shentel Foundation
• The Blackbird Giving Fund
• United Way PA
• Woodstock Lions Club