

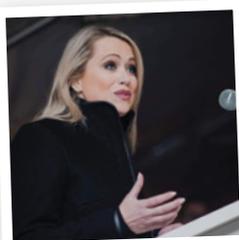


voices

A tri-annual publication from Safe Haven Ministries

"A Place of Refuge and Hope" Ps. 46:1

A NOTE FROM MEGAN



December 11, 2019 marked one full year of operation in our new facility. We are continually humbled by the partnerships and support we have

received from the community to not only make this facility operational, but to continue sustaining the work that we began almost 30 years ago.

To continue providing expert services to the survivors and communities of West Michigan, we have completed a 3-year strategic plan to identify intentional strategic community partners, sustainable growth, and a focused trauma-informed, client-centric approach to services. Our new Diversity, Equity and Inclusion plan will also be completed by Spring 2020 and will be woven into our strategic plan. We look forward to sharing this work with you as we continue to grow.

Safe Haven Ministries is a ministry that serves all, including those who may not otherwise have access to trauma-informed domestic violence services. All are welcomed and given hope and refuge at Safe Haven. We look forward to continuing our mission to end domestic violence, following Christ's example.

With warm regards,

Megan E. Hopkins, Executive Director



FAITH & DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

For the past two years, Safe Haven has worked with local faith communities to train and equip their leaders and laity to prevent and respond to domestic violence in their own communities. Since its inception, this one-of-a-kind program has been well received by churches across denominations and sizes, and Safe Haven has worked to certify 12 churches and counting in the Greater Grand Rapids area. This program combines comprehensive trainings with a tailored Domestic Violence Response Plan to help churches establish policy that will help create cultures of prevention and effective response should someone in their congregation report domestic violence.

Through the *Creating a Safe Haven: Church Certification* program, Safe Haven Ministries works with church staff, leaders, and volunteers to provide training and guidance on supporting victims/survivors and safety planning for survivors and the church. The program also helps churches engage in primary prevention, by creating systems and policy that necessitate the discussion of healthy relationships across all development stages. This program ensures that leadership and church members *believe survivors* and emphasize the creation of safe spaces for survivors to speak about their experiences and ask for the support they may need. The training component of the certification is held on site at Safe Haven, and the dates for Church Certification cohorts are tentatively set for March 2020, and June 2020.

(continued on page 3)

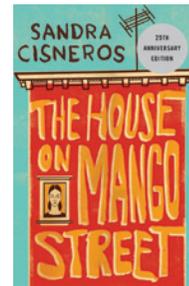
GENDER EQUITY READING INITIATIVE

One of our newest initiatives at Safe Haven is the Gender Equity Reading Initiative. The Gender Equity Reading Initiative, or the GERI (pronounced, "Jerry," affectionately by Safe Haven staff), will focus on sexual and domestic violence prevention by utilizing literature to help facilitate dialogue and learning. The main goal of the GERI is to expose youth of all ages to empowering messages and healthy social norms that aid in reducing the likelihood that they will choose violence.

The books selected for GERI cover a wide range of topics including harmful gender norms and stereotypes, consent, and female empowerment. Safe Haven will provide the books on the curated list along with accompanying educational toolkits to three community partners: the Grand Rapids Public Library Main Branch; Books & Mortar; and a Mothers of Preschoolers group from the 49507 zip code.

Along with supplying the books, Safe Haven is also creating educational toolkits. These resources will be directed toward parents/caregivers as well as the youth, and will include developmentally-appropriate ways

for the reader and/or parent to facilitate further discussion around key themes of the book. We recognize that parents might need extra support when talking to their children about sensitive topics and the goal of these guides is to empower individuals to have potentially tough but very important conversations with children of all ages. Additionally, these materials will include support resources and tips for how parents/caregivers can create supportive environments if a child has already experienced a form of violence. The toolkits will be available in print and through an online platform on Safe Haven's website.



The House on Mango Street
Sandra Cisneros
Cover art by Edel Rodriguez



Some Secrets Should Never Be Kept
Jayneen Sanders
Illustrated by Craig Smith



Don't Touch My Hair!
Sharee Miller



In charge of coordinating the GERI, Jarred Daniels is one of Safe Haven's newest team members. Jarred is a Grand Valley State University alumnus with a degree in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. He has a passion for education and working with youth. His goal is to see the GERI help youth discover the power of words and their voices.

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

We are thrilled to report that with the support of the community, we exceeded our year end fundraising goal of \$215,000! Thank you for supporting survivors through financial gifts and in-kind items such as snow pants, winter coats, new clothing, pajamas, toys, food, and hygiene items. Because of your gifts, survivors receive dignity, hope, and the resources they need to begin lives free from violence.





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If you are in need of services for yourself or a friend or family member, please call our hotline.

HELP IS AVAILABLE.
**FREE,
CONFIDENTIAL,
24/7.**
616.452.6664

CONNECT WITH US

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SIGNS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Though the name “domestic violence” implies that it is an issue confined to the home, domestic violence, also known as intimate partner violence, impacts millions of men, women and children each year. At Safe Haven, we believe that no one deserves to be abused and that not all abuse looks the same. If you can answer, “yes,” to any of the questions below, you may be in an abusive relationship.

Does Your Partner:

- Put you down, blame, humiliate, or shame you?
- Hit, shove, choke, restrain, or use force against you or your property?
- Talk you into doing sexual things which are embarrassing to you or that feel bad?
- Intimidate you or cause you fear?
- Occasionally apologize for being hurtful or demanding, but the pattern doesn't seem to change?
- Convinces you that you are at fault for everything that goes wrong?
- Find fault with all your friends and family and seem to know what's best for you? (e.g. how you should dress, who you should talk to, etc.)
- Wake you up to fight in the middle of the night or keep you from sleeping until they are ready to quit fighting?

Safe Haven strives to serve all people equally without regard to age, race, religious belief, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, ability, or socioeconomic status. **Help is available. Free, Confidential, 24/7. 616.452.6664**

(continued from page 1) National Conference on Domestic Violence

Interest in this program from local and national congregations has grown, and with it, the need to continue the partnerships with faith communities. This past September, our own Director of Prevention and Education, Tara Aday, and Director of Client Services, Holly Wilson, traveled to Washington D.C. to present on our Church Certification program at the National Conference on Domestic Violence, a conference attended by individuals and domestic violence agencies from all over the country. This opportunity allowed Safe Haven to share the program for training faith communities on a national level, using our individual program as a foundation for a larger conversation about the need and opportunity for domestic and sexual violence agencies to more intentionally engage faith communities in prevention and intervention strategies. Tara and Holly's presentation identified best practices and effective approaches for all agencies, regardless of religious affiliation.



If your church is interested in the Church Certification, please call Tara Aday at 616.452.6664 or visit www.shmgr.org/church-certification



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Please Join Us

CELEBRATION
OF HOPE

APRIL
30
2020

FREDERIK MEIJER GARDENS | 1000 E Beltline Ave NE, Grand Rapids, MI
6:00 PM NETWORKING RECEPTION | 6:30 PM DINNER | 7:15 PM PROGRAM

RSVP

RSVP BY THURSDAY, APRIL 16
shmgr.org/celebrationofhope

QUESTIONS? Contact Debbie Murphy at
dmurphy@shmgr.org or 616.452.6664