

February 2026

SAFE PASSAGE

NEWSLETTER



EVENTS

FEB 26

TEEN MUSIC & BINGO PARTY

Grades 6th through 12th are welcome!

Batesville Library Annex Building- 3PM to 4:30 PM

MAR 11

UNSEEN ADVOCATES: The Vital Role of First Responders in Domestic Violence Advocacy

Ivy Tech Lawrenceburg Riverfront | 6pm-10pm

[REGISTER HERE](#) - More details on following pages

MAR 12

UNSEEN ADVOCATES: The Vital Role of First Responders in Domestic Violence Advocacy

Ivy Tech Madison Business Conference Center | 11am-3pm

[REGISTER HERE](#) - More details on following pages

APR 29

SUPPORT WITH A FORK

Hamline Church | Lawrenceburg, IN | 11am-1pm

Information on how to reserve your lunches on following pages

A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR...

We are so grateful for everyone who shined their light on the mission of Safe Passage through sponsoring, donating, decorating, or attending our winter We Help, We Hope, We Heal fundraising and awareness event. We had the privilege of welcoming Nichole Schmidt and Tara Petito with the Gabby Petito Foundation to southeast Indiana to share their daughter's story and how Gabby has inspired them to turn grief into action. We are thrilled to accept their challenge for action by having their Foundation return to our service area in March. Gabby's bonus dad, Jim Schmidt, will facilitate two training opportunities specifically designed for first responders, who are our frontline and often unseen advocates. We are asking you to help by referring those you know who are 911 dispatchers, firefighters, emergency medical services, law enforcement, social workers, educators and crisis intervenors to attend this impactful opportunity to improve a coordinated multidisciplinary response to domestic violence. Your attendance and referrals will help, in Nichole's words, "to make sure that Gabby's light, and the light of every victim of domestic violence, continues to shine."

[REGISTER HERE](#)

In your light,



UNSEEN ADVOCATES:

The Vital Role of First
Responders in Domestic
Violence Advocacy

March 11, 2026

Ivy Tech Lawrenceburg Riverfront
6p-10p
Dinner Provided

March 12, 2026

Ivy Tech Madison Business
Conference Center
11a-3p
Lunch Provided



SCAN QR CODE TO REGISTER NOW
Priority Given to 911, Fire/EMS, LEO

This course equips First Responders with essential knowledge and skills to effectively respond to domestic violence incidents. It covers recognizing the dynamics of domestic violence, ensuring scene safety, identifying signs of strangulation, and providing trauma-informed care. Participants will also be introduced to local and national resources and learn strategies for improving their response to domestic violence.

-FREE-
**IN PERSON
TRAINING**
featuring:

JIM SCHMIDT



Gabby Petito Foundation

Survivor Advocate & Ret. Fire Officer
Gabby Petito's Bonus Dad

Training Provided by Safe Passage, Inc.

Serving Ripley, Dearborn, Franklin, Ohio,
Switzerland, & Jefferson Counties



Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month

February 2026



SR JAG



Youth Pledge for Healthy!

Thank you South Ripley JAG (pictured above) for organizing Hoops for Hope, an awareness event spotlighting Safe Passage and collecting donations on our behalf.



Orange Day



Donation Drive

This month the prevention team has been talking about the importance of respect in relationships during programming. Safe Passage is also partnering with youth groups to raise awareness and hosted a free community movie!



CURRENT SHELTER NEEDS



- Monetary Donations or Gillman's Gift Cards to purchase supplies for upcoming
- Spring Spruce Up event in March
- Looking for storage unit owners in the Jefferson County, Ohio County, or Switzerland County areas who would be willing to donate a storage unit to Safe Passage. These units would be used to hold items that are donated for our clients who have fled their violent situation and are starting over in a safe environment.
- Volunteers and donations are needed for our Support the Fork event in Lawrenceburg on April 29. See graphic for more details and contact us if interested!

Our [Amazon Wishlist](#) is updated with current shelter needs. Check back anytime during the month to see the current list, have an item from the list sent directly to us, or use the list to purchase items locally. When dropping off donations, please let the Advocate know you are donating to the Kindness Network. If you need assistance with a donation, please call 812-933-1990. THANK YOU!

Gillman Gift
Cards

Storage Unit
Owners

Volunteers in
Lawrenceburg
area

THANK YOU!

We Help. We Heal. We Hope.

The 2025 We Help. We Heal. We Hope. fundraising event at Walhill Farm on December 6 was a wonderful success! Thanks to the incredible support of our guests and the dedication of our volunteers, we had a record breaking year - both in attendance AND in funds raised for our mission!

A very special thank-you to our keynote speakers, Nichole Schmidt and Tara Petito with the Gabby Petito Foundation, for sharing their courage, their story, and their commitment to creating change. Their words moved us, challenged us, and reminded us why this work matters.



SUPPORT WITH A FORK!

Wednesday, April 29

11:00a-1:00p

Lawrenceburg, IN

Pick Up at Hamline Church

\$15

**PULLED PORK
SANDWICH,
CHIPS, COLE
SLAW &
DESSERT**

**SCAN THE QR CODE TO RESERVE
YOUR LUNCHES BY 4/15!**



ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT SAFE PASSAGE, INC.

CHEERS TO 15 YEARS!

Advocates play a critical role in Safe Passage's mission. They're the comforting voice on the other end of the phone when someone is desperate for help and has found themselves living a nightmare of domestic violence; they're the responder to that text message that took a young girl months to send because she was afraid to ask for help but had finally had enough. You can't take back a first impression and our advocates are always prepared to make the next client feel heard and understood, while also ensuring their immediate safety and offering highly skilled responses on what comes next.



We want to recognize Shelter Advocate, Gloria Eversull, on 15 YEARS of service to our mission here at Safe Passage. Gloria covers the night shift at Safe Passage, which often brings some of the higher lethality calls from victims and law enforcement. Gloria says her favorite thing about her role at Safe Passage is that she gets to be of service to the community and can be there for victims when they first arrive at shelter. When she's not at the shelter answering texts/calls from our 24/7/365 hotline, Kathy loves spending time with her grandkids and pets, hiking, and folkdance! She's also an avid traveler who has been to Greece and Romania on a choir tour - Gloria has a Bachelor's Degree in Music! Most recently, she traveled to Japan with her daughter.

Thank you Gloria, for your continued commitment to Safe Passage and those we serve.

24 HOURS A DAY. 7 DAYS A WEEK. 365 DAYS A YEAR.

Did you know that Safe Passage advocates are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year? Evenings, we're here. Holidays, we're here. Weekends, we're here then, too! We know that domestic and sexual violence doesn't just occur during the convenience of the day and we are serious about our mission of providing help, healing, and hope to these victims - no matter when. We launched what was formally known as the Toll-Free Crisis Line in 2001, adding text abilities in 2021. **Since the inception of this helpline, Safe Passage has answered the call for help 18,500 times!** In the last 5 years alone, we've received nearly 5,000 calls, with the last couple years being the highest volume on record.

The purpose of the 24/7/365 helpline is to connect domestic and sexual violence survivors, as well as community partners, with a live person to provide immediate access to safety and resources in the local community. Advocates are trained to provide crisis intervention, safety planning, and emotional support and will assist that individual with developing a plan specific to their immediate needs which may include access to safe shelter, medical intervention, counseling and education.

Calls/texts to our hotline continue to trend upwards, as community members make a call or text to Safe Passage their first contact toward safety. Safe Passage is also active on social media and our recently redesigned website is a great resource around the clock.



CALL US

1-877-733-1990

We Recycle



cell phones and ink cartridges

These donations enable us to purchase emergency phones for clients and receive credit toward office supplies.

CONNECT WITH US!



[@helphealinghope](https://www.facebook.com/helphealinghope)



[@safepassageinc](https://www.instagram.com/safepassageinc)



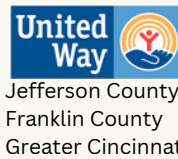
www.safepassageinc.org

GRANTS & SUPPORT

THANK YOU to the following organizations for recently awarding grant funds to Safe Passage.

- **Ron Powell Family Fund through the Dearborn Community Foundation** - to be used towards fundraising costs for annual HHH event
- **Dearborn Community Foundation City of Lawrenceburg Youth Grant** - for needs of the programs for Dearborn County youth residents served by Safe Passage
- **United Way of Greater Cincinnati & The Cincinnati Enquirer** - to grant Christmas wishes for a selected Safe Passage family
- **Larry and Nancy Reidy through the Ripley County Community Foundation** - to be used for unrestricted/general operating support to advance the ongoing mission of Safe Passage

Safe Passage also thanks the City of Lawrenceburg, Ripley County, City of Greendale, and the Town of Hanover for their recent donations, along with our United Way partners for their ongoing support.



Jefferson County
Franklin County
Greater Cincinnati



City of Greendale
Indiana



A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Our annual client Christmas party and gift program provided 37 clients and their children with gifts this holiday season. Safe Passage and our clients are so grateful to the many community members and organizations, such as Baxter and Southeastern Indiana YMCA, for making this Christmas extra special. The Rise Up Women Group provided and decorated for the party; Susan Robbins Catering provided the pasta buffet; and Phi Gamma Nu business fraternity from Miami University helped with client gifts for the party.

If you would like to donate to this cause next Christmas, please reach out!

