

November Newsletter

Where Did #MeToo Go?



It was three years ago that the #MeToo movement went viral, with the accusations of Harvey Weinstein's sexual assaults being made public. Since that time, Weinstein has been convicted of rape and other sexual offenses, and was sentenced to 23 years in prison. So what has happened with

the movement in general? What progress has been made in the prevention of sexual assault?

It seems as though we haven't heard much about #MeToo in the past year; granted, there have been a few other events that have taken precedence, such as a pandemic, the election, BLM, etc. But even though it may not be a current hot topic in the media, there have definitely been some effects from the #MeToo movement.

One of the goals of the movement was to raise awareness of the impact and pervasiveness of sexual assault and harassment; we see that this has definitely happened, as the general community has become accustomed to hearing those topics discussed in the media. Although it is still difficult for some people to talk about, the tide is slowly changing.

In some states, laws providing protections have been enacted. Laws prohibiting the use of non-disclosure agreements in sexual misconduct cases and laws protecting independent contractors from sexual harassment are two examples.

The Time's Up Legal Defense Fund, which was created by a group of women in the entertainment business, has raised over \$24 million to help individuals who have experience sexual harassment at their workplace to seek justice in the legal system.

Congress has actually taken steps to reform the process for staffers reporting sexual misconduct; it eliminated a mandatory 3-month waiting period for employees reporting harassment and it barred legislators from using public funds to cover such settlements.

The #MeToo movement has changed the way that people think about the power dynamic in relation to gender. This movement has opened up discussion about the historical oppression of women and the resulting reluctance to report sexual misconduct due to that imbalance of power.

Perhaps most important of all for our clients is that the #MeToo movement has helped survivors know that they are not alone. As others have come forward, it has been very powerful for our clients to feel support from those prominent in the media as well as those in our local community.

At Response, part of our mission is to help survivors overcome the problem of sexual violence through education and outreach; being able to talk more openly about this topic has helped others become more aware of our services and has encouraged survivors to reach out to us.

Thank you for joining us in advocacy for our clients!

Special Dates

- **Nov 2 - Vol**
Mtg. 3:30pm
- **Dec 1 - Giving**
Tuesday

Current Needs

- **Swiffer Wet Jet pads and liquid**
- **Toilet bowl cleaner**
- **Liquid hand soap**
- **Women's underwear**

Our New Executive Director!

Beth Ogle



There is very exciting news to share here at Response...We would like to welcome Beth Ogle as our new Executive Director! We would like to thank Rhonda Buckley-Bishop who served as our Interim ED for a few months, and are very grateful for all of her hard work in giving us a clear path forward. It was hard to say goodbye to Rhonda, but we are so excited to have Beth as our new leader.

Beth was born and raised in Shenandoah County, attended Radford University, and landed an intern position in Baltimore, where she lived for several years. While there, she met her husband, Glenn, and their employment took them to Manassas, where they lived until moving back to Shenandoah County in 2012.

Beth's family suffered a tragic loss when her cousin and two other family members were murdered as a result of a domestic violence situation; Beth, Glenn, and their daughter moved back to this area soon after the tragedy in order to be closer to family, while Beth continued working remotely with the communication agency where she was employed. At that time, Beth connected with Response in an effort to understand what had happened to her cousin, and ended up taking the volunteer training; soon afterward, a position opened up and Beth began working as the Volunteer Coordinator at Response. She later took the position of Court Advocate, and for the past few years she has helped our clients navigate the court system and has been an invaluable support to many. And now she will have an even greater opportunity to share her passion for this field with our community!

Beth says, "I am really excited to start this fresh chapter at Response. I am most looking forward to working with the board and staff to ensure that Response is a well-known and highly respected resource in our community." Welcome aboard, Beth!

Around the Shelter

Our bulletin board

Victim Blaming

Looks like: Not taking you seriously
Saying the abuse didn't happen
Saying you caused it

Who Can I Talk To?

Your case manager
Any Response Staff Member
National Domestic Violence Hotline:
1-800-799-7233



Isolation

Looks like: Limiting your time outside
Controlling who you talk to and see
Keeping you from friends/family

Emotional Abuse

Looks like: Putting you down
Making you feel crazy
Humiliating you

Recap of Events

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Celebration of Hope Walks

2020's Celebration of Hope Candlelight Walks were a success! Lots of community members, town employees, council members, police officers, board members and volunteers came out each Monday evening to join us in showing support for survivors as well as honoring the memory of victims. Each walk began with a brief overview of Response and our mission, poetry, opportunity for community members to speak and time for reflection, which was then followed by a short walk through the town. A big thank you to all who came out to help bring awareness of domestic violence to our communities!

Strasburg



Woodstock



Mt. Jackson



New Market



Car Wash for a Cause



Oct 3 was a beautiful day for a car wash, and what a success it was! We raised \$643 at this event and were able to share information about domestic violence as well. A big thank you to Saumsville/St. Luke 4H Club for providing the manpower!



Adopt-A-Family

Once again this year Response will be assisting families with Christmas! Clients, both former and present, often need help with providing gifts for their children for the holidays; we ask them to fill out a form with information such as favorite color, sizes, hobbies, etc. We then match the families up with a benefactor, which could be a business, an individual, or a group of friends who would like to shop for a less fortunate family. Response handles all of the communication and pick-up or delivery so that folks can maintain their anonymity.

If you or an organization that you are associated with is interested in adopting a family, please give Sabrina Shirkey a call at 459-5599.