

January Newsletter

Stalking - Know it. Name it. Stop it.

Special Dates

• **Jan 5 - 3:30**
Volunteer mtg.
—Zoom

• **Jan 1-31—**
Nat'l Stalking
Awareness
Month

• **Jan 1— 31 -**
Nat'l Slavery &
Human
Trafficking
Prevention
Month

“Stalking”. Does the word evoke a measure of fear? Stealthiness? Persistence? Stalking has different definitions depending on each state’s law, but when talking about stalking in relation to domestic violence it involves a repeated pattern of harassment, pursuit, or threatening behavior intended to cause fear or apprehension in the survivor.



January is National Stalking Awareness Month, so let’s take a closer look at the power and control tactic known as stalking and what that looks like for DV survivors.

Stalking can take place within an abusive relationship or may occur once the relationship has ended. It often involves frequent phone calls or texts, which may be threatening in nature or may be incessant pleas for a second chance. Abusers will follow the survivor, showing up at their workplace or their friends’ homes. They will intercept the survivor’s mail and vandalize their property. Installing tracking devices on a car, or software on a survivor’s phone is another way stalkers establish control. Abusers will leave notes or gifts in a survivor’s car to let them know that they can reach them any time they want.

Current Needs

- **Paper towels**
- **Swiffer Wet Jet pads and liquid**
- **Liquid hand soap**
- **Furniture polish**
- **13 gal trash bags**

Given that stalking is a form of emotional abuse, the impact on survivors is significant. The effects of being stalked include depression, anxiety, hypervigilance, PTSD, lowered self-esteem, and loss of relationships with family and friends. There are often financial consequences as well. Some survivors lose their employment because the stalking interferes with their ability to do their job; a survivor’s credit may suffer if their mail is taken and bills go unpaid; they may lose their home, car, or phone because of unpaid bills; survivors may have to move or leave a community to stop the stalking. Survivors often feel unsupported, as law enforcement officials and others may not believe the stalking is happening.

How can we help survivors of stalking? We can take them seriously and listen to their fears. Encourage them to keep records of any incidents or interactions. Suggest that they talk with their employer and friends about the situation as part of safety planning. We can support legislation that strengthens the statutes that treat stalking as a serious crime. And maybe most importantly, we can encourage them to work with an advocate so they can get assistance in reporting to the police, obtaining a protective order, taking measures to protect themselves, as well as receiving support and education.

We know that stalking is a dangerous crime, so watch for more information about it on our social media during National Stalking Awareness Month.

Our New Children & Youth Services Coordinator

Jenna Bradley



There certainly have been lots of changes around Response in the past few months, and now we're pleased to introduce our newest staff member!

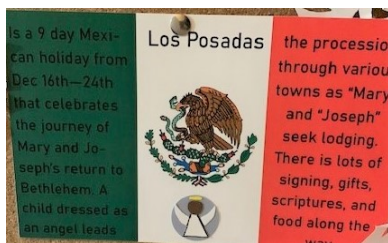
Jenna Bradley is coming to us from PA where she has been living since 2012; but she's returning to her roots as a Shenandoah Valley girl, having lived here most of her life. An alumni of CHS, Jenna graduated from the University of Mary Washington in 2009 with a degree in Psychology and Women's Studies. She has been working in childcare and education for the past eight years, and is looking forward to this new career that will utilize her degrees and experience to benefit Response. Jenna's interest in this field began back in high school, when she was part of the "Hope" teen organization here at Response; her involvement in learning about issues around domestic and sexual violence was one of the factors that influenced her choice of college degree.

She and her husband currently live in Lebanon, PA with their dog, Remy. They enjoy traveling each fall as they take an anniversary trip, visiting wineries and state parks, and exploring places of natural beauty; they are looking forward to moving to our area and continuing their explorations.

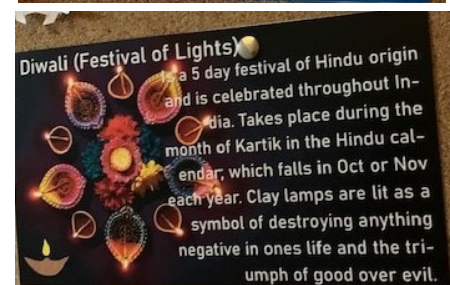
Jenna is excited to take on the role of Children and Youth Services Coordinator (don't worry, Sabrina is not going anywhere, she's moving to a new management role!) and to be part of this team that is dedicated to helping our community! A big welcome to Jenna!

Around the Shelter

Our bulletin board



This month's board features holidays from several cultures, as we strive to recognize and respect those who celebrate differently than we may be familiar with. Hope you enjoy reading about each holiday and the ways they are celebrated!



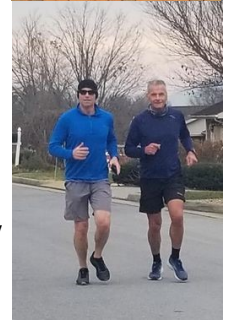
Recap of Events

Nick's Run for Response



A couple of months ago Response was approached by a local resident who was interested in doing a fundraising run for us—and of course we were thrilled!

Nick Brindisi is a newcomer to Woodstock and is a long-distance runner with a special interest in the dynamics of domestic violence. Nick remembers his dad, who was a police officer, talking about the horrors of the domestic violence calls that he attended. Those stories stuck with Nick, and he has carried concern for survivors into his adult life. Nick found a way to combine that passion with his passion for running and for many years Nick has run to raise money for the shelter in his hometown in Ontario. Now that he calls Woodstock home, he was able to do the same thing for Response! On Dec 12, in honor of his birthday, Nick ran 36 miles (58 km) on a hilly route throughout the Woodstock/Edinburg area, helping to raise awareness as well as much-needed funds for our agency! Nick was joined on separate legs of his run by Captain Scott Thompson of SCSO, and Tiana and Jazmin Martinez.



We want to give a big shout-out to Nick for his caring heart on behalf of all of our clients!

Fall Fundraising

There is no doubt about it....2020 was a year like no other! In the non-profit world a lot of energy revolves around raising the necessary funds to keep our programs going in order to fulfill our mission. Although our agency is largely funded by federal and state grants, they only pay for a percentage of costs and there are some items and services that the grants don't cover. Things such as fundraising expenses, capital improvements, liability insurance, medical or dental treatment for clients, moving expenses/security deposits for client housing, and other expenses cannot be paid for by grant funds. Raising funds through community support allows us to cover any gaps not covered by grants.



The pandemic hindered our traditional in-person fundraisers, but our board and supporters got creative with other COVID-friendly ideas which kept us from taking such a hard hit in fundraising. Take a look at what has been going on here at Response:

The owners of the **Woodstock Car Wash** held a fundraiser for us, donating all the proceeds from their new automatic bay for an entire week. **Cindy Hamp**, a Pampered Chef consultant and **Jenni Goode**, an Usborne Books Team Leader both held sales and donated the profits to Response. **Monica Grimes**, a local photographer, offered special portrait packages on behalf of Response. The Response BOD held a car wash with the help of **St Luke-Saumsville 4-H club** and Board member **Brenda Rosenberger** held Facebook auctions each week selling donated items. **Nick Brindisi** ran for us; numerous corporate and individual sponsors donated for our DVAM walks and fall event (the event was cancelled due to a spike in COVID cases, but the sponsors all graciously allowed us to keep their donations).

Whew! We certainly had a flurry of fundraising and it felt like we were constantly asking for money, but please know how much we all appreciate the generosity and efforts of our supporters. A big thank you to all who liked/shared our posts, participated in the fundraisers, and supported us in any way...it really does take a village and our village is the best!