

“Why Transitional Housing Programs Benefit Survivors of Domestic Violence”

By: Kristie Hannah, TSH Advocate

When working with domestic violence survivors, housing is often a need many families face. Survivors have a desire for a new start, a life without violence, away from their assailant. Housing services are one of many services most domestic violence shelters offer their clients. Shelters may not have the funds to provide their own housing program, but instead work with clients to obtain housing by referring them to other agencies. Shelters which have housing programs help clients through a similar process; clients meet with a housing advocate, fill out necessary paper work, add them to a wait list, and provide a housing resource list for their county.

At SafeCenter, a housing advocate provides domestic violence education, budgeting tips and information, assists the client in identifying their current needs and stressors, provides healthy living and education, as well as empathetic listening to the client and their family. Through advocate support, the client can gain confidence in creating a safe and healthy life, away from domestic violence.

It is the hope every survivor is able to support themselves and their family. By assisting clients to obtain one of their basic needs of housing, a domestic violence survivor is given a chance to create a better life for themselves and their family. This leaves them with one less worry. They are then able to focus on other needs, such as finding a job or getting enrolled in school. In some instances, it can give survivors the chance to rebuild relationships, creating a stronger support system. As an advocate, assisting in this process is important and rewarding as we always want what is best for our clients.

SafeCenter is a non-profit agency whose vision is for all individuals to experience the right to be free from violence. Their mission is to build comprehensive and sustainable community strategies to eliminate domestic and sexual violence in Clinton and Shiawassee Counties. For more information regarding services, contact SafeCenter at 1-877-952-7283 or via email at safecenter@thesafecenter.org