STEP



A campaign to support the changing needs of victims and survivors of domestic violence

EVERY VICTIM HAS A FACE. EVERY SURVIVOR HAS A STORY.

When you hear about domestic abuse, you probably imagine a woman's face. And you might have ideas about her story. You could be right, of course.

But you might be very wrong.

TODAY OUR COMMUNITY IS MORE DIVERSE THAN EVER.

And this means our challenges are more diverse, too.

In addition to what we used to know about domestic violence, there are now more complexities and more people at risk.

New faces and new stories.

They are often just a step away from you. Adults and children you see but whose lives you cannot imagine.

As our society changes, so must our response to its hardest problems.

THIS IS WHY FAMILY SERVICES IS BUILDING ANEW DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTER.

Whatever a person's background, age, race or ethnicity, gender or gender identity, whatever the kind of abuse, whatever the violation, here will stand a place that is safe, accepting, and steering toward hope.

To bring victims *one step closer* to hope and healing.

To bring survivors one step closer to resilience and regeneration.

And to bring our community *one* step closer to being safe and secure for all people.



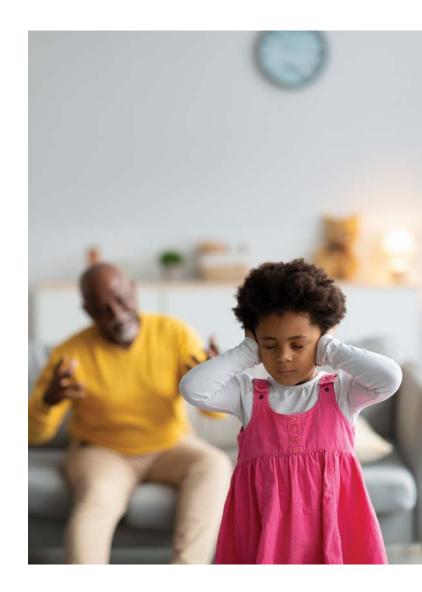
YOU FEAR, WHERE DO YOU GO?

With over 115 years of community support, Family Services announces One Step Closer, a \$10,834,500 campaign—\$7,834,500 from local giving and \$3,000,000 from state and federal sources—to construct a new, larger, and safer shelter that will better accommodate the changing needs of domestic violence victims today and into the future.

With a trauma-informed architectural design, the new shelter will offer physical spaces that promote safety, well-being, and healing so victims can focus on rebuilding their lives in an environment that respects their identity and dignity.

The current condition of our dormitory-style shelter is an urgent situation of diminished functionality, efficiency, and safety.

New construction is essential.





Family Services is becoming more adaptive to more needs.

We are more prepared for changes in family dynamics and involved in more areas of endangerment. Because domestic abuse does not stay in a narrow lane.

Elder abuse. Child abuse. Human trafficking. Sexual Assault. Stalking.

As with domestic violence, the perpetrator of these crimes is usually someone the victim knows. Often the victim shares a home with the very person who is a threat to them, damaging fundamental bonds of trust.

Today we are seeing mental health crises, economic instability, and a variety of pressures on our overall social well-being. When someone is experiencing domestic violence, protecting this person requires a new kind of approach—a transformation from old models of care to new strategies and solutions.

Our services and solutions are the very best.

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But we are one step away from our current needs.

PLACE HAI HURTS, CHILDREN SUFFER.

Coming from all neighborhoods and backgrounds, victims of domestic abuse arrive at our Domestic Violence Shelter with a unique story while sharing the same difficult reality—they are at risk of harm at home or somewhere else they believe to be safe. Often, they bring their children with them, seeking shelter for the most vulnerable among us. In fact, we are receiving more mothers with young children needing protection than ever before.







Some children are physically abused at home, but all children suffer when they live hearing and seeing the frightening scenes of domestic violence. Research shows that Adverse Childhood Experiences are traumatic to children in ways that can stay with them all their lives, injuring their sense of safety and stability while making it difficult for them to bond, trust, and make decisions.

Our promise to these children and their families is to provide a path to healing, hope, and a brighter tomorrow. In our new shelter, we will be able to give guests immediate safe haven in a comforting place where they can re-imagine and reclaim their lives.

A SAFE PLACE CAN CHANGE SOMEONE'S WORLD.

Around 8,000 reports of domestic abuse are documented in Forsyth County annually.



Many of these victims sought refuge at Family Services' Domestic Violence Shelter when they are unsafe at home. Operating at maximum capacity, the Shelter cumulatively provides 8,601 nights of care for adults and children each year.

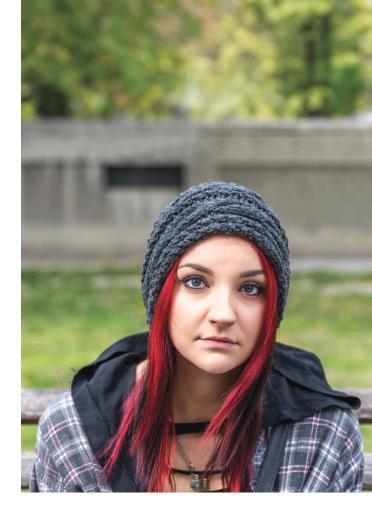
Unfortunately, Family Services can no longer meet the rising demand and changing needs of domestic abuse victims in our current shelter, which functions in a 94-year-old building overwhelmed by maintenance issues, including flooding from water and sewage pipes causing walls and floors to decay. In the last five years alone, we have spent over \$500,000 on repairs and renovations to the shelter.

A CHANGING WORLD IS CHANGING OUR APPROACH.

Today's shelter guests represent a wider range of experiences and needs.

Our current Domestic Violence Shelter has historic lineage. Built in 1929 as a hospital for the chronically ill and elderly, the building was later converted in 1988 to the Battered Women's Shelter of Forsyth County—the first domestic violence shelter in North Carolina. At that time, the design was for single women to share a bedroom, bathroom and kitchen.

Such communal living, especially with children, can present challenges for anyone. In addition to those fleeing domestic violence, our shelter also serves human trafficking, elder abuse, and sexual assault victims. Family Services provides a safe sanctuary to anyone suffering from violence at home or abuse in our community, regardless of age, gender, gender identity, or the nature of the domestic relationship.



During the COVID pandemic, the number of people experiencing domestic violence increased dramatically. Today, the Domestic Violence Shelter continues to be inundated with requests for services, last year receiving the most emergency shelter requests in a decade. The need for safe emergency housing, advocacy for survivors, and access to counseling continues to grow.



For anyone living in fear and isolation, let's make safety and compassion *One Step Closer*.



THE NEXT STEP: SAFE HOUSING FOR SURVIVORS

Sadly, domestic abuse in our community is nothing new.

But Family Services continues to respond to this complex issue with an evolving understanding of what victims need for safe shelter while also helping them believe in a more hopeful future.

For individuals or parents with children who need temporary safe housing after a crisis at home and before they have been able to establish a new home, Family Services will incorporate a number of mini apartments available for many months. Support services will be provided as these temporary residents seek permanent housing on their road to independence.

HEALTHY FAMILIES BUILD HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Since 1905, Family Services has been providing relief, shelter, and support to children and families so they may reach their full potential.

By helping people in need make positive, lasting changes in their lives, we help build a healthier and more stable community for all of us.

Sometimes a person in our community must escape a violent environment and reclaim their own identity and sense of self-worth before having the confidence to take positive healthy steps forward. This is why we must have a place where victims of domestic abuse can shelter safely and with a feeling of hope.

Our new shelter will double our capacity, but just as importantly, it will better serve the modern and varied needs of today's overnight and longer term guests. Each individual life-story deserves a strong and trustworthy life-line in times of crisis. For those seeking refuge in a storm, help them also find hope and new beginnings.



We thank our friends and supporters for your generosity that will bring all domestic abuse victims in our community *One Step Closer* to hope and healing.





GiveOneStepCloser.org

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Main Line: (336) 722-8173

Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Crisis Line: (336) 723-8125