



# Family Services communities without limits

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NEWS & UPDATES

## September/October 2023

### A Note from Our CEO

Leah Feldman

### Domestic Violence Awareness



Dear Friend,

On September 30th, I undertook the **challenge** of running **50 miles** in support of the work we do at Family Services. This endeavor was more than just a physical test; it was a **symbolic journey** reflecting the resilience required to combat many of the issues we address, including one close to me, domestic violence. 14 years ago, I came to Family Services to be part of our vital efforts to **support survivors** of domestic violence and create a safe and just society for all.

During my **50 Meaningful Miles** each step of relentless forward motion offered solace, clarity, and determination. It was a lesson in the value of endurance, setting and achieving goals, and pushing beyond limits.

Domestic violence is a **pervasive issue** affecting millions worldwide, transcending race, gender, and socioeconomic status. It is a painful reality for far too many, with devastating consequences for individuals, families, and communities.

In many ways, running 50 miles symbolizes the **long and challenging journey** survivors undertake to **rebuild their lives** and find hope after experiencing

domestic violence. Those 50 miles mirror a survivors' path - filled with pain, perseverance, and with the right support, a finish line of **healing and hope**.

Domestic violence **thrives in silence and isolation**, so during this October join us in raising awareness and supporting survivors. Together we can **break the silence** and foster an environment where survivors feel **safe and heard**.

**I am incredibly proud** of the work we do to support a safe and just society. I encourage each of you to find a way to **contribute**, whether through **donating to Family Services, volunteering, or simply raising awareness in your circles**. Together, we can make a **meaningful** impact and a more **compassionate** world.

**Thank you** for your support, dedication, and unwavering commitment to making a positive impact. I am honored to lead such a compassionate organization, supported by a kind community.



**I WANT TO DONATE AND SUPPORT SURVIVORS!**

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## October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

*by Amy Fuerst*

The month of **October** is nationally recognized as **Domestic Violence Awareness Month**. Dating back to Day of Unity in 1981, events to bring **advocates** and **allies** together and highlight the issue of domestic violence expanded to become a full week devoted to awareness activities. From these beginnings, the movement continued to grow, and Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM) was first observed in 1987, coinciding with the establishment of the first national domestic violence hotline. Today, the DVAM campaign continues, aimed at increasing awareness and providing education on domestic violence and its impact on **survivors** and **communities**.

Domestic violence is a **pattern** of abusive behavior that is used by one person against another, to gain and maintain **power** and **control** over the other person. **Abuse tactics** can be physical, sexual, psychological, emotional, financial, or technological in nature. The abuse may include actions or threats of actions, manipulation, isolation, or intimidation, as methods of instilling fear in the victim, and maintaining coercive control over the victim. This **cycle of abuse** increases in **incident frequency** and **severity** over time and can **escalate** to the victim

being killed by their abuser.

In the United States, it is estimated that **1 in 4 women**, and **1 in 10 men**, experience **significant** physical or sexual violence from an intimate partner during their lifetime, as reported by the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence. Domestic violence is prevalent in **all communities**, and affects **all people** regardless of **age, status, gender, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, or religion**.

At the **Center for Victim Safety and Support (CVSS)**, we work to end domestic violence and support victims/survivors of abuse, by providing **24-hour crisis response** and **comprehensive services**, including advocacy, case management, and trauma therapy. We partner with local law enforcement, healthcare, and other community agencies to **connect with survivors** and ensure those who are in need have **access** to these potentially life-saving services and **resources**.

Throughout the month of October, CVSS will be hosting a number of events in recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, including an **awareness walk, candlelight vigil**, and the **display of purple flags** adorned with the names of community members and loved ones impacted by domestic violence.

**Join us** as we uplift stories of **strength** and **hope** in celebration of those who have survived domestic violence and abuse. Join us as we **remember** and **honor** those whose lives have been taken by violence. Join us as we **stand together** in **unity**, and continue to work to end violence, and build **safe** and **healthy** communities.

For information on DVAM events, please contact Jennifer Simpkins at [JSimpkins@familyservicesny.org](mailto:JSimpkins@familyservicesny.org).

For more information on CVSS services, please contact our 24-hour hotline at 845-485-5550.

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## Center for Victim Safety & Support's Adopt-A-Family Project!



# CVSS Adopt-a-Family

*Scan the QR Code to Donate!*



Center for Victim  
Safety & Support  
Administrative Offices located at:  
29 N. Hamilton St.  
Poughkeepsie, NY  
845.452.1110  
[familyservicesny.org](http://familyservicesny.org)



Funded in part by  
Dutchess County, NYS Office of Victim  
Services, NYS Division of Criminal Justice  
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of Children and Family Services, and The  
Jeannette F. Schlobach Fund of CFHV

## Adopt-a-Family

For over a decade, the Center for Victim Safety and Support (CVSS) has brightened the holiday season for victim-survivors of crime in Dutchess County through our annual **Adopt a Family project**. Through this project, survivor families are provided gift cards which allow them to **enjoy the experience of shopping** for each other, **wrapping gifts**, and **sharing** these special memories. **Each household** is also given a gas or grocery gift card to **help offset the unplanned expenses** that can often arise from the crimes committed against them.

Once again this year, CVSS is teaming up with **Arlington Professional Fire Fighters Local 2393** to reach those in times of hardship in our community. We invite you to join our efforts to **spread hope and cheer** this holiday season, by sponsoring a family through a monetary or gift card **donation**.

At **CVSS**, we have seen the **joy** – and **tears of gratitude** – on our clients' faces when they receive this **support**. We are **inspired** by the **selflessness** and **generosity** of those who donate to Adopt a Family, year after year. Please consider **supporting a family in need**, and helping us give **survivors** in our community a tangible reminder that **they are not alone**.

For more information, or to participate in supporting a family, please contact Amy Fuerst at [afuerst@familyservicesny.org](mailto:afuerst@familyservicesny.org).

On October 19th, the staff at Family Services will show their commitment to raising awareness against domestic violence by wearing purple! We invite you to join us in support of survivors everywhere!



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: BREAK THE SILENCE

**Together we can end  
the cycle of abuse.**

## Family Services' Poughkeepsie Health Center Ribbon Cutting!

On October 4th, **Family Services**, in collaboration with **Genoa Healthcare** and



**Sun River Health**, held a ribbon cutting event to introduce the opening of our **brand new integrated health center** in



Poughkeepsie! It was a

beautiful event met with sunny skies and over 100 attendees of **community supporters, staff and professionals!**

Located at **20 Manchester Road in Poughkeepsie**, the health center is a **collaboration** between Family Services, Sun River Health, and Genoa Healthcare. This **innovative** collaboration and **co-located space** provides a unique opportunity for **integrated healthcare and behavioral health services**, all in one convenient and **state of the art** location. **All are welcome** to care at the facility, regardless of **health insurance, citizenship status or ability to pay**. This collaboration and was made possible by generous funding and support from the New York State Department of Health and the Dutchess County Department of Behavioral and Community Health.



# We Can't Wait for Winterfest!



AT THE  
**MJN | CENTER**  
MAJED J NESHEIWAT CONVENTION CENTER

Winterfest

SATURDAY  
NOVEMBER 18  
10am - 4pm  
FREE ADMISSION

FEATURING

Family Services'  
Festival of Trees &  
MJN Center Craft Fair

Family Services is **thrilled** to announce “**Winterfest**” in collaboration with the **MJN Convention Center**! This event takes place on **November 18<sup>th</sup>** and will combine two popular annual events into one convenient location! **Family Services** will again host our exciting “**Festival of Trees**” featuring a spectacular display of decorated holiday trees and wreaths alongside the MJN Center’s annual **Winter Craft Fair**! Our **trees** and **wreaths** will be available to attendees by both **raffle** and **silent auction**, it will be a **festive** and **fun** day for all!

How can **YOU** support **Winterfest**? Read below!

- **Donate a tree or wreath!** You can do this in honor/memory of a loved one, to showcase your business, or even to highlight your favorite hobby, the possibilities are endless! [Click here to access our digital tree/wreath entry form!](#)



- Share the **Winterfest** event with your friends, on your social media, and in your neighborhood groups!
- Attend **Winterfest** on November 18th anytime between 10am-4pm! Bring the family along!
- Join our **Winterfest** Committee! We are always looking for creative and dedicated community members to help us bring our event to life!
- Become a **Winterfest** Event Sponsor! [Click Here](#) to view our opportunities!

For all things **Winterfest**, contact Kerri Minet, Manager of Marketing & Events at [kminet@familyservicesny.org](mailto:kminet@familyservicesny.org) or [click here](#) to visit our website and learn more!

## Upcoming Holiday Closings!



**Family Services & The Family Partnership Center will be closed on Friday, November 10th in observance of the Veterans Day Holiday and Thursday, November 23rd and Friday November 24th in observance of Thanksgiving.**

## About Us

[Our Leadership Team](#)

[Our Board of Directors](#)

### Join Our Family Tree

*By joining our Family Tree, you are supporting our vision of stronger, safer communities where everyone has access to critical resources when they need it most.*

[Donate Here](#)



# Thank You 2023 Annual Partners

## LEADERSHIP



## MISSION



## COMMUNITY



## FAMILY



## HOPE



Family Services  
communities without limits

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