



**Safe Passage**

No one deserves to be abused.

# Safe Passage's Monthly news & updates

*January 2020: Human Trafficking and Stalking Awareness Month*

## January

In January, Safe Passage recognizes Human Trafficking Awareness Month.

Human trafficking involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to obtain some type of labor or commercial sex act. Learn more about human trafficking by [clicking here](#).

Safe Passage serves those who have been affected by human trafficking. To connect with services, please call 815.756.5228. Learn more about the red flags of human trafficking by [clicking here](#).

**\$ 12-14 YEARS OLD**  
average age a victim is sold for the first time

**15 TIMES/DAY**  
a trafficked minor is sold for sex

**14,500-17,500**  
victims of sex trafficking in the United States

**20-30 MILLION**  
victims of sex trafficking across the world

In January, Safe Passage also recognizes Stalking Awareness Month. Learn more about stalking and stalking survivor services in the Counselor's Column below.

## Upcoming Events

### **LOVE Fundraiser**

**February 21, 7-10 PM**

*Blumen Gardens (403 Edward St, Sycamore)*

Support Safe Passage while celebrating love with an evening of appetizers, dessert, drinks, and live music. More details available soon.

**Scroll down to learn more.**

### **Walk a Mile & After Party**

**April 4, 10-3 PM**

*Sycamore High School Field House (427 Spartan Trail, Sycamore) and Fatty's (1312 W Lincoln Hwy, DeKalb)*

Show your support of Sexual Assault Survivors by joining us for a mile long walk in high heels! Continue the celebration as we honor our 2019 Shoe-per hero while enjoying drink discounts and free appetizers at Fatty's! Registration available soon.

## Join Our Team!

If you're interested in joining us in the movement to end domestic violence and sexual assault, consider apply for a position within our agency! Check out the opportunities below!

[Check out our open job positions here.](#)

[Apply for a position on our Board of Directors here.](#)

## Counselor's Column

### Stalking Awareness Month

By Melissa McGraw

January is Stalking Awareness Month. Many of our clients in both the domestic violence and sexual assault counseling programs have experienced stalking by their former partners and/or rapists. We have also seen cases involving stalking only—in other words, there was no prior intimate relationship or sexual assault that occurred prior to the stalking beginning. These cases can be especially traumatic for these clients. They may feel unsafe everywhere they go, especially if the stalker has not been charged or arrested for their offenses. These clients may restrict their movements in order to avoid encountering their stalker, leading to increased isolation and anxiety. Counselors will often assist these clients to focus on what the client can do to feel safe in their daily lives. A challenge in working with these clients is that their anxiety is very protective and may remain high for safety reasons, making it difficult for the client to “let down their guard” for fear of becoming vulnerable to the stalker again. Stalking cases are considered high-risk and these clients are frequently referred to legal advocacy to learn about other options for their protection.

If you have been a victim of stalking, counselors are available to assist you free of charge. Please contact the Safe Passage hotline for more information: 815.756.5228.



## L.O.V.E. Love Over Violence Event

Join us February 21, 2020 at Blumen Gardens!



There's no better way to celebrate love than at our Valentine's Day themed fundraiser! The Love Over Violence Event will include chocolate desserts, appetizers, cocktails and live music.

New to L.O.V.E. 2020 is our raffle! Prizes include a queen-sized solar flare quilt, handmade by a member of the Safe Passage Staff, a Non-Profit Fundraiser Basket, and two tickets to Chicago Live at the Coronado Performing Arts Center on April 10, 2020.

The raffle drawing is on February 21 during LOVE. Presence at the event is NOT required to win! If you're interested in purchasing tickets, please call 815.756.7930.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE AND TO PURCHASE EVENT TICKETS](#)



[www.safepassagedv.org](http://www.safepassagedv.org) | 815.756.7930 | PO Box 621 DeKalb, IL 60115