



Safe Passage

No one deserves to be abused.

Safe Passage's Monthly news & updates *January 2023*



The new year is here and we couldn't be more excited for 2023! Here at Safe Passage, we are working on some exciting new projects to help our community:

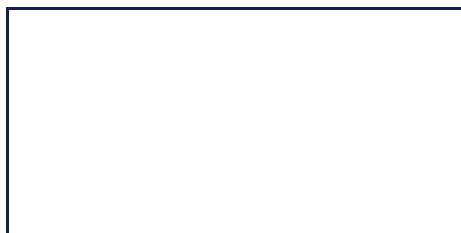
- **Our clinical team** will soon be offering neurofeedback, an evidence-based therapy that changes brain waves to help clients calm and stabilize their nervous system as they heal from trauma.
- **The Partner Abuse Intervention Program** is adding Acceptance and Commitment Therapy to their groups.
- **Prevention** is updating current trainings and working to add some new ones for area schools and businesses.

We want to thank all of our community partners for their extraordinary generosity over the holiday season. We're brimming with gratitude for all of the donations we've received. Through your support, we were able to give our clients much needed assistance with their personal needs and with Christmas gifts for their children. Thank you so much!

As we look to the new year, we will need your continued support. We have big goals for 2023, and we know that we can depend on our community for the support we need to continue providing for our clients!

2022 Recap

What we've done in the last year:





Vagina Monologues

February 11th & 12th, April 22nd

2022 was the first year that Safe Passage collaborated with local theatre company, Stage Coach Players, to conduct V's (formerly known as Eve Ensler) The Vagina Monologues.

Through the lens of several individuals, the production showcased several experiences that an individual who owns a vagina may live through. Topics like sex work, rape, masturbation, birth, orgasm, and female genital mutilation were all discussed.

It was witty, informative, eye-opening and often deeply vulnerable. The Vagina Monologues captures both the beautiful and ugly realities of owning a vagina, and how this is inclusive to all who own a vagina.

A special thank you to Stage Coach Players for collaborating and helping us raise money for the agency!

Walk-A-Mile

April 30th

To end Sexual Assault Awareness Month, Safe Passage worked very closely with NIU's Division of Academic Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. We worked together and hosted the annual Walk A Mile event.

This walk-a-thon highlights that we need to put ourselves in the shoes of victims and survivors. This action equips us to provide deeper support to our loved once who've experienced sexual abuse.

This year's Walk-A-Mile was held at the East Lagoon on NIU's campus.

A special thank you to NIU's Division of Academic Diversity, Equity and Inclusion for collaborating with us during Sexual assault Awareness Month! We appreciate the work you do to provoke and inspire change for NIU students.



Take Back the Night
April 21st



GiveDeKalbCounty
May 5th

During Sexual Assault Awareness Month, Safe Passage hosted our annual Take Back the Night event at the local Egyptian Theatre.

Through this event, we invited the community to come together and raise our voices against sexual violence. Our event started off strong with a march around the downtown Dekalb area, moving into the theatre for a survivor speak out. We ended the night with a silent vigil, honoring individuals we've lost to abuse.

This was the agency's first in-person Take Back the Night since the pandemic. The Dekalb County community was not shy of showing their support. We had representation from all over the community — Judge Buick, Chief Byrd from the Dekalb Police Department, several survivors, and many more!

A special thank you to Egyptian Theatre for allowing us to use your beautiful theatre for this event!

Leading up to Cinco de Mayo, Safe Passage diligently prepared for GiveDekalbCounty.

This annual event is an opportunity for all nonprofits within the county to raise money for their agency.

This year, Safe Passage was fortunate enough to surpass the \$61,003 from the year prior. Our agency raised a whopping \$78,475.26, almost 2x our original \$40,000 goal.

We said it several times and we are not done saying:
THANK YOU SO MUCH!

Safe Passage is immensely grateful for the support we've been given. The money raised from this event has allowed us to open up more opportunities to help victims and survivors of domestic and sexual violence.



Greater Giving Golf Outing September 16th

With the busy summer coming to an end, Safe Passage hosted our 3rd annual Greater Giving Golf Outing!

This event was a great way for our Safe Passage folks to mingle with community members.

Thank you, Tom & Jerry's, for catering the event- it was well needed after a couple of hours of playing golf!



Breaking the Silence - DV Vigil October 3rd, Dekalb

We kicked off Domestic Violence Awareness Month with our Breaking the Violence vigil.

The Egyptian Theatre was packed that night as we held our survivor speak-out inside and ended it off with a candlelight vigil to honor those we've lost to domestic violence.

Thank you to Egyptian Theatre

for allowing us to use their theatre, once again!

A special thank you to our speakers:

Judge Marcy Buick

Chief David Byrd

Jeff Keicher

Jennifer Yochem

Pastor Mack

Rick Amato



**Breaking the Silence
- DV Vigil
October 25th, Sandwich**

At Safe Passage, we understand that supporting the community means that our presence should reach all of the towns in DeKalb County. To reach out beyond the cities of DeKalb and Sycamore, we partnered with Sandwich Public Library and hosted our very first domestic violence vigil in Sandwich!

Much like our Breaking the Silence vigil in Dekalb, we also had a survivor speak out and a candlelight vigil.

A special thank you to our speakers:

Detective Jennifer Marcellis

Judge Marcy Buick

Rick Amato

And another special thank you to the Sandwich Public Library for collaborating with us on this special event. We cannot wait for more collaborations in the future!



**Client Christmas Party
December 5th**

Spending the holidays in shelter is an extraordinarily courageous act. That's why we try to give our clients everything they need to have a festive and happy holiday season — and this year was no different!

Staff, management and board members worked together to coordinate a holiday party for our clients. There was lively entertainment, delicious food, and Santa even stopped by to see the kids!

A HUGE thank-you to all who made the night as magical as it was.

Thank you to..

1st Lutheran Church,
HyVee Catering,
David Marquis from Nelson
Multimedia, Inc.,
Bob Palmer and his daughter,
Emily,
Travis Erikson and the DHS
Madrigal
The Wild Blue Ukulele Group,
To Willrett Flower Co.
Safe Passage Staff and
Management
Safe Passage Board Members

Some collaborations we've had over the year:



Queers'N'Allies Community Blood Drive April 13th

During the month of April, we teamed up with Dekalb's Queer-Oriented Rural Resource Network (**QORRN**) and Moana Lottte's Barb City Babes for a blood drive!

LGBTQIA+ individuals have always faced discrimination, even when donating blood. Specifically, sexually active gay and bisexual individuals were required to undergo a waiting period before they could give blood. It went from a year long waiting period to a three month waiting period. This was required because it was argued that they're more prone to HIV.

This argument is ignorant and problematic. HIV is not a "gay disease" — it can be transmitted during heterosexual sex and non-sexually. Also, donation centers screen any blood donated to check for underlying diseases.

Through this blood drive, our two organizations came together to show solidarity and raise our voices against the discrimination that the LGBTQIA+ community still faces.

A very special thank you to QORRN and the Barb City Babes for inviting us to collaborate on such an important event!



Pride June 2022

This last summer, several local Dekalb County organizations came together and coordinated events throughout the month of June to celebrate the LGBTQIA+ community.

We began with a Pride March and Resource Fair at the Egyptian Theatre, then marched through the trees of downtown DeKalb.

The theater was packed by the time the march was scheduled to start — even the outside parking lot was full of people ready to march and chant.

The Pride Committee also made sure to host events for every age group! For teens and adults, we had a film showing of the Rocky Horror Picture Show. For the younger kids, we had a bonfire social with the Family Service Agency and a book reading at the Sycamore Library.

A special thank you to the Pride Committee for being such amazing coordinators! Safe Passage is truly grateful to be part of a community that strives to empower and celebrates diversity.

Pride Committee:



**Fatty's Fest
August 6th**

On a hot summer day in August, Fatty's Pub and Grille hosted their Fatty's Fest to support local musicians.

The opening duo, Stollen Enterprise began the day with classic covers of country and pop songs throughout the decade. Then, Interstate Nineties and the Collective carried the night with classic and original rock that kept the crowd wanting more.

For this event, Fatty's Pub and Grille chose Safe Passage as their organization of choice to donate to. All proceeds were donated to Safe Passage.

Thank you so much, Fatty's Pub and Grille!



**Waterman Winery
August 13th**

In August, we partnered with Waterman Winery to host a 5k Event to benefit Safe Passage!

This was our first collaboration with the winery, and we were wowed by its success!

Over 100 people attended the event, from all different backgrounds and age groups. Each individual was given freebies for their run — a t-shirt, a finisher medal, a race bib, and a wine voucher with a collapsible wine cup for 21+ runners.

Despite the light rain and wind, everyone successfully crossed through the entirety of the path! After everyone had crossed the finish line, staff from the Waterman Winery handed out wine and popcorn to replenish.

A special thank you to Waterman Winery for allowing us to partake in their very first 5k run event!



Katheryne

Board Member

Katheryne Russell is a board member and the Committee Chair for the Fundraising and Events Committee where they plan events, such as L.O.V.E., which will make its first return after the pandemic on February 17th, 2023.

Katheryne is committed to serving her community and is a Sycamore Illinois native and resident. She is a school psychologist with a Specialist in Education, Masters in Curriculum and Instruction, and Masters in Educational Leadership.

Katheryne's career began with the Ogle County Educational Cooperative as a school psychologist and special education coordinator, but recently she obtained a new position back home.

As of September 2022, Katheryne works for the DeKalb School District 428 as a Student Services Coordinator where she serves the unique needs of students. She is also a wife and mother of two young children.

Katheryne has served on the Safe Passage Board since 2019. She joined the board to help support the unique needs of the survivors in DeKalb County. In the schools, Katheryne saw firsthand the effects of domestic violence on her students, and she wanted to offer her support beyond what she was able to do in the schools. She is committed to serving Safe Passage clients and helping to ensure they have access to the many services Safe



Emily

Lead Residential Case Manager

"I'm the lead residential case manager that earned my Bachelors degree in Social Work at the University of Illinois and am currently working on my Masters of Social Work and Masters of Business Administration at Aurora University.

I'm extremely passionate about my work here and learning and changing the systems that impact our clients on a daily basis. I've spent about 10 months here and have truly enjoyed working on our residential team and adjusting our program to meet our client's needs.

Previously, I worked with foster children and their biological parents to maintain a healthy and safe connection. Helping people to truly love and enjoy their lives again is something I am grateful to be able to do every single day.

In my free time I enjoy hiking and spending time with my friends and family."

Thank you, Emily, for all the work you put into both Safe Passage and our clients!

Passage offers just as she does for the unique needs of students in schools. Katheryne is an advocate of not just surviving but living the best life possible for all people.

"I am so blessed and honored to have the privilege of serving on the Safe Passage Board!"

Thank you, Katheryne, for the time and commitment you've given to Safe Passage and to our DeKalb County community!

Upcoming Events

SAVE THE DATE L.O.V.E. 2023

February 17th, 2023
Blumen Gardens
6pm-9:30pm

LOVE
over
violence

Join us for this season of love for dancing, drinks, and appetizers!

February 17, 2023 @ 6PM
BLUMEN GARDENS
403 Edward St., Sycamore

Tickets will be available for purchase at the Egyptian Theatre on Monday, January 8.



**Jan/Feb 2023
Training**

To kick off 2023, we will be offering our 60-hour intensive training for those interested in volunteering and interning. We offer both direct and indirect service volunteer opportunities.

Direct service volunteering involves interaction with clients and survivors. These volunteers are hands-on with clients to assist them in times of crisis or when they need support.

Indirect service volunteers assist the agency in itself. Through their efforts, these individuals support clients and survivors by making sure things run smoothly and creating a welcoming environment for all.

We also offer internship opportunities that involve firsthand experience with direct service in a fast-paced environment.

Anyone who is interested in being a direct service volunteer or a Safe Passage intern must complete the 60 hour training before they can work with us.

Weekly Schedule: Tuesdays
(5:30pm-9:30pm) **Wednesdays**
(5:30pm-9:30pm) **Saturdays**
(8:30am-4pm)

aJanuary:
24th, 25th, 27th, 28th, 30th,
31st

February:
1st, 3rd, 4th, 7th, 8th, 10th,
11th, 14th, 15th

For more information and/or to apply to be a volunteer or intern, click on the links below.

[Volunteer Opportunities](#)

[Internship Opportunities](#)

Stay Connected



www.safepassagedv.org | 815.756.7930 | PO Box 621 DeKalb, IL 60115

Safe Passage, Inc. | PO BOX 621, DeKalb, IL 60115

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