



## **Background**

Forty-five years ago, Harbor House was established as the first and only domestic violence agency in Kankakee and Iroquois County by a group of passionate volunteers who used their homes as safe homes and phone lines as the hotline in service to victims and survivors of domestic violence. From those humble beginnings, Harbor House has become a pillar of support to law enforcement, hospitals, churches, the criminal justice system, and schools to protect survivors and increase awareness of domestic violence.

## **Our Growth and Impact**

To meet increasing community needs, Harbor House has, in the last five years:

- created multi-disciplinary collaborations through the Kankakee County Domestic Violence Task Force and 21st Judicial Circuit Fatality Review Team to provide a holistic approach to supporting survivors and increasing accountability to people who cause harm.
- developed a strategic training program to educate the faith community, schools, businesses, and others on domestic and dating violence.
- grown its staff by 105% by developing the Community Advocacy Team to invest in community outreach and professional training; opening a second shelter in Iroquois County; and strengthening its administrative support.
- strengthened its budget by 353% through grants and private donations to expand services in support of survivors and the community.
- received recognition in our community and throughout Illinois as an industry leader and expert, regularly training advocates, professionals, and others in domestic violence response.

## **The Community Crisis**

Domestic violence continues to be a pervasive, lethal community epidemic and public safety crisis. More than 10 million adults<sup>1</sup> and 15 million children<sup>2</sup> experience domestic violence each year. Furthermore, more than two-thirds (68.2%) of mass shootings have a domestic violence connection<sup>3</sup>, confirming that domestic violence is not a private, family problem, but a community problem.

In response to this crisis in Kankakee and Iroquois Counties, Harbor House annually serves more than 500 adult and youth survivors, answers more than 3,000 hotline calls for help, and provides more than 6,500 nights of shelter to families fleeing violence.

**However**, in the last fiscal year, our emergency shelter was unable to provide refuge to **469** adults and youth due to lack of shelter space.

**Furthermore**, our need to support residential and non-residential survivors has been crippled by our lack of confidential, trauma-informed space for our professionals to assist survivors.

## **Investment in the Future**

To address this crisis, Harbor House needs to construct a new program facility that includes an expanded emergency shelter. The total price tag for this project is \$4.5 million. We have already secured a \$2 million grant to provide about half the needed funds. Harbor House is also committing \$500,000 of its reserves. But, this project will require a community investment of more than **\$2 million** over the next three years.

## **Harbor House is poised and ready to enhance its care of survivors of domestic violence in Kankakee and Iroquois Counties.**

In order to make this investment in the future, Harbor House will need the support from its “Family”: staff, Board of Directors, volunteers, and community business and civic leaders. Your involvement will provide the guidance necessary to bring our strategic plan to fruition.

<sup>1</sup> National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, 2011

<sup>2</sup> Journal of Family Psychology, 2006

<sup>3</sup> Injury Epidemiology Journal, 2021