

THE HOTLINE HAPPENINGS

Fall 2024

Embracing Hope and Empowering Voices

During Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Every survivor matters. Every voice counts. Throughout October — Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM) — The Hotline honors survivors, celebrates our victories, and learns from our challenges.

So far in 2024, we have answered over 329,000 calls, chats, and texts — each finding a compassionate voice on the other end to offer hope and healing. Your support ensures The Hotline can be there for as many victims and survivors as possible.

While we celebrate significant victories, we also recognize the challenges we face in meeting the growing demand for our services. Last year, we received over 928,000 calls, chats, and texts far exceeding our capacity. This often results in wait times for victims and survivors seeking immediate assistance — wait times they cannot afford. As heartbreaking as this is, it only fuels our determination to expand our capacity, streamline our processes, and innovate our approach.

This year's theme for Domestic Violence Awareness Month is "Heal, Hold, Center" and calls upon all of us to

uplift voices that have been sidelined or silenced for far too long. For years, we have been committed to recentering voices of survivors of color and marginalized communities, providing tailored support and resources to ensure healing and empowerment for all who reach out to us.

Our approach is straightforward: listen, learn, and lead the charge for change.

That approach, along with your unwavering support, has a deep and powerful impact on our work and the lives of so many. This work doesn't start or end in October — as we move forward, let's carry the energy of DVAM with us throughout the year. Every day, with every call answered and every survivor supported, we're moving closer to a world free from domestic violence. Thank you for being an integral part of this journey. Your support, your voice, and your dedication make all the difference.

To learn more and get involved with Domestic Violence Awareness Month, visit thehotline.org/dvam

Lifelines of Support:

How Your Generosity Helps Survivors Like Taylor

Taylor* reached out to The Hotline because she needed help. She shared that for the last five years, her partner has become more and more controlling. Taylor is forced to hand over all the money she earns, has no access to bank accounts, and is constantly degraded by name-calling.

As a couple, they share three children, ages 13, 9, and 7, who have witnessed the violence at home. Despite trying to leave her partner multiple times, Taylor faces severe obstacles that make gaining independence more challenging. Her partner tracks her through her phone and car, and Taylor suspects there may be hidden cameras in their home. Her recent efforts to seek help have been met with additional threats and intimidation. Taylor called The Hotline after the violence escalated and the situation became life-threatening — she knew she had to do something.

The Hotline helped Taylor develop a safety plan and shared with her about the many ways technology



abuse can be used as a manipulative tool in relationships. After speaking for about 20 minutes, Taylor had to end the call but shared she felt more hopeful than she had in a long time and would call back again later for more resources.

Thank you for being a Hotline partner. Your support is a lifeline and keeps hope alive for thousands of victims, survivors, and their loved ones every single day.

*Taylor's name has been changed to protect her confidentiality and privacy.

The National Conference on Domestic Violence Ignites Powerful Momentum for Change

From every corner of the country, survivors, advocates, and leaders gathered in Chicago in September with a single, powerful purpose: to "Reclaim Hope. Champion Change." That theme ignited a passionate call to action. It challenged more than 800 attendees to unite in the pursuit of a just and equitable society for all and to keep shifting power back to those impacted by relationship abuse.

The conference buzzed with energy in thought-provoking breakout sessions and spirited conversations. From celebrating the progress we've made on cornerstone federal legislation like the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), and the Family Violence and Prevention Services Act (FVPSA), to exploring men's socialization of violence and the role they can play in preventing it, the program covered crucial and important topics. This gathering wasn't just a conference — it was a vibrant testament to the indomitable spirit and collective strength of our extraordinary movement.

During a special plenary session, Katie Ray-Jones sat down with the NFL to discuss how the league lends its name and resources to support the work of numerous domestic violence organizations and how their work continues to evolve. We were also proud to award the Ruth M. Glenn Lifetime Achievement Award to Patty Tototzintle for her extraordinary service and leadership as the President and Chief Executive Officer of Esperanza United for more than 22 years.

The National Conference on Domestic Violence may have ended, but our vision of a world where all relationships are positive, healthy, and free from violence continues. We look forward to continuing that work with you and to building a safer, more compassionate world.

To learn more: thehotline.org/conference



Growing Stronger Together: Hotline House Parties

Across the nation, people are coming together with a shared vision: a world where all relationships are positive, healthy, and free from violence.

This summer, The Hotline's wonderful board members hosted incredible events, inspiring hope and fostering connection. In May, our Board Chair, Joe Riley, invited colleagues and guests in New York City. In July incoming board member Bonnie Mills and her husband Doug Eicher welcomed supporters in Michigan, while later in the month, board members Monica Andrade and Varsha Monick united hearts in Atlanta.

These gatherings are more than just fun evenings; they're where change begins, welcoming everyone to be part of our efforts. As attendees learn more about The Hotline's essential services, they

discover the role they can play in moving that work forward. These gatherings are full of energy — you can really feel the hope and determination in the room. It's what keeps us all pushing toward our shared goal.

We're deeply grateful for our amazing sponsors for our Atlanta event — Deloitte, The Prinz Law Firm, and Montlick Injury Attorneys — whose generosity made these events possible and propels us forward. Thanks to their support and the enthusiasm of our community, these small but mighty events have helped us raise nearly \$25,000 to support The Hotline this year.

With every gathering, our community grows stronger. Together, we're building a network of support that's creating positive change in relationships across the country.







Katie Ray-Jones, Monica Andrade, and Varsha Monick

Brett J. Barnes, Katie Ray-Jones, Bonnie Mills, and Doug Eicher

Celebrating a Decade: The NFL and The Hotline's Transformative Partnership

As we mark the 10-year anniversary of our partnership with the National Football League (NFL), we reflect on a decade of tremendous growth and impact. Since 2014, the NFL's unwavering support has enabled The Hotline to expand our reach and services dramatically, answering nearly 3.7 million calls, chats, and texts from those seeking help.

As our Premier Mission Partner, the NFL's contributions have been instrumental in funding intervention and prevention services and programs.

This year, with the NFL's support, we're launching a groundbreaking initiative: the first-ever National Survivor Data Institute, focusing on research into the experiences and needs of survivors of color.

Through the ongoing work supported by the NFL and leveraging the The Hotline's expertise, we're empowering people throughout the country to recognize, prevent, and speak out against relationship abuse.



Sincerely thank you so much for your resources and for helping me today! It means the world . . . thank you so much for your support and for talking with me. You are incredible for doing this and I feel a little less overwhelmed today.

- Anonymous Survivor .

Important Developments:

Supreme Court Rulings and Advocacy Initiatives

Over the summer, the Supreme Court ruled on several cases that impact victims and survivors of domestic violence, some of which are important favorable rulings. In U.S. v. Rahimi, the Court upheld the federal law that keeps firearms out of the hands of domestic abusers under protection orders — a significant step for safety. It was also decided in FDA v. Alliance for Hippocratic Medicine to maintain access to mifepristone, ensuring continued access to abortion medication which for some can be life-saving.

The Hotline is pleased with these favorable rulings in both cases. Decisions like these have an enormous impact on the lives of victims and survivors. We're committed to staying vigilant as we monitor how these decisions impact people, and we'll keep working tirelessly to ensure safety and justice for all.

The Supreme Court and decisions like these have an enormous impact on the lives of victims and survivors. The Hotline remains steadfast in our commitment to providing resources to those in need and advocating to decision-makers about these impacts.

On July 23, Crystal Justice, Chief External Affairs Officer, along with the Policy team had meaningful meetings with the offices of Reps. Doggett (D-TX) and Dingell (D-MI) and Sen. Cornyn (R-TX) to discuss The Hotline's 2023 Impact Report, the appropriations process, and upcoming legislative proposals to support survivors and the programs that serve them.

The team also met with the Federal Communications Commission to discuss our continued partnership on the Safe Connections Act to support survivors' ability to safely disconnect from a shared cellphone plan.



Ways to Give

As we approach the end of the year, now is the time to plan your tax-deductible gifts for 2024!

CASH: A gift of cash is an easy way to receive an immediate tax benefit, and a great way to keep hope on the line. Make your gift by 12/31 to make an impact today!

STOCKS: For appreciated stock held for more than one year, you can receive a tax deduction for the full value of the stock while avoiding capital gains taxes.

CORPORATE MATCHING: If your employer matches your charitable donations, please be sure you submit the necessary documentation to your company to double your impact!

DONOR-ADVISED-FUNDS: If you have a Donor Advised Fund, The Hotline can receive grants from your fund to complete your yearend contribution.

LEAVE A LEGACY: Have you thought about leaving a legacy gift? By including the National Domestic Violence Hotline in your will or trust, you ensure that your generosity will empower future generations and sustain our mission for years to come.

If you would like to discuss leaving The Hotline in your legacy plans or have questions about any of these giving methods, contact our Development Office at development@thehotline.org

Make your gift online at thehotline.org/2024FallNewsletter or by scanning this QR code:

Checks can be sent to: National Domestic Violence Hotline PO Box 90249, Austin, TX 78709



Call to give at (737) 234-6464

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