**First Step** is a non-profit organization dedicated to ending domestic violence and sexual assault in Wayne County, Michigan. In 2014-2015, First Step provided programs and services to 11,393 people.

### 2014-2015 Board of Directors

- **President**: Jennifer Hartle
- **Past President**: Carla O'Malley
- **Vice President**: Mary Wilson
- **Secretary**: June Nicholas
- **Treasurer**: June Nicholas

### Expenses and Revenue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Domestically Violence Programming</td>
<td>$1,995,298</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual Assault Programming</td>
<td>$269,897</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supporting Programs</td>
<td>$300,515</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General &amp; Administrative</td>
<td>$218,117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Expenses</td>
<td>$2,565,710</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notes:**

- **Domestically Violence Programming**: Services to survivors who work with First Step to develop a safety plan.
- **Sexual Assault Programming**: Services to survivors who work with First Step to develop a safety plan.
- **Supporting Programs**: Services to survivors who work with First Step to develop a safety plan.

### Programs and Service Statistics

- **2014-2015 Fiscal Year**
- **Total number of survivors served**: 6,605 adults, 463 children
- **4,325 people** participated in First Step's Outreach & Education Sessions
- **612 People** stepped up and volunteered for First Step
- **24-hour on-call Assault Response Team responded to 154 Primary and 40 Secondary Victims**

### Support Groups, 2,000 Hours
- **Emergency Housing**: 13,913 Nights of Safe Shelter (135 women, 188 children)
- **204 Instances of help clients obtain Personal Protection Orders**

### Transportation
- First Step provided 1,188 rides for 176 Families

### Food, Clothing, Household Goods
- First Step provided 11,299 items to families

### Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Awareness Month
- First Step is very much like a close-knit family supporting each other during challenging times and embracing a circle of caring people who all share our vision of peaceful families and safe communities.

### Year in Review

- **Chief Executive Officer**: Amy Youngquist

- **First Step's** new playscape, healing garden, and outdoor fitness center is another instance of First Step going above and beyond to create a space where children of all ages can play and where moms can relax in a therapeutic setting. It is truly a phenomenal place built by the generosity of the community and the only one of its kind in the country.

- **First Step** responded to a spike in domestic violence homicides in Wayne County by creating Domestic Violence High Risk Teams in targeted cities consisting of law enforcement officers, victim advocates, and prosecutors to identify and respond to the most dangerous cases. These teams are truly saving lives and are based on extensive research of best practices and several nationally recognized models.

- You can see that First Step works for a community in which no one of any race, age, gender or religion is abused, assaulted, or victimized in any way. Our comprehensive services speak to every survivor as a whole, unique, and valuable human being. While safety is our number one priority, we also look at the holistic needs of every single person-physical, emotional, and spiritual. Our highly skilled staff and volunteers use their expertise to transform the lives of those who come to us looking for a fresh start. Your support makes this vision possible.

- It's up to all of us to end domestic violence and sexual assault in every neighborhood, school and community. We must work together to send a strong message of zero tolerance to those who chose to commit these horrible crimes against the women, men, and children they claim to love.

- I encourage you to become more involved-it's up to us to solve this problem. Join us-volunteer, donate, help spread the word, stand up and demand that our political leaders give these crimes the attention they deserve! I truly believe that our vision of peaceful families and safe communities can be a reality if we all take a stand.

- On behalf of the survivors we serve, I thank you for taking the time to allow us an opportunity to share our thoughts, ideas, successes, and growing pains with you. First Step's ability to make real change depends on your care and compassion that keeps us going strong!
Here is information about the work of First Step as well as a list of the services we provide each and every day.

Since 1978, First Step has been working for peaceful families and safe communities in Wayne County, Michigan. First Step is the only non-profit agency in outer-Wayne County providing comprehensive services for victims of domestic and sexual violence.

First Step provides free and confidential programs designed to help survivors of violence overcome the lack of intervention and support, the feelings of powerlessness, isolation, physical danger and fear, and the financial, emotional and cultural barriers that victims of violence often face when seeking help.

**WHAT MAKES FIRST STEP STAND OUT FROM OTHER COUNSELING PROGRAMS AND SHELTERS?**

First Step staff members and volunteers are specially trained to assist and empower survivors of domestic violence, dating violence and sexual assault. First Step staff and volunteers are skilled experts in domestic violence, sexual assault, and trauma. They know the laws, have knowledge and experience with the dynamics of these crimes and understand the effects they have on the human spirit.

**FIRST STEP’S MISSION:**

The mission of First Step is to eliminate both domestic and sexual violence and to provide comprehensive services to individuals and families impacted by these crimes.

**COMMUNITY EDUCATION**

First Step believes that prevention is a key component to ending violence in our communities. First Step staff members present to schools, businesses, religious organizations, medical personnel, police officers, and civic groups. Topics range from the effects of violence on children, to dating violence, date rape drugs, domestic/sexual assault myths and facts, and community resources.

**COMMUNITY/LEGAL RESPONSE PROJECT**

First Step Community Response Project Survivor Advocates help victims who are identified through police departments and courts throughout Wayne County. In several communities, Survivor Advocates work with a designated domestic violence prosecutor and detective to respond to the crimes of domestic and sexual violence. Survivor Advocates contact the victims of these crimes just after the police report is filed. They focus on assessing lethality, making safety plans, and explaining the criminal justice process and the dynamics of domestic and sexual violence for the adults and children involved throughout the prosecution process. Referrals are also made to other First Step programs, as well as pertinent outside resources. In addition, First Step provides in-court victim advocacy and support through free legal clinics.

**INFORMATION AND REFERRALS**

Providing critical information and referrals regarding housing, legal assistance, counseling, temporary emergency housing, transportation, and health care is a large part of First Step’s work.

**CHILDREN’S ADVOCACY AND PREVENTION PROGRAMS**

Children ages 3 through 19 are provided individual, family, and group counseling sessions to overcome the effects of witnessing violence in the home and, in some cases, the trauma of being physically or sexually abused themselves. First Step also recognizes the need for fun and recreation. Through volunteers and staff, First Step provides recreational activities such as field trips, craft activities, holiday celebrations, birthday parties and more for the children and adults in our program.

**ASSAULT RESPONSE**

First Step staff and volunteers, on-call 24-hours a day, 365 days a year, respond to victims of domestic and sexual violence at local emergency rooms, police stations, and schools. Survivors receive immediate crisis intervention, clothing, support, safety planning, and links to First Step and other vital services.

**24-HOUR HELP LINE**

(1-888-453-5900)

The 24-hour help line is a core service at First Step. For many, it is literally a lifeline. Specially trained First Step staff and volunteers provide crisis intervention, support, information, and safety planning to survivors who call our 24-hour help line.

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT ADVOCACY PROGRAMS**

Individuals and families who live in the community have the opportunity to participate in one-on-one counseling and support groups. Survivors of domestic and sexual violence learn about the dynamics of abuse and how to advocate for their own resources and needs. They are given the space to discuss the emotional impact of their situations. Groups allow survivors to share their stories and find strength in connecting with others, who sometimes become life-long friends. Nonresidential sessions are available in four sites: Plymouth, Wayne, Lincoln Park, and Redford.

**TEMPORARY EMERGENCY HOUSING (SHELTER)**

When home is no longer a safe option, First Step provides emergency, short-term housing for victims of domestic and/or sexual violence and their children. Survivor Advocates work with residents to assist them in meeting their goals. Residents have the opportunity to participate in vital services, such as individual and group counseling, safety planning, medical attention, housing referrals, and educational and recreational activities for children.

**OTHER**

First Step provides food, toys, clothing, birthday gifts, gift cards, books, school supplies, diapers, household goods, transportation and many of the other basic needs to help survivors in transition.

**TRANSITIONAL HOUSING**

The Transitional Housing Program provides full rent subsidy and support while helping survivors build a credit history and skills to obtain and maintain permanent housing.