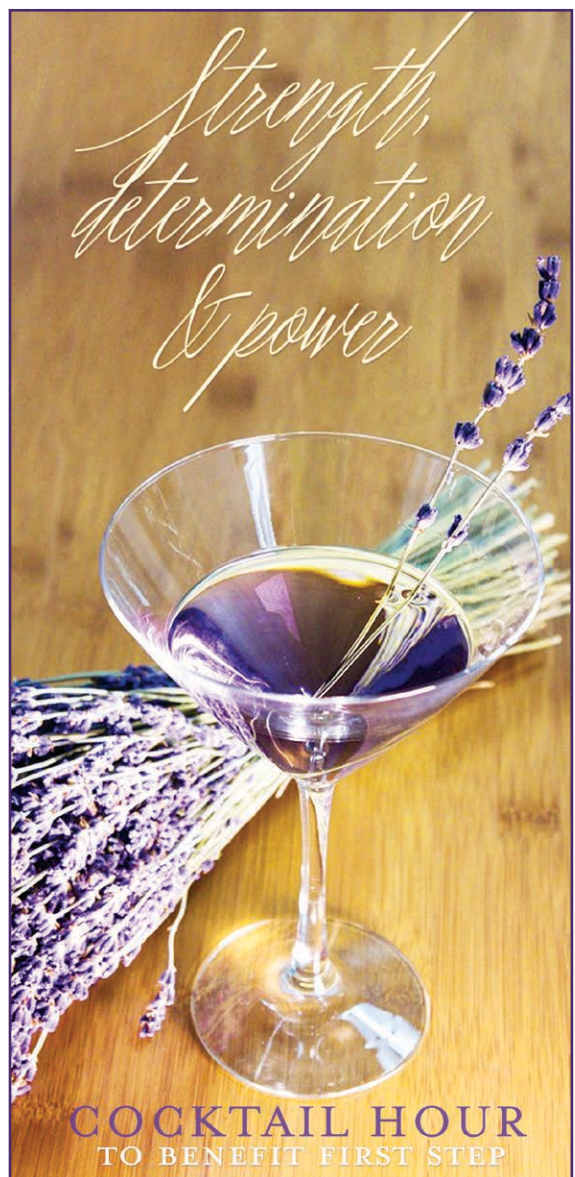


FIRST STEP ANNOUNCES ITS 2017 SIGNATURE EVENT:

Strength, determination & power Cocktail Hour



Come to an inspiring evening of fun, featuring cocktails, music and hors d'oeuvres on Thursday, May 11 from 5:30-7:30 P.M. at Arnaldo's Banquet Center in Riverview.

This event is being co-chaired by new First Step Board member, Karen Mazo and Joan Hennessey. Karen is the former Mayor, Councilwoman and City Clerk of Woodhaven. Joan is a CPA and owner/operator of Hennessey Engineering.

"We wanted to have a First Step event downriver because the agency serves so many survivors from the downriver and Dearborn communities yet they fly a bit 'under the radar' in terms of name recognition and fundraising here. We believe this event will be a great way to have fun and help strengthen the safety net that First Step provides for individuals and families affected by violence in these communities," said Karen Mazo.

Joan Hennessey said, "We are hoping that corporations, religious organizations, service clubs and individuals will consider either sponsoring this event or supporting the cause by purchasing tickets."

Last year, First Step reached 2,234 survivors from the Dearborn and downriver areas. First Step helps victims throughout Wayne County and in 2016 assisted nearly 7,000 adult and child survivors.

SEE PAGE 3 FOR SPONSORSHIP AND TICKET INFORMATION.



IN THIS ISSUE:

First Step Announces its 2017 Signature Event

Zonta's Steppin' Out in Style Fashion Event

Bark for the Ark

Donate your vehicle to First Step

Strength, Determination and Power Cocktail Hour Sponsorships

2016 in Photos

Volunteers Needed

Count Me In!

Chocolate Affair Save the Date

A Message from a First Step Survivor

First Step Wish List

Thank you Verizon Hopeline



Your Store. Your Style.

STEPPIN' OUT *in Style*

Join us for a private fundraising shopping event benefiting First Step.

SUNDAY, MARCH 19

Carson's Laurel Park Place | 6:30-9:00 p.m.



SIPS & LIGHT BITES



SPRING TREND SHOPPING



BEAUTY MAKEOVERS



RAFFLE PRIZES



AFTER HOURS SHOPPING PASS

RSVP \$20 in advance | **\$25** @ the door

All ticket proceeds benefit First Step Western Wayne County Project on Domestic Abuse & Sexual Assault.

For more information & tickets go to:

zontafarmingtonnovi.org

Tickets also available at First Step offices in Wayne and Plymouth.



In 2016 this event raised \$18,000, bringing our total for First Step to \$503,000 since 1994.

CONSIDER DONATING A VEHICLE TO FIRST STEP



To learn more about the donation process or to get started please call 855.500.RIDE (7433) or visit First Step's car donation site at:

<http://bit.ly/FSDonateCar>



BARK FOR THE ARK

On October 13, 2016, First Step and the incredible ARK committee hosted the Bark for the ARK event at Northville Hills Golf Club. Ailsa Blunk and her team of committed, passionate and dedicated volunteers made this night possible. The event was as fun as it was inspiring with a live and silent auction, entertainment by Dale Hicks, and delicious hors d'oeuvres. Noodles the Math Dog and the Smooch-a-Pooch booth featuring English Bulldog Lulu completed the fun filled evening. Proceeds from the event will fund an on-site pet sanctuary and donation resource center.



This magical night turned out to be the most successful fundraising event in First Step's history, raising over \$100,000! Because of the ARK Committee and the success of this event, we anticipate being able to break ground in Spring 2017.

Thank you to everyone who made this night possible, but especially to the ARK Committee for their commitment to helping us build a space where families and their pets are free from violence.

To learn more about the ARK please visit: firststep-mi.org/ark

STRENGTH, DETERMINATION & POWER COCKTAIL HOUR

THURSDAY, MAY 11, 2017

Sponsorship Opportunities

\$25,000: PRESENTING SPONSOR

Listed as presenting sponsor; featured full-page advertisement in event program and logo featured on cover. Separate banner with company logo displayed at event; corporate logo on event print materials, media communications and on First Step's website and newsletter; Generous \$23,500 Donation to First Step. 50 Event Tickets.

\$10,000: WORLD CHANGER SPONSOR

Full page featured advertisement in event program; Recognition on First Step website and newsletter; banner with company logo displayed at event; corporate logo on event print materials and media communications; Generous \$9,100 Donation to First Step. 30 Event Tickets.

\$5,000: JUSTICE SPONSOR

Full page advertisement in event program; Recognition on First Step website and newsletter; name/logo on sponsor banner; corporate logo on event print materials and media communications; Generous \$4,400 donation to First Step. 20 event tickets.

\$2,500: INSPIRATION SPONSOR

Half page advertisement in event program; Recognition on First Step website; name/logo listed on sponsor banner at event; \$2,050 donation to First Step. 15 event tickets.

\$1,000: COURAGE SPONSOR

Quarter Page advertisement in event program; \$700 donation to First Step. 10 event tickets.

\$500: PEACE SPONSOR

Sponsor Recognition in event program; \$350 donation to First Step, 5 event tickets.

\$250: HEALING SPONSOR

Sponsor recognition in event program; \$190 donation to First Step, 2 event tickets.

\$75 INDIVIDUAL EVENT TICKET

Contact Theresa Bizoe at 734-656-0730 or email tbizoe@firststep-mi.org. Alternatively you can visit firststep-mi.org/events/strength-determination-power

Please submit sponsorship commitments by April 1, 2017 to be included in the event invitation, and by May 1, 2017 to be included in the program and signage.

First Step is designated as a 501(c)3 charitable organization under IRS regulations.



✓ COUNT ME IN!

I would like to help FIRST STEP, Western & Downriver Wayne County's only comprehensive Domestic & Sexual Assault program.

I wish to support First Step with a donation of \$ _____

Credit Cards: VISA / MC (circle one)

Account#: _____

Exp. ____/____ 3 Digit Security Code: _____

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

(Checks payable to First Step)
Please fill out this form completely and mail to:
First Step, 44567 Pinetree Drive,
Plymouth, MI 48170

DONATE ONLINE!

Visit <http://bit.ly/firststep-mi>

or scan this code with your
smartphone. To scan the code, you'll need
a free app like QR Scanner or ShopSavvy.



Home Depot



Community Financial



Ladies Jammie Luncheon, Grosse Isle



Association of Pakistani Physicians of North America

Detroit Lions Women's Association



Detroit Lions Women's Association Breakfast & Tour

First Step Spring 2017 Newsletter

SAVE THE DATE! A *Chocolate* AFFAIR

ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2017,
THE LADIES ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS
ELIZABETH FAGAN DIVISION WILL HOST THE
13TH ANNUAL "A CHOCOLATE AFFAIR"
TO BENEFIT FIRST STEP.

ITALIAN AMERICAN
BANQUET & CONFERENCE CENTER
39200 5 MILE ROAD
LIVONIA, MI 48154
2:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.



Salon 360



First Step
Life Communities
6 IN
TOS

Lowe's



Home Depot Canton



First Step Volunteer Training

At First Step, we understand how important it is to have volunteers on our team! In fact, we rely on you to help us create a strong support system for survivors in our community.

Last year over 600 people stepped up and volunteered at First Step, taking on projects like family fun night, nurturing, assault response, or providing support to clients involved in the legal system.

What types of opportunities are available?

Project-Based Occasional Volunteer Opportunities

- Individuals, groups, or students fulfilling a school service project are invited to help with projects.
- Plan an activity for current shelter residents such as movies, games, crafts, outdoor or indoor children's activities, hair styling, manicures, makeup, massage, yoga or exercise.
- Organize and clean the shelter playroom, storage, kitchen, dining room or pantry areas.
- Receive and organize donated items.
- Light maintenance or yard work.
- Work in our garden planting, weeding, and harvesting fruits and vegetables.

Consistent Volunteer Opportunities:

- Volunteer on a consistent basis for a direct client service program or general office duties.
- Assault Response, Community Response, Administrative Support, Career Center, Life Skills, Child Mentoring Activities, Reception Desk, Special Projects
- Residential Shelter: Cleaning and Childcare, Cooking Lessons, Homework Assistance, Story Telling, Children and Teen Activities, Wellness and Fitness Activities.

Want to learn more about volunteering at First Step?

Volunteer Open House:

Thursday, March 16, 2017
6:00pm -8:00 PM.

Thursday, April 20, 2017
6:00 pm- 8:00 PM.

We would love to see you at either of these events!

Please RSVP to volunteers@firststep-mi.org or call Danny Inman at 734.713.0653

Upcoming Volunteer Spring Training:

Saturday, May 6, 2017
Sunday, May 7, 2017
Saturday, May 20, 2017
Sunday, May 21, 2017



Bowler Insurance Group



ARK event

L.A.P Program, Canton



GE Aviation

A Message from a First Step Survivor to Amy Youngquist, CEO, First Step

December 2, 2016

Dear Ms. Youngquist,

I am writing you to share my recent experience with First Step, and the life changing impact it has had on me. I am filled with gratitude for the amazing support and assistance I have received from my advocates. The First Step organization has equipped me with the tools that I desperately need to have the courage to fight for my life.

As I sat in a hospital room with my two young daughters, I felt terrified and very alone. The police officer took my statement as I looked down at my torn clothing and felt physical pain in my body. Still in a state of shock, I honestly had no idea what I was going to do. Like most victims, this was not the first incident. The last time there was also an arrest. I was too afraid to proceed with appearing in court against him then. However, this time I actually realized how easily I could have been killed in front of my daughters. I didn't know how to proceed. I had endured 20 years of every form of abuse.

Thankfully, I took the step to call a First Step advocate and meet with her the next day. It was one of the most important decisions I have ever made. She was aware that I had a prior domestic violence incident but never judged me. She kindly erased the guilt and shame I felt by remaining in this situation for so long. She explained the changes [that occur] in the brain of a victim who has endured [abuse] as long as I had. I was shown a visual aid of a power wheel and I identified with every tactic of manipulation and control that had been used on me. I could feel her tone, and the reality of the imminent danger that I was in became clear. It finally sank in that I may not be alive to raise my children if I did not make another choice. I chose to fight for my life and my daughters' lives.

For the first time, I had a support team on my side. I met another advocate on my subsequent visit. She has been there for me at all times of the day, and actually stood side by side with me when I absolutely had no one. Because of her, I was able to feel prepared when filling out all the necessary paperwork for my Personal Protection Order. She explained what would happen when we appeared in court for the DV charges. I didn't have even one family member present, but my advocate was there. In court on another occasion he tried to have my PPO dismissed. This man literally demonstrated for the entire courtroom how he lifted me above his head and slammed me onto the concrete by lifting a courtroom attorney's chair above his head. The courtroom gasped aloud, and I wanted to run out, jump into my car and hide. He did this after trying to utterly humiliate me in every other way verbally sharing very inappropriate things just to embarrass and destroy me further. I looked back at my advocate with tears in my eyes and she smiled saying, you're doing good. I know I could not have gotten this far without her. Together we set up a safety plan. She helped me obtain advice at the legal clinic, and also helped arrange counseling for my daughters at First Step with a children's advocate. My girls are struggling, and this counseling has been very beneficial after the trauma they have experienced. My advocate is completely focused on doing everything she can to help us, and there is no way that I could ever repay her for all of her kindness and hard work. She is the epitome of what an advocate should be because she genuinely cares.

I have written this to simply state the First Step is a true haven and an asset in our community. It is imperative that First Step continues its work for persons like myself who do not know how to access the resources available when dealing with domestic violence. It could possibly be the last time we have an opportunity to fight for our lives. Thank you so much from the bottom of my heart to every single person who keeps this amazing program functioning for our community. I can see the light at the end of the tunnel thanks to First Step. I am grateful for my two amazing advocates and the aid they have rendered to my children and me. I won't give up the fight to get away. First Step probably saved my life.

Sincerely,

A Domestic Violence Survivor

***Please note that the survivor and advocates' names were removed for privacy and protection of this survivor.



FIRST STEP WISHLIST

Here's how you can help

Donations accepted Monday-Friday, 9 A.M. - 4 P.M. at both Plymouth and Wayne locations.

Please consider donating gift cards or the cash value of an item you would like to donate. First Step leverages suppliers to get discounts on food and supplies and your monetary gift may help us cover essential operational expenses such as phone, electricity, heat and counseling. All donations, whether monetary or in-kind, help First Step in our mission to create peaceful families and safe communities. Thank you. Your support is appreciated.

GIFT CARD NEEDS

Kroger, Walmart, Meijer, Target
MasterCard/Visa
Gas cards
Drug stores

PERSONAL CARE ITEMS (FULL-SIZE)

Hair care products (shampoo/conditioner)
Hair care products for women of color
Hair brushes
Wide-tooth combs
Body wash
Hand and body lotion
Deodorant
Hand sanitizer
Feminine hygiene products

CLOTHING ITEMS(NEW)

Sweats
Underwear/bras
Socks (women & children)
Gloves/hats/outerwear

BABY ITEMS

Baby bottles (standard size 8 & larger)
Diapers (sizes 4, 5 & 6)
Pull ups
Baby wipes
New clothes
Diaper rash cream

FOOD&DRINKS

Food storage containers/bags
Cold cereals
Canned goods (soups, vegetables, etc.)
Juice
Hot chocolate
Coffee

KITCHEN SUPPLIES

Liquid dish soap
Garbage bags
Disinfectant wipes
Laundry soap
Aluminum foil
Dishes, pots, pans & skillet

BEDROOM ITEMS(NEW)

Bath and hand towels
Wash cloths
Twin blankets
Twin sheet sets
Pillows

BATHROOM ITEMS

Toilet paper
Bath mats
Toilet bowl cleaner
Shower curtains & liners/hooks
Cleaning supplies

PAPER PRODUCTS

Paper towel
Paper plates & bowls
Plastic silverware & cups
Kleenex

MISCELLANEOUS

Laundry baskets
Storage containers w/lids

PROVIDE FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Cash donations of any amount are always the most efficient way to support the free services offered by First Step to families affected by violence.

**Download our complete
Wish List at firststep-mi.org**

Please note: We are unable to accept used toys or used clothing due to lack of storage. We will be happy to refer you to the clothing banks we use to donate these items. Thank you for your understanding!

First Step is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Your donation may be tax deductible to the extent allowable by law. Your contribution may qualify for a federal tax deduction.

For more information, or to discuss donating larger items, call 734-713-0652 or email info@firststep-mi.org

THANK YOU, VERIZON

We would like to thank Verizon for sponsoring the publication and distribution of First Step's 2016 and 2017 newsletters, and for being our partners in ending domestic violence and sexual assault. These newsletters are designed to inform the community, survivors, donors, volunteers and service partners about the issues of domestic and sexual violence.

First Step newsletters feature articles on safety planning, protecting children from domestic and sexual violence, working for peace and justice in the community, the dynamics of technology and violence, as well as information about upcoming events in support of First Step.

Verizon's HopeLine provides ways for individuals to take action against violence by donating used wireless phones and accessories (chargers, cases, earbuds, etc) in

any condition from any service provider. These phones are then turned into resources to support domestic violence organizations and programs nationwide.

Verizon is a global leader delivering innovative communications and technology solutions that improve the way their customers live, work and play.

 **HOPELINE**
from Verizon

PLANNED  GIVING

**ANY SIZED PLANNED GIFT
CAN MAKE AN ENORMOUS
DIFFERENCE!**

For further information or to receive our planned giving brochure, please contact Theresa Bizoe at tbizoe@firststep-mi.org or 734.656.0730. Find more info at www.firststep-mi.org/donate

**SUNDAY
MARCH 19**

STEPPIN' OUT
in Style



**Laurel Park Place
Livonia**
See page 2

ABOUT FIRST STEP

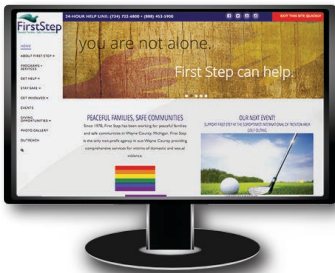
First Step is an agency in Wayne County, Michigan that provides comprehensive services to support survivors of domestic and sexual violence.

First Step offers temporary emergency housing, counseling, advocacy, transitional housing, assault response, 24-hour help line services, children's services, training and education to survivors and to the community.

Help work to make your community violence-free by becoming involved with First Step; volunteer, donate, and stand up against violence in your community.

Call 734.416.1111 for more information.

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE! www.firststep-mi.org



Special thank you to Kate Peterson for donating this beautiful and functional new website design! See more of her work at pleasantlyprogressivedesign.com



First Step
44567 Pinetree Drive
Plymouth, MI 48170

First Step
Karen Wilson Smithbauer Center
4400 South Venoy Road
Wayne, MI 48184

Phone
734.416.1111

24-Hour Help Line
734.722.6800

Fax
734.416.5555

Online
firststep-mi.org
facebook.com/firststepmi

