2016–2017 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Beckie Thompson

° Joined in 2016

QUOTES FROM FIRST STEP SURVIVORS

"I have regained my self-confidence and independence."

"In just 5 short weeks, I have gained my life back."

"I thank God for First Step."

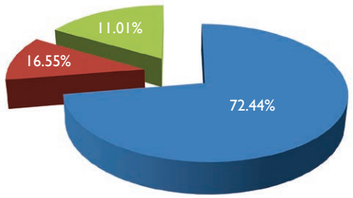
"I'm showing my kids that this was the right thing to do."

"Soon we will have a safe place to call home again."

"With the help of others, I learned I can survive the trauma of sexual assault."

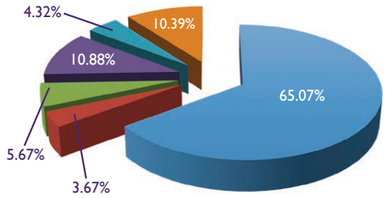
"My advocate helped me become wiser and stronger - I can't thank her enough."

EXPENSES



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAMMING	$2,220,438
SEXUAL ASSAULT PROGRAMMING	$337,470
SUPPORTING SERVICES *General & Administrative*	$507,277
TOTAL EXPENSES	$3,065,185

REVENUE



FEDERAL	$2,005,769
STATE & OTHER	$113,223
FOUNDATIONS	$174,682
CONTRIBUTIONS	$335,330
UNITED WAY	$133,018
CONTRIBUTED SERVICES	$320,388
TOTAL REVENUE	$3,082,410

PROGRAM ENDORSEMENTS AND DETAILS ABOUT FIRST STEP'S FINANCIAL REPORTS CAN BE FOUND AT HTTP://FIRSTSTEP-MI.ORG/GUIDESTAR

21,975 24-HOUR LINE / CRISIS CALLS

Community Response Program in police/courts

2,036 SURVIVORS SUPPORTED

In-Court Victim Advocacy / Legal Information / Clinics

3,955 HOURS

Counseling / Advocacy for adults & children

18,151 HOURS

450 PEOPLE

stepped up and volunteered for First Step

Violence Prevention Programs in schools

Date rape awareness and education

Coalition Building

SAFETY PLANNING

All adult and child survivors who work with First Step develop a safety plan

FIRST STEP TOUCHED THE LIVES OF 10,490 PEOPLE IN 2015–2016

FirstStep
Peaceful Families • Safe Communities

PROGRAMS AND SERVICE STATISTICS 2015–2016 FISCAL YEAR

Total number of survivors served

7,043 ADULTS 447 CHILDREN

3,000 PEOPLE

participated in First Step's

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION SESSIONS

LETHALITY ASSESSMENT PROGRAM SCREENINGS

Canton: 99/42 High Danger
Taylor: 30/25 High Danger
Dearborn: 43/28 High Danger

SUPPORT GROUPS 2,000 HOURS

Emergency Housing

14,580 NIGHTS OF SAFE SHELTER

(140 adults, 188 children)

272 INSTANCES

helping clients obtain Personal Protection Orders

TRANSPORTATION

First Step provided 1,604 rides for 192 survivors

TRANSITIONAL SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

23 adults and 29 children received subsidized safe housing (14,007 nights) & support services

FOOD, CLOTHING, HOUSEHOLD GOODS

First Step provided 13,900 items to families

Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Awareness Month activities

24-hour on-call Assault Response Team responded to

169 PRIMARY AND 17 SECONDARY VICTIMS

Western Wayne County
44567 Pinetree Drive
Plymouth, MI 48170
734.416.1111

Redford
27150 Westfield
Redford, MI 48239
313.937.9791

Karen Wilson Smithbauer Center
4400 S. Venoy
Wayne, MI 48184
734.722.1772

Lincoln Park
1394 Cleophus
Lincoln Park, MI 48146
313.383.2975

24-HOUR HELP LINE: (734) 722-6800 • FACEBOOK.COM/FIRSTSTEPMI

FirstStep
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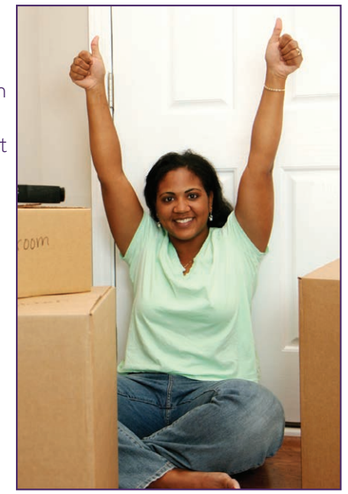
ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR OCTOBER 1, 2015 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

YEAR IN REVIEW | AMY YOUNGQUIST CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

The First Step family - consisting of survivors, staff, board members, volunteers, and supporters - continues to be on a mission!

Over the last year, we have successfully enhanced our critical programs—helping the most vulnerable members of our community, in addition to improving our physical space to best meet the needs of those who come to us looking for a new beginning.



This report highlights the tremendous amount of services we provide in a year-all free of charge-to the women, men, and children whose lives have been torn apart by violence. However, the numbers tell only part of the story. The numbers don't convey the spirit and passion for this work in which all of this happens.

With your ongoing support, First Step stands ready to proactively respond to survivors of domestic and sexual violence to pick up the pieces, heal from the trauma, and provide a healthy and safe environment for themselves and their children. We have all been witnesses to the great tragedies that happen in our each and every one of our cities. We are here to work diligently towards a common goal of peaceful families and safe communities for all adults and children-regardless of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or disability.

It's up to all of us to make ending domestic and sexual violence a top priority 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 horrific crimes against the people they claim to love.

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 challenges with you. First Step's ability to make real change depends on your care and compassion that keeps us going strong!

Amy Youngquist

Amy Youngquist, Chief Executive Officer and Board Member

SERVING WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN • FIRSTSTEP-MI.ORG

FIRST STEP PROGRAMS & SERVICES

Since 1978, First Step has been working for peaceful families and safe communities in Wayne County, Michigan. First Step is a non-profit agency in 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.

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.

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.

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 callers with crisis intervention, support, information, and safety planning to survivors who call our 24-hour help line.

ASSAULT RESPONSE

First Step staff and volunteers are on-call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to 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 referrals to First Step and other vital services.

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 include the effects of violence on children, dating violence, date rape drugs, and domestic/sexual assault myths and facts.

LETHALITY ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

First Step received a grant from the McGregor Fund to begin the Lethality Assessment Program in Canton Township, Taylor and Dearborn. This team is composed of dispatchers, police officers, survivor advocates, prosecutors and probation officers. Together, they are working to identify the most dangerous cases of domestic violence and implement critical intervention services. This team was specifically designed to reduce serious injuries and fatalities, to hold batters accountable and surround survivors with the support, services and options the need to keep their families safe.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT ADVOCACY PROGRAMS

Individuals and families 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 they need to discuss the emotional impact of their situations. Group sessions allow survivors to share their stories and find strength in connecting with others, who sometimes become life-long friends. Nonresidential counseling is available in four sites: Plymouth, Wayne, Lincoln Park and Redford.

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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. First Step also provides in-court victim advocacy and support through free legal clinics.