Did You Know?

⇒ 71% of pet owners entering domestic violence shelters report that their abuser had threatened, injured or killed a family pet.
⇒ 40% of domestic violence victims are unable to escape their abusers because they are concerned about what will happen to their pets if they leave.
⇒ Only 12% of domestic violence programs can provide shelter for pets.

The new First Step ARK building will house a program which will allow survivors to bring their pets into the shelter. The building features four dog kennels, four cat kennels, an outdoor dog run, four outdoor dog pens, a cat play area, a family visitation area, a laundry/storage area and a restroom. The other half of the First Step ARK serves as a heated storage area/resource center for the many generous donations First Step receives from the community to distribute to survivors (diapers, clothing, household goods, toys, food, school supplies etc...).

The First Step ARK could not have been built without the tremendous support of many community leaders, donors and talented volunteers. Special thanks to the ARK committee who shared their talents and enthusiasm to make this dream a reality.

First Step held an “unleashing” ceremony (in place of a ribbon cutting…get it? Unleashing?) and since then, we have been welcoming survivor’s pets to their new temporary home. At the time this article was written (early June 2019), First Step was providing safe housing for four cats, two dogs, seventeen adults and twenty-four children.

The ARK will be an important resource to remove the barriers that keep survivors from leaving for fear that their pet will be harmed or killed as a result of the power and control that often occurs in domestic violence situations. Animals also provide a strong source of emotional support and comfort for the families and keeping the pets safe and nearby reduces the worry and trauma children may have had if they were forced to give up their pet(s) to come into shelter.

First Step has established a special fund to support the ARK. Contributions to this fund will help to provide dog and cat food (specific to the needs of the pets in the facility at that time) as well as veterinary care, building cleaning, program supplies, maintenance & utility costs to help heat and cool the ARK building.
Since the founding of First Step in 1978, the impact of this agency, due to the staff, board, volunteers, partners, and donors who have supported it, is infinite. In over 40 years over 31,000 survivors of domestic and sexual violence have been touched by this work. Many survivors have endured and escaped violence so extreme they are lucky to have survived in the first place, and yet their strength, courage, and resilience prove that there is hope.

Since starting here at First Step in March 2018, one of the biggest things I am consistently amazed by is the profound commitment of our community to this agency. First Step has the most dedicated and truly caring individuals from our county standing up for and ensuring that First Step is here to help survivors of violence and eradicate violence from our community.

To all staff, board members, donors, volunteers, survivors, and partners of the last year, I thank you, for all you have done to ensure the success of this agency in serving our community, and for your bravery. It is an honor to serve with you.

Kindly,

[Signature]
The event netted over $110,000 for First Step. Thanks to our event planning committee and all of our sponsors, volunteers and attendees.

Jennifer Hartke and Karen Wilson Smithbauer, First Step board members

The First Step 2019 You are the Light Gala was held on Friday, May 17 in Plymouth. The event celebrated the work of all who shine a light on the problem of violence in our community, including survivors, donors, volunteers, staff and community partners. This year’s event was chaired by Elaine C. Tingle and emceed by WXYZ TV’s Carolyn Clifford.

Elaine Tingle (Event Chair) and Ron Hall Jr, from Bridgewater Interiors

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

The First Step formally recognized five outstanding volunteer/groups at the event:

- The Karen Wilson Smithbauer Legacy Award was presented to Jennifer Hartke
- The First Step Tillie Award was presented to Donica Lopez
- The First Step Corporate Award was presented to Ford Motor Company-2018 Thirty under 30 program
- The First Step Hope Award was presented to Catherine Stratford
- The First Step Community Leadership Award was presented to the Wayne Police Department-Chief Ryan Strong

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Thank you to our major sponsors

Beaumont Health
Blue Cross Blue Shield
Ford Motor Company Fund
Rich Lyons, LYONSCG
Carla O’Malley
MASCO Corporation

Thank you to all who support our work! We are grateful for your investment in the safety and peace of our community and in hope for the survivors who reach out to First Step for help.

If you attended the event, please fill out the survey at this link and provide your feedback so we can make an even better event next year: surveymonkey.com/r/LRBQRHT
First Step has been working for peaceful families and safe communities in Wayne County, Michigan. First Step is the only non-profit 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.

**Prevention Programs**

**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.

**COMMUNITY EDUCATION**

First Step believes that prevention is a key component to ending violence in our communities. First Step volunteers and 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.

**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 18 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.

**COMMUNITY Legal RESPONSE / LETHALITY ASSESSMENT PROGRAM**

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 to support 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.

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT ADVOCACY PROGRAMS**

Through individual and group sessions, 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 lifelong friends. Nonresidential sessions are available in three sites: Plymouth, Wayne and Lincoln Park.

**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.

**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.

**24-HOUR HELP LINE (734-722-6800)**

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.

**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.

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FIRST STEP TOUCHE THE LIVES OF 8,467 PEOPLE IN 2017-2018

3,000 PEOPLE participated in First Step’s OUTREACH AND EDUCATION SESSIONS
Counseling / Advocacy for adults & children 6,608 SURVIVORS 10,918 HOURS

PERSONAL PROTECTION
had help obtaining Orders
131 CLIENTS
for adults & children
Treasurer

TRANSITIONAL SUPPORTIVE HOUSING
26 survivors and 57 children received subsidized safe housing (13,991 nights) & support services

SAFETY PLANNING
All adult and child survivors who work with First Step develop a safety plan
Emergency Housing
15,177 NIGHTS OF SAFE SHELTER
115 ADULTS 172 CHILDREN

24-hour on-call Assault Response Team responded to 35 PRIMARY AND 8 SECONDARY VICTIMS

COMMUNITY RESPONSE
Program in police/courts
3,652 SURVIVORS 7,288 HOURS

First Step provided 501 rides for 96 survivors

24-hour Crisis Line
4,971 SURVIVORS 12,928 CALLS

FOOD, CLOTHING, HOUSEHOLD GOODS provided to families as necessary

2017-2019 FIRST STEP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jennifer Hartie
President 2018

Heidi A. Naasko
Secretary

Karen Mazo
Treasurer

First Step provided 501 rides for 96 survivors

Lethality Assessment Program Screenings
954 SCREENINGS 477 HIGH DANGER

TOTAL EXPENSES $3,477,733
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAMMING $2,620,285
SEXUAL ASSAULT PROGRAMMING $236,919
SUPPORTING SERVICES General & Administrative $620,529

TOTAL REVENUE $3,599,914
FEDERAL $2,388,510
STATE & OTHER $121,606
FOUNDATIONS $243,304
CONTRIBUTIONS $437,072
UNITED WAY $139,500
CONTRIBUTED SERVICES $269,922

2017-2019 FIRST STEP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

For Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2018. Program Endorsements and details about First Step’s financial reports can be found at http://firststep-mi.org/guideStar
# PLAYGROUND PUMPKIN PALOOZA SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sponsorship Level</th>
<th>Details</th>
<th>Tickets</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>$25,000 PLAYGROUND PATRON</strong></td>
<td>To create a fund to cover the cost of running the First Step Playground. This fund will cover playground repairs, maintenance, utilities, program enhancements, and volunteer improvement projects.</td>
<td>30 event tickets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>$10,000 RECREATIONAL RAISER</strong></td>
<td>Supports First Step’s children’s recreational program (summer activities, field trips, holiday celebrations, etc.).</td>
<td>20 event tickets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>$5,000 SCHOOL SUPPORTER</strong></td>
<td>Will provide support for school school system field trips, sports, after school activities, supplies, and equipment for the children involved with First Step.</td>
<td>10 event tickets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>$2,500 BEDS FOR BABES</strong></td>
<td>Will provide safe sleeping spaces, pack and plays, sheets, pillows, mattress covers, and new mattresses for the residents at First Step.</td>
<td>8 event tickets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>$1,000 FLOWER POWER</strong></td>
<td>Will support the green spaces around First Step’s playground and grounds, including the planting and maintenance of annuals, perennials, vegetables, grass, mulch, soil, trees, and bushes.</td>
<td>6 event tickets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>$500 KIDS’ KEEPER</strong></td>
<td>Will support First Step’s playground program with the purchase of toys, athletic equipment, ping pong balls and paddles, sandbox toys, bike helmets, bikes, riding toys, etc.</td>
<td>4 event tickets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>$250 CHILDREN’S CHAMPION</strong></td>
<td>Will provide funds for First Step’s children’s program to support important counseling and advocacy initiatives to help overcome the trauma of abuse.</td>
<td>2 event tickets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>$100 STUDENT SUSTAINER</strong></td>
<td>Will provide funds for First Step’s children’s program to support important counseling and advocacy initiatives to help children overcome the trauma of abuse.</td>
<td>1 event ticket</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>$25 SINGLE EVENT TICKET</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ALL FUNDS RAISED WILL HELP FIRST STEP’S CHILDREN’S PROGRAM**

Delicious food and drink from Jeff Zak Catering

Special tribute to the memories of Mike O’Malley and Tilly LaFave

Crafts & Music

Sunday, October 27, 2019
12:00pm – 3:00pm
First Step Playground
Karen Wilson Smithbauer Center
4400 Venoy
Wayne, MI 48184

This event is open to any kind-hearted soul who wants to help First Step.

Individual Tickets just $25

**Dress Casual!**
There will be opportunities to plant flowers and trees, and do other service projects on the playground.

**REGISTER ONLINE:** [HTTP://GIVECLASSY.ORG/PALOOZA](HTTP://GIVECLASSY.ORG/PALOOZA)

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**Company Name/Organization/Individual:** ________________________________  **Contact Person:** ________________________________

**Sponsorship level:** _________________________  **I wish to contribute in memory/honor of:** ________________________________

**I can’t attend but please accept my donation of _______.**

**Address:** ___________________________________________  **City:** ___________  **State:** __  **Zip:** ________

**Phone (Day):__________ (Evening):__________**  **E-mail:** ________________________________

**Method of Payment:**  [ ] Check  [ ] Visa  [ ] MasterCard  [ ] Invoice us

**Name as it appears on card:** _____________________________________________

**Acct Number:**  [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ][ ] [ ][ ][ ]  **EXP:**  [ ] [ ] [ ]  **3 Digit Code:**  [ ] [ ] [ ]

**Signature:** _____________________________________________

Please mail, email or fax to First Step, 44567 Pintree Drive, Plymouth, MI 48170
fax: 734-416-5555 email: info@firststep-mi.org

Please make checks payable to First Step.

Questions? Call 734-656-0730 or email tbizoe@firststep-mi.org

First Step is designated as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization under IRS regulations.  
www.firststep-mi.org

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**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.

**ABOUT FIRST STEP**
First Step is an organization 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 for peace and safety in your community.

Call 734.416.1111 for more information.

**DONATE ONLINE**

**COUNT ME IN!**
I would like to help FIRST STEP, Wayne County’s comprehensive domestic & sexual assault program.

I wish to support First Step with a donation of $________

Credit Card: VISA / MC (circle one)

Account#: _____________________________ Exp. ___/___ CSV: ______

Name: __________________________________________________________

Address: _____________________________________________________ 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

**SAVE THE DATE**
2-5PM, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6th

**A Chocolate Affair**
LAOH Fundraiser to benefit First Step
Hellenic Cultural Center, Westland - $30

**24-HOUR HELP LINE**
734.722.6800

**First Step**
44567 Pinetree Drive
Plymouth, MI 48170
734.416.1111

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

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