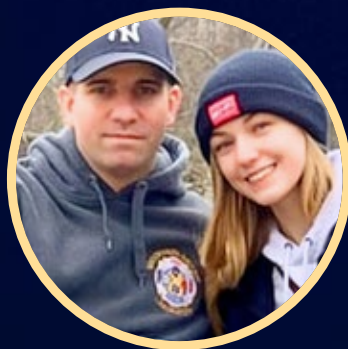




You are the
Light
ANNUAL GALA

FEATURING A SPECIAL
KEYNOTE FROM THE
GABBY PETITO FOUNDATION



*Jim Schmidt, Gabby Petito's stepfather,
joins us as this year's Survivor Speaker*

OCTOBER 17, 2025
LIVONIA, MICHIGAN

FIRSTSTEP-MI.ORG/LIGHT

UNITY. COMMUNITY. RESILIENCE.

This year, those words carry more meaning than ever before.

We're deeply honored to welcome **Jim Schmidt**, stepfather of 22-year-old *Gabby Petito*, as our keynote survivor speaker. Gabby's 2021 disappearance and tragic murder by her partner drew national attention to the deadly reality of intimate partner violence — and *American Murder: Gabby Petito* on Netflix (2025) has brought her story to millions.

Jim's presence is a compelling reminder that behind every statistic is a name, a story, and a loved one who deserved more. To learn more about Gabby and her family's ongoing efforts to support prevention and raise awareness, visit gabbypetitofoundation.org — and consider joining us at this year's Gala to hear Jim share their powerful experience firsthand.

As threats to federal funding loom and violence rates rise — especially here in Wayne County — your support is not just impactful, it's **essential**. First Step remains the only comprehensive provider in the county for survivors of domestic and sexual violence. This gala helps raise the critical funds that keep our services free and available, 24/7. Because when a survivor calls, we need to be there.

Your gift—whether through sponsorship, a ticket, or a donation—fuels this mission.

Join us for an unforgettable evening of live music, dancing, cocktails, inspiring survivor stories, and powerful moments of community and celebration. The 2025 *You Are the Light Gala* honors the strength of survivors and the people who walk beside them. And that includes YOU.

Whether you're a longtime supporter, attending for the first time, or giving from afar, we invite you to stand with us in solidarity, celebration, and hope.

Ready to make a difference? Purchase your tickets today, become a sponsor, or make a gift at firststep-mi.org/light! Together, we can light the way for survivors and build a brighter future for all.

*You are
invited!*



*SURVIVOR SPEAKERS
AWARD CEREMONY
SILENT AUCTION
DANCING & COCKTAILS
LIVE MUSIC BY
THE BLUEWATER KINGS
PLATED DINNER*



**SPECIAL GUEST
SURVIVOR SPEAKER:**



**JAMES
SCHMIDT**

Stepfather of Gabby Petito
Board Member, Gabby Petito Foundation
Featured in the Netflix documentary American Murder: Gabby Petito

OCTOBER 17, 2025

6:30 PM - 11:30 PM
LAUREL MANOR
39000 SCHOOLCRAFT RD
LIVONIA, MICHIGAN

Funds raised will help First Step continue to provide free and comprehensive services for survivors of Intimate Partner Violence and Sexual Assault, such as:



Emergency Shelter

Onsite Pet Shelter

24-Hour Helpline and Support

24-Hour On-Call Crisis Response

Transitional Supportive Housing

Counseling and Advocacy

Support Groups

Children's Programming

Respite Care and Field Trips

Legal Advocacy and Clinics

Protection Order Assistance

Education and Outreach

Professional In-Service Training

Resources and Referrals

WWW.FIRSTSTEP-MI.ORG



THERE ARE TWO WAYS YOU CAN CHOOSE TO PARTICIPATE:

1.

In Person

Purchase a ticket or sponsorship of your choice, and celebrate with a plated dinner, live music, cocktails, dancing, auction, awards, and hear inspiring stories.
2.

100% Donation

If you cannot attend but would like to make a donation to help First Step's mission, simply make your contribution on the registration form.

SPONSORSHIP/TICKET OPPORTUNITIES

- \$50,000 BEACON OF HOPE SPONSOR**
- *VIP Event Experience: Priority seating for 20 guests*
 - *VIP Dinner Experience: Cocktail service to table(s) during dinner*
 - *Featured recognition during event*
 - *Logo display on event table*
 - *Full-page ad with prime placement in event program*
 - *Amplified Exposure: Three social media shout-outs*
 - *Featured recognition in First Step's newsletter*
 - *Premier recognition on First Step's website*
 - *Personalized informational session and guided tour of First Step's facilities*

- \$25,000 LUMINESCENCE SPONSOR**
- *VIP Event Experience: Priority seating for 20 guests*
 - *VIP Dinner Experience: Cocktail service to table(s) during dinner*
 - *Featured recognition during event*
 - *Logo display on event table*
 - *Full-page ad with prominent placement in the event program*
 - *Amplified Exposure: Two social media shout-outs*
 - *Acknowledgment in First Step's newsletter*
 - *Prominent recognition on First Step's website*
 - *Personalized informational session and guided tour of First Step's facilities*

- \$10,000 BRILLIANCE SPONSOR**
- *VIP Event Experience: Priority seating for 10 guests*
 - *VIP Dinner Experience: Wine pour at table during dinner*
 - *Featured recognition during event*
 - *Logo display on event table*
 - *Full-page ad in event program*
 - *One social media shout-out*
 - *Recognition in First Step's newsletter*
 - *Recognition on First Step's website*

- \$5,000 ILLUMINATION SPONSOR**
- *Seating for 10 guests*
 - *Logo display on event table*
 - *Ad recognition during event*
 - *Half page ad in event program*
 - *Listing on First Step's website*

- \$2,500 RADIANCE SPONSOR**
- *Seating for 10 Guests*
 - *Listing recognition during event*
 - *Quarter page ad in event program*
 - *Listing on First Step's website*

- \$1,750 ULTRAVIOLET SPONSOR**
- *Seating for 10 guests*
 - *Listing recognition during event*
 - *Listing in event program*

- \$500 GLIMMER SPONSOR**
- *Two event tickets*
 - *Listing in event program*

- \$150 EVENT TICKET**
- *One event ticket (includes champagne toast, entrée, dessert, and open bar)*

Company/Organization/Individual Name: _____

Contact Person: _____

Relationship to Company/Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

☐ Check here if above address is for the Company/Organization

Phone (Cell): _____

Phone (Work): _____

E-mail: _____

☐ I can't attend, but I would like 100% of my sponsorship to be donated to First Step.

Method of Payment:

☐ Check ☐ Invoice us

If you would like to pay by credit card, please go online to firststep-mi.org/light to complete your purchase.

Sponsorship Level:

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beacon of Hope | <input type="checkbox"/> Ultraviolet |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Luminescence | <input type="checkbox"/> Glimmer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brilliance | <input type="checkbox"/> Event Ticket |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Illumination | Number of tickets: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Radiance | |

The deadline for recognition in the program is September 15, 2025.

Visit firststep-mi.org/light or scan code to secure a sponsorship, purchase tickets, or donate online.



You can also mail, email or fax to: First Step
44567 Pinetree Drive, Plymouth, MI 48170,
info@firststep-mi.org, fax: 734-416-5555
Please make checks payable to First Step.

Questions? Call or email Carrie Bozman,
734.656.0738, cbozman@firststep-mi.org.