

Newsletter

1st Quarter
2020

FEARLESS!

RECLAIMING OUR SAFETY

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How Victims of Domestic Violence Face More Risks

By Kellyann Kostyal-Larrier, Fearless Executive Director
May 6, 2020 • HUDSON VALLEY PRESS

While our nation is facing unprecedented times and navigating uncharted waters during this public health crisis, victims of domestic violence face additional risk to their safety and wellbeing. The steps being taken across the globe speak to reducing risk, saving lives, and creating a healthier future for all humankind. This is vital if we want to overcome this health crisis but we must hold space for the victims and survivors having to take these risk reduction measures knowing they will increase their personal risk and potentially have lethal outcomes within their homes.

Access to services, support, and the ability for victims to make informed choices around safety, risk, and danger are greatly impacted by the COVID outbreak and the important restrictions put in place to help reduce the spread. When victims are forced to shelter in place with an abuser who continues to choose to terrorize their families, and there is very limited, if any relief available, the danger to victims and their children is greatly increased. When we couple that with access to weapons in homes of those who use coercive and abusive behaviors, the risk and danger for victims and their children jump to possibly lethal results.

To read more of the article please [click here](#).



In Solidarity
Kellyann

Kellyann Kostyal-Larrier
Fearless! Executive Director

fearlesshv.org



IS NOW

FEARLESS!
RECLAIMING OUR SAFETY

P.O. Box 649
Newburgh, NY 12551


24 Hour Hotline
845-562-5340
Business Office
845-562-5365

FOLLOW US



FEARLESS!

is still here for you

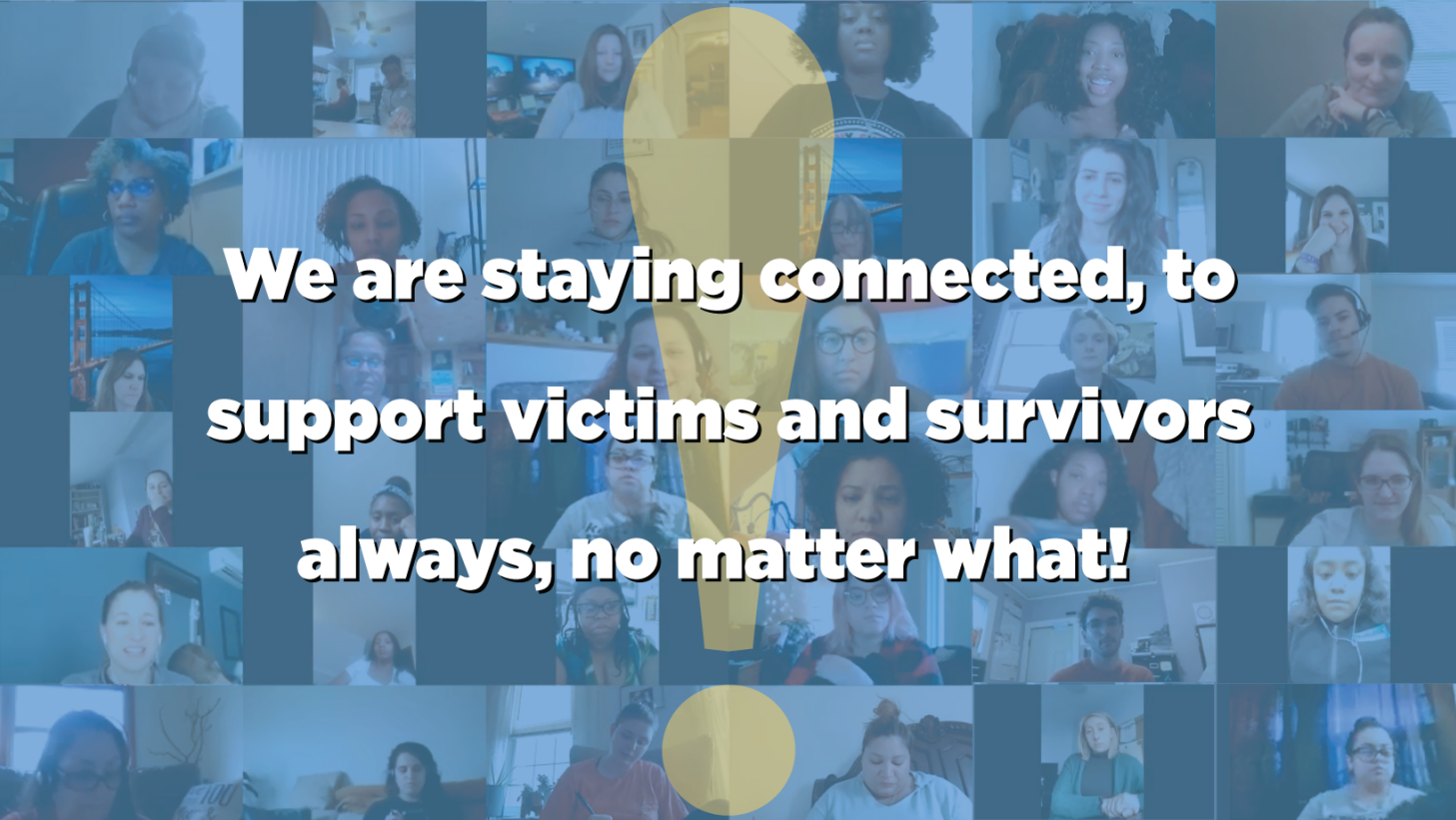
get help
**WITHOUT
SAYING
A WORD** 

WEB CHAT NOW AVAILABLE
MONDAY - FRIDAY, 8AM - 8PM

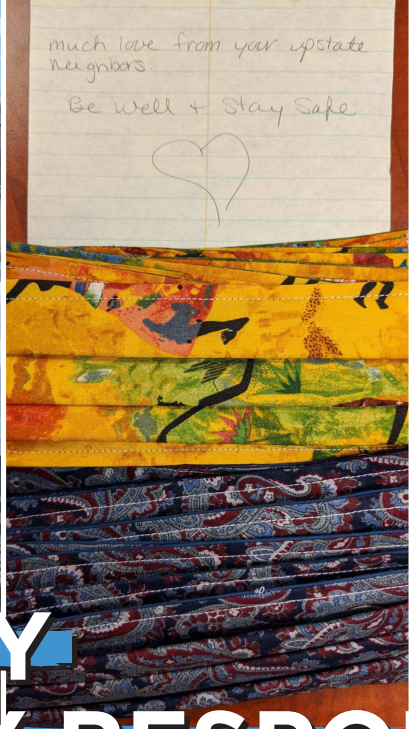
Currently, many of our services are being offered remotely. Please call us to determine what services may be appropriate for you or your loved one during these unprecedented times. Services include but are not limited to **crisis counseling, therapeutic counseling, safety planning, advocacy, shelter, information and referrals, legal support, support groups, education, and outreach.**

All Fearless! advocates co-located within Criminal and Civil Justice systems (police departments, child welfare, social services) continue to work with our partners remotely to ensure victims have the support they need as they navigate these systems during this global pandemic. Fearless! staff are able to e-file petitions on behalf of victims seeking orders of protection and accompany them to the initial appearance. Our partnership with **Legal Services of the Hudson Valley** is operational; more information and referrals can be provided by calling our hotline.

Our Education and Prevention Team is working throughout Orange and Sullivan County offering online workshops, presentations, consultations, and more. For more information, please contact **Zoë Mahan, Education Manager** at zmahan@fearlesshv.org or **845-562-5365**.



**We are staying connected, to
support victims and survivors
always, no matter what!**



OUR COMMUNITY QUICKLY RESPONDED



TO OUR MASK NEED DURING COVID-19



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT!



It's hard to believe how fast time goes. Ten years ago, **Saishree (Kiki) Rao** walked through the doors of what was then Safe Homes of Orange County expressing interest in volunteering. Kiki was passionate about our work and advocated for women's rights throughout her career and personal life. She was raising her family, building her home, working on a local level on matters that were near and dear to her heart, and looking for an additional opportunity to give back. **From the very beginning, it was clear that Kiki was extraordinary as she was open and eager to learn anything that could be supportive to victims and survivors.** Kiki is always talking about Fearless! and our mission, and ensures that everyone she comes in contact with knows who we are and how to find us. She has stepped in wherever help is needed, no matter what, no matter when. Even now, as we are navigating this global health crisis, Kiki's volunteering has never wavered. **On behalf of the Board of Directors, staff, and all those we serve, we wanted to express our sincerest gratitude.**

Over the last 10 years you have helped hundreds of victims access safety. You sat with them, alongside them so that they were never alone. Your compassion, relentless advocacy and fierce protector of those who are silenced are characteristics we can all continue to strive for. **You have changed lives, saved lives, and for many you are etched in their minds as the buoy when the storm raged.** You are the most selfless person I have ever met and I am truly grateful that I have gotten to know you and work with you. Thank you for being a Fierce Fearless! Volunteer.

-Kellyann, Executive Director

**FIERCE ADVOCATE
ENERGIZED SUPPORT OF SURVIVORS
DEEPLY COMMITTED
CHAMPION OF JUSTICE
BRAVE, WISE AND FRIEND TO MANY**

It is an honor to know her and to work alongside her, and we all are better off because of her.

- Pam, Collaborative Program Director

happy 10 year anniversary

Thank you so much for everything that you do for our clients. The work that you do is crucial to both the survivors you support and us as advocates. The generosity with which you donate your time and energy to supporting survivors does not go unnoticed, and **you have touched countless lives with your compassion and amazing way of putting people in crisis at ease.** You are a vital part of the Fearless! family, and I have learned so much from you in the short time I've been here. Happy 10 year Anniversary!

- Kodi, Youth Advocate

Mahatma Gandhi said **"The way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the services to others"**. Your service is well-known to be selfless, passionate and full of compassion. Thank you Kiki for all you do!

- Joanna, RRRP Coordinator

We are so lucky to have you as part of the Fearless! team! Seeing you in court always makes me smile because I know that **any client you're with is in good hands.** Thank you for everything you do!"

-Shilo, CPSDV Program Manager

2019 Community Impact



5,419
NIGHTS OF SAFETY
in our emergency shelters



91¢ of every dollar
goes directly into
programs and services
*helping survivors and
educating our community.*



2,582 & 1,809
ADULTS CHILDREN
served through all programs



641 CASES **for** **356** CLIENTS
were handled by referral
by Legal Services of the Hudson Valley



24,845
ADVOCACY SERVICES
throughout all services



7,968
HOTLINE CALLS
for support services and resources



623 PRESENTATIONS **to** **9,263** INDIVIDUALS
raising awareness to
intimate partner violence,
human trafficking and more.



203 INDIVIDUALS
received emotional support
& **209** INDIVIDUALS
received advocacy
within the
OC District Attorney's Office

VIEW OUR FULL *Impact Report* **HERE**

GIVING TUESDAY | NOW



Dear

FEARLESS!

Friends,

#GivingTuesdayNow is underway, a global day of giving and unity created as an emergency response to the unprecedented need caused by COVID-19. We are asking for your support so we can continue to help victims and their children impacted by domestic violence and human trafficking.

What makes our fundraising efforts especially important is that we are participating in the **#NonprofitMatchingFundInitiative** which means your dollars are supplemented by available match funds on both national and statewide levels. Help us gain momentum and donate today. This match will continue through May 26, 2020.

PLEASE DONATE HERE

Human Trafficking Awareness Month

FEARLESS!

RECLAIMING OUR SAFETY

January was Human Trafficking Awareness Month. It is estimated that **20-40 million people worldwide are impacted by human trafficking**. Building awareness and ensuring a coordinated response to human trafficking is critical to supporting survivors. Each year during January, Fearless! provides outreach, workshops, and trainings throughout our community to create awareness, build relationships, and reach our most vulnerable community members. Fearless! provides comprehensive, trauma-responsive services to victims of trafficking, and those who are vulnerable and at risk of exploitation. Providing training and prevention education opportunities is critical to ending exploitation and trafficking in our communities and beyond. This January, Fearless! had several opportunities to build awareness around human trafficking and exploitation, bring education, prevention, and a message of hope to professionals, community groups, schools, and youth throughout Orange and Sullivan County.

Throughout the month, Fearless! collaborated with **Merakey's Center for Hope**, **HONOR's A Friend's House**, and the **Junior League of Orange County** to offer the 'I am Little Red' training program to youth and their parents. 'I am Little Red' is a 10-minute animated film that aims to educate youth about the tactics of control traffickers may use to take advantage of and exploit youth. The short film was created with the help of youth who are survivors of sex trafficking and is a prevention tool used to support young people in gaining knowledge about human trafficking. After completing the, 'I am Little Red' curriculum, several youths reported that "the film and activities made it easy to understand what sex trafficking is."

Fearless! provided Human Trafficking training to **Orange County DSS**, **MiSN**, **SUNY Sullivan College Students**, and **Access Support for Living Group Home** residents. In collaboration with **HONOR's** outreach team, Fearless! completed street outreach throughout Port Jervis, Newburgh and Monticello, providing community members and businesses with anti-trafficking materials. Our Anti-Trafficking Project Coordinator, Diana Velez, participated in **Orange County's Point in Time Count**, providing individuals experiencing housing limitations with basic need items and anti-trafficking materials.

Fearless! hosted the **Safe Harbor** 'fill a bag' event to support the To-Go Bag program. The program was created to provide anyone who is being trafficked, vulnerable to being trafficked, or at risk with helpful items and safety tools. Each bag contains items such as snacks, a change of clothes, and toiletries. These bags are meant to decrease a young person's vulnerability and support them in safety planning and harm reduction. Funding from the **Safe Harbor Program** and donations from our local **Department of Social Services** and the community 150 To-Go bags were created. These bags can be found at the following locations: Fearless! (**Family Justice Center**, Monticello Offices, emergency shelter, and co-located office spaces) **A Friend's House** youth shelter, **Center for Hope**, local **Department of Social Services**, and some local **Police Departments**.

We are thankful to our partners and community who made Human Trafficking Awareness month successful. We know every day survivors are vulnerable to exploitation. We also know your ongoing support and solidarity to bring hope and light to those most vulnerable are crucial to ending human trafficking, and we thank you all. If you are interested in exploring an opportunity to learn more about human trafficking, host a training or workshop, and how you can support survivors, please contact **Diana Velez**, **Anti-Trafficking Project Coordinator** at **845-562-5365** or email **dvelez@fearlesshv.org**.

Sexual Assault Awareness Month

FEARLESS!

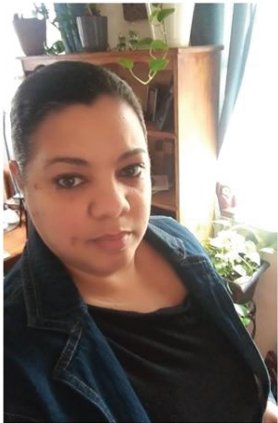
RECLAIMING OUR SAFETY

April was Sexual Assault Awareness Month. SAAM brings an opportunity to provide education and awareness about the prevalence of sexual violence in our communities and throughout the country and the world. For the first time in its history, Sexual Assault Awareness Month looked unlike it ever had before. While efforts to promote awareness about this important issue continued, required social distancing and the need to quarantine, created a frightening reality for many survivors who were forced into isolation with a person who jeopardizes the safety and well-being of their bodies. Perpetrators of intimate partner violence who use physical violence to control and harm their victims are often sexually abusive as well. **Approximately 45% of women in abusive relationships report experiencing sexual assault by their partners.** According to the CDC, nearly 1 in 10 women in the United States (9.4%) has been raped by an intimate partner in her lifetime. Victims who are both physically and sexually abused are more likely to be injured or killed than victims who experience one form of abuse. We must not ignore the dangerous reality that many survivors live, recognizing the increased danger that cannot be escaped during these unprecedented times.

In an effort to raise awareness and increase access to support, Fearless! provided outreach and education around intimate partner abuse and sexual violence, and supported **RISE** and **MHA Rape Crisis** around this important work throughout April. On April 7th, Fearless! advocates wore teal to show support and solidarity with survivors. On April 13th, Fearless! launched a web chat feature to support victims and survivors who may be unable to safely talk from home, by connecting with an advocate through text to explore their individualized needs for support, safety planning, and other resources. On April 29th, Denim Day, advocates wore jeans with a purpose to challenge rape culture and raise awareness about the perpetuated myths of sexual assault and violence. These combined efforts serve to increase understanding of the prevalence and importance of understanding the pervasiveness of sexual abuse and violence within our communities and beyond. This is the first step in ensuring that survivors are seen, valued, and believed.

Fearless! advocates are here now and will remain here to support all victims and survivors. It is so important that we talk about sexual violence and assault. That we raise awareness throughout the year on the impact sexual abuse and violence has on victims and communities. Throughout the year, our Education and Prevention Program provides training on sex trafficking, intimate partner sexual violence, consent, healthy sexual relationships, and more. Our workshops and trainings can be customized for any audience and can happen virtually during this time. Please reach out to **Zoë Mahan, Education Manager**, at **845-562-5365** or **zmahon@fearlesshv.org** for more information or to schedule a training.

On April 7th, our advocates wore teal for **#WearTeal** and on April 29th, our advocates wore denim for **#DenimDay** to support survivors of sexual assault everywhere.



Throughout the month, we had discussions about victim blaming, activism, consent, and much more. Don't let these conversations end with April - continue talking about the fight to end sexual violence with your friends and family.



26th Annual

LOVE Gently Dinner

Tuesday, June 16th, 2020

at Painter's Tavern in Cornwall-on-Hudson, NY

benefiting
FEARLESS!



SUMMER *Youth* LEADERSHIP! ACADEMY!

Newburgh: July 13-17
Monticello: July 27-31
Port Jervis: August 3-7

Open to students 9-12 grade.

Students will receive 30 hours of community service, and a letter of recommendation.

Third Annual

WE CAN BE
HEROES **5K!**

September 27, 2020 • Newburgh Free Academy

Celebration of Hope

Gala

November 20, 2020 • Anthony's Pier 9