Spring 2026

The Sojourner Truth

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE FRIENDS OF SOJOURNER

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Sojourner
SUPPORTING THE JOURNEY FROM FEAR TO HOPE

- Advocates for victim safety;
- Supports the transition from victim to survivor;
- Educates for the prevention and elimination of domestic violence.

Moving Forward Together: A Year of Hope and Healing

In 2025, Sojourner continued to expand its impact in supporting victims and survivors of domestic and sexual violence. Through direct services, prevention education, and community advocacy, we reached thousands of individuals and families, providing critical resources, compassionate support, and pathways toward safety and healing.

The infographic below highlights the scope and impact of our programs, including the Emergency Shelter, 24-hour Crisis Line, Community and Legal Advocacy Department, and Outreach and Education Department. These numbers represent more than services provided. They reflect lives supported, futures rebuilt, and communities strengthened through connection and care.



Our dedicated staff, interns, and volunteers remained steadfast throughout the year, responding to the community's needs, celebrating survivor resilience, and advocating for policies and systems that strengthen protections for those affected by violence. Their commitment continues to strengthen and sustain the critical work we provide to survivors and families across our community.

Your support continues to make this work possible, helping survivors and their families access safe shelter, advocacy, therapy, and the resources needed to move forward with dignity and hope.

We are sincerely thankful for your partnership and continued support of our mission to provide safety, hope, and healing within our community.

Sincerely,
Laura Sisterman,
Executive Director

Gratitude for Every Name

We are deeply grateful to the individuals, businesses, foundations, volunteers, and partners whose generosity fuels our work every day. Your contributions don't just fund programs; they create safety, change and healing for real people in our neighborhoods. Hope is in the hands of volunteers answering weekend crisis calls, the dedication of board members guiding our mission, the thoughtful contributions of donors keeping our shelter stocked, and the partnerships that connect survivors to essential services. Together, these acts weave a network of support that transforms lives. On the next page, we highlight just a few examples of the incredible ways our community shows up, reminding us that every act of generosity, big or small, creates ripples of change that can last a lifetime.

Thank you!

Thank you to all our 2025 Donors

We are proud to recognize and celebrate your commitment to making our community a safer place for all.

INDIVIDUALS

Mohammed Abras
Karie Allen
Dean Allman
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Kathleen Arendt
Gretchen Austin
Frank Babka
Sierra Bachler
Cathy Baldwin
Paige Barnard
The Bateman Family
Judith Bearman
Mackenzie Behney
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BUSINESSES, CIVIC GROUPS AND FAITH COMMUNITIES

Acre
Allina Health
American Legion Unit 320 Auxiliary
Ballard Spahr
Bare Home
Barr Engineering
Bath and Body Works-Eden Prairie
Bet Shalom Congregation
Blake School Girl Up
Boba Tonka Bubble Tea
Bolton & Menk
Bonfe
Bridge to Basics
Calmoseptine
Calvin Presbyterian Church
Church of the Cross
Cosmopolitan Women's Club
Costco
Cross of Glory Baptist Church
Daughters of the American Revolution- Lake Minnetonka Chapter
Don & Co Botanicals
Eden Prairie Community Center
Edina Federated Women's Club
Excelsior Lions Club
Family of Christ Lutheran Church
Flourish Living
Genesis of Minneapolis
Gethsemane Lutheran Church
Highland Bank
Hopkins Elks
Hopkins High School for Choice
Hopkins Lions Club
Hopkins Noontime Lions Club
Hopkins VFW Post 425
ICA Food Shelf
Jaguar Minneapolis and Land Rover Minneapolis
JCI Hopkins
Lake Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists
Light of Christ
Logan Lodge Needleworkers
Lowe's Home Improvement
LTD Brewing Co.
Luther Automotive Group
Luther Hopkins Honda
Luther Westside Volkswagen
Medtronic
Miller Milling
Mills Church
Minnesota Roadways Co.
City of Minnetonka Employees Fund
Minnetonka High School
Minnetonka United Women of Faith
MN Hearing Aid Professionals
Mortenson Company
Mount Calvary Lutheran Church (Quilters)
Newcomers of the Southwest Suburbs
Newman Auto Service and Repair
North Central Electrical (NCEL)
Old National Bank
Paypal Giving Fund
PEO Chapter CT Hopkins
RBC Wealth Management
Red Bench Bakery
Risor Knitting and Crocheting Group
Rudy Luther Toyota
Shepherd of the Hills
Signature Retail Solutions
Spirit of Peace
The Parish of Saint Gabriel
St. Therese Early Learning Center
Stone Arch Gifts
Target Corporation
Target-Eden Prairie
Target-Minnetonka
Target-Ridgedale
The Bernard Group
The Langdon, Inc.
Thomson Reuters
Trader Joe's
Trimble
Trinity Episcopal Church
Twin Cities Kappa Delta Alumnae Chapter
UCare
Unitarian Universalist Church Of Minnetonka
United HealthCare Services
Uplift North
Vantage Point Psychological Consultants
Volunteers of America
Waytonka Club
Wayzata Ben & Jerry's
Wayzata Lions Club
Western National Insurance
Westwood Lutheran Church
Willow Midwives
Zion Lutheran Church of Hopkins

FOUNDATIONS

Barrett Family Foundation
Beverly Foundation
Christina Rose Smith Foundation
Eden Prairie Community Foundation
Eden Prairie Family Services Collaborative
Edinburgh USA Pro-Am Foundation
Elmer L. & Eleanor J. Andersen Foundation
Fingerhut Family Foundation
Frog Crossing Foundation
Golden Valley Community Services Commission
Grace Upon Grace Mooty Family Foundation
H.E and Helen Warren Foundation
Hugs From Hunter Foundation
James R. Thorpe Foundation
Joyful Hearts Foundation
Lake Minnetonka Excelsior Rotary Foundation
Minnesota State Bar Foundation
Minnetonka Family Collaborative
Open Your Heart Foundation
Partners for Healthy Kids
Paul and Laurie Lokar Family Foundation
Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation
Riverway Foundation
Stark Clan Foundation
Tankenoff Families Foundation
Torrey L. Asp Foundation
U.S. Bank Foundation
Wayzata Rotary Charitable Foundation
WCA Foundation

Spotlight on Our Supporters

Our work to support survivors and prevent domestic violence is made possible by a generous and caring community. This page celebrates some of the amazing people whose contributions are moving our mission forward and making a difference in our community.

Serena Steffenhagen

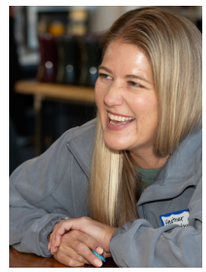
Sojourner Volunteer



“My favorite part of volunteering at Sojourner is interacting with the kids. They bring their own unique energy, imagination, and humor to our time together. It truly fills my cup. It really moves me to see the compassion the kids have for each other and their capacity to just be kids in the face of the challenges they may be experiencing.”

Sgt. Heather Olson

Minnetonka Police Department &
Sojourner Board Member



“The work Sojourner does is invaluable to the community we serve. As officers, we often meet people on the worst days of their lives, and while we can provide immediate help, we cannot always address the long-term challenges of domestic abuse. Sojourner offers the critical follow-up, safe shelter, legal guidance, and ongoing support that survivors need to leave abusive situations and regain control of their lives. It is reassuring to know we can connect victims with an organization that provides the compassionate, comprehensive care they deserve.”

Kathryn Nafstad

Youth Advisory Board Member



“What originally motivated me to join the Youth Advisory Board was my Nana, who introduced me to Sojourner and told me about the Youth Board that was being developed. Being part of this work has given me the opportunity to make a difference and contribute to something meaningful. I also believe it’s important for our community, especially younger people, to understand how frequently this issue occurs. Being part of this team has really opened my eyes, and I’m grateful to be involved.”

Michelle Krenke

Holiday – Northern Tier Division of Circle K &
Sojourner Supporter



“We choose to support Sojourner because volunteering there enriches us just as much as it supports the women they serve. Each member of our Holiday Stationstores/Circle K Women’s Council walks away with something different, gratitude, perspective, connection, and together we know our efforts are helping create a stronger and safer future for local families.”

Ready to be part of the story?

Whether you have an hour to volunteer, a team to lead, or a gift to give, there’s a meaningful place for you here.

Visit **https://www.sojournerproject.org/get-involved** or scan the QR code to get started.

Beyond the Numbers



Domestic violence is not an isolated issue; it is a community issue that shows up in every neighborhood and every stage of life. The data reflects not just the prevalence of harm, but also the strength it takes to seek support.

At Sojourner, we see the full picture of survivors' lives. Many are navigating financial instability while also working to keep themselves and their children safe. Others are facing additional barriers related to disability, immigration status, or long-standing inequities that shape access to resources and stability.

These realities matter because safety is not just about leaving violence, it is about what makes safety possible in the first place: housing, income, accessible services, and a community that responds with care instead of judgment.

The majority of survivors we serve are women, and most are also parents. These experiences are deeply interconnected; survivors are often making decisions not just for themselves, but for the safety and stability of their families.

We also see resilience every day. Survivors are making courageous decisions to reach out, to seek legal protection, access shelter, and to build a different future for themselves and their children.

Domestic violence is a community issue, and community solutions matter. When we understand the complexity of survivors' lives, we are better able to respond with services that are accessible and rooted in dignity.

We believe everyone deserves that path forward.

Survivors In Our Community

Snapshot 2025

Domestic violence is not isolated—it is interconnected with housing, income, health, and access to support. Survivors are navigating multiple barriers at once, and still taking courageous steps toward safety.

90%	Living at or below 200% Federal Poverty Guideline HH of 3=$43,280
55%	Have also survived sexual assault
94%	Adult clients are women
>75%	Are caring for children

Racial Equity & Identity

75%	of shelter residents are women of color
40%	of legal advocacy clients are people of color
5%	are immigrants or refugees

Life Stage & Access

21%	are over age 50
10%	are over age 60
27%	live with a disability

Interested in volunteering? Visit **www.sojournerproject.org/get-involved** or email **courtneyf@sojournerproject.org** to learn more.

2025 Financial Report

2025 Statement of Functional Expenses

Shelter	$836,286
Community Services	$401,760
Education & Outreach	$22,426
Administration	$390,980
Fundraising & Marketing	$65,440
TOTAL	$1,716,892

2025 Balance Sheet

ASSETS	
Current Assets	$2,376,257
Fixed Assets	$3,476,33
Accumulated Depreciation	($1,871,388)
TOTAL ASSETS	$3,981,199
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Current Liabilities	$93,660
Long Term Liabilities	$0
Total Liabilities	$93,660
Equity	$3,887,539
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	$3,981,199

2025 Income & Expense Statement

INCOME	
GRANT/CONTRACT REVENUE	
Contracts	$1,039,880
Foundations	$335,096
Contributions	$377,127
Other	$146,857
TOTAL REVENUE	$1,898,960
EXPENSES	
Business Expense	$390,980
Program Expense	$1,260,472
Fundraising	$65,440
TOTAL EXPENSES	$1,716,892
Total 2025 Profit or Loss	$182,078

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Sojourner
SUPPORTING THE JOURNEY FROM FEAR TO HOPE

P.O. Box 272, Hopkins, MN 55343
952-933-7433
24-Hour Crisis Line: 952-933-7422
www.sojournerproject.org

Return Service Requested

Charities Review Council MEETS STANDARDS smartgivers.org

Nonprofit Org.
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Hopkins, MN 55343

Stay Connected

Follow us on **Instagram** (@sojournermn), **Facebook** (@sojournerproject1), and **LinkedIn** (@sojourner) for regular updates. Help is available 24/7 via our **Crisis Line** at 952-933-7422.

If you would like to receive future newsletters and communications by email or if you would like to be removed from our mailing list, please contact the Outreach and Education Manager at 952-351-4062.

Finding Her Voice: Elena and Maya's Journey

When "Elena" arrived at our shelter last year, she had just been reunited with her young daughter, "Maya," after fleeing a violent relationship. Along with fear and exhaustion, she worried deeply about Maya, who was nonverbal and often overwhelmed by frustration. Friends and family told her not to worry, but Elena sensed something more was going on. On top of everything, she faced uncertainty around her immigration status, adding another layer of stress to an already difficult situation.

Support That Made a Difference

At Sojourner, Elena found advocates ready to help. We arranged Early Childhood Special Education screenings, transportation to appointments, and parent–child classes to help them connect and build skills together. Her advocate also guided Elena through safety planning, legal steps, and obtaining an Order for Protection.

Elena was determined to take every opportunity to create stability for her daughter. She asked questions, followed through on resources, and stayed engaged in every part of the process, even on the toughest days.

A Turning Point

Two months in, Maya began speaking. Her meltdowns decreased, and communication became easier. Watching her daughter make progress helped Elena trust her instincts as a parent. She realized she wasn't overthinking; it was clear that she knew what her daughter needed, and she now had the tools to provide it.

Looking Ahead

With the help of her advocate, Elena and Maya moved into a transitional housing program, where they continue building a safer, more stable life. Her advocate describes her best: "She was scared at times, but she stayed focused. She accomplished every goal she set."

Today, Elena and Maya are settling into their new home, taking things one day at a time. Their journey highlights Elena's courage and determination, and the difference having the right guidance and resources can make.