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Kayla Hannemann Neighbor

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Domestic Violence Awareness Month –Astor Services



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To the editor,

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, a time to shine a light on the challenges faced by survivors and to honor their strength and resilience. We must come together as a community to support those affected by domestic violence, raise awareness about its impact, and advocate for change. It's important to listen, believe, and empower survivors as they navigate their healing journeys.

Together, we can foster a culture of compassion and safety for all, which begins with immediate assistance in the aftermath of violence to begin to create a safe space for healing. Counseling and therapy, especially trauma-informed therapy, helps survivors process their experiences, develop coping strategies, and rebuild their lives. Also important are advocacy and support services to assist survivors in accessing legal aid, housing, and healthcare, ensuring they have the resources needed to regain independence. Finally, community education is important to raise awareness about domestic violence and promote prevention through workshops and outreach programs.

At Astor, we have the privilege of witnessing the incredible resilience and strength of our clients who have experienced domestic violence. Each journey is unique, but it is always inspiring to see clients begin to reclaim their sense of self and agency. Initially, many feel overwhelmed by fear and uncertainty, but with work they learn to set healthy boundaries, advocate for themselves, and make choices that prioritize their safety and well-being. Another key area of progress is in the development of healthy relationships. Clients often start by feeling distrustful or isolated, but as they heal, we've witnessed many begin to form supportive connections with friends, family, or community resources. These relationships can provide essential support and encouragement as they navigate their journey. Ultimately, the progress we witness is not just about overcoming past trauma; it's about cultivating resilience, hope, and a vision for a brighter future.

There is always hope and you are not alone. Please reach out to Astor Services or your local agency if you or a loved one is experiencing domestic violence.

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Program Director of Trauma Recovery Center, Astor Services

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