ISSUE #1

SARC
Newsletter

April 2026

A Message From Our CEO.

At SARC, our mission has always been rooted in safety, dignity, and hope for survivors of domestic and sexual violence and their families. Today, I am proud to share an important milestone that reflects that commitment in a powerful new way: the opening of the RedRover Pet Kennel for Dogs and Cats at the Phelan Safehouse.

For many survivors, the decision to leave an abusive situation is complicated by a heartbreaking reality—they fear for the safety of their pets. Abusers often use animals as a means of control, and survivors are frequently forced to choose between their own safety and the well-being of a beloved pet. This painful barrier keeps countless individuals and families from seeking help when they need it most.

With the launch of the RedRover Pet Kennel, families no longer have to make that impossible choice.

This new kennel allows survivors to bring their dogs and cats with them to the Phelan Safehouse, ensuring that pets remain safe, cared for, and close to the people who love them. By keeping pets and families together, we remove one of the most significant obstacles to leaving an abusive environment and taking the first steps toward healing.

Pets are family. They provide comfort, emotional support, and a sense of normalcy during times of crisis—especially for children. Preserving that bond is not only compassionate; it is essential to the long-term well-being and recovery of survivors.

This initiative represents more than a physical space—it represents our belief that safety should never require sacrifice, and that every member of a family, including the four-legged ones, deserves protection.

I am deeply grateful to our supporters, partners, and staff who made this vision a reality. Together, we continue to create pathways to safety, hope, and healing—without leaving anyone behind.

With gratitude,

Luisa

Luisa
Chief Executive Officer

WAM 2025

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month

April is nationally recognized as Sexual Assault Awareness Month, a time dedicated to raising awareness, educating our community about prevention, and supporting survivors.

To help bring awareness to this important cause, SARC will host Walk A Mile In Their Shoes® on Saturday, April 18th.

As the saying goes, "You can't understand another person's experience until you've walked mile in their shoes." This powerful and memorable event brings men, women, and children together to literally walk one mile in women's high-heeled shoes - sparking conversation, encouraging empathy, and inspiring action to end sexual violence.

This family-friendly event raises critical funds to support SARC's free services for victims and survivors of violence in Harford County. Every step taken helps provide resources, hope, and healing to those who need it most.

Click here to register or donate.

May Event News

Set Sail for a Night of Fun!

Mark your calendars for May 1st and join SARC for our annual Bull & Oyster Roast. at Water's Edge Event Center from 7–10 PM!

This year's theme is Yacht Rock - so grab your breezy vibes for a night of smooth tunes, delicious oysters, pit beef, refreshing drinks, music, and exciting opportunities to support survivors in our community.

You won't want to miss this shore-to-please evening that benefits SARC's lifesaving programs.

June Event News

Join SARC for Paws for a Cause - a tail-wagging dog parade with a powerful purpose!

Hosted at beautiful Concord Point Park in Havre de Grace, this fun-filled event raises critical funds to support services that aid women, men, children - AND PETS!

Bring your furry friends, gather your family, and get ready for a paws-itively wonderful day. More details coming soon - stay tuned!

What's New At SARC...

We are proud to introduce The SARC Legacy Society, a special giving circle recognizing those who include SARC in their estate plans.

Members of the Legacy Society make a lasting commitment to survivors, helping ensure that our lifesaving services remain available for generations to come.

By joining the Legacy Society, you become part of a community that believes no one should face abuse alone - not today, not ever.

Planned gifts can include a bequest in your will or trust, beneficiary designations, charitable trusts, donor-advised funds, or qualified charitable distributions.

To learn more, visit our website at www.sarc-maryland.org or contact Erin Flynn, Director of Donor and Community Engagement at eflynn@sarc-maryland.org.

Together, we are building a future rooted in compassion, safety, and hope.

Volunteer Spotlight

Meet Hazel Hopkins and Sue Walls - SARC's very own superhero volunteers! Whether they're lending a hand with the Holiday Project, restocking the pantry, or supporting events throughout the year, we can always count on this dynamic duo to show up with dedication and heart.

With nearly 30 years of combined service between them, Hazel and Sue embody the spirit of SARC. Their generosity, reliability, and unwavering commitment make a lasting difference for the survivors and families we serve.

They are - and always will be - an essential part of Team SARC.

Current Needs

SARC is currently in need of the following essential items to support the individuals and families we serve:

- Diapers (sizes 4, 5, and 6)
- Pull-Ups
- Cleaning supplies
- Paper towels / Tiolet Paper
- Bath towels
- Twin-size bed sheets

Donations of these everyday necessities make a meaningful difference in helping us provide comfort, stability, and dignity to those staying in our programs.

If you are able to contribute, please contact aheiderman@sarc-maryland.org for more information on how to donate.

Stories of impact - having a kennel in our safe house

Hi, my name is Peyton.

I’m a 6-year-old goldendoodle, and I love belly rubs, squeaky toys, and staying close to my mom.

But most nights weren’t happy.

Most nights, I hid beside her. I didn’t understand the loud voices or why the house felt so scary. I didn’t know why my mom cried, I just knew she was afraid. So I stayed very still and very close, because that’s what good dogs do when their person is hurting.

One day, everything changed.

Someone took us to a new place. I was nervous at first. It smelled different. It sounded different. I didn’t know if we were safe.

But then something amazing happened.

People were kind to me.

They brought me a soft new blanket. They gave me toys just for me. No one yelled. No one slammed doors.

It was safe.

Now my mom smiles more. She laughs sometimes. She gives me kisses and hugs all day long. We go on walks without rushing.

My mom isn’t scared anymore. So I’m not scared anymore either.

Thank you for helping us.

Because of supporters like you, families like mine don’t have to choose between safety and staying together.

Thank you!

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