ISSUE #3

SARC Newsletter

October 2026

A Message From Our CEO.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, a time that is deeply meaningful to all of us at SARC.

Every day, I have the privilege of witnessing extraordinary courage. I meet survivors who take brave steps toward safety and healing, often during some of the most difficult moments of their lives. I see children rediscovering joy after experiencing trauma. I watch our dedicated staff and volunteers show up with compassion, kindness, and unwavering support. These moments remind me why SARC's mission matters so much.

Domestic violence is not just an issue that happens somewhere else. It affects our neighbors, coworkers, friends, and family members. Often, the signs are hidden, and the journey to seek help can feel overwhelming and isolating. That is why awareness matters.

One fact continues to stand out: the number one way people learn about SARC is through a friend or family member. That means each of us can play a role in connecting survivors to safety, hope, and healing. We are counting on you to help spread the word. Whether it's sharing a SARC Facebook post, keeping SARC's 24-hour helpline number handy, or simply letting someone know that support is available, your actions can make a meaningful difference.

Every call answered, every counseling session provided, every night of safe shelter, and every act of support represents a life touched and a future changed. Because of our community's generosity and partnership, survivors know they do not have to face these challenges alone.

As we observe Domestic Violence Awareness Month, I invite you to join us in turning awareness into action. Wear purple. Share resources. Start conversations. Support someone who may be struggling. Together, we can help ensure that every person in our community has the opportunity to live a life free from violence, fear, and abuse.

Thank you for standing with SARC, with survivors, and with the belief that hope, healing, and safety are possible.

With gratitude,

Luisa

Luisa Caiazzo
Chief Executive Officer

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

The start of October brings us into Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM) - a time to come together to raise awareness, honor survivors, remember those whose lives have been impacted by domestic violence, and recommit ourselves to creating safer communities. DVAM reminds us that domestic violence can affect anyone, regardless of age, gender, background, or circumstance. It is also an opportunity for all of us - victims and survivors, advocates, community members, supporters, and leaders - to learn, speak up, and take action to help end domestic violence.

Throughout October, SARC will be shining a light on domestic violence and the resources available to those experiencing it. We invite you to join us by starting conversations, sharing information, supporting survivors, and helping ensure that no one feels alone or without options. Together, we can build a community where survivors are believed, supported, and empowered to move toward safety and hope.

Did You Know?

On a typical day, domestic violence hotlines across the country receive approximately 21,000 calls - that's about 15 calls every minute. (National Coalition Against Domestic Violence).

Here in Harford County, SARC's 24-hour Helpline is available 365 days a year for anyone seeking support, information, resources, or a safe place to turn.

SARC 24-Hour Helpline: 410-836-8430

This Domestic Violence Awareness Month, join SARC all month long as we spread awareness, support survivors, and raise funds to help ensure victims and survivors have access to the safety, advocacy, and resources they need. Every voice, every conversation, and every act of support can make a difference.

Let's Bring Awareness to DVAM Together!

SARC is proud to partner with local businesses, organizations, and community groups across Harford County to bring awareness to Domestic Violence Awareness Month!

From purple treats and special events to fitness, flowers, and community gatherings, there are so many ways to show your support, spread awareness, and bring hope and healing to victims and survivors.

There's something for everyone - come out, have some fun, and help us turn our community purple!

Volunteer of the Quarter - Jeanne Thomas

Jeanne Thomas has been a valuable and trusted volunteer with SARC since October of 2024. Having spent the majority of her life in Harford County, she was aware of the work SARC did to support the community and had an interest in volunteering after retirement.

Jeanne has worked tirelessly in many areas including administrative projects, clothing pantry, outreach events, holiday project, and gardening with our beautification committee. She approached each task with positivity, attention to detail and kindness.

We are thrilled to see Jeanne support many of our events. She has been a Captain of a Walk a Mile In Their Shoes team and fills a table for our Bull and Oyster Roast. Jeanne has a supportive and loving family that has all become SARC supporters too.

SARC is truly lucky to have Jeanne as a friend and volunteer.

Interested in becoming a Volunteer?
Scan here

Scan for more information

Help Us Make the Holidays a Little Brighter!

The holidays are right around the corner, and we believe everyone deserves to experience a little joy, hope, and magic this season! SARC is proud to partner with our amazing community to help make the holidays brighter for the individuals and families we serve.

Our clients are working hard to build safe, healthy, and secure futures, and your generosity can bring a little extra hope along the way. There are two fun and meaningful ways to get involved this holiday season:

Donate a Thanksgiving Meal - Help us provide a Thanksgiving meal bag to each SARC client family so they can enjoy a special meal together.

Adopt a Family - Help make Christmas morning a little brighter by providing gifts for a child, an individual, or an entire family. No child should wonder if there will be a gift waiting for them on Christmas morning.

Whether you donate a meal, choose a gift, or adopt a family, you can help create a little holiday magic for someone who truly needs it. Together, we can remind survivors and their families that they are not alone and that our community is here cheering them on.

Ready to spread some holiday cheer? To sign up to donate a Thanksgiving meal or Adopt a Family, please visit: https://www.sarc-maryland.org/holiday-project-form/

Wear it. Share it. Support SARC!

Wear your support this Domestic Violence Awareness Month! Grab a SARC shirt or sweatshirt, show your SARC pride, and help spread awareness in our community. A portion of every purchase will be donated back to SARC to support our mission of providing safety, hope, and resources to survivors.

Scan to get your swag!

Stories of impact - Two Lives Saved, One New Beginning

Here at SARC when a client arrives at our safehouse holding their dog, it marks the end of a terrifying chapter, and the beginning of a bright, safe future. For years, this particular survivor lived under the shadow of severe domestic abuse. Isolated from loved ones, her small dog was her constant companion and sole source of unconditional love. As the violence escalated, her dog became her protector, on multiple occasions stepping in to absorb physical beatings meant for her owner. Though our client desperately wanted to flee, she could not bear to leave her loyal defender behind to face an abuser alone.

Her dilemma is one shared by thousands of survivors nationwide. Research shows that 48% to 71% of pet-owning domestic violence victims report that their abuser threatened, injured, or killed family pets as a tool of coercive control. Because abusers weaponize the human-animal bond, up to 50% of survivors delay or avoid leaving an abusive partner if they cannot take their pets with them to a safe place. For our client, the breakthrough came the moment she discovered our pet-friendly safe housing program. Knowing her dog would be housed safely by her side gave her the courage to break free a decision backed by national data showing that 97% of survivors view keeping their pets as a decisive factor when seeking shelter.

Today, this client and her dog are living proof of what happens when whole families are protected together.

In our shelter, fear has been replaced by safety and joy. Thanks to our on-site pet kennel and spacious outdoor pet area. Her dog spends afternoons freely in the fresh air, playing, and greeting shelter staff with tail wags. Indoors, our facility also features a dedicated, cozy cat room, ensuring feline companions have a peaceful space to heal alongside survivor families. Our client is actively working with her case manager, building financial independence, and planning for a self-sufficient future. Studies reveal that 91% of survivors rely on their pets' emotional support and protection to heal from trauma. By offering pet-inclusive housing a resource available at only 19% of domestic violence shelters nationwide we did not just provide a temporary bed; we broke the cycle of abuse and saved two lives.

Our Annual Sponsors Make a Difference All Year Long

We are incredibly grateful to our Annual Sponsors for their continued commitment to SARC and the survivors we serve. Their support provides a dependable source of funding that helps us continue offering safety, advocacy, resources, and hope to individuals and families impacted by domestic violence, sexual violence, and stalking in our community.

Being an Annual Sponsor means standing with SARC all year long - helping ensure that when someone reaches out for help, we have the resources and services available to be there for them. We are proud to have these community partners by our side and deeply appreciate their investment in SARC's mission

Interested in becoming a SARC Annual Sponsor?

We would love to tell you more about becoming a SARC Annual Sponsor and the opportunities available to support our mission throughout the year. Please email eflynn@sarc-maryland.org or call 410-836-8431 ext. 225 to learn more.

SARC	410-836-8431
www.sarc-maryland.org	24-Hour Helpline 410-836-8430