

Turning Point

Freeing Families From Fear



SISTERCARE

Freeing Families From Fear

Sistercare is a non-profit organization that provides services to survivors of intimate partner violence and their children residing in Fairfield, Kershaw, Lexington, Newberry and Richland counties in South Carolina.

Know the Warning Signs

- ◆ Consistently ridicules you
- ◆ Is jealous or possessive
- ◆ Destroys your property
- ◆ Restrains you
- ◆ Threatens you with weapons or objects
- ◆ Physically abuses you
- ◆ Gets angry when you disagree
- ◆ Throws objects at you
- ◆ Gaslights you

Spring 2019

The HART Program: Serving Hospitalized Domestic Violence Survivors

Written By Mary Blevins, Hospital Accompaniment Counselor



Mary Blevins, NCC, LPC, VSP

Hospital Accompaniment Counselor

Sistercare's Hospital Accompaniment Response Team (HART) is an invaluable service to survivors of intimate partner violence. The Team, comprised of the hospital accompaniment counselor, volunteers and interns, tends to the non-medical needs of patients who are presenting with injuries from intimate partner violence. The program also provides patients with crisis intervention by offering crisis counseling, emotional support, safety planning, danger assessments, and referrals to other resources in the community. HART serves Prisma Health Richland, Prisma Health Baptist, Prisma Health Baptist Parkridge and Lexington Medical Center twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.

Most of the time, survivors of domestic violence are at the hospital by themselves. The hospital can be a scary place and even more so if you are there for an injury caused by an intimate partner. This is where HART steps in. When

a patient is interested in Sistercare's services, we are called by a social worker, doctor or nurse. Once a member of the HART Team arrives at the hospital, she introduces herself and explains Sistercare's services. Nine times out of ten, the patient is eager to discuss the incident and goes into great detail about the abusive relationship. We frequently hear that we're the first ones they are really able to talk to about the relationship. Sometimes that is due to not being allowed to have friends or to stay in contact with family members. We create a safety plan for the patient, provide a danger assessment, and make sure she/he has a safe place to stay. Patients frequently go directly from the hospital to Sistercare's emergency shelter. HART helps make that transition smooth by arranging law enforcement transportation, providing emotional support and answering any questions they may have.

Sistercare's Hospital Accompaniment Response Team sees the most seriously injured survivors of domestic violence. From bruises and broken bones to stitches and surgery, HART is there to make sure they know that they are not alone. A lot of patients go on to participate in individual counseling, group counseling and court advocacy services. Many are able to safely remove their children and themselves from an abusive home, and we know that HART was there to help provide the necessary tools to make it happen.

If you are interested in volunteering with HART, please call our Volunteer Coordinator, Shatoyia Todd, at 803-926-0505.



Sistercare



@SistercareSC

Volunteer Spotlight

By: Shatoyia Todd, Volunteer and Community Outreach Coordinator

Sistercare Thrives With the Help of Volunteers

Sistercare is honored to recognize longtime volunteer Karen Basso's amazing efforts as a volunteer.

In 1987, Sistercare received the volunteer application for Karen Basso, which began her Sistercare volunteer endeavors. For the past 32 years, Karen has been a devoted and loyal member of our volunteer team. She served as a crisis line volunteer, hospital volunteer, and assisted in providing transportation from the hospital and emergency room during her early days of volunteering. Karen was an integral part of creating our speaker's bureau training course at the request of our Board of Directors and has been a speaker's bureau member since the beginning. Karen has trained volunteers on Sistercare's speaking guidelines and has given countless domestic violence presentations to community members. She has donated much-needed items to our shelters throughout the years and encouraged her staff to do so as well. Although Karen has taken some personal time away from volunteering, she still maintains communication with our organization and is eager to deliver much-needed items to us. Sistercare would like to thank Karen for her long-standing volunteerism.



Karen Basso, longtime Sistercare volunteer.

Sistercare is always in need of talented, driven and passionate volunteers. If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering, please contact Volunteer and Community Outreach Coordinator Shatoyia Todd at 803-926-0505 or e-mail her at volunteercoord@sistercare.com.

Sistercare's Wish List

Sistercare is always in need of donations! Here is our wish list:

- ◆ Paper Towels
 - ◆ Paper Plates and Cups
 - ◆ Baby Products
 - ◆ Nonperishable Food
 - ◆ Bedding
 - ◆ Car Seats
 - ◆ Cell Phones (any condition)
 - ◆ Cleaning Agents (Ajax, etc.)
 - ◆ Home Goods
 - ◆ Dish Sets
 - ◆ Toilet Paper
 - ◆ Trash Bags (extra-large)
 - ◆ Gas Cards
 - ◆ Vehicles (used & running)
- * We are unable to accept clothing donations at this time.



Sistercare is honored to have been unanimously chosen to receive UofSC's Community Partner Award on March 26th. Sistercare staff work tirelessly to provide the best services to survivors of domestic violence and their children.

Please Support Sistercare During Midlands Gives on May 7th

By: Paula Howell, Director of Development

Sistercare is participating in Central Carolina Community Foundation's 6th annual Midlands Gives, a one day online giving extravaganza for the Midlands region.

We invite you to join the movement and support the survivors of domestic violence and their children.

How to Be a Part of Midlands Gives:

It's as simple as online shopping!

- ◇ Be a philanthropist and give on May 7th! Donate to Sistercare at MidlandsGives.org between 6 am and midnight. Give online from your desktop computer, on your tablet, or on your mobile phone at MidlandsGives.org and select Sistercare.
- ◇ Not available on May 7th? No worries! Schedule your donation between April 23 and May 6.
- ◇ Spread the word! Tell your friends and loved ones about Sistercare and Midlands Gives and encourage them to join you in being a philanthropist.



SISTERCARE

Please Support Our Programs

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Crisis Line | 8. Legal Representation |
| 2. Emergency Shelter | 9. Rural Services |
| 3. Individual Counseling | 10. Transitional Housing |
| 4. Community Group Counseling | 11. Community Education/Awareness |
| 5. Court Advocacy | 12. Hospital Accompaniment Program |
| 6. Children's Counseling | 13. Teen Outreach |
| 7. Career Development | |



Yes!

I will donate to help prevent domestic violence.

Pledge Amount: _____

Monthly Yearly

My tax-deductible contribution is enclosed:

\$500 \$50
 \$100 \$25 Other

Please make checks out to: Sistercare.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

To donate online through PayPal, please visit

www.sistercare.org

Please contact me regarding shares of stock.

My company will match my gift.

Company Name: _____

Contact Name: _____

Telephone: _____

Sistercare is a not-for-profit 501 (c)3 partner agency of the United Way.



Scholarships for Survivors

In support of survivors of intimate partner violence with the goal of completing their college degrees while receiving counseling and services at Sistercare, Vivian Gore, Individual Counselor, has sponsored 13 women who have applied for assistance to the Women's Independence Scholarship Program (WISP). As a result, a total of \$132,905 has been awarded over 16 years, which provides financial assistance for tuition, books, and living expenses for Sistercare survivors. WISP is available to women who have left an abusive relationship and are pursuing an education with the goal of economic independence for themselves and their children.

Sistercare Board of Directors

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