

A woman with long, dark hair is seen from behind, looking out over a field of purple flowers. The scene is softly lit, creating a warm and contemplative atmosphere. The woman's hair is blowing in the wind. The flowers in the foreground are in sharp focus, while the background is slightly blurred.

everyone
deserves a safe
place.

SYLVIA'S PLACE

*STRATEGIC CHANGE PLAN +
ADVOCACY GUIDE*

OUR MISSION

The mission of Sylvia's Place is to be a source of strength to survivors of domestic violence. We offer a safe place to seek shelter along with food, clothing, and all other basic human needs. Our team will also be there to help survivors navigate the legal systems to gain justice. Once survivors feel grounded and ready to reclaim their lives, we offer assistance with employment search and housing referrals.

Since 1996, we have provided over 77,587 bednights to clients in our shelter. We envision a community that is acutely aware of the realities of domestic violence and that there is always an option to break free. We strive to break the silence of victims and fortify their livelihoods.

Our new strategic plan aims to provide high quality, appropriate, and accessible services that better meet the needs of the women and children in our community. It strives to further educate our Allegan community about the services and needs of our organization.



The Reality of Domestic Violence

Domestic violence takes a toll on every community in the world. It is important to us to aid in breaking the silence that deafens so many women and children in our community.

91,004

Number of reported victims of domestic violence in 2017

105

Murders in Michigan related to domestic violence in 2017

93

Number of days in jail for a firsttime domestic violence charge



1 in 4

Women have been severely injured by a romantic partner

systems change plan



COMMUNITY



It is up to organizations like Sylvia's Place and our advocates to take charge in the fight against domestic violence. We plan to increase that the community awareness surrounding the services available to survivors. It is imperative for us to develop and sustain an accomplished community response to survivors of domestic violence in order to start seeing the change we hope to see.

Our new strategic plan aims to make change systematically by providing informative opportunities to our communities. These opportunities include, but are not limited to, comprehensive monthly domestic violence awareness activities and community presentations to local groups, churches, schools, youth programs, etc. We can provide this information by maintaining our public relation efforts through different outlets such as monthly newsletters and social media.

Social media is a relevant and easy way to spread information to all ages, but especially the younger generations. We hope to encourage users in our community to engage in topics of awareness and prevention.

By educating others about the realities of domestic violence and how our services at Sylvia's Place can aid in making a difference, we also encourage survivors and advocates to help make change in our community.

OUR GOAL

is to provide leadership and awareness to our community on their role in ending domestic violence.

Visit us on Facebook



Add us on Instagram



LEGAL SYSTEMS



Along with many other services that Sylvia's Place provides, our organization is committed to assisting survivors navigate legal system operations. These processes can be overwhelming and intimidating to those who do not have the proper resources. Our legal systems change goal is to ensure a victim centered approach for survivors of domestic violence seeking remedies through the criminal justice system.

GOAL SERVICES

1 **Participate**

We will participate in community task forces, and other collaborative bodies such as Allegan County Coordinating Council on Domestic Violence (ACCCDV).

The actions done by these task forces help provide information to authoritative figures involved with government agencies, healthcare providers, schools, research centers, and other community factions. Their services also include working alongside families and survivors to facilitate processing the initial impact of grief.

2 **Ensure Access**

We will ensure access to civil legal services for victims of domestic violence by providing referrals to proper legal administration such as West Michigan Legal Aid and other pro bono attorneys. In doing so, relieves the survivor of the juridical hurdles involved with gaining their freedom.

3 **Accompany + Assist**

It is important to our mission that none of our survivors or their children feel alone during their battle against abuse. We strive to be advocates especially in the most pressuring environments.

We will provide court accompaniment for survivors of domestic violence through the courts to be a presence of security and comfort. We will also provide assistance for individuals seeking Personal Protection Orders.



HEALTH CARE

Domestic violence is addressed as a serious problem that results in emotional and psychological harm and often physical injury. In many cases, healthcare providers are the first professionals contacted by victims of domestic violence. Our goal at Sylvia's Place is to improve the quality of care provided to survivors in the medical system and make aware our services.

By distributing our information to local medical centers, survivors are able to have access to the immediate support of our advocates and services.

In doing so, we also inform healthcare professionals more about domestic violence so that they can strengthen their knowledge, skills, and confidence while speaking to a survivor and inquiring about their safety.

A major service we will provide is individual advocacy and transportation for survivors seeking medical treatment. This allows for prompt medical attention when necessary and an attempt to ease some of the anxieties that are associated with medical care and treatment.





EDUCATION

The influence of domestic violence on school-aged children and adolescents is a critical topic of discussion for our community. We aim to shed light on these issues head-on by working with children's main contact, their schools and youth programs. Our goal at Sylvia's Place is to increase educator's knowledge on the dynamics of abuse and the needs of domestic violence survivors.

Make Change a Reality

Our team will promote results of activities and statistics during domestic violence awareness months to community partners and the general community. October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month and through youth/education programs, we will be able to promote recognition of domestic violence advocates and organizations.

This will allow for participating members of our community to see how their service is appreciated and making a difference.



Informing Educators + Youth Community

Staff will administer educational presentations and/or literature to youth services providers so that their organizations are aware of the domestic violence in our community and can utilize our resources at Sylvia's Place.



Engage the Youth

In order to make our efforts even more effective, we will work to involve the youth in our community in awareness activities throughout the year.



SOCIAL SERVICES

A major goal in our organization is to reduce the barriers that limit access to resources survivors of domestic violence need to become emotional, physically, and financially empowered.



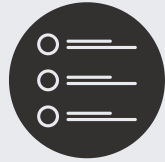
We strive to ensure that those in our community associated with the social system primarily involved with abuse and violence are trauma informed and aware of our services. It is imperative that representatives formulate the most effective response to the abuse. Our team will distribute literature and educational information on all of our services available. We also aim to dedicate more intimate case management with our participants.

At Sylvia's Place, we acknowledge the role of mental health of all our victims and especially those who are mothers and their children. To ease the process of obtaining justice, we problem solve with systems representative and advocate on behalf of survivors seeking assistance through these hurdles. This can ensure a more comprehensive approach to case resolution, thus a quicker route to victim empowerment.

agency strategic plan



AGENCY STRATEGIC PLAN



Planned Inputs

What resources are dedicated or consumed

- 5 Full Time Staff
- 6 Part Time Staff
- 24 Hour Crisis Line
- 24 Hour Safe Shelter
- Legal Advocacy
- Case Management
- Counseling
- Basic Necessity Items
- Maintenance/Janitorial Supplies
- Household Items

Planned Activities

What we do with our inputs

- 24/7 Accessibilities
- Clean, safe living arrangements to survivors
- Safety/Goal Planning
- Individual and Child Therapy
- Court accompaniment
- Assist with personal protection orders
- Act as liaison between victim and court system
- Provide clothing, food, and other basic needs items
- Provide housing and job placement referrals
- Community outreach

Expected Outputs

Direct products of program activities

- Expecting to offer safe shelter and supportive services to 150 or more women and children in shelter
- Expecting to offer nonresidential services and legal advocacy to 150 or more households
- Expand knowledge of domestic violence within our community and heighten awareness

Expected Outcomes

Benefits or changes that occur

- Participants will make healthy lifestyle changes
- Participants will gain independence and build self-esteem
- Participants will alleviate feelings of isolation and trauma
- Participants will be educated and empowered
- Participants will achieve personal goals to progress toward individual liberation

strategic goals





STRATEGIC GOALS

1

Provide high quality, appropriate, and accessible services that meet the needs of our target population

Utilize demographic and other relevant data to assist in following population needs and trends

Recognize gaps in service areas and determine ways to fill them

Ensure facilities are equipped, designed, and maintained to function safely, comfortably, and effectively for everyone

2

Maintain adequate financial capital to meet current organizational needs and build resources for the future

Sustain current funding sources and research new opportunities / Fundraising

Expand networking with other agencies and businesses outside of Allegan County

Recruit knowledgeable, capable, and committed volunteers

3

Attract, maintain, and compensate a professional staff to ensure organizational strength and continuity

Consistently assess needs to ensure programs are staffed effectively

Schedule ongoing team meetings to address concerns and needs

Review compensations

4

Educate and inform our community about the mission, issues, needs, programs, and services of the organization

Maintain up-to-date public relations efforts

Monthly newsletters and social media outreach

Distribute educational literature and conduct community presentations

Help Us Turn These Plans Into Reality

Make a donation:
[www.sylviasplace.com
/take-action/donate](http://www.sylviasplace.com/take-action/donate)

Volunteer:
[www.sylviasplace.com
/volunteer](http://www.sylviasplace.com/volunteer)

Visit our needslist:
[www.sylviasplace.com
/wishlist](http://www.sylviasplace.com/wishlist)

Learn about domestic
violence:
[www.sylviasplace.com
/get-informed](http://www.sylviasplace.com/get-informed)

Contact Us

24/7 Crisis line: 269-673-8700 | Office: 269-673-5742

Email: support@sylviasplace.com

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