

February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month

Safe Passage, Inc.

www.safepassageinc.org; 812-933-1990/877-733-1990

Serving domestic and sexual violence victims and providing prevention programming to six counties



Auctioneer Peter Hillenbrand helped raised a record amount for the live auction.

Record breaker for 7th annual We Help. We Heal. We Hope.

Safe Passage's major fundraiser, always held the first Saturday in December to kick off the giving season, was a record breaker, both in terms of attendance and dollars raised.

It was the 7th year for the **We Help. We Heal. We Hope.** event. In 2013, inspired by Joan Hillenbrand, the benefit originated at Hillcrest Country Club but quickly outgrew the facility and moved to Walhill. This year over 340 people attended the sold out event and viewed 34 beautifully decorated tables by various businesses and decorations. Emcees were Safe Passage Board President Matt Wessel and Vice President John Spence; Peter Hillenbrand did a great job as auctioneer.

The 7 live auction items, ranging from week-long trips to pizza parties, all went for over the value. Of the 45 raffle themed items, the Nambe' Nativity set again generated the most tickets. New this year, the 3 silent auction items netted over \$3000. There were 58 sponsors, contributing from \$250 to \$5000 to support the life-saving work of Safe Passage. (Safe Passage recognizes the major sponsors below.)

One of the key factors to the event's overwhelming success was the new "Barrier Buster" digital giving campaign, launched that day and continuing through December. Executive Director Jane Yorn explained how a car repair, an unexpected medical bill for a child or a utility shut off can create a financial obstacle to a victim trying to get their life in order. A chance to win 2 round-trip airline tickets to those

who gave whether digitally or pledged to do so that day also helped as an incentive. A contributor's name was pulled on Dec. 20 and Lisa Rosfeld won the airline vouchers. She has regularly attended the HHH event and had "never won anything" but meanwhile had learned a lot about Safe Passage. As a result, Lisa actually referred a woman to our services this year. As Yorn said, "We are truly blessed to live in such a community that takes care of their needy residents. Thank you to the businesses and sponsors, the raffle donors, the table decorators, the volunteers, and the attendees for attending and supporting our mission. We couldn't do it without you."



The Women of Steel organization was one of the 34 table decorators.

Meet our new staff members

Cari Kettman, Dearborn County

Title: Director of Community Based Services/Sexual Assault Leadership

Family: 4 children, elementary to college age

Formerly: Communications Coordinator with Lawrenceburg Mayor administration; Prior to that, Intensive Probation Officer, Special Court Services coordinator, and in 2004-05 Shelter Support and Dearborn/Ohio County Advocate for Safe Passage

What are you most looking forward to in your new role? Fostering connections that will support high level trauma-informed services to those we serve through improving continuity between service providers, law enforcement, the criminal justice system and our communities.

Erin Wydner, Cedar Grove

Title: Shelter Support/Volunteer Coordinator/Advocate

Former job: AmeriCorps VISTA-Mobile Outreach Coordinator Freestore Foodbank

Looking forward to... growing our volunteer base and establishing new opportunities for the community to get more involved, and working on the staff wellness programming.

Christine Louis, Harrison, Ohio

Title: Family Case Manager

Dec. 2019 University of Cincinnati Graduate

Looking forward to... Learning as much as I can so as to be able to approach clients with as much understanding and empathy as possible.

Regina Kennedy, Batesville (formerly Cincinnati)

Title: Sexual Assault Victim Advocate and Prevention Specialist

Former job: ESL teacher in Brazil

Looking forward to Being a voice for those who need help and healing.

Beth Kroger, Greendale, IN

Title: Family Case Manager for Dearborn and Ohio Counties

Former job: Highpoint Health Applications Analyst

Family: Husband Darin, two married children and 1 grandchild

Looking forward to ...Seeing the "aha" moments of healing for the survivors!



Welcome Alexa Miles, Oldenburg Academy Senior intern who is spending part of her second semester experiencing social services through the lens of Safe Passage.



Left, new Safe Passage staff members Christine Louis, Erin Wydner, Beth Kroger, Cari Kettman and Regina Kennedy.

In gratitude...

The Christmas spirit was felt among 177 Safe Passage families. Businesses, groups and families contributed to make sure each family member in need had something to open. Not only did we have gifts for those clients, but numerous donations of food, shelter needs and more throughout December.

Thank you to some of the 2019 grantors:

United Way Franklin County, \$5,000

United Way Jefferson County, \$23,000

United Way Greater Cincinnati, \$10,400

RCCF/United Way Decatur County (employee donations), \$861

Rising Sun Regional Foundation, \$4000 toward water heater

AllState Foundation: via Batesville office, \$5000

**JOHN A. HILLENBRAND
FOUNDATION, INC.**





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William A. and Martha H.
Hillenbrand Foundation

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