



ReachOut

SPRING 2019



Director's Desk



Dear Friends,

When Marcie left her abusive partner in Michigan two years ago, she never imagined that decision would send her and her young daughter on a path to homelessness. She wanted to do the right thing. She wanted to protect her daughter. She wanted a fresh start. So, at the invitation of an elderly aunt, Marcie and her daughter moved to Colorado to live with and help care for her aunt. A medical crisis left Marcie's aunt in long-term nursing care and Marcie and her daughter homeless, without stable housing and childcare, Marcie couldn't find work. Without a job, she couldn't afford housing. It would be nearly 18 months of bouncing between friends' spare rooms, shelters, even

weeks living in their car before Marcie and her daughter found their way to SPAN.

The link between domestic violence and homelessness is undeniable. The solution – affordable, safe housing for survivors and their children – sounds simple but isn't. SPAN has worked intently in recent years to expand post-shelter housing options for survivors. Last year alone, 225 adults and families who had been homeless secured long-term housing with support from SPAN.

Certainly, there is more to be done. But, together with supporters like you, we are making a difference to survivors like Marcie and her daughter. Please continue to join us as we work to make "home" a reality for survivors and their children.

Peace,
Anne Tapp, Executive Director

Make a Contribution Today

\$150

Pays for one child to attend SPAN's summer camp

\$500

Subsidizes one month of rent for a Survivor

\$1,000

Keeps our 24 hour crisis line operating for one week

Program Profiles

Youth Education Program Focuses on Teen Homelessness

by Abbie Fagerwick, Youth Violence Prevention Educator

Peers Building Justice (PBJ) is SPAN's after school youth group, focusing on empowering youth to use their voice by creating awareness around social justice and activism while fighting oppression. Recently, PBJ and two local youth organizations, collaborated in a month long project called Hot Spot Mapping.

Hot Spot Mapping is an engaging, hands-on program that identifies "hot" spots in the community as unsafe, dangerous or disconnected. While working with teens from Attention Homes, and Out Boulder County, PBJ caught small glimpses into the lives of youth who are homeless, often because of their LGBTQ identity. Youth experiencing homelessness felt unsafe at bus stops and on buses, a main way of transportation. They experienced sexual and verbal

harassment, and physical violence. They also expressed concerns around grocery stores, explaining employees, assumed they were stealing. They discussed meaningful and achievable recommendations to be presented to local policy makers in order to make a positive change for the entire community.

PBJ found that collaborating with youth experiencing homelessness is humbling. They gained insight by having difficult, yet essential conversations around safety in their community, something many of them took for granted, but now have a different perspective on.



SPAN advocated for 225 homeless individuals to secure housing in 2018

44%
have
children

80% moved
directly from
shelter into
housing

80% stayed
within Boulder
County

The Intersection of Homelessness and Domestic Violence

by Daniel Roetzer, Community Resource Advocate

The relationship between domestic violence and homelessness tells a grim reality of countless heartbreaking stories. These stories, happening far too frequently, find individuals fearing for their lives and fleeing abuse – often with many children and inadequate finances – without a place to turn, let alone a safe one.

Domestic violence is predominantly characterized by unjust power dynamics, which leaves the survivor with neither a hopeful alternative to the home nor a level of self-sufficiency needed to be independently successful. Many abusers prohibit their partner from having access to income or a social support network and instill emotional and psychological insecurity in them through gaslighting and verbal abuse. In turn, the survivor faces a lack of esteem and confidence in their independent abilities, no social connections or feelings of membership, and little to no monetary resources upon leaving.

Survivors of domestic violence are a part of the majority of people experiencing homeless that are underserved by local, state, and federal resources. For survivors experiencing homelessness, maintaining safety is imperative to their self-sufficiency and success. Yet, there is an immense gap in the amount of resources – shelters, housing programs, financial support – that assist or provide necessary levels of confidentiality.

Also a trend is the lack of housing support programs and

other resources for single adults. For survivors without children, it can take up to seven shelter stays before the prospect of housing becomes even the slightest bit tangible. With many systems operating on a vulnerability index – assessing and providing for the most vulnerable among us – single adult survivors of abuse are the demographic often overlooked.

But there is hope. Thousands of organizations across the country have been extending support to the people experiencing homeless. More progressive conversations around the gender binary, power dynamics, and interpersonal and institutional violence have arguably reached an apex. This apex allows us to understand the complexity of the intersection of homelessness and domestic violence and create and allocate resources accordingly.

At SPAN, we provide our clients a 6-week emergency shelter program in a confidential, undisclosed location. During their stay, residents are provided with case management, referrals to community resources and agencies, and trauma-informed care in an effort to support them and enhance their self-sufficiency upon exiting. No matter what level of work we are engaged in – individual, local, state, or national – we all have a choice to maintain the status quo or to advocate for and amplify the voices of the most marginalized. By committing to the latter, together, we can fight for justice, enact change, and restore peace to the lives of thousands.

Counseling Intern, Tosha Jordan Reflects on Their Experience at SPAN

by TJay Jordon



I decided to be a counseling intern at SPAN because of the social justice framework and how well it is integrated with working across the team at SPAN and the work with clients. My father had just passed right before I started the internship. It was a strong yes from him for me to intern at SPAN. I needed to be at a site

that supported the complexity of human beings, and allowed difference to show up and be supported. SPAN was the only site that met my growing edge as a social justice counselor in training.

The unique strength I feel I bring in regards to the intersection of counseling and social justice, is that I believe oppression is traumatic; so I show up trauma informed working with each client's sociocultural locations and trauma history as best as I can to promote healing rather than recapitulating trauma. I also bring in creative modalities to

meet people where they are, like freestyle rap, depending on socio-cultural locations and if the client needs a place to bring it in. The intention is to allow supportive witnessing. Because of my own socio-cultural locations as a queer person of color, who raps and dances as a therapeutic outlet, I understand how mainstream cognitive therapy may not encourage these expressions, so I want to make sure I welcome it for everyone who wants to bring it! Everyone has strengths and I want to highlight the ways people already show up in their own lives. With this being said, people have brought in their own art and music to be witnessed and reminded that what they do is healing within itself.

Survivors of domestic violence have taught me that love is scary. I can feel the power in each person that shows up to work with me that they are warriors of love. We all can be warriors in love, but it takes more than just one person in the relationship to do so.

February Volunteer Training, Welcomes New Board Members, Staff and Direct Client Volunteers.



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FEBRUARY 2019

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WISH LIST 2019

Gift cards make our day

Amazon, King Soopers, Whole Foods, Micheals, Pizza Restaurants

Food Items always in need

Coffee and creamer
Flour/Sugar
Cooking Oil (Olive!)
Pasta/Sauce, Mac and Cheese
Soups/Canned foods
Condiments
Cereals
Canned Fruit
Baby food
Salsa/Snacks, chips, power bars
Breakfast items
Frozen foods

Other items always in need

Twin size sheets and towels
Cleaning supplies
Personal care items
Detergent (liquid only)
Over the counter medications
Tooth brushes and paste
Razors, socks and undergarments
Art Supplies
Crafts for Kids
Toys for Summer



SPAN 
 Safehouse Progressive Alliance
 for Nonviolence

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 Boulder, CO 80304

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The 38th Annual Chocolate Lovers' Fling was a huge success!

Thank you to all of our guests and sponsors.
 For more pictures please visit our website!



Help us celebrate 40 years of support to survivors of
 intimate partner violence in our community

Like us on Facebook and Instagram @FollowSPAN
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