

# FEARLESS!

## RECLAIMING OUR SAFETY!

4<sup>TH</sup> QUARTER 2019  
NEWSLETTER

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**FEARLESS!**  
Hudson Valley, Inc.

F/K/A

Safe Homes of Orange County

P.O. Box 649  
Newburgh, NY 12551

24 Hour Hotline  
(845) 562-5340

Business Office  
(845) 562-5365

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**I started this year reflecting on the idea of a new decade.** The connection between our organizational strategic repositioning, our new name, and this new decade had not aligned for me until I started writing this greeting. I walked into Safe Homes ten years ago with excitement, nervousness and gratitude for the opportunity to grow the ideas and experience gained in my previous professional roles in the field. Much of what was concerning then is still concerning now. While we work tirelessly towards a world free from violence and abuse, we continue to see the increased need for services and support for victims and survivors. Our programs and services have grown significantly to meet these needs, and we transformed an organization once thought to be shelter-driven into a leader within the community working to address interpersonal violence and human trafficking. We continue to demand that formal and informal systems hold abusers accountable, and commit to the on-going work to create a paradigm shift within the world that collectively works to dismantle individual and systemic forms of oppression that continue to create environments ripe for some to cause harm, abuse, and use forms of violence towards individuals and groups within our communities continues.



If we are going to dedicate our lifetime to creating a world free of abuse and violence in all its forms then we need to be Fearless!. Change is challenging no matter how rewarding the end result may be. There is a tendency for some to do what has always been done, to avoid discomfort, or the rocking of the boat. Speaking up is scary, and one runs the risk of being wrong, harmed, or worse—silenced. We, as a collective body of citizens, must all play a role when it comes to ensuring everyone has the basic human right to live free from abuse and violence in all its forms. Every few seconds in this country a victim is being abused, and victims and their children continue to die at the hands of their abusers. We are done allowing individuals and systems to place the burden of safety on the victim's shoulders. As we usher in this new decade, we look to our outside partners, friends, colleagues, and local communities to start asking: what are we going to do about it? There are systems and laws, myths and misconceptions, which only serve to embolden abusers. Educating ourselves and actively applying what we learn about the complexities of domestic violence in our roles within the community is the most vital step in stopping abuse. Whether you are an advocate, judge, lawyer, police officer, grocery clerk, or nurse: it is everyone's responsibility and it will take all of us to grow, learn, and try new approaches if we are going to stop the murders, reduce the abuse, and support children to lead healthy, happy lives.

January was **Human Trafficking and Stalking Awareness Month** and we hope you will take time to learn about the crime of human trafficking and the dangerousness of stalking. Our Anti-Trafficking team actively works to educate our community on human trafficking and the reality that it is happening right here in Orange and Sullivan counties. One in three teens in the U.S. will experience dating violence. February is **Teen Dating Violence Awareness** month and our Educators will be hosting free community workshops and special programming within schools throughout the month. Please stop by *2Alices Coffee Lounge* in Newburgh through February 24th to see the artwork created by local youth for our 6th **Annual Teen Art Contest**.

Please follow us on Facebook and Instagram for education, facts, and stats on these very important topics and many more throughout the year. You can also check out these resources:

**Polaris Project** [polarisproject.org](http://polarisproject.org)

**Stalking Resource Center** [victimsofcrime.org/our-programs/past-programs/stalking-resource-center](http://victimsofcrime.org/our-programs/past-programs/stalking-resource-center)  
**Love Is Respect** [www.loveisrespect.org](http://www.loveisrespect.org)

**We look forward to working with each and every one of you.** Imagine the progress we will make in supporting victims and survivors when the individuals surrounding victims and survivors work to be a little more Fearless!.

*In Solidarity Kellyann*

# BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



CRYSTAL JOHNSON

“ I joined Fearless! because I want more people to know the variety of services that are provided and how the agency can help those who need it. As a member of the community, I have witnessed how Fearless! can impact people’s lives and it is inspiring to see how much compassion and energy goes into the work. It was important for me to engage with an agency in the non-profit sector that I felt a close connection to. If I am able to help at least one person then that would be amazing. ”

## SUNDAY, MAY 3<sup>RD</sup>

### 5K AND KID’S FUN RUN

**SIGN UP  
BY APRIL 6<sup>TH</sup>  
TO GET A FREE  
T-SHIRT!**

**WE CAN BE  
HEROES 5K**

For details and registration:

[fearlesshv.org/heroesrun](http://fearlesshv.org/heroesrun)

*There are many ways to participate and show your support!*

**NEW THIS YEAR:** Set up an individual or team fundraising page and ask your contacts to share and spread the word.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

[runsignup.com/fearlesshv/volunteer](http://runsignup.com/fearlesshv/volunteer)

# Expanding Services & Locations

**Be on the  
lookout for  
an Open  
House in  
Spring 2020!**

We are excited to share that in October 2019, Fearless! was awarded a grant from the **NYS Office of Victim Services** to expand victim services programming throughout Orange and Sullivan County. This award is the result of a competitive RFP that was issued over the summer in 2019. Through this grant, Fearless! has been able to expand our Risk Reduction Response program, Therapeutic Counseling, Hotline Advocacy, Education & Outreach, Youth, and Advocacy Services. This award would not have been possible without support and funding from both the Orange County and Sullivan County Department of Social Services, and other funding partners.

## Additional Office Space

With the agency's growth and expansion this past October came the need to secure additional office space in Orange and Sullivan Counties. After months of work behind the scenes, we were able to not only expand our Family Justice Center in Orange County, but are thrilled to announce that as of January 2020 we will be sharing space with the **RISE** program at Catskill Regional Medical Center (CRMC) in Harris. This new space will be in addition to our office at the Sullivan County Government Center and will allow us greater flexibility in meeting the needs of victims and survivors in Sullivan County outside of traditional business hours and on holidays when government offices are closed and **FEARLESS!** is not.

Our CRMC offices will be the new home for our Sullivan-based education and outreach team, in addition to providing a comfortable space for therapeutic counseling sessions. **FEARLESS!** advocates are available at the Sullivan County Government Center during business hours, and by appointment at our new CRMC offices. Specific inquiries regarding services or which office to visit can be made through our **24-hour hotline: 845-562-5340.**

### Family Justice Center

**280 Broadway  
3rd Floor  
Newburgh, NY**

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### Sullivan County Government Center

**100 North Street  
Monticello, NY**

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### Catskill Regional Medical Center

**68 Harris-Bushville Road  
Harris, NY**

# CELEBRATION OF HOPE GALA RAISES OVER \$81,000 AND FEARLESSLY EXPANDS INTO THE NEW YEAR!









# ADOPT A FAMILY 2019 THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!





This year **87** Fearless! donors made up of local businesses, community organizations, and private individuals, adopted **400** children's wishlists from **172** families across Orange and Sullivan Counties.

*Thank you to all of our compassionate donors for opening your hearts and helping Fearless! bring the warmth of the season to so many families!*



*To all the incredible donors that made this holiday season special for the individuals and families we serve: thank you for your kindheartedness and belief in our Fearless! mission!*

# ANNUAL TEEN ART & ESSAY CONTEST

*We proudly congratulate this year's winners and thank all who participated!*

Each year, Fearless! invites artists of all kinds from grades 6-12 to share their personal vision and voice in promoting healthy relationships and creating change in our culture. As part of **Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month**, selected submissions are on display at **2Alices Coffee Lounge** through February 24<sup>th</sup>.

*Thank you to  
**2Alices** and  
**Newburgh  
Envelope** for  
your annual  
support!*



**1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE WINNER:** Brenna Connolly  
Grade 11, Valley Central High School  
"Send the Right Message"



**2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE WINNER:**  
Francesca DeBernardo  
Grade 12, Valley Central  
High School  
"To Be Underwater"



**3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE WINNER:**  
Theresa Faso  
Grade 11, Valley Central  
High School  
"Blinded by Love"

Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month

**FEARLESS!**  
RECLAIMING OUR SAFETY

**ESSAY  
CONTEST  
WINNER:**

**Alex McDermott**  
Grade 11, Newburgh  
Free Academy

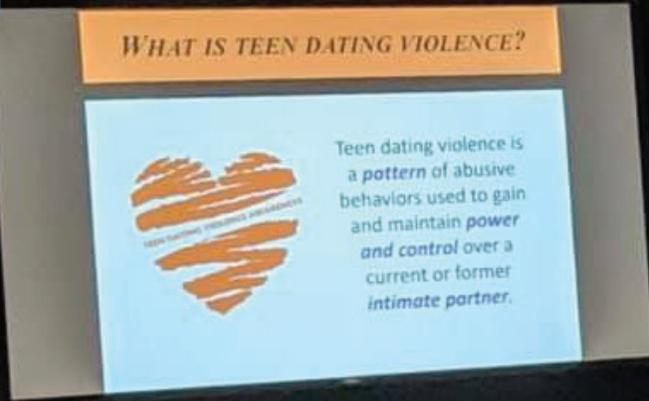
**"Cinderfella"**



Join Fearless! for Our 7<sup>th</sup> Annual  
“Love Shouldn’t Hurt”  
**YOUTH SUMMIT**

Thursday, March 19<sup>th</sup> at Mount Saint Mary College

Registration deadline is Friday, February 28<sup>th</sup>



This transformative day is designed for students grades 9-12 and adult ally participants and chaperones to gain knowledge and skills necessary to ending intimate partner violence in our communities.

For more information or to register your school, please contact: Zoë Mahan, Education Manager, at [zmahan@fearlesshv.org](mailto:zmahan@fearlesshv.org) or 845-562-5365 x131

**ANNUAL TEEN ARTWORK ON DISPLAY AT 2ALICES, 117 BROADWAY, NEWBURGH**



26th Annual

# LOVE Gently

## Dinner

Painter's Tavern in Cornwall-on-Hudson, NY

Two Seating Times: **5:30pm** and **7:30pm**

Reservations are **REQUIRED**. *This event will sell out!*

Call Painter's Tavern at (845) 534-2109

Enjoy a delicious dinner served to you by notable community members and leaders; chocolate-covered strawberries from Newburgh's own Commodore Chocolatier; live music from crowd favorites Run DMG; tarot card readings by the amazing Rozelisa; and enter to win our 50/50 raffle! **TIP GENEROUSLY!** *Your servers will donate 100% of their tips to Fearless!*



### OUR 26TH ANNIVERSARY SERVERS ARE:

**Mary Pat Smith**, Assistant to the Orange County Executive

**David Hoovler**, Orange County District Attorney

**Brendan Coyne**, Mayor, Village of Cornwall-on-Hudson

**Mary Beth Greene**, Community Volunteer

**Jim DiSalvo**, West Point-Highland Falls Rotary

**Jeanne Mahoney**, Village Clerk, Village of Cornwall-on-Hudson

**Dick Randazzo**, Town Supervisor, Town of Cornwall

**Dr. Michele Winchester-Vega**, of Dr. Michele Winchester-Vega & Associates

**Inaudy Esposito**, Executive Director, Orange County Human Rights Commission

**Karen Kaiser-Sharpe**, owner Madison Ave Boutique & Karen Kaiser-Sharpe Photography

**Glen A. Plotsky**, Senior Partner, Bavoso & Plotsky

**James Ferrara**, Photographer

**Jacqueline Murray**, Founding Board Member of Fearless! f/k/a Safe Homes



RECLAIM  
OUR SAFETY

Save the Date

ANNUAL

CELEBRATION OF HOPE GALA

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2020

ANTHONY'S PIER 9  
NEW WINDSOR, NY