

Media Release

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Strengthen Our Survivors raises funds for domestic violence and sex trafficking

OMAHA, Neb. — On Saturday, April 6, 100 community advocates for domestic violence, sexual assault, and sex trafficking attended the **Strengthen Our Survivors** brunch and vendor fair at Oak Hills Country Club. With the help of generous community sponsors and event attendees, the event raised over \$9,500. All proceeds will go to support the Heartland Family Service (HFS) **Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault** program, including the **Safe Haven** concealed emergency shelter, and the new **Heartland Housing Sanctuary** program, benefiting survivors of sex trafficking.

This year's Honorary Chair was Cheri Duryea McPherson, who is a long-time Nebraska resident. Cheri has a strong passion to help those in need, particularly children and individuals in difficult situations. She has served on a number of boards in the community and is President-Elect of the HFS Friends Guild.



Honorary Chair Cheri Duryea McPherson (middle) stands with HFS staff members before the beginning of the event.

ABOUT THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE/SEXUAL ASSAULT PROGRAMS

For 40 years, Heartland Family Service has been offering counseling, safe shelter, emotional support, and guidance to those in our community living with the effects of domestic violence and sexual assault. Through our Safe Haven concealed emergency shelter, ongoing family support, and individual counseling, Heartland Family Service helps families in our community transition from harmful environments to happy, productive, and successful lives.

The demand for our domestic violence and sexual assault services increased significantly over the last year. In 2018, Heartland Family Service provided care to over 2,000 women, men, and children in the Omaha metro area, which was an increase of 300 people from the previous year.

ABOUT HEARTLAND HOUSING SANCTUARY

A crisis stabilization shelter serving survivors of sex trafficking, Heartland Housing Sanctuary is a facility-based program that houses up to 14 individuals or adults with children. The location of the Sanctuary House facility is confidential to protect the safety of its residents. The shelter is staffed 24 hours a day and provides an array of services, including advocacy, therapy, and case management.

When life improves for one of us, life improves for all of us.

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ABOUT HEARTLAND FAMILY SERVICE

Since 1875, Heartland Family Service has responded to the needs of our area's most vulnerable children and families. Each year, the agency's 50+ programs serve over 52,000 individuals of all ages — from infants in our Family Works program to seniors in our Generations Center — from more than 15 locations in east central Nebraska and southwest Iowa. We provide critical human services to the individuals and families who ultimately shape the future of our community through the following program areas: Child & Family Well-Being, Counseling & Prevention, and Housing, Safety, & Financial Stability.

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