

New Blog Post

■ We Believe Survivors! #WeBelieveSurvivors

2022 Domestic Violence Awareness Month



We Believe Survivors

October 28, 2022

On Wednesday, October 19th, Safe+Sound Somerset hosted our annual Candles of Hope Vigil honoring those who have been lost to the horror of domestic violence in Somerset County. We also celebrated those who have known the trauma of abuse and are on a journey of healing to a life of light and peace.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. With over 1 in 3 women, and almost 1 in 3 men, experiencing intimate partner violence in their lifetime, now is the time for bold action. It is time for all of us – individuals, communities, and New Jerseyans – to use our voices and act.

It starts with one powerful statement: WE BELIEVE SURVIVORS

When we believe survivors as individuals, we believe that survivors' stories are the truth. No matter how or where it happened, where they live, the color of their skin, their gender expression, sexual orientation, or the language spoken, survivors are the experts in their own lives. Their stories are their own, based on their lived experiences - not anyone else's. There is no place for judgement when we believe survivors.

When we believe survivors as a community, we recognize the impact of domestic violence in and develop responses as a community. In any community setting – houses of worship, community centers, health care institutions, schools, and workplaces – dv will touch the lives of 1/3 of everyone in any of those places.

When we believe survivors as New Jerseyans, we create laws that center the needs of survivors and hold those who cause harm accountable and responsible with a hand toward justice and restoration. We enact policies that are founded on the principle that survivors know what they need, that supports survivors in their healing, and creates systems to support that healing.

Join with us in ending violence once and for all -

- Commit to educating yourself, family, friends, and co-workers on the role that power and control plays in everyone's life to limit or promote choices, boundaries and consent at home, work and in the community.
- Invest in resources, like those provided by Safe+Sound Somerset to meet the needs of survivors and their children wherever they need it. Our programs build the capacity of community organizations and employers to believe and respond to survivors wherever and whenever they show up. We engage with students, parents, and community organizations to teach, model and mentor about healthy friendships and relationships – and what to do if they become unsafe.
- Advocate for the creation of laws and policies that FULLY FUND programs based on what survivors and their children need to heal and leave behind a life filled with violence.

WE BELIEVE SURVIVORS!

The statement that starts the actions towards ending violence once and for all.

Visit website at safe-sound.org to determine what your next step in believing survivors will be.

Thank you,

Michele E. Boronkas
CEO, Safe+Sound Somerset

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