



WELCOME TO THE

SAFE Newsletter

NOVEMBER 30, 2023

SAFE at Home for the Holidays

HOW WE ARE MAKING THIS SEASON SPECIAL AND SAFE FOR SURVIVORS AND THEIR FAMILIES

This season's holidays are not easy for survivors of domestic and sexual violence living in SAFE's emergency or transitional housing. Often times, this is the first time they are away from

their family unit and they may not be spending the holiday with any family or friends. On the other hand, sometimes this is the first time that survivors are able to celebrate the holidays with a sense of freedom to



celebrate with autonomy and independence. SAFE is sensitive to the needs and wishes of all of the survivors we serve by asking them about their family culture and what traditions and holidays they celebrate. This year, all of the families we serve, many of whom have children also living with them, were open and accepting of assistance for the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. SAFE has partnered with many community supporters to provide resources from holiday meals, including Blessing Baskets from Aspen Grove Realty (pictured left), turkeys from Corvallis Methodist Church, and all of the ingredients for side dishes from Cornerstone Church.

Leading up to the Christmas holiday, our community has really come out to support SAFE survivors in so many ways. Corvallis Methodist Church will be donating food boxes again, and the Bitterroot Kiwanis are giving our participants Christmas hams for their holiday meal. The SAFE Giving Tree is up again this year at the SAFE Thrift Store, full of ornaments with SAFE families' gift wishes (details pg. 2), and Glacier Sotheby's in Hamilton also put up a Giving Tree with requests from SAFE, for which we are so grateful. Stop by either of these locations to select an ornament while they last! For the first time this year, Jessi's Wine & Goods is hosting a Holiday Decor Drive where people can donate holiday decorations for SAFE participants' shelter and transitional housing, to make their spaces a little more cheery, since many survivors come to our shelter with very few belongings. SAFE is fortunate to have had Vern's Landscaping donate Christmas trees for many years for our survivors, and we are hopeful that this year we can also have decorations for the trees donated from this new and unique event.

In addition to this outpouring of giving from our community, SAFE works directly with participants during the holiday season to provide extra direct support and connection through weekly community dinners and support groups, a holiday party for survivors and their children, and a gift wrapping party. It is our hope that by offering additional chances for survivors to connect with each other during the holidays, they feel a sense of community and belonging at a time when so many people crave it the most.

VISIT THE SAFE THRIFT STORE TODAY TO PICK UP AN ORNAMENT TO MAKE A HOLIDAY WISH COME TRUE!



SAFE

Giving Tree

Each ornament tag is a gift wish from a child at SAFE or a gift card for a family.

HOW IT WORKS:

- Select an ornament from the tree for a wish you would like to fulfill this season
- Bring the ornament to the front desk to commit to fulfilling the wish and sign up in our book
- Go shopping to fulfill the wish list and return the unwrapped item(s) here along with the ornament tag **NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 12th**

DONATE HOLIDAY DECOR FOR SAFE FAMILIES TO DECORATE THEIR TEMPORARY HOUSING SPACE!

JESSI'S WINE & GOODS IS HOSTING A

HOLIDAY DECOR DRIVE

Jessi's WINE & GOODS 

BENEFITTING SAFE SURVIVORS & FAMILIES

After fleeing domestic violence, many survivors come to the SAFE shelter with very few belongings. You can help make the holidays a little more cheerful by donating your new or gently used indoor holiday decorations for survivors to use in their new or temporary housing this holiday season.

ITEMS NEEDED:

- STRING LIGHTS | ORNAMENTS | GINGERBREAD HOUSE KITS
- STOCKINGS & STOCKING STUFFERS | ADVENT CALENDARS
- OTHER HOLIDAY HOME DECOR

ITEMS MAY BE DROPPED OFF AT
JESSI'S WINE & GOODS
100 SKEELS AVE, HAMILTON

DEC. 1ST-10TH



Construction Updates



A MESSAGE FROM MAINTENANCE MARK

With milder temperatures and the absence of snow over the last few weeks, construction crews have made great progress with the completion of the concrete work on the new foundations and have backfilled and compacted the soil around the new foundation walls. They have also added or re-routed power, water and gas supplies where needed and have upgraded water drainage in the new construction areas. It is easy to summarize these things in just a few short paragraphs, but the amount of labor that goes into such a project is not easily described! Untold hours of brainstorming and strategic planning, campaigning, fundraising, etc. long before that first shovel ever hit the soil. We are very grateful for the expertise and professionalism that have been displayed by the different contractors thus far. Thank you! It won't be long at all before we begin to see exterior walls being built. We invite you to share or excitement as we witness this new growth, which will increase SAFE's ability to better serve the needs of our community!

SEE MORE PROJECT UPDATES ON OUR WEBSITE!



-Mark Warner, SAFE Facilities Maintenance

End-of-Year Appeal Takes New Focus



MONTHLY GIVING FOR NONPROFITS

At the end of every calendar year, SAFE sends out a letter in the mail to our individual supporters updating them on the work we've done, why this work is important, and where we are heading next. We also ask for continued or first-time financial support.

More than a third of SAFE's income comes from donor contributions, and we would not be able to sustain our work without this income source. This year, we are asking our donors to consider making a monthly recurring donation to SAFE. Monthly donations are convenient to the donor, helpful for the organization's budgeting process, increase donor retention, and allow donors to see the impact they are making on the work that SAFE does by staying connected and informed. Please consider making your annual gift a monthly donation this year!

Staff & Board Member Changes

RECENT UPDATES ON NEW LEADERSHIP ROLES AT SAFE

Misty Moore, who has been with SAFE for more than 4 years, serving as the Child Advocate and then as our CCR Coordinator, moved into the role of Program Director in September. She is off to an excellent start and we can't wait to see the positive impacts she has on all of SAFE's programming!
SAFE's former Child Advocate for more than a year, McKenna Mertes, recently transitioned into the role of Community Programs Coordinator. We look forward to having her in this community-facing position!

SAFE is still hiring for a couple of staff positions on our Program Team. Check them out here: www.safeinthebitterroot.org/join-the-team

SAFE's Annual Board Meeting took place on November 27. Our new board member roster is below:

SAFE Board of Directors 2023-2024

CHRIS TAGGART, CHAIR

JAN ABEL, VICE CHAIR

CAROLYN LARSEN, SECRETARY

TOM SCHMIT, TREASURER

STEVE HOLTON, AMY COOPER, APRIL BARNINGS

& JAIME BIESIOT, MEMBERS

We would like to thank our outgoing SAFE Board Chair from 2022-23, Joni Lubke, for her unwavering support and ambassadorship. She was our champion through an incredible year of change, and we are grateful for her leadership!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE UPCOMING DATES

stay tuned for more details

DECEMBER 2023

1st: 2023 SAFE's year-end annual appeal mailed out

1st-10th: Holiday Decor Drive @ Jessi's Wine & Goods

1st-12th: Holiday Giving Tree at SAFE Thrift Store

JANUARY 2024

2024 SAFE business & individual sponsorship opportunities open

11th: Eagles Lodge Bingo Night, proceeds donated to SAFE

MAY 18, 2024

SAFE Spring Fundraiser

details TBD!

SEPTEMBER 12, 2024

Farm to Table Gathering