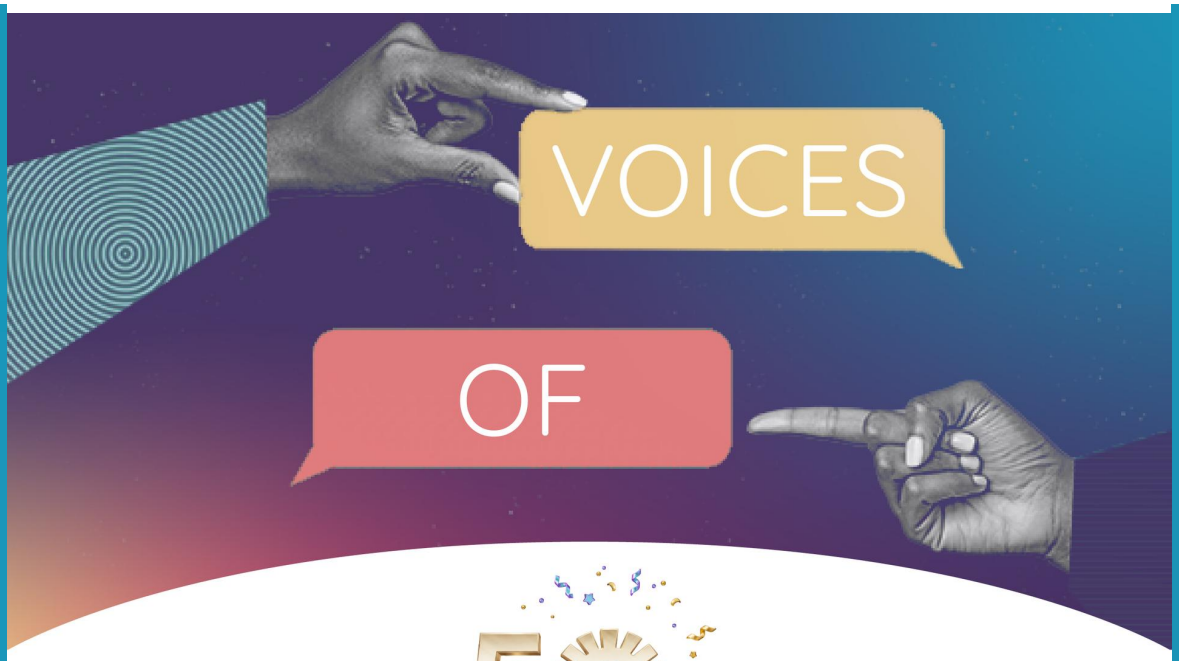


50 years of YOUNITY

Together we are stronger than abuse.

FORMERLY **WOMANSPACE**

1977–2027
Celebrating 50 Years of Standing with Victim-Survivors

Celebrating 50 Years of Younity

Our year-long Golden Anniversary celebration is underway!
Throughout the coming year, we'll share stories from our history, celebrate the people who have shaped our journey, and look ahead to the future of Younity.
Thank you for being part of our story.

OUR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

IN THIS ISSUE:

50th Anniversary
A Message from CEO & President Nathalie S. Nelson

Pet Advocacy
Love Should Never Be Left Behind

Victim-Blaming
What If We're Asking the Wrong Questions?

Upcoming Events
Celebrate 50 Years Together

Anniversary Advocate
Help Shape Younity's Next 50 Years

Younity Store
Wear Your Support

A message from our CEO & President, Nathalie S. Nelson



Dear Friends,

As we begin our year-long celebration of **Younity's 50th Anniversary,** I have been reflecting on what has made this organization so special for nearly five decades.

While much has changed since 1977, one thing has remained constant. Our commitment to standing beside victim-survivors with compassion, dignity, and hope. As the needs of our community have evolved, so has Younity. We have expanded our services, strengthened our partnerships, welcomed new leaders and staff, and continued to find new ways to support survivors and their families.

As we celebrate 50 years of service, we're also looking ahead. This month's newsletter reflects the work that defines Younity today: honoring our history, embracing innovation, educating our community, strengthening partnerships, and inviting others to be part of what comes next. Together, these efforts help ensure Younity continues to meet the needs of survivors today and for generations to come.

Throughout the coming year, we will also share stories from our history, celebrate the people who have shaped Younity, and honor the community that has made 50 years of service possible.

Thank you for being part of Younity's story. Whether you have been with us for decades or have recently joined our community, your support makes this work possible. I look forward to celebrating this milestone with you throughout the year.

With gratitude,

Nathalie S. Nelson

Nathalie S. Nelson
CEO & President

INTRODUCING OUR NEW PET ADVOCACY PROGRAM
A New Path to Safety



For many survivors, concern for a companion animal becomes one more barrier to leaving an abusive relationship.

Younity's new **Pet Advocacy Program** is helping remove that barrier by creating pet-friendly transitional housing and building a community of partners dedicated to keeping survivors and their companion animals together.

Read "Love Should Never Be Left Behind" to discover how this innovative program is changing lives and how you can help.

READ THE FULL STORY

WHEN THE STORY CONTINUES IN THE COMMENTS SECTION



Every time a story about domestic or sexual violence makes the news, another story unfolds in the comments section.

Why didn't they leave?
Why were they there?
Why didn't they fight back?

These questions may seem reasonable, but they shift responsibility away from the person who caused the harm and onto the survivor.

In our latest article, Younity Training Specialist **Sheilagh Mescal Gunstensen** explores why victim-blaming happens, how trauma shapes a survivor's response, and how changing the questions we ask can change the conversation.

READ THE FULL STORY



Throughout our 50th anniversary year, we'll highlight opportunities to connect, learn, volunteer, and celebrate with Younity. From community events and awareness campaigns to signature fundraisers and special anniversary moments, this is where you'll find what's coming up next. We hope you'll join us!

BUILDING SAFER COMMUNITIES, TOGETHER
National Night Out | August 4, 2026



Strong communities aren't built by one organization alone.

Every day, Younity works alongside law enforcement, first responders, schools, healthcare providers, and community organizations throughout Mercer County to support survivors, prevent violence, and strengthen the neighborhoods we all call home.

National Night Out is a celebration of those partnerships.

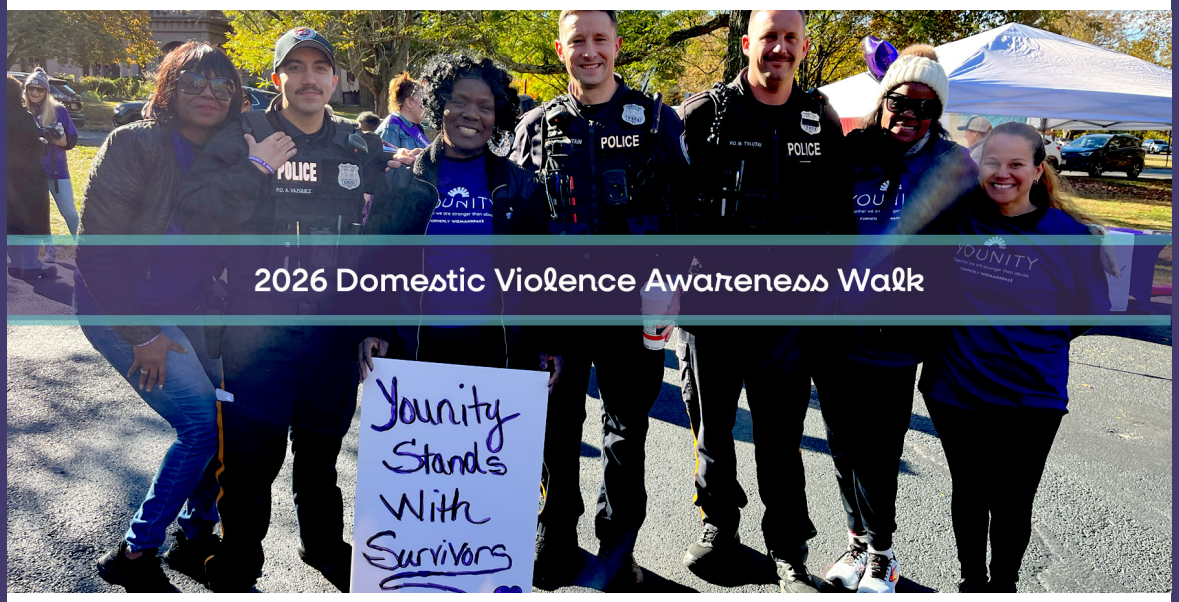
On **Tuesday, August 4**, you'll find Younity staff at **National Night Out** events across Mercer County, standing alongside our local police departments and community partners to connect with residents, share resources, and build relationships that help make our communities safer.

Whether you're stopping by to meet our team, learn more about our services, or enjoy an evening with your neighbors, we hope you'll visit us.

Because preventing violence and supporting survivors is something we accomplish together.

FIND A NNO LOCATION

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS WALK
October 24, 2026



We come together.

As Younity celebrates 50 years of standing beside survivors, this year's **Domestic Violence Awareness Walk** is an opportunity to honor five decades of advocacy, remember those impacted by abuse, and reaffirm our commitment to a future free from violence.

Join survivors, families, advocates, community partners, and supporters as we walk together in hope, remembrance, and solidarity. Every step reminds us that when a community comes together, we can create lasting change.

LEARN MORE

COMMUNITIES OF LIGHT
October 26, 2026



We shine together.

For 25 years, **Communities of Light** has united neighbors, businesses, schools, faith communities, and organizations in a powerful tradition of hope during **Domestic Violence Awareness Month**.

As Younity celebrates its 50th anniversary, thousands of luminaries will once again illuminate Mercer County, honoring survivors, remembering lives lost, and sending a powerful message that no one has to face abuse alone.

When we shine together, we remind survivors they are seen, supported, and surrounded by a community that cares.

LEARN MORE

Want to stay up to date with Younity?

Visit our website for the latest news, upcoming events, volunteer opportunities, and ways to support survivors throughout our community.

EXPLORE NEWS & EVENTS

Become an Anniversary Advocate

The first 50 years changed countless lives.
The next 50 begin with all of us.

As Younity celebrates five decades of advocacy, prevention, and hope, we're inviting our community to become part of the next chapter by joining our **Anniversary Advocate** monthly giving program.

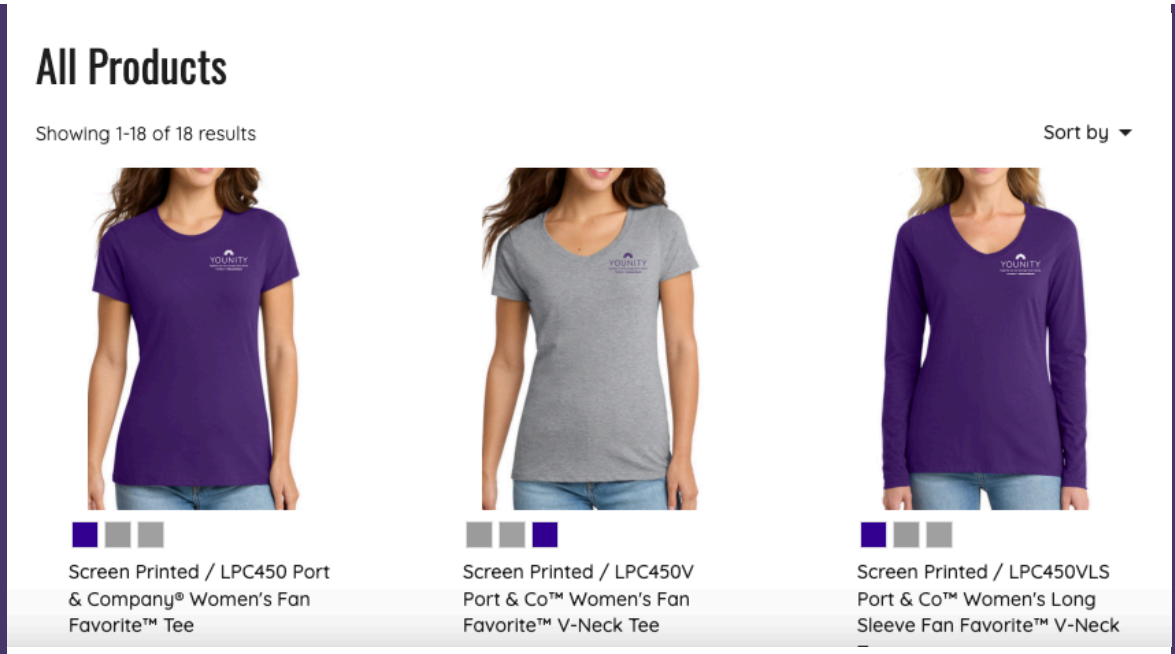
A recurring gift of **$50 or more each month** provides steady, dependable support that allows Younity to respond when survivors need us most and invest in innovative programs that strengthen our community.

Anniversaries aren't only about looking back. They're about choosing what comes next.

Become an Anniversary Advocate today and help build the next 50 years of hope, healing, and lives free from abuse.

BECOME AN ANNIVERSARY ADVOCATE

YOUNITY'S ONLINE STORE:
Wear Your Support



We're excited to share a new way to support Younity's mission. Our online store features apparel and accessories created for people of all genders, reflecting our shared commitment to safety, healing, and community.

Every purchase helps fund counseling, advocacy, and crisis response services for victim-survivors of domestic and sexual violence in Mercer County. When you shop, you're not just choosing meaningful merchandise — you're helping make safety and support accessible for those who need it most.

We are grateful to **Creative T-Shirt Printing** for bringing this collection to life and for their partnership in supporting our mission.

Thank you for standing with us in purpose and compassion.
Together, we are stronger than abuse.

SHOP OUR STORE

YOU DESERVE TO BE HEARD AND SUPPORTED
We Are Here to LIsten



YOUNITY 24|7 HOTLINE
609.394.9000

YOUNITY 24|7 TEXT LINE
609.619.1888

NJ STATEWIDE
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOTLINE
800.572.SAFE (7233)

Maybe someone crossed a line.

Maybe you're feeling uneasy about something that happened, but you're not sure what to call it.

Maybe you're feeling overwhelmed, confused, or just need to talk it through.
Whatever you're carrying, you don't have to carry it alone.

Our trained staff are here 24/7 to support you—confidentially, compassionately, and without judgment.

You can contact us anonymously by phone or chat. You don't have to give your name. You don't have to file a report. You can simply talk to someone who will listen and help you understand your options. You'll never be pressured to take a step that isn't right for you.

Whether you're calling for yourself or someone you care about, we'll meet you where you are. Our team includes bilingual staff and has access to translation services, ensuring that language is never a barrier.

What happened to you matters.
And so does what happens next.

We're here to help you take the next step—whatever that looks like for *you*.
Because when we work **together, we are stronger than abuse.**

24/7 ASSISTANCE

TOGETHER, WE ARE STRONGER THAN ABUSE

Your support makes Younity's work possible—from walking alongside victim-survivors in crisis to empowering young people with the tools to build healthy relationships. Every gift, no matter the size, helps create a safer, stronger community.

DONATE

Our Contact Information

{{Organization Name}}

{{Organization Address}}

{{Organization Phone}}

{{Organization Website}}

YOUNITY

Together we are stronger than abuse.

FORMERLY WOMANSPACE

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