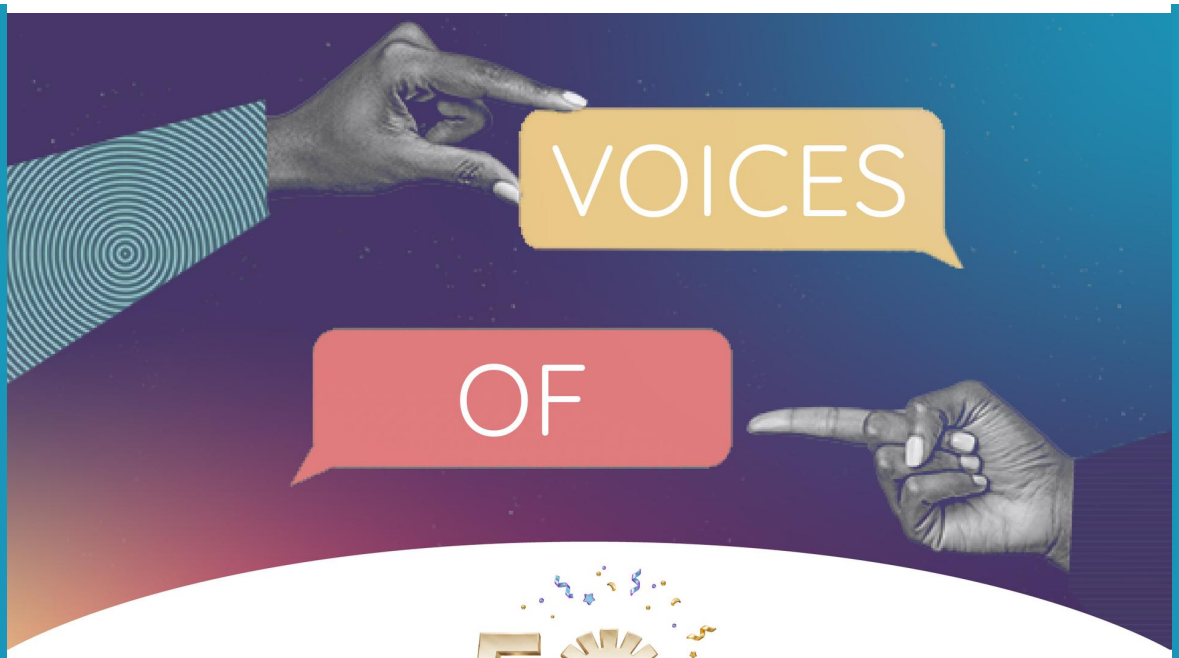


5 years of

YOUNITY

Together we are stronger than abuse.

FORMERLY WOMANSPACE

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

October Is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

With Survivors, Always.

This October, join Younity in honoring survivors, remembering lives lost, and turning awareness into action. Wear purple. Share our hotline. Walk with us. Light a luminary. Together, we can show survivors they are never alone.

Our October printed newsletter is also available to read online.

VIEW THE PRINT EDITION

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



October is **Domestic Violence Awareness Month**, a time to listen to survivors, remember those whose lives have been taken, and reaffirm our shared responsibility to help create a future free from domestic violence.

Our theme this October, **With Survivors, Always**, reflects a promise Younity has upheld for nearly 50 years. It means listening without judgment, believing survivors, supporting their choices, and ensuring that free, lifesaving services are available when they are needed most.

Communities of Light makes that promise visible across Mercer County. Each luminary carries a message to survivors: **We see you. We believe you. You are not alone.**

This October, we invite you to stand with survivors through two meaningful events. On October 24th, we will gather for the **Stepping Out of Darkness Walk** to honor the life and legacy of Monica Wilson (Morris).

On October 26th, **Communities of Light** will light the way for victim-survivors for the 25th year, as luminaries shine throughout Mercer County in remembrance, hope, and solidarity.

We walk to remember, raise awareness, and step forward together. We light the night to surround survivors with hope and show them that an entire community stands beside them.

Thank you for helping Younity carry this promise forward, this October and throughout the year.

With gratitude,

Nathalie

Nathalie S. Nelson
CEO & President

SHOWING UP WHEN IT MATTERS MOST: Younity's Crisis Response Teams of Mercer County Answer the Call



Varonda Kendrick (left) and Adia Allen (right)

In the middle of the night, on weekends, and during holidays, Younity's Crisis Response Teams of Mercer County show up in person for survivors in police stations and hospitals. With approximately 50 trained volunteer advocates working alongside staff, the teams offer a listening ear, help survivors understand their choices, and connect them with support. Varonda Kendrick and Adia Allen share why that presence matters and what it means to be trusted in a moment of crisis.

READ MORE

TRENTON CITY COUNCIL RECOGNIZES YOUNITY DURING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH



Trenton City Council honored Younity with a proclamation recognizing its advocacy, services, and year-round commitment to individuals and families affected by domestic violence. The recognition also affirmed the community's shared responsibility to support survivors, remember those whose lives have been lost, and help prevent abuse.

For Councilwoman Crystal Feliciano, a friend and colleague of Monica Wilson Morris at Trenton Central High School, the recognition was personal. She thanked Younity for supporting Monica's family and school community following her death as a result of domestic violence earlier this year.

"For the love and support that you show us at the school, and that you show her family, and that you continue to pour in each and every day, I personally want to say thank you," Feliciano said.

Accepting the recognition on Younity's behalf, Varonda Kendrick, Director of Response Teams & Outreach, emphasized that supporting survivors requires everyone's involvement throughout the year.

"The work that we do is hard and is necessary, and we cannot do anything that we do without the support of our community, our council, and everyone around us," Kendrick said.

She also spoke about Younity's upcoming Domestic Violence Awareness Walk on October 24 at Cadwalader Park, honoring Monica's memory and standing alongside those who loved her.

“We will keep their names alive. We will continue to speak their names,” Kendrick said.

Younity extends its sincere thanks to Council Members Joseph Harrison, Jasi Mikae Edwards, Crystal Feliciano, Jenna Figueroa Kettenburg, Teska Frisby, Yazminelly Gonzalez, and Jennifer Williams for this recognition and their commitment to a safer, more supportive community.

BUILDING CONNECTIONS ACROSS OUR COMMUNITY





On October 2, Younity staff gathered with colleagues from **Anchor House**, **HomeFront**, **Rescue Mission of Trenton**, and **Trenton Area Soup Kitchen (TASK)** at Cadwalader Park for a shared Staff Appreciation event.

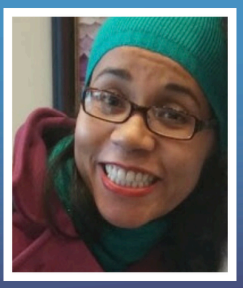
The afternoon offered an opportunity to meet the people behind our partner organizations and strengthen connections across a network serving many of the same individuals and families. Getting to know one another helps build the trust and understanding that support collaboration throughout the year.

Each organization brings different expertise and resources to our community. Together, we share a commitment to helping people find safety, stability, and support. We’re grateful for the dedicated staff across these organizations and the relationships that strengthen our collective work.

STEPPING OUT OF DARKNESS:
Walking for Monica, Standing with Survivors



STEPPING OUT OF DARKNESS
domestic violence awareness walk



Join Younity on **Saturday, October 24th, at Cadwalader Park in Trenton** for our Domestic Violence Awareness Walk. Registration begins at **8:30 AM**, followed by the walk at **9:00 AM**.

This year, we honor **Monica Wilson (Morris)**, a beloved mother and culinary arts instructor at Trenton Central High School whose life was taken by domestic violence. Monica brought warmth, encouragement, and generosity to her classroom and community.

“Our mother, Chef Monica E. Wilson was like a sunflower. She stood out in a crowded room and was warm and bright,” recalls her daughter, Layla Wilson.

Together, we will carry Monica’s memory forward while standing with every survivor. Bring a photograph, sign, ribbon, or other tribute honoring Monica or someone whose life has been affected by domestic violence.

The Mercer County Board of Social Services outreach team will also join us to share resources and assistance for survivors facing economic hardship.

Walk with us in remembrance, solidarity, and hope. Together, we can show survivors they are seen, believed, and never alone.

LEARN MORE

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25 YEARS OF LIGHTING THE WAY
Communities of LIght



On **Monday, October 26th**, join Younity for the **25th annual Communities of Light**. At sundown, luminaries will shine across Mercer County in remembrance of lives lost to domestic violence and in solidarity with survivors.

Each light carries a message: **We see you. We believe you. You are not alone.**
For a **$15 donation**, receive a kit with six luminaries to light at your home, business, or community gathering. Your generosity helps sustain Younity's free services for people affected by domestic and sexual violence.

Kits are available through participating retailers or online for pickup at Younity. You can also join a public lighting in your community. Visit our website for locations and details.

Light with us. Together, we can surround survivors with hope and show them that an entire community stands beside them.

LEARN MORE

THANK YOU TO OUR COMMUNITIES OF LIGHT SPONSORS

BEACON SPONSOR $7,500

TRENTON THUNDER

ILLUMINATE SPONSORS $2,500

caretria

capitalhealth

CANDLELIGHT SPONSOR $1,000

AQUA SM

An Essential Utilities Company

ADVOCATE SPONSORS $250





Reverend Charles Boyer

PALMER SQUARE®
PRINCETON

Joan
BARTL

TAKE ACTION THIS OCTOBER

Small actions can send a powerful message: survivors deserve safety, support, and a community that stands beside them.

Wear purple on October 15.
Join us for Purple Thursday to show your support for survivors. Share a photo, tag **@younitynj**, and use **#WithSurvivors** and **#DVAM2026**.

Give to support survivors.
Your donation helps sustain Younity's free, lifesaving services for people affected by domestic and sexual violence.

Share our hotline.
Help someone know where to turn. Younity's **24-hour hotline, 609-394-9000**, offers support, information, and connections to services.

Listen. Believe. Support.
If someone shares an experience of abuse, listen without judgment, remind them it is not their fault, and respect their choices.

With survivors, always.
This October and every day.

DONATE TO YOUNITY

In Memoriam

We remember those in Mercer County and throughout New Jersey whose lives were taken by domestic violence. Their stories remind us why we must keep stepping forward together, out of darkness and into light.

Victoria Alexander
Egg Harbor Township

Stacy Epstein Klass
Ocean Township

Marion Jeanne Miller
Wildwood Crest

Alyssia Murphy
Trenton

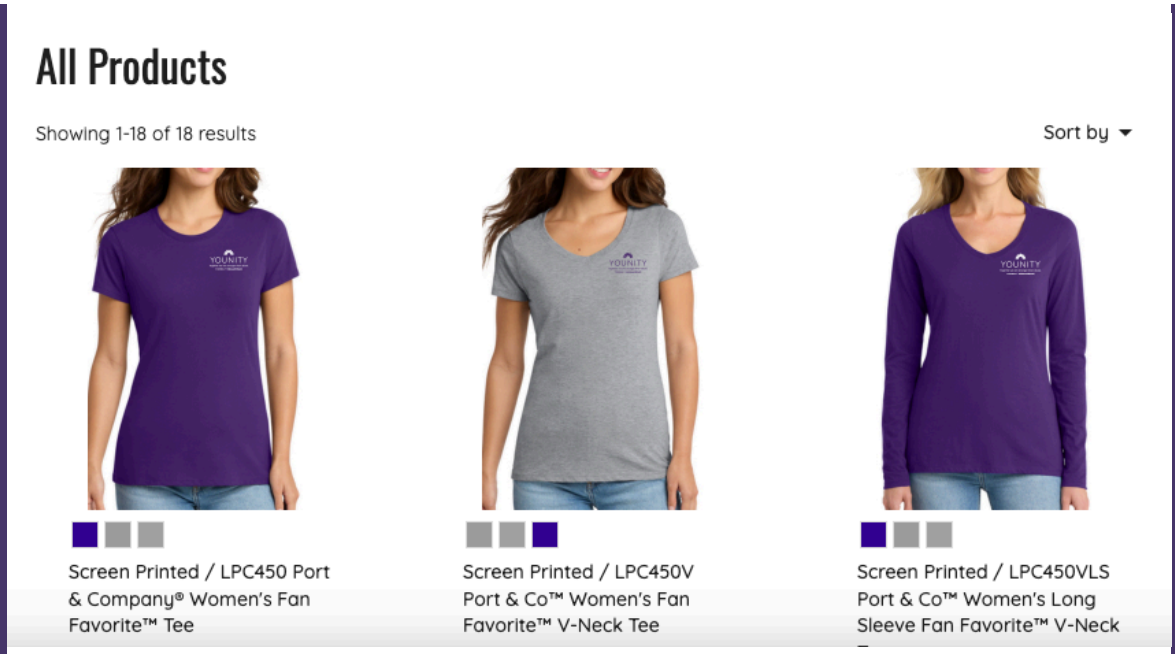
Mary O'Connor
Seaside Heights

Deonna Stewart
and her parents
Allan & Michelle Russell
Berkeley Township

Monica Wilson (Morris)
Gloucester Township

May their memories lift us,
guiding us toward safety, justice, and hope

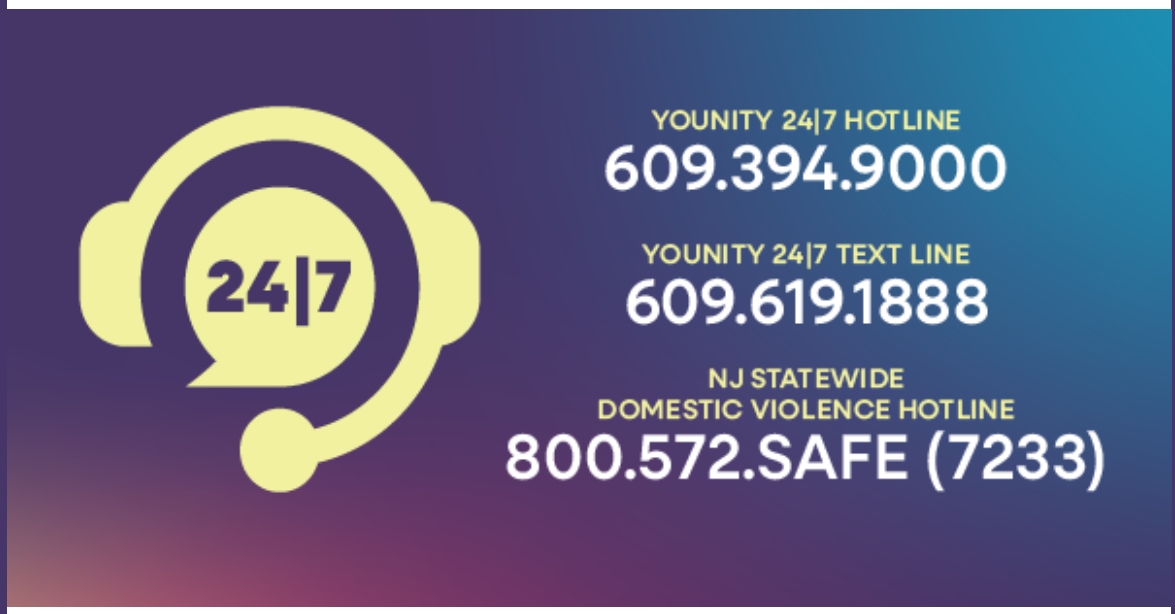
YOUNITY'S ONLINE STORE:
Wear Your Support This October



Show your support for survivors during Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Shop Younity gear and wear purple on **October 15 for Purple Thursday**, or any day this October, to help raise awareness and start conversations. All proceeds benefit Younity's free services for survivors of domestic and sexual violence.

SHOP OUR STORE

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



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. Our services are free.

You can contact us anonymously by phone or text. 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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