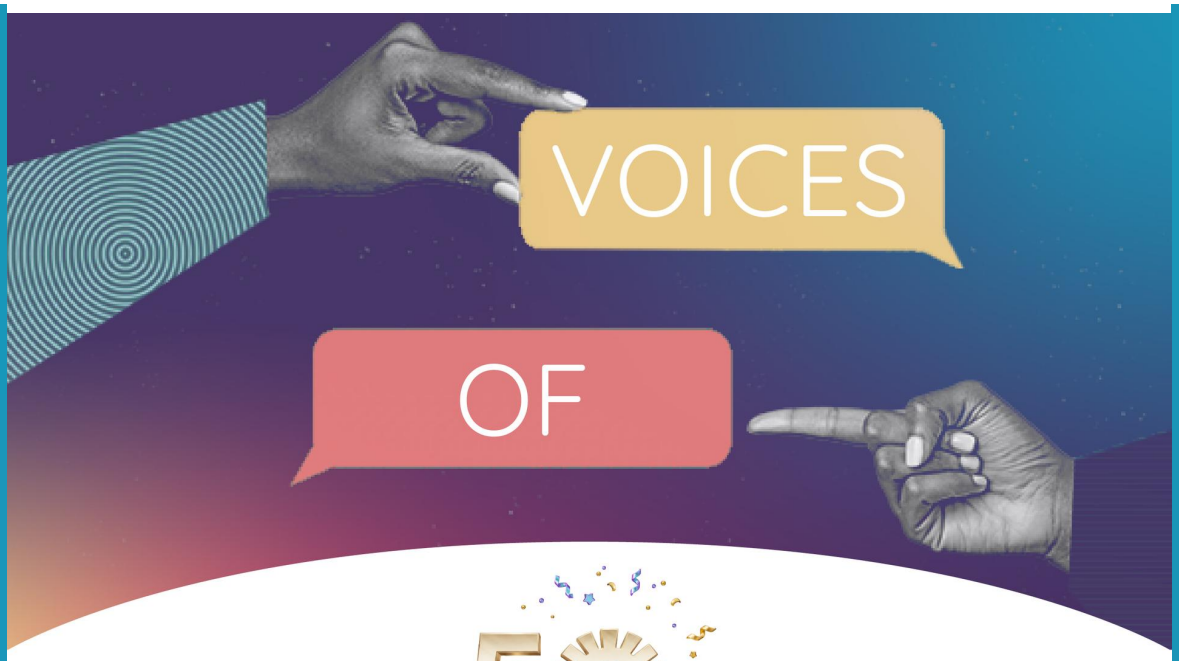


50 years of

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 Golden Anniversary celebration continues!

Throughout this milestone year, we'll share stories from our history, celebrate the people and communities who have shaped Younity, and look ahead to what we can accomplish together.

OUR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

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A Message from CEO & President Nathalie S. Nelson

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With Survivors, Always: Domestic Violence Awareness Month
Stepping Out of Darkness: A Community Walk

25th Annual Communities of Light

Anniversary Advocate
Help Shape Younity's Next 50 Years

Younity Store
Wear Your Support

A SEASON OF CHANGE

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



Dear Friends,

September has always felt like a season of transition. Summer begins to fade, students return to school and the first signs of fall remind us that change is a natural part of moving forward.

At Younity, we are experiencing our own season of growth and change. In this month's newsletter, we share how our Safe House continues to evolve in response to the needs of survivors. Spaces are being renewed, systems are being strengthened and our team continues to ask the question at the heart of our work: How can we help?

We also look forward to introducing new members of Younity's leadership team. They bring new perspectives and individual strengths that will contribute to our collective impact. As they join the dedicated staff already carrying our mission forward, we are building upon nearly 50 years of knowledge, service and trust.

September also leads us toward Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October, a time when our community comes together to listen, learn and take action. Through our Stepping Out of Darkness Walk, Communities of Light and other opportunities to participate, we will honor survivors, remember those whose lives have been lost and shine a light on the realities of domestic violence.

Change is inevitable, but meaningful growth requires intention. It asks us to listen, to learn and to remain responsive to the people and communities we serve. Thank you for continuing to grow with Younity and for helping ensure that survivors always have somewhere to turn.

Warmly,

Nathalie

Nathalie S. Nelson
CEO & President

ALWAYS EVOLVING. ALWAYS HERE.
Inside Younity's Changing Safe House



The care described in this story is made possible by the entire Safe House team, pictured above.

Back Row, left to right: Anjelica Chickara, Jeff Joseph, Alice Dauway, Celeste Little, Susan Victor, Gary Copeland, Mary Karanik, Angela Cartagena, Evangela "Van" Williams

Middle Row, left to right: Maireny Lopez, Nancy Washington, Koeberle Bull, Cesia Guadron, Nicole Wohlgemuth, Crystal Guerard

Front Row, left to right: Myriame Guervil, Altagracia Sierra, Nathalie S. Nelson, Melissa McCants

A safe place is more than four walls. It is the feeling of being welcomed, heard, and able to imagine what comes next. For nearly 50 years, Younity's Safe House has offered that sense of possibility while continuing to grow and adapt to the changing needs of survivors and their families.

Today, that evolution can be seen in updated spaces, changing systems, and a team committed to providing thoughtful, individualized support. Members of the Safe House team

share how Younity is creating a more welcoming environment while helping each person consider their needs, goals, and next steps. Through every change, the foundation remains the same: safety, dignity, and the belief that everyone deserves the opportunity to move forward on their own terms.

LEARN MORE

TOGETHER, LEADING YOUNITY FORWARD

A New Chapter is Beginning at Younity



Our leadership team brings together years of organizational knowledge with new experience, ideas, and perspectives. Some members have grown within Younity and understand our work through years of direct service. Others are bringing their expertise to our organization for the first time. Together, they share a commitment to supporting our staff, strengthening our programs, and keeping survivors at the center of every decision.

We extend a warm welcome to **Melissa Allen, MSW, LSW**, Vice President of Program Operations, and **Melissa McCants**, Safe House Director. We are also pleased to welcome back **Lauren Nazarian**, Vice President of Development.

We congratulate **Varonda N. Kendrick** on her promotion to Director of Crisis Response & Outreach. Having grown within Younity, Varonda brings deep organizational knowledge and a direct understanding of our crisis response and outreach work to the leadership team.

Together with **Nathalie S. Nelson, CEO & President**, and **Cassius Lawson, Vice President of Finance**, these leaders will guide Younity's work while supporting the staff members who carry out our mission every day.

Younity's leadership team continues to take shape, and we look forward to introducing additional members in the months ahead.

We invite you to learn more about Younity's current leadership team and the experience, knowledge, and commitment they bring to our work.

MEET YOUNITY'S LEADERSHIP TEAM



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!

MEET YOUNITY'S PEER EDUCATORS AT THE HOPEWELL HARVEST FAIR
Hopewell Elementary School | September 19, 2026 | 10 AM to 4 PM



Come say hello to Younity's 2026–2027 Peer Educators at the **Hopewell Harvest Fair on Saturday, September 19, from 10 AM to 4 PM at Hopewell Elementary School.**

Our Peer Educators will be joining the fun with creative activities and crafts for kids while sharing information about Younity's Peer Educator Program and the work they're doing to promote healthy relationships among teens throughout Mercer County.

Stop by the Younity table, meet some of this year's Peer Educators, make something fun, and learn more about how teens are helping lead conversations about healthy relationships in their schools and communities.

Saturday, September 19 | 10 a.m.–4 p.m.
Hopewell Elementary School | Hopewell, NJ

WITH SURVIVORS, ALWAYS
October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Next month, Younity will join communities across the country in recognizing Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The 2026 theme, **With Survivors, Always**, continues last year's message while deepening its call to move from awareness to action.

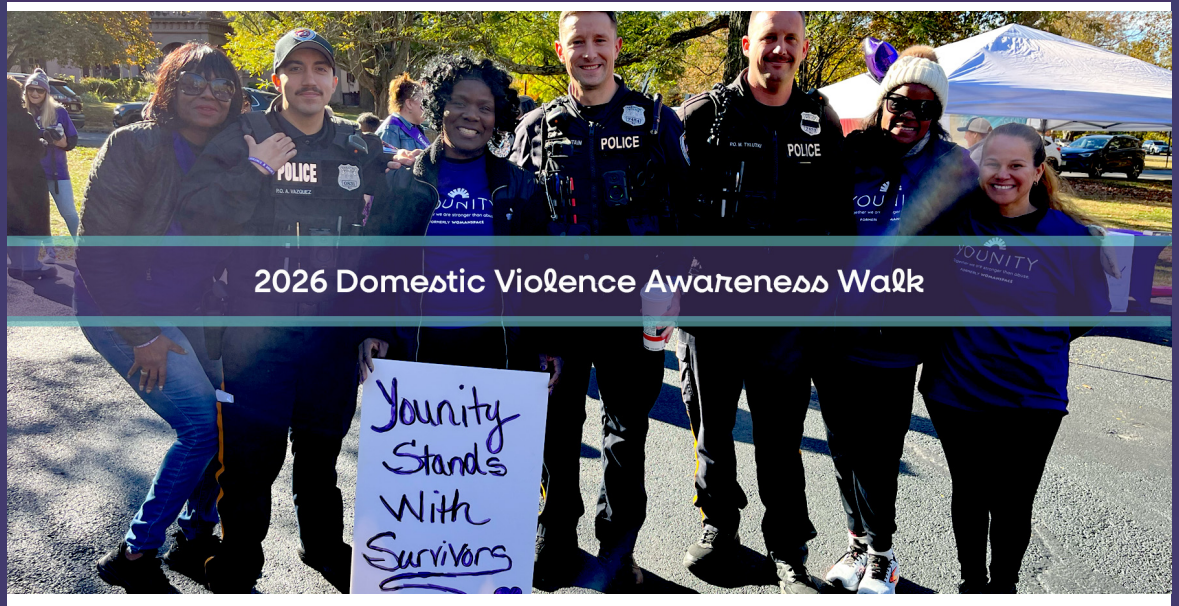
with survivors. ALWAYS

At Younity, we will answer that call by coming together in two meaningful ways.
On October 24, **we walk together** at the Stepping Out of Darkness Domestic Violence Awareness Walk. We walk to honor survivors, remember those whose lives have been lost, and show that our community will not look away from the realities of domestic violence.

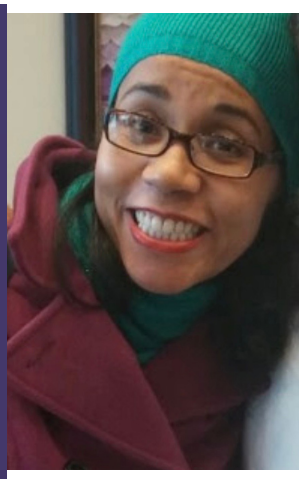
On October 26, **we shine together** during the 25th annual Communities of Light. Thousands of luminaries will illuminate Mercer County, lighting the way toward hope, healing, and a future free from abuse.

Awareness begins the conversation. Action carries it forward. Every step and every light sends the same message to survivors: We see you. We believe you. We stand with you. Join us as we walk together, shine together, and remain **With Survivors, Always**.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS WALK
October 24, 2026



We walk together.



The Stepping Out of Darkness Domestic Violence Awareness Walk begins a shared journey from darkness into light. On Saturday, October 24, survivors, families, advocates, community partners, and supporters will walk together in honor of **Monica Wilson (Morris)**, a beloved educator, mentor, and friend whose life was taken by domestic violence. We will also honor survivors and remember all those whose lives have been lost to abuse.

As we step out of darkness together, we move toward the light of hope, healing, and lasting change. Two days later, Communities of Light will illuminate neighborhoods throughout Mercer County, carrying that message forward and reminding survivors that they are seen, supported, and never alone.

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

BECOME A COMMUNITIES OF LIGHT SPONSOR
Help Hope Shine Across Mercer County



For 25 years, Communities of Light has brought neighbors, businesses, schools, faith communities, and local organizations together in support of victim-survivors.

This milestone year offers more ways than ever to take part. **Sponsorship opportunities begin at just $250** and include luminary kits and recognition through Younity's communications. Organizations can also make a landmark commitment as a **25th Anniversary Advocate at $10,000**, with premier recognition across press, email, web, social media, and community materials.

Every sponsorship supports Younity's 24/7 hotlines, Safe House, counseling, legal advocacy, prevention education, and other essential services for victim-survivors of domestic and sexual violence.

Join us in illuminating Mercer County and showing survivors that they are seen, supported, and not alone. Visit our website to explore all sponsorship levels and download the complete Communities of Light sponsorship packet.

BECOME A SPONSOR

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.

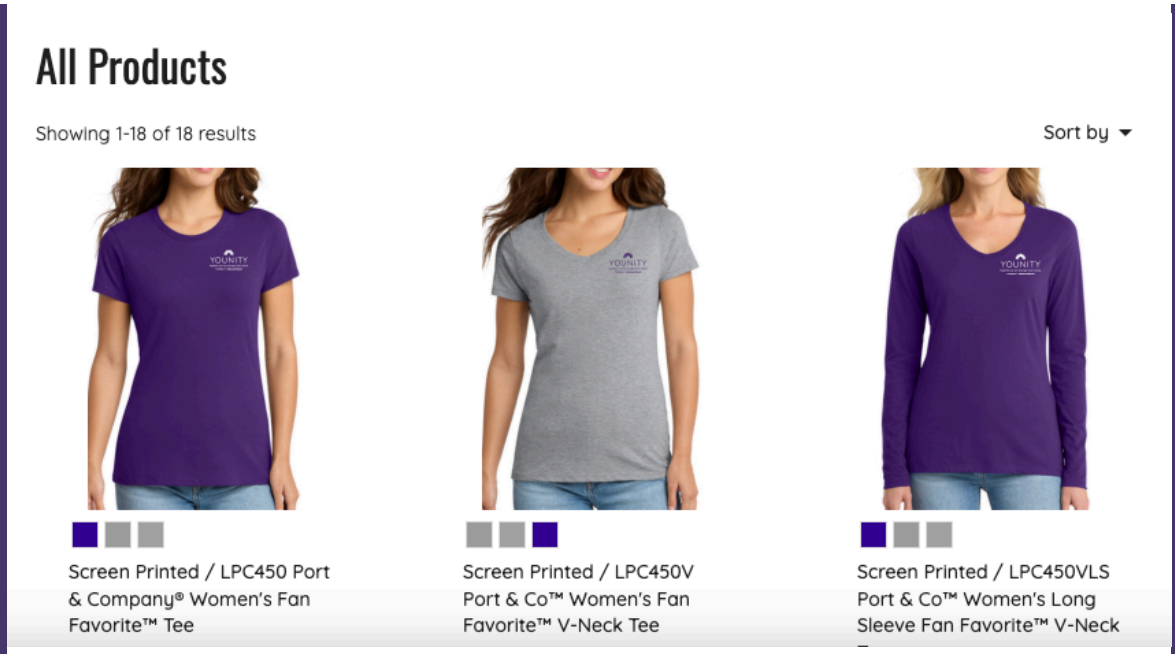
A recurring gift of **$50 or more each month** provides steady, dependable support that allows Younity to respond when survivors need us most and invest in innovative programs that strengthen our community.

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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