



2019 - 2020 Annual Report

Survivors' Corner

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Our Mission -

Survivors' Corner exists to create a supportive network for trauma survivors while bringing an end to cycles of violence and inequity. Our programs and classes are designed to impart knowledge about trauma, promote resilience, and advance community cohesiveness. We envision a world where all people can fully experience wellness by having adequate resources to reach optimal physical, mental, and emotional health.

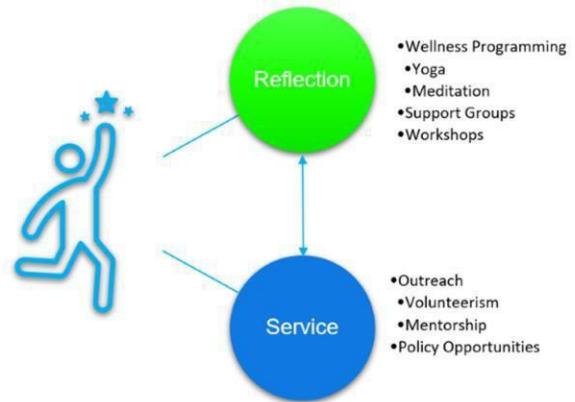
A MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDER & CEO



I started Survivors' Corner to empower survivors in reframing trauma into purpose. Since our inception in 2017 until just this year, we have accomplished significant feats on a shoestring budget and completely volunteer basis. Before we were an official organized nonprofit, we led our support groups and workshops in a training room of the downtown library. Our goal was and is to provide a safe environment for survivors of trauma to find support as they integrated our curriculum into their lives to deepen their healing and create change in their families and communities. The programming we have created has transformed the lives of our clients. We know this transformation is critical in order to break abusive and traumatic cycles.

Some of our *key accomplishments* are:

- Co-writing and successfully advocating to end child marriage through parental consent in many states
- Connecting survivors with leadership opportunities – Three of our clients have become members of the Survivors Council with the Kentucky Attorney General's office
- Empowering our clients to volunteerism and mentorship – Graduates of our programming become volunteers for organizations that align with their unique purpose



Our curriculum is effective because it focuses on healing the entire person – We promote holistic wellness and reflection on how trauma has impacted all aspects of a person's life. This guided reflection helps to bring awareness to the inner dialogue one carries as well as their relationship to the world. Once this awareness is brought to the forefront of consciousness, one can begin to integrate our tools and coping skills into their daily lives, changing their relationship to themselves and others for the better.

The success of Survivors' Corner is possible because of our unwavering commitment to partnering with other service agencies, social workers, and universities to develop peer-based curriculum to deepen healing from trauma while preparing survivors to become advocates for social justice reform. Prior to COVID – 19 shutting down any non-essential gatherings, we served nearly 50 people with our programming. And while the pandemic may have caused us to take an alternate path to serving our community, it did not stop us. Since April of 2020, we provided over 500 meals to individuals experiencing housing and food insecurity in the Smoketown, West Louisville, Downtown, and Portland neighborhoods. We donated enough food, hygiene products, prenatal vitamins, bottled water, etc. to serve approximately 200 clients of Free2Hope in the Portland neighborhood. We provided approximately 50 lunches to Hip Hop Cares for direct distribution to a homeless camp they serve just to name a few. And we organized a grocery and household items drive for Change Today Change Tomorrow resulting in an additional 50 families being served.

As we look ahead to the rest of the year and beginning of 2021, my vision can be summed up in one word – expansion. Our outreach will expand to further reach underserved and marginalized members of our community. Our advocacy will expand to include other high priority policy goals. Our programming will expand to include wellness techniques and increased availability during the week. Through this expansion will come an increase of profound results, casting the ripple of healing across our community to create a brighter future for our upcoming and future generations. And I look forward to you joining me to become the change.

Donna Pollard
Founder & Community Enrichment Officer

Key Highlights

Survivors' Corner's commitment to enriching communities resulted in:

- 3 public speak outs
- 10 presentations at conferences locally, nationally, and overseas
- 50 survivors served with programming
- 800 served with food and/or hygiene products
- Participation in 3 policy initiatives
- Indiana law changed to no longer allow child marriage through parental consent



Community Action & Program Effectiveness



Survivors' Corner presents at Zonta Club of Elizabethtown area meeting



Survivors' Corner joins CEDAW to raise awareness on discrimination against women



Survivors' Corner delivers the keynote speech in Helsinki, Finland at the Zonta International Centennial Conference

Survivors' Corner was invited by multiple women's empowerment and victim services organizations to present at public awareness events. We provided education on complex trauma, the intersectionality with child abuse and lifelong harms, and policy reforms necessary to break abusive cycles and empower survivors towards healing. Our outreach resulted in numerous survivors disclosing their experiences to us and becoming involved in the movement to authentically deepen healing and consult on more protective practices.

As we are constantly reviewing opportunities to enhance our programming, we conducted evaluations amongst program participants to assess their experience of the following program elements –

- Today's workshop was helpful
- I was allowed the opportunity to speak
- I feel more confident as a result of today's workshop
- I am likely to refer these workshops to a friend



"My experience in coming out publicly with my own story has taken such a positive turn since attending Survivors' Corner."



"Having the opportunity to learn how to share my story and be involved with advocacy for victims and survivors is helping me achieve my calling."



"Survivors' Corner needs to be the model used and emulated by organizations looking to genuinely help victims and make systemic change for the better."

The evaluations yielded highly favorable results:

- 96% of all evaluations reported a ranking of either 4 (agree) or 5 (strongly agree) for all elements listed above
- 3% ranked “I was allowed the opportunity to speak” as a 3 (somewhat agree)
- 1% ranked “I feel more confident as a result of today’s workshop” as a 3 (somewhat agree)

All additional open feedback was positive, including the following statements:

- “Empowering and uplifting as well as enlightening!”
- “Each week brings me an opportunity to reconnect with myself and the old me leading to a better and greater me. Thanks!”
- “Today was great.”
- “These folks know me better than my blood relatives.”
- “I feel prepared and empowered to share my message and story. Thank you.”
- “Love the group discussions.”

Financial Performance

Survivors’ Corner became an organized nonprofit LLC with the Commonwealth of Kentucky on June 28, 2018 and operated on an extremely limited budget, with no employees until April of 2020. Survivors’ Corner, LLC became recognized as a 501c3 organization December 11, 2019. Since then, our income has increased by over \$40,000 thanks to grants provided by One Louisville Foundation, Delta Dental, and Republic Bank. With the increase in income, we were able to begin employing one staff member, thus resulting in an increase in expenses. Additionally, though previously sharing an office space and associated rent costs with People Against Trafficking Humans (PATH), Survivors’ Corner recently assumed total responsibility for rent when PATH advised they will no longer be operating out of the same location.

The breakdown of income versus expenses is as follows:

Year	Total Deposits	Total Expenses (to date)
2018	\$1,491.16	\$514.00
2019	\$4,135.00	\$3,486.84
2020 (as of June 30)	\$43,886.32	\$12,668.54
Totals:	\$48,965.59	\$16,324.28

Operational expenses currently cost around \$4,600 per month. We have set an aggressive financial goal of raising \$200,000 by the end of January 2021, which we plan to achieve through grants, corporate donations, and private donors.

Go Forward Vision

In keeping with the mantra of expansion, this coming year we plan to make the following enhancements to our day to day operations:



Programming –

- Increase the frequency of workshops, support groups, and speak outs
- Modify curriculum to be more specific to communities of color and the queer community
- Train 2 additional facilitators
- Add mini yoga sessions to workshop curriculum
- Facilitate community – donation-based yoga classes separate from curriculum
- Implement “Resilient Workplace, Resilient Community” program

Advocacy –

- Identify up to 3 key policy/legislative proposals to support
 - We are part of focus group to address statute of limitations in Indiana
 - We are partnering with the Trauma Resilient Community team to have racism declared as a public health crisis in Louisville
 - Child marriage reform efforts will focus on Illinois and Washington DC this year
- Match survivors with policy/legislative initiatives to advocate for and prepare them for speaking out
- Conduct media interviews that highlight local, national, and global initiatives
- Facilitate public awareness events

Fundraising –

- Increase funding streams to include grants, corporate sponsorships, private donor monthly commitments, and 2 fundraisers per year
 - Grant watch – we are awaiting announcements of awards for applications we submitted to Children’s Justice Task Force and Victims of Crime Act. We are in the process of applying to the Gheens Foundation and Violence Against Women Act.
- Leverage yoga classes and “Resilient Workplace, Resilient Community” as revenue sources

Board & Leadership Roster

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Thank you to our supporters!

