



Together we are stronger than abuse.

FORMERLY WOMANSPACE

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER:
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH IN REVIEW
THE SEASON OF GIVING IS UPON US
JOIN THE RESPONSE TEAMS OF MERCER COUNTY
EXPANDING CARE WITH CAPITAL HEALTH
PRINCETON AREA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION'S SUPPORT

A message from our CEO & President Nathalie S. Nelson
on why your support is more vital than ever

Dear Friends,

Domestic Violence Awareness Month has ended, but the need for awareness and support remains.

Each October reminds us of both the progress we've made and the work that still lies ahead. At Yunity, we've spent the past month walking beside survivors, lighting candles of hope, and strengthening partnerships across Mercer County to show that our community stands united against abuse.

However, as we look ahead to the end of the year, I must address a reality that affects not only Yunity but every nonprofit working to serve those in crisis. Government funding for victim services is more precarious than ever. We recently learned that two of our essential state-funded programs were not renewed—our Sexual Assault Support Services Program and Responsive Direct Services for Victims of Domestic and Sexual Violence—resulting in a combined loss of \$550,000. In addition, our Shelter Support funding remains uncertain, placing even more strain on our ability to provide immediate safety and housing for those fleeing abuse.

Every day, our hotlines ring with calls for help. Each one represents a mother seeking safety, a teenager finding their voice, or a family beginning again after abuse. Yet the gap between what we are funded to do and what our community needs continues to grow.

That is why your support matters more than ever.

It is individual donors, local businesses, civic groups, and private foundations that keep our lifeline strong. Your generosity ensures that when someone reaches out—day or night—there is always someone on the other end to listen, to guide, and to help them rebuild.

As we enter the season of giving, I ask you to stand with us once more. Your gift will keep our doors open, our counseling services available, and our promise unbroken: that no one in Mercer County will face abuse alone.

Together, we are stronger than abuse.

With gratitude,

Nathalie S. Nelson

Nathalie S. Nelson
President & CEO

**WALKING TOWARD HOPE & HEALING:
Survivors and Community Unite in Trenton**





On October 25, community members gathered in Trenton to walk in solidarity with victim-survivors of domestic violence. The event, hosted by Younity during Domestic Violence Awareness Month, brought together advocates, survivors, and local leaders to raise awareness and renew hope.

Powerful remarks came from **Eva Phillips** and **Maureen Spataro**, who courageously shared their personal stories of survival and healing. **Steve Wilson**, Director of the Trenton Police Department, offered a vital perspective from law enforcement, describing domestic violence as “*psychological warfare*” — a reminder of the complex realities survivors face and the need for continued understanding and support.

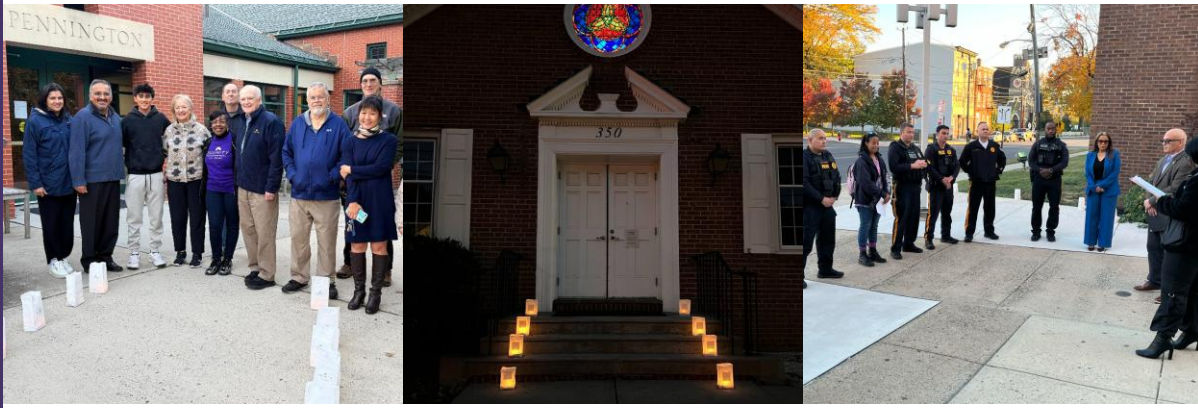
Together, their words underscored a single truth: recovery is possible when a community stands together to listen, believe, and act.

Read full coverage in *The Trentonian*:

[READ THE TRENTONIAN'S ARTICLE ON OUR DVAM WALK](#)

LIGHTING THE WAY ACROSS MERCER COUNTY





Across Mercer County, hundreds gathered on October 27 for Yunity's **24th Annual Communities of Light**, illuminating streets, parks, and town centers to stand with victim-survivors of domestic and sexual violence. Each candle symbolized safety, compassion, and the courage to begin again.

At **Palmer Square in Princeton**, a **SHARE Peer Educator from Princeton University** bravely shared her story publicly for the first time — a powerful moment that reflected the courage at the heart of our mission. The evening also featured the **Princeton Girlchoir**, directed by **Westrick Music Academy**, whose voices filled the square with hope through inspiring renditions of *“Bridge Over Troubled Water”* and *“Still I Rise.”*

From **East Windsor, Ewing, Pennington, Hopewell, Lawrence, Princeton, Robbinsville, Trenton**, and **West Windsor**, townships and police departments joined forces to light the night — a county-wide act of unity and compassion that keeps the flame of hope burning for all who need it most.

To everyone who helped make this year's event possible — our municipal partners, law enforcement, volunteers, Princeton University SHARE Peers and Staff, and the talented singers of **Westrick Music Academy** — thank you for standing beside victim-survivors and reminding our community that while Domestic Violence Awareness Month has ended, *domestic violence hasn't — and neither does our work.*

[READ THE TRENTONIAN'S ARTICLE ON COMMUNITIES OF LIGHT](#)

SOUTH BRUNSWICK HONORS YOUNITY



The **South Brunswick Commission on Women** and **Township of South Brunswick** recognized Younity (formerly Womanspace) during their *“Break the Silence Against Domestic Violence”* event.

Felicia L. Brown, Outreach Specialist, accepted a proclamation from **Mayor Charles Carley** honoring Younity’s 45+ years of service to survivors of domestic and sexual violence.

“Every time we come together in solidarity, we strengthen the lifeline for those who need it most,” said Brown.

[READ THE FULL STORY](#)

YOUNITY JOINS REGIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING



Youunity's **Varonda N. Kendrick** and **Susan Victor** attended the *Wide Awake Law Enforcement Presentation* hosted by the **Stephanie Nicole Parze Foundation** and the **Robbinsville Police Department**.

The session brought together law enforcement, prosecutors, and advocates from across Mercer County to strengthen collaboration and promote trauma-informed response for victims of domestic violence. A highlight was the unveiling of “*Stephanie’s Sanctuary*”—private, calming rooms being created in police departments to provide safety and dignity for survivors.

“When advocates and law enforcement work side by side, survivors are met with understanding from the very first moment they reach out for help,” said Kendrick.

[READ THE FULL STORY](#)

YOUNITY'S FIRST BILLBOARD
in Trenton

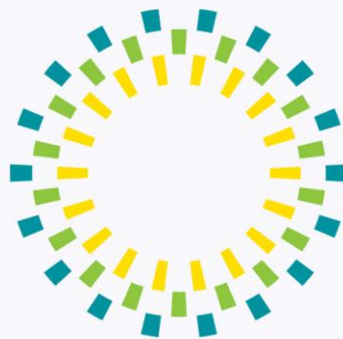


This Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Younity reached a new milestone — our very first billboard in Trenton! Featuring the message *"We believe you."*

Together we are stronger than abuse,” the display helps raise awareness of Younity’s 24/7 hotlines and support services for those affected by domestic or sexual violence.

Special thanks to Response Teams Coordinator **Varonda Morgan-Kendrick** for helping make this powerful visibility effort possible and ensuring more people across Mercer County know that help is always just a call away.

YOUNITY JOINS REGIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING



capitahealth

Younity has partnered with **Capital Health’s VICTORY program** to expand trauma-informed care from the hospital to the community.

Led by **Varonda N. Kendrick** and **Sheilagh Mescal Gunstensen**, Younity’s team is training VICTORY staff on responding to domestic and sexual violence, recognizing strangulation, and supporting survivors with compassion and confidence.

“Every time we link arms with another organization, our community grows stronger,” says Kendrick.

[READ THE FULL STORY](#)

YOUNITY RECEIVES 2025 GRANT from the Fund for Women and Girls



Princeton Area
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

Younity is honored to be the 2025 recipient of a three-year, \$75,000 grant from the Fund for Women and Girls at the Princeton Area Community Foundation. Each year, the Fund awards this competitive grant to one organization whose work strengthens the lives of women and girls in Mercer County.

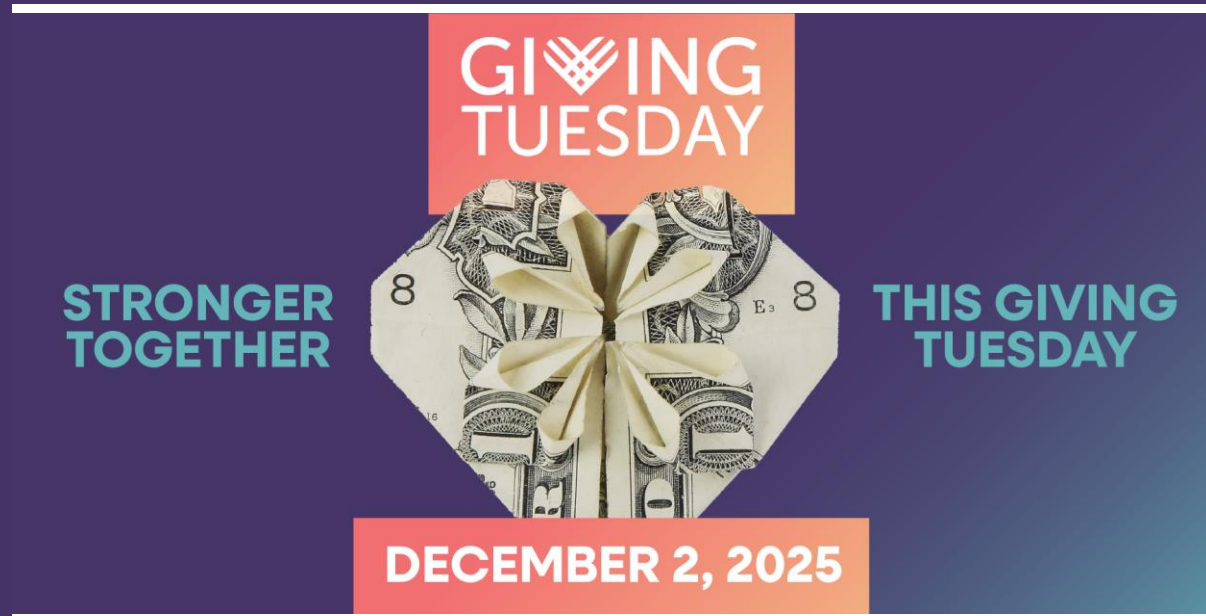
This multi-year commitment will help sustain Younity's critical programs — from emergency housing and counseling to prevention and outreach — providing stability and continued impact for those we serve.

We are deeply grateful to the Fund for Women and Girls for their confidence in our mission, and to the Princeton Area Community Foundation for its leadership in advancing equity and opportunity. Together, we are building a Mercer County where all women and families can live free from violence.

[LEARN MORE
about the Fund for Women and Girls](#)

**THE SEASON OF GIVING:
WAYS TO HELP VICTIM-SURVIVORS OF ABUSE**

As we enter this season of gratitude and generosity, there are many ways to support Younity and the families we serve. Every act of kindness — from hosting a drive to making an online donation — helps ensure that victim-survivors in Mercer County find safety, healing, and hope.



GIVING TUESDAY

With your gift, new beginnings take shape.

Thanksgiving weekend and **Giving Tuesday** will be here before we know it — a time to reflect, give thanks, and give back. But this year, the season feels different.

Across the country, rising costs and cuts to federal programs are putting added strain on families already struggling to make ends meet. Here in Mercer County, calls to Younity's hotlines are at record highs, even as government funding grows more uncertain.

That's why community giving matters more than ever. Your support fills the gap — keeping our doors open, our counselors available, and our promise unbroken: that no one in our community faces abuse alone.

Your gift means:

A safe bed tonight for a family in crisis

A counselor who will listen tomorrow
A path forward in the new year

Give Today to Help Another Family Begin Again in Safety and Hope

DONATE TODAY

CURRENT & FORMER YOUNITY CLIENTS:



If you need
extra support
with food,
essential items
or gifts for
your children this holiday
season, please contact us
via the hotline at

609-394-9000



HOLIDAY DRIVES

This year, many of the families we serve are also facing food insecurity — a reminder that safety and nourishment go hand in hand. You or your organization can make a difference by collecting **non-perishable food, household essentials, and grocery gift cards** to help survivors rebuild their lives and celebrate the holidays with dignity and hope.

Most needed this season:

Gift cards to local grocery and retail stores in Mercer County, including **Acme Markets, ALDI, Giant Food, Pennington Quality Market, ShopRite, Stop & Shop, Target, Walmart, and Wegmans.**

Gift cards help families choose the items they need most.

Want to host a drive?

Contact development@younitynj.org

to learn how your workplace, school, or faith group can get involved. If you're unsure what to collect, our team can share a list of current needs to make sure your generosity provides the greatest impact.

AMAZON WISHLIST
Give What's Needed Most

Our **Amazon Wishlist** is carefully curated by Younity's staff to reflect the **specific, current needs of families living in our Safe House and transitional housing.**

Each item on the list has been requested or identified by advocates working directly with clients — ensuring your gift provides meaningful, immediate support where it's needed most.

AMAZON WISHLIST

JOIN YOUNITY'S RESPONSE TEAMS OF MERCER COUNTY



BE A TURNING POINT FOR SOMEONE

BECOME A **VOLUNTEER ADVOCATE** ON OUR RESPONSE TEAMS OF MERCER COUNTY

application deadline: 02/25/2026

Younity is seeking compassionate, dedicated volunteers to join our **Response Teams of Mercer County** as **Volunteer Advocates**. This is more than a volunteer role—it's a chance to be a lifeline for someone in crisis.

Response Team Advocates provide critical, in-person support to victim-survivors of domestic and sexual violence, working alongside law enforcement to ensure safety, care, and connection to Younity's comprehensive services. Volunteers receive **64 hours of professional training** in crisis response, trauma-informed care, and community resources, preparing them to guide survivors through some of the most difficult moments in their lives.

"Every call is a chance to make someone feel seen, believed, and safe," says Varonda N. Kendrick, Response Teams Coordinator. "Together, we are stronger than abuse."

Training Dates:

March 10 – April 26, 2026

Format:

Tuesdays & Thursdays (6–8:30 pm) via Zoom;
Saturdays (9 am–1 pm) at local police stations

Application Deadline:

February 25, 2026

[LEARN MORE & APPLY](#)

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

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

THANK YOU
to our Communities of Light sponsors

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The Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is

WITH GRATITUDE TO OUR ANNUAL SPONSORS

We are deeply grateful to our Annual Sponsors, whose year-round support helps sustain our mission and provide safety, healing, and hope for victim-survivors in crisis.



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

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