



Indiana Department of Health,

Safe Passage, Inc. is the only prevention and intervention service provider for domestic and sexual violence for six southeast Indiana counties including Dearborn County, including our certified Rape Crisis Center – Safe Place. Local support is essential now more than ever, as we experienced a 20% cut in our current state/federal VOCA funding due to decreased available dollars at the federal level and have been awarded funding with an additional 23% VOCA cut for the next cycle beginning this fall. This decrease in life saving program resources is coming at a time of increased lethality for Hoosiers. Health First Indiana (HFI) has not only helped bridge this significant funding gap for critical services, it has represented a collaborative effort between public health and the negative impacts that the trauma of domestic and sexual violence leaves on survivors, their children, and the community.

Safe Passage has used HFI funding to fulfill our mission of providing help, healing and hope to victims and their children. In 2025, SP provided services to 418 Dearborn County residents including 21 residential clients (8 children) who stayed at the Batesville shelter for a total of 674 nights. We served an additional 95 non-residential clients through our mobile advocacy program (plus their 68 children) and logged 234 calls from our 24/7 text and call hotline – this is a 14% increase from last year. Our services for these victims include legal advocacy, counseling, shelter, assistance with job and housing applications, further DV/SV education, children’s programming, and more. To meet the growing need, we expanded our presence in Lawrenceburg last year by adding a second satellite location, which means we now meet clients at the new CARE building on Industrial Drive and in our existing space within Hamline Chapel on W. High Street.

Additionally, Safe Passage’s Prevention Team had interactions with over 1,700 students in the Lawrenceburg, Sunman Dearborn, and South Dearborn school corporations, educating them on healthy relationships, teen dating violence, primary prevention and bystander intervention strategies, while also providing resources and building trusted relationships with the students and staff. Safe Passage is also partnering with the Dearborn County Health Department on a Teens Linked to Care (TLC) initiative. Safe Passage staff are at Lawrenceburg High School (LHS) weekly, on Tuesdays, and available to talk and provide resources to teens that are struggling navigating relationships. LHS has a dedicated space, the Safe Room, where teens can go for various resources throughout the week, with Tuesday being “Safe Passage Day.” In addition,

the prevention team provided outreach materials and resources for the annual Lawrenceburg Community Cookout, provided programming at the Juvenile Detention Center, and passed out resources at a self-defense program at Ivy Tech.

We continue to have strong working relationships with the local police, sheriff, court system, businesses and corporations, churches and other community organizations. Safe Passage is always willing and seeking opportunities to provide DV/SV education, trainings and to collaborate on providing quality systems of care and response to victims. In March 2026, Safe Passage brought in the Gabby Petito Foundation to host a training at the Ivy Tech Lawrenceburg Campus for medical providers, dispatch, child welfare, first responders and other community members.

It is critical to recognize that the support provided to these individuals and families is bettering not only the client, but also the community. While we have maximized the HFI funding through these far-reaching impacts, there is more work to be done. With additional funding, we can have a broader reach, like expanding youth services to all Dearborn County schools and reaching even more survivors who are hidden in isolation. We sincerely thank the Indiana Department of Health and the Dearborn County Health Department for recognizing the devastation of domestic and sexual violence for the health of our community. We graciously request continued support for these critical services while committing to continued collaboration with our wonderful Health Department partners.

My best,



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