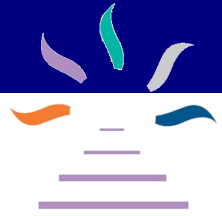
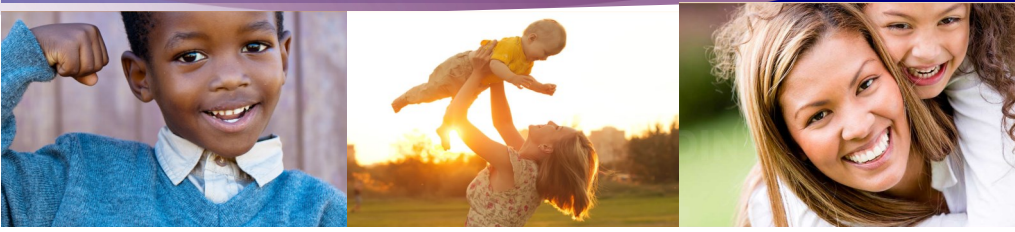


The VOICE



UNDERGROUND RAILROAD, INC.

Fall 2021



I don't speak today as a victim. I speak as a survivor. I got through it with faith, family, and the support of people who cared. It gave me strength. What I went through does not define me. Underground Railroad helped me feel less alone. They gave me a new beginning. They helped me find a voice that had been silenced. I'm so thankful for Underground Railroad and this community.



GIVE BACK

this holiday season

In addition to monetary donations, there are several opportunities for holiday giving:

To participate in any of the programs below, contact Karen Sova at (989) 399-0007 ext. 100 or email ksova@urrinc.org



Adopt a Family:

You are matched to a specific family of your choosing. You are provided with a list of the ages, genders, sizes, needs and wants of family members. Specific family information will be available in mid-October. Shopping for your family members can continue throughout the season.



Giving Tree:

Instead of being matched to a specific family, you'll receive a list of items that reflect the typical requests of a client of your chosen gender and age range. These items ensure a happy holiday for survivors and their children who unexpectedly enter our emergency shelter near the holiday season.



Adopt the Emergency Shelter:

You help supply our emergency shelter with items needed for daily living. You'll receive a general list of necessary supplies that include pajamas, underwear, socks, paper products, health and beauty items, bath towels, sheets, blankets, and pillows.



A Note From the Executive Director



Dear Friends,

Every October at Underground Railroad symbolizes two prominent themes; a revitalization of our mission and a somber reminder. Domestic Violence Awareness Month is an opportunity to breath new energy into the movement to end domestic violence. As we raise awareness we remind ourselves, our supporters, and our community just why we do this work. It is also a time where we pause and reflect on the men and women that lost their lives at the hands of an intimate partner. Together with their loved ones, we remember and we mourn. Each fall, something really beautiful happens at the juxtaposition of these two themes: we renew our fight. This October, we embrace the mantra **“Your fight is our fight.”** As long as domestic violence exists in our community, we are committed to be here alongside survivors in their journeys to freedom. We hope you will join us this October and always.

Best Wishes,

Christi Birchmeier

YARD SIGN CAMPAIGN



October is
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
AWARENESS Month

Show your support for survivors this Domestic Violence Awareness Month with a custom yard sign from Underground Railroad!

Pick up your sign at our Administration Offices located at
5647 State Street
Monday-Thursday from 9am-4pm

Or call Allie at 399-0007 ext. 106 to make other arrangements



VOLUNTEER *Spotlight*

For over 6 years, I have served as a volunteer at Underground Railroad Resale Store. Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday I help to create order out of various kinds of chaos. I'm generously respected as an important clothes wrangler and mannequin stylist. Volunteering at the store allows me to do what I love. I love fashion and working with fabrics. I first graduated from Michigan State University with a degree in Retailing, and worked in Chicago at Marshall Field's. I also earned a Master's degree in Marketing, in addition to Bachelor's and Master's degrees in English Education at MSU. I taught high school English for six years. I have come to realize that in dressing

mannequins and putting together displays, I am marketing items for the resale store. My positive experience here is directly related to the young people who staff the store. At 71 years old, I am made to feel young and energetic when I am around them, and they impress me with their positive interactions with our customers. I hope to inspire others - especially older folks and retirees—to consider volunteering. They'll think "if she can do it, I can do it too!"

To join our family of volunteers, email Crystal Sanders at csanders@undergroundrailroadinc.org



Paula, URR Resale



UNDERGROUND RAILROAD
RESALE
NEW DONATION
DROP-OFF HOURS!

Monday / Tuesday
10am—5pm

Wednesday
CLOSED

Thursday / Friday
10am—5pm

Saturday
10am—2pm

GIRLS ON THE RUN changes lives



Gracelynn had a broken arm during the last Girls on the Run season. She was devastated when her doctor said she could not participate in the 5K, but luckily, he ended up giving her permission to walk. With her mom as her Running Buddy, Gracelynn slowly made her way around the track. They were still walking when the rest of the team finished. As they rounded their second to last lap, Gracelynn's entire team decided to run back and walk alongside her. During the last lap they all linked arms, with Gracelynn leading the line. As she crossed the finish line - with her team in solidarity and support behind her—Gracelynn was beaming. Her mom was blinking back joyful tears. It was a beautiful moment that showed the GOTR tools in action - empathy, inclusion, support and friendship!

Mark Your Calendar for GOTR Spring 2022

- Girls' self confidence begins to decline as early as age 9
- 50% of girls age 10-13 are bullied
- Physical activity begins to decline at age 10 through adolescence

Girls on the Run lessons promote social-emotional learning and give girls in 3rd – 8th grade the tools to successfully navigate life experiences. Each session uses physical activity and engaging lessons to encourage girls to stand up for themselves and others, and practice empathy, inclusion and acceptance. Registration opens January 2022. Season runs March—May.

Learn more and register your girl at www.gotrsaginawbay.org.



Host a Site or Become a Coach

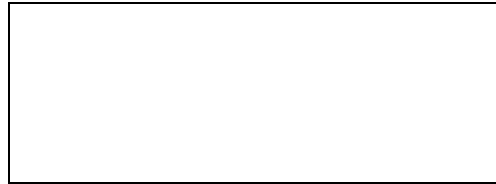
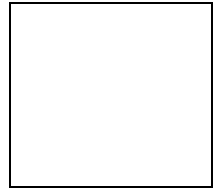
With your support, girls will learn that their worth comes from within, that healthy relationships matter, and that they can be a force for good in their community. Learn how you can join the Girls on the Run movement this Spring at www.gotrsaginawbay.org.





UNDERGROUND RAILROAD, INC.

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www.facebook.com/UndergroundRailroadInc



www.instagram.com/undergroundrailroadinc



www.undergroundrailroadinc.org



Did you know there are other ways to give which may result in more tax advantages than gifting cash and taking an itemized deduction?

1. **Qualified Charitable Distribution from an IRA** - Have an IRA and need to withdraw your required minimum distribution (RMD) before year end? – Give directly from the IRA and avoid realizing the amount of the gift as taxable income!
2. **Giftting appreciated stock in kind** – Receive income tax deduction for the FULL market value of securities on the date of the gift. Also avoid any future capital gains tax if you were to sell the security. This could be stock, ETF's, Mutual Funds, etc.

- \$500 Educates 250 students about healthy relationships
- \$1,000 Shelters a family of four for one month
- \$2,500 Answers one month of calls to the 24 hour crisis helpline
- \$5,000 Feeds our shelter residents families for 6 months