

## The SAFE Story

As a result of Gwen and Earl Berner's initiative, SAFE was established in June of 1980 as the Women's Abuse Shelter by a group of local concerned citizens who recognized the need for services to abused women. Gwen Berner was then working at Culpeper DSS and was frustrated that there was no safe place in our community for a woman and her children to find refuge from an abusive relationship. The commitment, hard work, and conviction of many community members, including Susan Vignola, Ketsy Chiles, Andrea Miller, Dana Nolley, Amber Panagos, Stephanie Ridder, Billie Lee Dunford –Jackson, and Stan Dunford-Jackson, created a safe haven for victims of domestic violence.

Charles Browning, a local farmer, offered the use of a tenant house as the shelter, rent-free for the first six months. However, the house had not been used for years and much work was needed to make the house safe and welcoming. Establishing the shelter was a labor of love for many people and those volunteers spent countless hours renovating the house with supplies donated by local businesses. This outpouring of community support provided SAFE with the needed momentum and stability during its early years as a nonprofit agency. Community support remains a vital component to SAFE's current success.

The Women's Abuse Shelter was a strictly volunteer operation until 1984. The first, paid staff member was hired in spring of 1984 with the help of **United Way Funding**.

The name changed in 1986 to Services to Abused Families, Inc. (SAFE) to reflect the many services, in addition to emergency shelter, available to all members of a family troubled by violence.

Since SAFE's beginning, the administrative offices and emergency shelter have changed locations several times. Over the years, the services offered by SAFE have changed and grown significantly. While still utilizing the support and dedication of volunteers, SAFE's full-time and part-time staff serves the counties of Culpeper, Fauquier, Madison, Orange, and Rappahannock daily.

Today, SAFE provides free and confidential services around the clock to survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. We are an accredited agency through the statewide Action Alliance and currently operating in the 5 – county service area. SAFE support is provided regardless of age, race, gender, national origin, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, ethnicity, or faith.

SAFE is forever grateful to the original founders for their vision, compassion, and dedication. On behalf of the thousands of women, men and children who have found safety, shelter, support, and advocacy we offer sincere thanks to the volunteers, staff, and community support that continue to allow SAFE to fill a necessary role in the community.

### Board of Directors

Jamie Clancey	Chris Settle
Cheryl Jackson	Kiley Doll
Frank Reaves	Mimi Miller
Marc Ohler	Dr. Russell Houck
Bobby Ryan	Amy Columbus
Aubrey Driggers	

### For more information

To learn more about how to get involved in leadership opportunities, please contact us via email at [jamiemdclancey@gmail.com](mailto:jamiemdclancey@gmail.com)

## Impact

*During FY19 SAFE's staff and volunteers assisted survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault by:*

- Answering **661** Hotline calls
- Providing **3,323** nights of safe, secure shelter
- Sheltering **82** adults and children
- Assisting **190** survivors navigate the judicial system
- Providing **4,634** hours of advocacy to assist **290** survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault

## In Their Own Words

***"I needed the support and it was the best support I have ever received."***

*"I would have been lost without SAFE."*

***"Lovely, adorable, bilingual people :) :) :)"***

*"I would have been on the streets or forced to stay with my abuser without SAFE!"*

***"The shelter & staff were literally lifesavers."***

## Board of Directors Selection Process

It is the goal of the Board of Directors to develop and maintain a diverse membership which reflects the demographics and uniqueness of the communities in which Service To Abused Families, Inc. operates. Board selection will be strongly influenced by the following factors:

- Board members should live and/or work in the counties served by SAFE
- Board membership should include at least one representative from each county in SAFE's service area
- Board membership should reflect the ethnic and cultural diversity of the communities we support
- Board membership should include underserved populations (LGTBQ, those with disabilities, the elderly, etc.)
- Survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault should be represented
- Members should have skills, experience, and expertise that complement the needs of the organization

## 2020 Current Officers and Board of Directors

Jamie Clancey, Board President <a href="mailto:jamiemdclancey@gmail.com">jamiemdclancey@gmail.com</a>	Chris Settle, Vice President <a href="mailto:csettle@culpeperva.gov">csettle@culpeperva.gov</a>
Cheryl Jackson, Board Secretary <a href="mailto:cjackson255@yahoo.com">cjackson255@yahoo.com</a>	Frank Reaves, Director <a href="mailto:freaves@culpeperva.gov">freaves@culpeperva.gov</a>
Amy Columbus <a href="mailto:amycolumbus.lcsw@gmail.com">amycolumbus.lcsw@gmail.com</a>	Mimi Miller, Director <a href="mailto:mmiller@culpepercounty.gov">mmiller@culpepercounty.gov</a>
Kiley Doll, Director <a href="mailto:kiley.d@goodmanlantern.com">kiley.d@goodmanlantern.com</a>	Marc Ohler, Director <a href="mailto:mohler@vapartnersbank.com">mohler@vapartnersbank.com</a>
Dr. Russell Houck, Director <a href="mailto:rhouck@culpeperschools.org">rhouck@culpeperschools.org</a>	Aubrey Driggers <a href="mailto:Aubreydriggers@gmail.com">Aubreydriggers@gmail.com</a>
Bobby Ryan <a href="mailto:bobby.ryan0216@gmail.com">bobby.ryan0216@gmail.com</a>	
Brooke Chumley, Agency COC (Non-voting member) <a href="mailto:coc@safejourneys.org">coc@safejourneys.org</a>	Cindy Hedges, Agency Director (Non-voting member) <a href="mailto:director@safejourneys.org">director@safejourneys.org</a>

### Board Expectations

Services To Abused Families, Inc. is committed to making a difference in its community and affecting change in the lives of those who help and/or need help. The Board's primary responsibility is to develop the widest possible support and community involvement for SAFE. We are the governing body of the agency and we are responsible for managing the business and property of SAFE. As the Board we:

- Provide organizational leadership and direction
- Ensure programming adhere to achieves agency's mission
- Assesses Board's performance
- Support the Director and review his/her performance at least annually
- Raise funds and in-kind support
- Give generously
- Develop volunteer leadership, recruiting a strong board of directors
- Promote Services To Abused Families, Inc. in the community
- Serve a minimum of three years
- Oversee financials, including adoption and management of annual operating budget

## **Board Member Commitment**

Services To Abused Families, Inc. is committed to making a difference in its community and affecting change in the lives of those who help and/or need help. As a member of the Board of Directors of Services To Abused Families, Inc., I agree to support the mission of the organization. I understand that my duties and responsibilities include the following:

- ✓ Attend all board and committee meetings
- ✓ Be informed about SAFE's missions, services, and policies
- ✓ Cultivate, engage and recruit Board members
- ✓ Make an annual personal financial contribution to SAFE
- ✓ Serve on committees and offer to take on special assignments
- ✓ Assist the board in carrying out its fiduciary responsibilities
- ✓ Stay current on developments in the domestic violence and sexual assault field
- ✓ Follow conflict of interest and confidentiality policies
- ✓ Support special activities of the Board, including fundraising and prospecting events
- ✓ Attend community functions and special events
- ✓ Serve a 3 year term on the Board with the option for an additional term
- ✓ Be a champion and inform others about SAFE's cause and mission
- ✓ Be familiar with the bylaws
- ✓ Keep your Board "files" up-to-date, adding new materials as received
- ✓ Stay well informed about the organization by carefully reading minutes of the Board meetings, financial statements and other materials
- ✓ Take seriously the legal, fiscal, and ethical responsibilities of the Board
- ✓ Be aware of and notice community activities and legal/political developments which may impact the organization and/or its programs and bring them to the Boards attention
- ✓ Be a visionary... develop and review long-range goals and strategies to ensure we collectively advance the agencies mission.

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Signature of Board Member

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Date

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Printed Name of Board Member

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Date

**Board Member**

***Conflict of Interest Statement***

Members of the Board of Directors (Directors) are elected by the Board itself to serve Services To Abused Families, Inc. and its mission. Those who accept this position are expected to carry out their duties in a manner that inspires and assures confidence in the organization.

Directors shall exercise the utmost good faith in all transactions touching upon their duties to the organization and its property. In the dealing with and on behalf of the organization they are held to a strict rule of openness and honesty. Directors shall not use their positions, or knowledge gained from those positions, so that a conflict might arise between the organization's interests and their own.

A conflict of interest arises in any situation in which a Director, and/or his or her immediate family, is involved in an activity that could adversely affect his or her judgment with respect to the business of Services To Abused Families, Inc. or otherwise diminish the interest of the organization. Any individual Board member shall disclose to the full Board any personal interest which he or she may have in any matter pending before the Board and shall refrain from participation in any decision on such matter.

When such a conflict arises, the Director with the conflict is expected to disclose in writing the existence of the conflict to the Agency Director to the President of the Board of Directors at the earliest possible time and to excuse himself or herself from all discussions and decisions related to the matter.

I, the undersigned, have read, fully comprehend and agree to the terms set forth in the above policy.

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Signature of the Board Member

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Date

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Printed Name of the Board Member

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Date

*[Board members should sign this statement annually]*