



SEEDS of CHANGE

Where the healing begins



Working to create a society free of domestic and sexual violence

SUMMER 2019

Letter from Our Executive Director

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Service Spotlight: 2
Victim Advocacy
- Domestic and Sexual 2
Violence Training
Sessions
- Thank You Bosch 2
- Volunteer Spotlight 2
- Todd School/
Edna Smith Project 3
- Main Event 3
- Special Thanks 3
to Gala Sponsors

Dear Mutual Ground Supporter,

Scared. Lonely. Helpless. Hopeless. These are just some of the feelings that are experienced by victims of domestic or sexual violence. Feelings that need to be processed to begin healing. To begin the journey to wholeness and safety. At Mutual Ground we are here to provide help to anyone, at any time, as they navigate this journey. And it would not be possible without supporters like you.

Allow me to introduce you to a family who has used our services - just one of the many families that have received care and assistance from Mutual Ground:

“Beth” was the mother of three beautiful girls when she acknowledged that she was trapped in the cycle of domestic violence. She had been in a long-term relationship with a partner she was forced to rely on. They had children together, she didn’t have a high paying job and she had been isolated from family and friends. She had no hope of change.

She was referred to Mutual Ground by the police after a particularly violent incident. Beth finally summoned the courage to reach out for help. Feeling shame and embarrassment, she was surprised to be immediately welcomed. Her counselor helped her accept the past and gave her invaluable skills to change her future. In Beth’s words, “It’s the best thing that has happened to me and my kids. I thought I was the only one, but I found out a lot of people go through this.”

Equally important, her children got the help they needed to understand what was happening in their family. They went from timid, reserved kids to playful and able to have fun. Again, in Beth’s words, “at a time when my life was bleak, sad, and hopeless, the people at Mutual Ground were there to pick me up and empower me to change my life. I can never thank them enough, or the donors who make it possible to offer the amazing services they do. It is not an exaggeration to say they save lives on a daily basis.”

Individuals and families can take comfort in knowing that Mutual Ground is here to help every step of the way. Whether it’s adult or children’s counseling services, legal advocacy, prevention education or emergency shelter, Mutual Ground provides specialized programs that are life-changing.

Empowered. Strong. Confident. Hopeful. That is how we want our clients to feel. Please consider donating to Mutual Ground this summer, and help us create new lives for these individuals and families. Lives where they are safe and are allowed to flourish.

Sincerely,

Michelle Meyer

Michelle Meyer
Executive Director



Mutual Ground
418 Oak Ave.
Aurora IL 60506

mutualground.org
(630) 897-0084



Please Join Us at the 12th Annual Walk for Hope

Saturday, September 29th, 2019

8:30 AM - 11:00 AM

Blackberry Farm

100 S. Barnes Road, Aurora, IL 60506

Walk for Hope is one of Mutual Ground’s largest fundraising events of the year with over 600 walkers and 30 sponsors. Every dollar raised helps Mutual Ground provide education, awareness, and life-changing services that empower individuals, families, and communities to end the cycle of domestic and sexual violence.

This event is free of charge and family-friendly! The Fox Valley Park District is generously offering those who attend the walk free admission into the park following the event.

Please visit www.mutualground.org to create or join a team, or donate to a current walker. Businesses interested in sponsoring this event may contact Kathy Melone at 630-499-5975 or kmelone@mutualground.org.



Service Spotlight: Victim Advocacy

Volunteer Victim Advocates provide 24-hour support for victims of domestic and sexual violence who present at local emergency rooms and law enforcement centers. They can work with victims to provide support, including being there for them through a medical exam, evidence collection, and/or reporting to law enforcement. Volunteer Victim Advocates provide crisis intervention and support for victims and their friends and families too.

Mutual Ground partners with four hospitals as well as all local law enforcement departments throughout the Greater Aurora area, Kendall County and southern Kane County. We have created valuable

relationships with many important individuals who provide services for victims, including the SANE (Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner) teams at Northwestern Medicine - Delnor Hospital, Rush Copley Medical Centers, and Amita Health Mercy Medical Center.

This past year 34 volunteer victim advocates responded to 133 hospital calls. This included 82 calls for victims of domestic violence and 51 sexual violence calls.

Volunteer Victim Advocates are trained through our 60-Hour Certification program. If you are interested in volunteering as a victim advocate or



other direct service role, please fill out an application at mutualground.org/volunteer-application/

For more information, contact Jenaleigh Turner, Community Engagement Manager, at jturner@mutualground.org or (630) 897-0084 ext. 162.

Domestic and Sexual Violence Training Sessions for Salon Professionals



Domestic Violence Training for Salon Professionals

One-hour training provides an introduction to issues of domestic and sexual violence, which meets the CE requirement for all cosmetologists, cosmetology teachers, aestheticians, esthetic teachers, hair braiders, hair braiding teachers, nail technicians, and nail technology teachers.

For more information and to sign up, go to: www.mutualground.org/salon



Mutual Ground is now offering Domestic Violence training sessions for salon professionals. A 2019 Illinois law requires all cosmetologist, nail technicians and estheticians to complete domestic violence training prior to renewing their license. This one-hour training provides an introduction to issues of domestic and sexual violence, which meets the CE requirement for all cosmetologists, cosmetology teachers, estheticians, esthetic teachers, hair braiders, hair braiding teachers, nail

technicians, and nail technology teachers. Participants learn to recognize signs of abuse and how to assist clients who are victims of violence. This program is a licensed IDFPR CE sponsor and participants receive a CE certificate upon completion. This training is held at various locations throughout Kane and Kendall Counties. Registration fee is \$25 per participant (non-refundable) and additional classes may be added as needed. To register for a training session go to <https://www.mutualground.org/salon/>.

Volunteer Spotlight - Sherwin Williams

What do you do when a Sherwin Williams representative calls and offers the free services of their painters, designers, paint and supplies? You say, "Absolutely, come on over!" And that is what they did.

In June, Sherwin Williams representatives from the Chicagoland area spent their National Painting Week at Mutual Ground updating some of our most used spaces. In two days, they transformed our Shelter Living Room, Basement Meeting Room, and Playroom. They were also able to complete two large offices located in the historical part of the building.

"What an amazing transformation paint can have on lifting the spirits of our shelter residents, counseling clients, and Mutual Ground staff," said Residential Services Manager Rebecca Laudati. "Now our Living Room is calm and serene, while

our Playroom is a fun and vibrant space." With Sherwin Williams' color specialist, we were able to pick just the right paint colors and combinations.

We so appreciate this wonderful gift of time, supplies and expertise from Sherwin Williams. If you have a group interested in making a difference at Mutual Ground, please contact Volunteer Program Administrator Julie Ford at jford@mutualground.org.



Thank You Bosch

Thank you so much to the wonderful group from Bosch that recently helped us beautify our yard! Volunteers transformed the yard with new plants and a flagstone. We are so grateful for all their hard-work!

Todd School/ Edna Smith Project

You may have read in the news recently about a partnership between Mutual Ground, the City of Aurora and School District 129. It's true! We are incredibly excited to be partnering with them to accomplish the following objectives to better the lives of the community we live in:

- Continue to occupy the beautiful and historically significant Edna Smith Home while expanding our vital emergency shelter program and creating longer term transitional living space for adult and child victims of domestic and sexual violence.
- Repurpose the beautiful and historically significant Todd School Building to expand walk-in services available for adult and child victims of domestic and

sexual violence.

- Create a space for District 129 to provide wrap around health and social services for their students.
- Ensure that the Tanner Historic District remains a peaceful and beautiful neighborhood for families to live, work and play by being a good steward of these incredible properties.

The City of Aurora has signed two separate Memorandums of Understanding. One with Mutual Ground and one with School District 129. If everything goes the way we hope it will, the School District will donate the building to the City, and the City will donate it to Mutual Ground. At that point we will begin working with developers to

completely rehab both buildings to suit the growing need for these services in our community.

We are actively working behind the scenes at this point to gather information about getting the project financed and underway. This will most definitely be a win for Mutual Ground, the City of Aurora, and School District 129 for years to come. We will be updating our stake holders as plans progress and will need your support in the coming months and years to make our vision a reality.

Thanks for your continued support of our mission to provide education, awareness and life-changing services that empower individuals, families, and our community to end the cycles of violence.

The Mutual Ground Main Event was a Huge Success!

We would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to everyone who came to the Main Event on April 26th! More than 300 revelers raised more than \$200,000 to support our mission of ending domestic and sexual violence. The Embassy Suites Naperville was the perfect venue to "roll out the purple carpet" and greet our guests.

Our speaker – survivor Rebecca Einhaus – left us in awe of her strength in overcoming a childhood scarred by domestic violence, and becoming a successful young adult. Her story was amazing and inspirational, and we cannot thank her enough for sharing it. Our auctioneer, Dan Campbell, kept the crowd going throughout the night; and the entertainment of Peter Miletic had the crowd



rocking into the evening.

Other highlights included the Champagne Jewelry Heist, sponsored by State Street Jewelers and Batavia Enterprises. Five lucky winners enjoyed a glass of champagne and walked away with a gorgeous piece of jewelry, one a diamond pendant worth \$6,990!

The national #PutTheNailInIt campaign was highlighted at the event, with the majority of attendees adorning their ring fingernail with purple polish to begin a conversation about domestic violence and let survivors know they are not alone.

I would like to extend a special thanks to the Main Event Committee who came together to make this the special, memorable, and successful night that it was! Our volunteers are SO important to us. Thank you!!! Anyone out there that would like to be on the committee next year?

Contact Kathy Melone at 630-499-5975 or kmelone@mutualground.org if so. We would love to have you!

Special thanks to all our 2019 Gala Sponsors

Presenting Sponsor

Unilock

Diamond Sponsors

Aurora Sunrise Rotary
Hollywood Casino
State Street Jewelers

Champagne Sponsor

Batavia Enterprise, Inc.
Miscella Real Estate

Platinum Sponsors

Nicor Gas
Tek Pak, Inc.

Gold Sponsors

1st National Bank of Omaha
First Centennial Mortgage Corp.
Meadowvale, Inc.
Orchard Road Animal Hospital
Rotary Club of Batavia
Weldstar

Silver Sponsors

A-1 Landscaping and Maintenance
Alderman Judd Lofchie
Amita Health Mercy Medical Center
Fairview Dental
George Sterling, CPA
Hogan Design & Construction
In Memory of Myron L. Anderson
Land Home Financial Services, Inc.

Magnetrol International, Inc.
Maxillofacial and Facial Aesthetic Surgery
Oxford Bank
Skyline Tree Service & Landscaping, Inc.
Youngren's Heating and Cooling

Bronze Sponsors

Johnson Probing
Natalie Navarro Photography
Rush Copley
Shakou Series
Vertical Financial Group
Waubensee Community College



Patron Sponsors

Chem-Wise Ecological Pest Management, Inc.
Cross Personnel, Inc.
Custom Direct, Inc.
Dugan & Lopatka CPA's PC
Jamar Packaging
R.J. Kuhn Plumbing
Senator Linda Holmes
Vertex Resource Group
Zonta Club of St. Charles, Geneva, Batavia

Mutual Ground
418 Oak Avenue
Aurora, IL 60506

Non-Profit Org
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #40
St. Charles, IL



Upcoming Events

60-Hour Advocacy Training

September 10th – October 5th
Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays
Location TBD

Women's Power Lunch

Thursday, September 19th
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM Piper's Banquets
1295 Butterfield Road, Aurora, IL

Walk For Hope

Sunday, September 29th
8:30 AM - 11:00 AM
Blackberry Farm

Mutual Ground Main Event

Friday, March 13th
6:00 PM - 11:00 PM
Embassy Suites by Hilton
823 Abriter Ct, Naperville, IL

Contact Us

Give us a call for more
information about
our services

Mutual Ground

418 Oak Avenue
Aurora, IL 60506
(630) 897-0084

Visit us on the web at
www.mutualground.org

Follow us on social media!

