



Frequently Asked Questions

When was Sojourner Center founded and by whom?

Sojourner Center was founded in 1977 by a group of visionaries who wanted to create a place for women coming out of prison. When they saw the commonality of the women being victims of domestic violence, they changed the mission to address the problem of domestic violence.

How large is Sojourner Center?

There are three campuses with a capacity of 280 shelter beds and 29 transitional living apartments.

How long can women be in the program?

Women are welcome to stay in our emergency shelter program for six months. After that, they are able to extend their stay in our transitional apartments for an additional two years.

What is the average length of stay for a family living at Sojourner Center?

Families on average will stay at Sojourner Center for about 30 days.

What is transitional housing? How long can women be in that program?

Transitional housing is intended for women who have shown a commitment to regaining self-sufficiency. After living in the emergency shelter, women who need or would like continued support with their transition into a new life are eligible to move into one of our transitional apartments for up to two years. Here they pay 30 percent of their adjusted income in rent and continue to receive advocacy and referral services, and still attend classes at Sojourner Center.

What are some important hotline numbers and websites?

-Sojourner Center:

www.sojournercenter.org

24- hour Crisis Line: 602-244-0089

Administration: 602-244-0997

-Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence:

www.azcadv.org

602-279-2900

-National Coalition Against Domestic Violence:

www.ncadv.org

1-800-799-SAFE

Do women have to have certain criteria in order to come to shelter?

Any woman who is a victim of domestic violence is welcome.

Where does Sojourner Center get its name? How do you properly pronounce the organizations name?

Sojourner Center was named after Sojourner Truth, a women's activist and abolitionist during and around the time of the Civil War, who spread her messages of anti-slavery and reform. She is a symbol of courage, strength, and change. These are values in which Sojourner Center truly believes. It is also why Sojourner Center is honored to take its name after such an influential woman from America's history. Sojourner is correctly pronounced [SO-jer-ner].

What else does Sojourner Center do besides provide shelter and basic necessities?

Sojourner Center provides lay legal advocacy, licensed childcare, employment and education assistance, safety planning, domestic violence awareness and education classes, and transitional housing.

Does Sojourner Center provide any programs for kids?

Sojourner Center operates a licensed childcare program. Other services for children include safety planning, domestic violence and developmental education, training in decision making, and life skills programs.

How many women and children are served by Sojourner Center each year?

In 2009, Sojourner Center served over 2,800 women and children.

How many kids live at Sojourner Center?

At any time, 50 to 60 percent of the beds at Sojourner Center are occupied by children.

Does Sojourner Center partner with other nonprofits in the Valley?

Yes, in addition to our sister shelters, some of our ongoing partners include: Valley of the Sun United Way, St. Mary's Food Bank, Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Gabriel's Angels, Free Arts of Arizona, and Community Information and Referral.

How can someone go about volunteering their time?

There are many different ways someone can volunteer at Sojourner Center. Vanguard, as they are referred to, can donate their time or talents in areas like the childcare center, campus kitchens, our donation center, administration, and ongoing maintenance of our campuses. Community member are also encouraged to organize drives for much needed items like women's and children's clothing and shoes, linens, school supplies, toiletries, and household items. For information on how to get involved, contact Beth Rodriguez, Community Partnerships Coordinator at 602-443-6256 or brodriguez@sojournercenter.org. For more information visit www.sojournercenter.org/vanguard.

Do you offer tours of your campuses?

Yes. We encourage anyone who is interested in learning more about the issues of domestic violence or our programs to attend one of our Hope Tours. We hold them three times a month on the first Tuesday at 6:00 pm, and first Saturday at 10:00 am, and the last Tuesday at 12:00 pm. All tours are one hour in length. Registration is available online at www.sojournercenter.org/tour or by calling 602-244-0997.

Where does funding for Sojourner Center's programs come from?

This past fiscal year, grants and contracts accounted for 58 percent of Sojourner Center's funding, while donated services, materials for the donation center, and fundraising from individuals contributed 42 percent.

What is Sojourner Center's Annual Budget?

For the 2009-2010 fiscal year Sojourner Center's annual budget is approximately \$7 million.

How can someone make a donation to Sojourner Center?

Gifts in support of our work at Sojourner Center are always appreciated. A gift of \$55 covers the cost of one bed for one night of shelter. Also, you could become apart of the Sojourner Truth Society, a multiple year giving society.

For more information about making a donation, please contact Liz Casey, Development Director, at 602.296.3351 or visit www.sojournercenter.org/donate.

How many paid staff members work at Sojourner Center?

There are currently 85 paid staff members at Sojourner Center.

What are some statistics about domestic violence?

- One out of every four women will experience domestic violence in their lifetime (Tjaden, Patricia & Thoennes, Nancy. National Institute of Justice and the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, "Extent, Nature and Consequences of Intimate Partner Violence: Findings from the National Violence Against Women Survey," (2000)).
- On average, more than three women are murdered by their husbands or boyfriends in the United States every day (Bureau of Justice Special Report, Intimate Partner Violence and Age of Victim 1993-1999, October 2001).
- Every 44 minutes in Arizona, one or more children witness a domestic violence incident (Tucson Centers for Women and Children. Statistics of Abuse. October 31, 2007).
- In Arizona, there were 111 domestic-violence-related deaths in 2009 (Arizona Coalition against Domestic Violence).

Do you take item donations such as toiletries, used clothing, bedding etc.?

Yes, new or gently-used items are always in need as families often come to us in a hurry and without a lot of planning. Toiletries, clothing, bedding, school supplies, toys, and household items are all appreciated. The Second Treasures Donation Center is located at 1639 E. McDowell Rd in Phoenix and can be reached at 602- 253-9180. Their hours are Tuesday - Saturday 10:00 am - 4:00 pm. To see our complete needs list, please visit www.sojournercenter.org/donate.