



# Sojourner Center

*Transforming Lives*



## ANNUAL REPORT FISCAL YEAR 2022

Sojourner Center is a wholly owned subsidiary of Jewish Family and Children's Service.  
Sojourner maintains its 501 (c) (3) status.

# A letter from the DIRECTORS

Bailey

Julie



Dear Friends,

We are pleased to share with you our annual report for this past year, which highlights our organizations achievements and impact.

Domestic and sexual violence continues to be a pervasive and heartbreaking issue that affects all parts of our community. Over the past year, Sojourner Center achieved several significant milestones in an effort to combat this issue, including deepening our trauma-informed services to domestic violence survivors and expanding our services to include sexual assault services. Sojourner Center continues to be a leader in the field, creating programs that eliminate barriers to safety including an onsite pet shelter, high quality childcare, and a thriving donation center focused on meeting all survivors' needs. These successes would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of our staff, volunteers, donors, and partners, and we want to express our sincere gratitude to everyone who contributed to our efforts.

Looking ahead, we remain committed to our mission and to making a positive impact in our community. Our "Mega Makeover" project for renewed, trauma-informed crisis shelter rooms is currently underway. These renovations will promote our value of empowerment by enhancing the essential sense of safety and peace in our shelter. We are also breaking ground on our Pet Companion Services renovation, which will include an outdoor enrichment space connected to our Crisis Shelter rooms, providing participants a safe space to play and heal with their pets.

We recognize that there is still much work to be done, and we are eager to tackle the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

We want to thank our community of supporters for their continued partnership. We could not achieve our goals without you, and we are grateful for your continued advocacy for the survivors we proudly serve each day.

With sincere gratitude,

Bailey DeRoest

Julie Peterson

Sojourner Center's trauma-informed programs are designed to help survivors develop resiliency, strength and confidence so they can establish and maintain violence-free lives.



## Making a Lasting Impact

We are grateful for the following partnerships that were critical to our ability to serve survivors from October 1, 2021 – September 30, 2022.

### \$20,000 and Above

Diane and Bruce Halle Foundation  
Rio Verde Women's Golf Association  
Santander  
The Moreno Family Foundation  
The Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust  
Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust

### \$10,000 and Above

Arizona Republic/azcentral Season for Sharing  
Bank of America Charitable Foundation  
Charles A. Sullivan Charitable Foundation  
Employee Community Fund of Boeing Arizona  
I-ology  
Jim Troxell Foundation  
MacLeod Family Charitable Lead Annuity Trust  
PURE Insurance  
Surplus Line Association of Arizona Foundation  
The Bergmann Family  
The Johnston Family  
The Noel C. and Ida B. Smith Charitable Foundation  
The Rudd Family

### \$5,000 and Above

Ahwatukee Carpets	Maureen & Paul Rubeli Foundation
Corning Incorporated	Stacey Willard
Foundation	The Anderson Family
Debbie Blaes	The Drown Family
Ibis Foundation of Arizona	The Lewis Family
Kramer Family Foundation	The Pelberg Family
Laboratory Corp of America (Labcorp)	The Starkman Foundation
Lynn R. Hoffman	The Symancky Family
Mary Gwinn	Utah Homicide Survivors
Mary Newman	

# Our IMPACT

With every dollar you give, we are empowered to support survivors in breaking free from the cycle of violence.



**1,036** Survivors Found Refuge and a fresh start at Sojourner Center

**24,437** Bed Nights of Emergency Shelter and supportive services

**1,892** Hotline Calls seeking help were answered

**25,812** Bed Nights of Transitional housing and supportive services

**166** Community Outreach Survivors received case management

**92** Survivors developed professional skills in our Workforce Development Program

**102,501** Nutritious meals and snacks served in our Crisis Shelter

**409** Lay Legal Advocacy Survivors learned how to navigate the legal system

**97%** of Survivors learned how to plan for their continued safety

## Sophia's STORY

As a young woman, Sophia overcame several learning disabilities that often made her feel invisible to her family. So when her abuser asked her out and quickly declared his intentions to be with her forever, Sophia thought she had found someone who believed in her more than her own family. She was, so she thought, in love.

After several months of dating, Sophia and her abuser were married. Just two weeks into the marriage, the abuse that would last over 25 years, began.

When Sophia found herself without a job, her husband began to withhold money from her while he was away, leaving her and her child to turn to the support of local food banks. Sophia's final breaking point came during a family road trip when she was hit with an object, fracturing her orbital bone.

**"Sojourner Center saved my live."**

A friend brought Sophia to Sojourner Center where she slept through the night for the first time in years. The guidance she received at Sojourner Center helped Sophia understand she was being abused, something she had never been able to come to terms in her marriage.



While in the program, she and her son both participated in support groups, she enrolled into college, was able to secure her own apartment, and, thanks to the Lay Legal Advocacy she received, was finally able to obtain a divorce from her abuser.

**"I didn't feel invisible anymore."**

With support, Sophia was able to graduate with an engineering degree in just three years, earning the distinction of Magna Cum Laude.

To Sophia, one of the best things about Sojourner Center, aside from the services offered, was the community built within the walls of the shelter.

*"It was hard. I remember returning to the shelter after dropping off my son with his dad and breaking down, but the embrace of everyone there was incredible."*

Sophia now works as an engineer for a top technology company and owns her own home. In the aftermath of her abuse, Sophia says it would be all too easy to hold onto the pain of her past but instead chooses to be grateful for the help and support that helped save her life.

**"I have the power to make my own choices. I choose me, and that's huge. People don't realize the strength they have, but because of Sojourner Center, I found mine."**

\*Note: Name and photo changed for privacy of survivor



Our mission is to overcome the impact of domestic violence, one life at a time.



*"When I left, I left with nothing but the clothes on my back. I had to completely start over. I felt so free coming into this program because I knew we would have everything we needed. I knew that I could keep my family safe."*

-Sojourner Center Survivor

## How Your Gift Benefits Domestic Violence Victims and YOU



Make your gift today at [www.directyourtaxes.org](http://www.directyourtaxes.org).

[www.sojournercenter.org](http://www.sojournercenter.org) | 602-244-0997