



# THE CHAMPION

Official Newsletter for Supporters of  
Peace at Home Family Shelter

Fall 2023



**“When we finally  
escaped, I couldn’t  
believe it was real.  
My life is better than  
I ever imagined that  
it could be.”**

# BECAUSE OF YOU, ALYSSA NOW HAS PEACE IN HER HOME.

For the safety of our clients, all names and photos have been changed to protect their identities.

“It all fell apart on Christmas, two years ago. Things had been bad in my relationship for a long time, but that was the night I called the police on my husband. After they took him out of the house, I dialed Peace at Home. It was such a relief when an advocate picked up the phone.

I had to get an order of protection very quickly to make sure my family was safe. Peace at Home made sure I had legal representation – that would have been impossible without their help. The attorneys at Peace at Home really understood domestic violence. They made sure that my three children and I were protected.

Peace at Home also helped me find housing while I searched for a job and got back on my feet. They supported me through the entire process. There were a couple mornings that I would call before eight





o'clock just needing reassurance that I could do this. My advocate was always there for me.

I don't know what I would have done without the advocates. There's a lot of shame that comes with being in a relationship like that, even once you're out, even when you know you're on the right track. Sometimes, you just need to talk to someone who reminds you that you'll be okay. The advocates at Peace

at Home helped me grapple with my shame and find my courage. They really empowered me.

I did try to leave a couple of times before that Christmas incident. I didn't get far. In the months leading up to our escape, I was often overwhelmed by hopelessness. When we finally escaped, I spent the whole first week crying because I couldn't believe it was real. My life is better than I ever imagined that it could be - without Peace at Home, I wouldn't have this life.

If you're experiencing violence, just know that there is hope. I know that everyone has their own journey, and not everybody's path to hope will be the same. But there are so many resources and people ready to help you. Make that phone call."

*- Alyssa*

# PEACE AT HOME UPDATES

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## CANDY CLARK PET SANCTUARY UPDATE

Construction has begun on the Candy Clark Pet Sanctuary! The team is working hard to stay on their timeline, with a projected finish date of December 2023. Our Families with Pets Advocate, Sandra González, is preparing program guidelines and policies for the Candy Clark Pet Sanctuary. We will accept donations of pet supplies (pet food, beds, toys, etc.) soon! For more information, email Sandra at [sgonzalez@peaceathomeshelter.com](mailto:sgonzalez@peaceathomeshelter.com).

## EMERGENCY SHELTER EXPANSION

We are selecting an architect for our shelter expansion project funded by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) from the City of Fayetteville. This renovation will allow us to expand to three additional client rooms. This will increase our shelter capacity by 20% and allow us to supply more emergency and safe shelter to survivors of domestic violence and their children in our community.



Interested in supporting  
our expansion?  
Click [HERE!](#)

# PEACE AT HOME UPDATES



Peace at Home Development Director Eva Terry (center) with Marti and Todd Martin, owners of South by Northwest Hospitality

## **SOUTH BY NORTHWEST HOSPITALITY AMBASSADOR NIL PROGRAM & DONATION**



Graphic posted by participating athletes.

This past year, Peace at Home Family Shelter partnered with South by Northwest Hospitality (Theo's Fayetteville and Rogers, Southern Food Company, East Side Grill) to raise awareness about Peace at Home and offer women athletes opportunities through the Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL) Program. South by Northwest Hospitality generously donated to Peace at Home Family Shelter and compensates student-athletes for promoting their charity partnership with Peace at Home on their platform.

Six women athletes joined the program, posting about domestic violence education, Peace at Home Family Shelter, and their community efforts. We are grateful to the student athletes that participated and to South by Northwest Hospitality for their support and sponsorship of the program!

# PEACE AT HOME UPDATES

## COURAGE AWARDS LUNCHEON



The Courage Awards Luncheon raised over **\$34,000** to support survivors of domestic violence in our community!

This year, we honored the Mayor of Fayetteville, Lioneld Jordan, for his passionate public service. He has personally and professionally been a committed advocate for survivors of domestic violence and Peace at Home Family Shelter.

Click [HERE](#) to see more pictures from the event!



## BECOME A FRIEND OF PEACE

You can change lives every single month when you join to become a friend of peace. Monthly donations allow you to provide sustaining support to survivors and allow Peace at Home to plan for the future.

## BECAUSE OF YOU, LIVES WILL CHANGE:

- **\$12/month** could pay for utility deposits for one family moving into their own safe housing in the community.
- **\$20/month** could pay for filing and service fees for one survivor to file for divorce from their abuser.
- **\$50/month** could pay for a month's worth of individualized professional counseling for one survivor recovering from abuse.
- **\$75/month** could pay for a week of safe shelter for a parent and their child escaping violence.

[CLICK HERE](#)  
TO GIVE!

# MEET AN ADVOCATE

Sandra González, BSW  
(she/her)



## Tell us about yourself.

I'm Sandra González, and I'm the Families with Pets Advocate. I've been in this position for 6 months now! I have a background in social work and love animals - this role allows me to combine both of my passions.

## What are the goals for your position?

My job is to make sure that humans and pets are both well taken care of while they're staying in our shelter. Peace at Home can help families to fund pet deposits or pet rent, get their pet in to see a veterinarian, and ultimately find safety. Our Candy Clark Pet Sanctuary will also start welcoming pets soon.

## What do you want people to know about domestic violence and pets?

Someone who abuses people will have no qualms about hurting an animal to keep control. The folks staying in our shelter know that. I hear many sad stories, but it's all worth it when I'm able to tell a client "We have space in our shelter for you and your pet." They light up.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

### SATURDAY CHILDCARE VOLUNTEER

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Support Peace at Home clients and staff by providing childcare to children while their parents attend a House Meeting at the emergency shelter. Spanish speakers preferred.

For details on all our volunteer opportunities, visit our website by clicking [here](#) or email our Volunteer Coordinator, Michelle, at [mdurham@peaceathomeshelter.com](mailto:mdurham@peaceathomeshelter.com).