



CHANGING COMMUNITY IN HENDERSON COUNTY



CHANGE LEADERS

Safelight serves survivors throughout their lives, whenever we are needed. We are embedded in our community. We live our mission, creating hope, healing lives and changing community by providing safety.

I am beyond grateful daily to work with the dedicated staff, board and volunteers here at Safelight. Our team's passion is why we continue serving survivors in our community with safe, full-service programs after 40 years and counting!

Thank you to our incredible board members, donors, volunteers, partners, and community leaders. Thank you for believing in what we do. You are all a part of this journey, helping us change over 45,000 people's lives since 1984. Your support has paid off as we grow our programs and services to continue to change our community.

Safelight provides services for anyone who has experienced violence, abuse or exploitation (domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, elder abuse, child abuse, etc.). Other agencies now come to us to tour and replicate programs we have created!

Together, we are breaking barriers! By partnering with us, you change lives and help us build a safer community. We ask that you continue to tell everyone you meet about Safelight, helping link those in need to our services. Come tour and see what we continue to build. Attend our amazing events including the Henderson County Humanitarian Awards in April and Night of Hope in October. Follow, like and share posts on Facebook and Instagram. Come volunteer, eat at our café, and shop at our resale store to support our mission!

I am incredibly grateful to be a part of such an incredible community. Thank you for supporting Safelight!

Safelight started...

- Marriage license and divorce filing fees in NC now going towards programming for survivors
- The first Batterer Intervention Program in NC, the Domestic Violence Intervention Program in 1986
- The first nationally accredited child advocacy center in NC opening 1990
- The largest survivor shelter in western NC opening 1984
- The first resale store in western NC in 1990

We continue to grow...

- In 2022, all programs moved in walking distance of each other for safer, faster services
- In 2023, we renovated our shelter space and added pet kennels for residents, saving dogs and cats from violence and abuse, a partnership with Blue Ridge Humane Society
- In 2024, we opened the first nationally recognized Camp Hope America program in Henderson County for our children who have experienced trauma.

What is next?

- A community-based option in our facility for adult forensic medical exams, a partnership with AdventHealth and UNC Health Pardee
- Expansion of Dandelion Cafe's job training into a product line to sell in our community
- Expansion of outreach and shelter services
- Doubling Camp Hope America participation

Lauren Taylor Wilkie,

Executive Director Safelight, Inc.

**Creating Hope, Healing Lives,
and Changing Community**

SAFELIGHT'S COMMUNITY IMPACT

Together We Are Breaking Barriers

Since 1984, Safelight, Inc. expanded organically, responding to the growing needs of our community. We offer comprehensive services to meet the needs of survivors of any violence, abuse and exploitation (intimate partner/domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, elder abuse, and child abuse). We provide survivors with resources to recover and manage from trauma impacting their lives.

Safelight helps survivors go from crisis to sustainability with housing, financial independence, case management, and counseling. We offer 24/7 crisis hotline & shelter services, housing resources, financial planning and safe employment, court and hospital accompaniment, forensic medical exams and interviewing, free counseling and support groups, resource connection, prevention, education and advocacy.

Building a Safer Community



Over 45,000 Survivors Engaged Since 1984

- 1984 Mainstay Opened
- 1986 First Domestic Violence Intervention Program in NC
- 1990 The Healing Place (Merged Rape Crisis Center & FOCUS)
- 1990 First Resale Store in Western NC
- 1990 First Nationally Accredited Child Advocacy Center in NC
- 2008 Shelter & Resale Store Moved to 5th Ave.
- 2013 Dandelion Café
- 2014 Family Advocacy Center
- 2015 Child Advocacy Center Restarted
- 2019 Counseling Center Formalized
- 2021 Outreach Program Formalized
- 2022 Washington Street Office Opened
- 2023 Shelter Resident Animal Kennels
- 2024 Camp Hope America Program Started, first in Henderson County

AGENTS OF CHANGE

Supporting
survivors in
Henderson
County since
1984

24/7 Shelter & Crisis Hotline support for anyone fleeing violence and abuse (and their dogs and cats).

Counseling Center offering individual and group counseling zero charge to children and adult survivors via telehealth or in person.

Child Advocacy Center is a nationally accredited program where children and their families are provided services and crisis intervention, resource connection, and forensic interviewing/medical and hair follicle collection with onsite partners.

Family Advocacy Center is a family justice center model for partners offering advocacy for legal, law enforcement and medical linkage to care. Children and their families are linked to Camp Hope America with monthly gatherings/pathway events.

Community Engagement Impact Health Healthy Opportunities Pilot supports social determinants of health with Medicaid dollars to pay for services related to transportation, nutrition, housing, legal and interpersonal safety. Domestic Violence Intervention Program and Partners Intervention Program provide a 26-week curriculum for behavior modification.

Community Outreach for Prevention, Education & Advocacy with our school district, law enforcement, legal providers nonprofit organizations, stakeholders' businesses, and tables at events in our community.

Sustainability safe and stable financial planning with groups and paid onsite job training (Dandelion Café, Resale Store) and housing resources.

Our History



1838

Henderson County
is established
December 15, 1838



1920

Wife beating is
made illegal in all
states



1974

Women's Advocates open
one of the country's first
documented shelters for
battered women



1977

The country's first
protocols for hospitals
to identify and treat
abused women is
created

Finding Safety



Henderson County, North Carolina is a uniquely collaborative community. In 2017, AdventHealth recognized the critical need to partner with Safelight's Child Advocacy Center to fill

the gap of fragmented medical services for our most vulnerable population – children exposed to child abuse and neglect.

The risk factors for child maltreatment are multifaceted, including but not limited to, domestic violence, substance use disorder, and untreated mental illness. Safelight's comprehensive continuum of services and onsite partners enables emergent, efficient evaluations for children at risk in our state-of-the-art facility.

Our Child Advocacy Center's advocacy support, forensic interviews, child medical evaluations (including forensic evidence collection), and trauma informed counseling allow us to serve not only children in our immediate area, but also neighboring counties who lack these all-inclusive services.

Laura Phipps, PA
*Retired AdventHealth Medical Partner
at Safelight's Child Advocacy Center*

Why Do We Do It? With You, We Create Hope and Healing for Families.

780,000+ beds
filled in our new shelter site since
2008

10,000+ children
taught about healthy relationships

1,500+ survivors
received court support

1,300+ children
served in our child advocacy center

1,000+ survivors and children
provided therapy services

250+ survivors
trained in our café or store
and placed into long-term
employment



Our History



Mainstay founded
by three women



First NC Nationally
Accredited Child
Advocacy Center



Shelter moved to
5th Avenue



Dandelion Café
opened

Philanthropist spotlight: Cheryl Stuller



Cheryl Stuller believes it is always important to do more. By teaching her children to give 100% and by dedicating her time and resources to breaking down barriers, she puts this belief into action. Cheryl is someone who consistently walks the walk, building up all those around her, especially those suffering and underserved. Through her generous volunteering, advocacy and financial support, she has been a proud champion of Safelight for many years and has had a lasting impact on the work that we do in this community.

Cheryl found her passion and focus for many years by volunteering with Safelight. As a volunteer from 2001 to 2014, she ran the front desk hotline, answering calls from individuals in crisis, acted as a co-leader for the men's Domestic Violence Intervention Program and worked closely with the Family Advocacy Center as a volunteer court advocate. During her time attending court, she saw a need for change. Cheryl states, *"we were experiencing a high rate of dismissals due to victims not being able to attend court after multiple continuances. Coming to court multiple times affects jobs which affects income, which affects quality of life for victims and their families. This also meant perpetrators of domestic violence did not have an opportunity for education or consequences."*

Cheryl worked tirelessly with the court system and former Judge Emily Cowan to push for a Prayer for Judgement (PJC) for Henderson County. They were successful. Now an offender can plead guilty and if they attend Safelight's Domestic Violence Intervention Program for 26 weeks, participate, and show benefit, their charges can be dropped. This change decreases the number of times victims have to come to court, creates a pathway for education and provides the court with a guilty plea in case an offender does not complete the required classes. It is still used today!

It is clear that Cheryl's gifts are what she constantly gives to others, an endless supply of time, talent, and treasure, while never expecting anything in return. As a co-owner of Stuller Power Solutions with her husband Brian since 2000, it is clear her passion keeps this business so connected to the community. Cheryl, as well as Stuller Power Solutions, is a valued partner to Safelight and we look forward to many more years working together within this community.

Our History



2014
Family Advocacy Center opened



2015
Child Advocacy Center reopened



2016
Merger of Mainstay and The Healing Place creates Safelight, Inc.



2022
Washington Street office opens



We offer free, confidential help for adults and children affected by domestic violence, sexual assault or child abuse. Our services include a 24-hour crisis line, emergency shelter, advocacy, counseling, case management, support groups, job training, and much more.



In Loving Memory More than Volunteering: Eleanor Sloan

Through all of the changes, transitions, mergers, and building moves within Safelight's history, one thing stayed the same: Eleanor Sloan. As a volunteer from 1989-2023, Eleanor saw firsthand the expansion of this organization and the profound growth of the community around it. As she retired in 2023 after 35 years of service, there was no one more deserving of celebration.

Eleanor's start with Mainstay, now Safelight, was by chance. After she and her husband retired to this area in 1986, they decided to become more involved within the community. At that time a local agency existed on Church Street, which helped pair volunteers with organizations that needed support. Through them she was connected with Mainstay and The Friends of the Library, and she remained devoted to both since. *"I had two loves,"* Eleanor reflects on this, *"the Library and Safelight."* She poured that love into her work with us, diligently hand-typing acknowledgement letters weekly on her typewriter. She crafted each letter to thank our donors, sponsors, and grantors in personalized ways, always taking extra time to truly express her gratitude. The same typewriter has been used throughout Eleanor's time at Safelight, and once she is done with it, she hopes it will return to us *"as a museum piece."* She jokes that the moral of this story is *"to buy good things from the beginning,"* but we know that its longevity is also due to her care, maintenance, and love.

Eleanor's memories of Safelight were primarily focused on the people: the volunteers, staff, and shelter residents. When talking about Safelight's history, she took great care to remember individuals by full name, and to highlight the friendly, close relationships that she formed over the years. This closeness extended to the Safelight clients as well. She remembered a time early on when she and her husband were invited to Thanksgiving dinner at the home of a Safelight client. She says, *"we didn't know what to expect, or how to feel, but we took some stuff over for the kids, and we went, and we had Thanksgiving dinner in their house, and it was not a very elaborate one, but they tried hard, and it was good."* The next thing she knew, her husband was invited and going to grandpa's day at their children's school.

Eleanor's impact continues. Her stories, jokes, direction, and leadership have been invaluable, and we would not be the same without the work that she has done. *"Eleanor was more than a volunteer, she was a leader, a guide, a teacher to us all,"* Lauren Wilkie, Safelight Executive Director shared. Please join us in remembering her legacy and celebrating her for all that she has done for Safelight and for this community!

Looking Ahead



Animal kennels for residents in shelter



Camp Hope America and Pathways starts in Henderson County



Sustainability Programming expanded with Rapid Rehousing



Community-based Adult Medical Forensics coming soon

Safelight has been growing to serve more survivors!

Facility Renovations

- Shelter: Increased bed capacity and updated kitchen for safer services. Created pet kennels and dens for shelter residents, a partnership with Blue Ridge Humane Society.
- Community engagement and computer training areas made accessible to all clients, partners and staff for education and support groups.
- Increasing safety and capacity for Job Training with our Resale Store and Dandelion Café.



Expansion of Programs and Services

- Started Henderson County's first nationally recognized Camp Hope America program for child survivors and their families in Henderson County, a partnership with Alliance for Hope International. Plans to double program!
- Sustainability Programming added a housing manager to help support payments and moving needs for survivors getting housed.
- Developing a community-based option for adult forensics, a partnership with AdventHealth and UNC Health Pardee.
- Expansion of outreach and shelter services to help more survivors.
- Expansion of Dandelion Cafe's job training into a product line to sell in our community.



Strengthen Budget

- Increase ability to weather unforeseen crises and needs with a healthy cash reserve. As more federal cuts are on the horizon.
- Increase our budgets risk tolerance by diversifying funding including insurance reimbursement.



Safelight collaborates with different community partners and agencies to ensure client needs are met.

Over 35 partners in excellence have signed memorandums of agreement with us including shared office space or funding together.

OUR TWO-YEAR \$8.5 MILLION GOAL IMPACTS OUR COMMUNITY

PROGRAMMING	YEAR 1	YEAR 2
24/7 Shelter & Crisis Hotline	\$704,746	\$754,079
Community Engagement: Housing & Job Training	\$629,695	\$673,774
Child Advocacy Center	\$548,991	\$587,420
Counseling Center	\$466,778	\$499,453
Family Advocacy Center	\$567,083	\$606,779
Outreach for Prevention, Education & Advocacy	\$256,857	\$274,837
TOTAL	\$3,174,150	\$3,396,342

HENDERSON COUNTY CONQUERING CHANGE

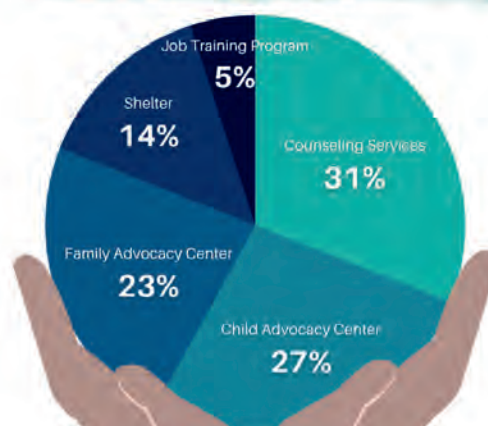
Fifth Avenue Facility Renovation	\$838,000	\$100,000
Expansion of Programs and Services	\$250,000	\$496,000
Strengthen Budget with Reserves	\$0.00	\$250,000
TOTAL	\$1,088,000	\$846,000

Anticipated Revenue Total (2 years)	\$6,570,492
Campaign Goal (2 years)	\$1,934,000
TOTAL	\$8,504,492
	Campaign Goal (2 years)

TOGETHER, WE
EMPOWER MORE
SURVIVORS IN
HENDERSON COUNTY

Last fiscal year, we engaged nearly 6,000 community members in education, advocacy, prevention, and linkage to our services.

Of the 1,200 survivors served last year, over half accessed our hotline.



We are not just statistics! We are your neighbors, your community.

Each year over
10 million
adults in the
United States
experience
domestic
violence

NATIONAL DATA ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

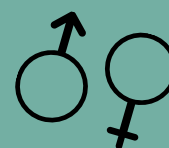
Every **9 seconds** in
the U.S., a woman is
assaulted or beaten



1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men, experience severe physical Intimate Partner Violence

NATIONAL DATA ON SEXUAL ASSAULT

Every **68 seconds** someone in
the U.S. is sexually assaulted



1 in 4 women and 1 in 26 men have been the victim of an attempted or completed rape

NATIONAL DATA ON CHILD ABUSE

Every **10 seconds** a
report of child abuse is
made



Every **9 minutes** a child
is sexually assaulted

Over **600,000** children
are abused in the U.S.
each year



1 in 5 women and 1 in 13 men worldwide report they were sexually assaulted before age 18

Board Members

Clint Holt
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Anna Conner
Relocate828

Chris Scruggs
We Sell WNC

Rafe Westbrook
First Citizens Bank

Marilee Arnold
UNC Health Pardee

Mariah Cassum
Blue Ridge Health

Theresa Edwards
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Grayhawk Coaching, LLC

Blair Myhand
Hendersonville Police Chief

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Ruth Simons
NC Habitat for Humanity

Christy Sneller
AdventHealth

Cheryl Stuller
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Kimberly-Clark Corporation

Donna Ulrich
Performance Health

Melody Meyer
Community Advocate

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News 13 WLOS

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