

about



HARBOR HOUSE

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Harbor House opened its doors in 1976 as a safe haven for survivors of domestic abuse and is the only state-certified shelter operating in Orange County, Florida. The agency has evolved into one of the most comprehensive domestic abuse centers in the U.S. and is considered a national leader in domestic abuse intervention, awareness and prevention. Our holistic approach to providing programs and services aimed at ending the cycle of domestic abuse is focused on investing in replicable solutions that drive community-wide systemic and social change.

Our main program is a comprehensive 102-bed Emergency Shelter that is operated 24 hours a day, 365 days a year as a refuge for women, men, child and pet survivors of domestic abuse. Harbor House is committed to its community promise to never turn away any survivor who seeks safety.

In addition to the Emergency Shelter that served 1,132 survivors during our last fiscal year, our Legal Advocacy program assisted 4,197 individuals seeking injunctions and other court services, and our Outreach program provided services including counseling, safety planning and community-based housing for hundreds of families. Our Prevention team focuses on youth programming centered around healthy relationships, bullying and safe bystander intervention. Our 24-hour crisis hotline answered more than 7,300 calls last year and provides a soothing voice of hope and a wealth of resources for those in acute need.

Our Children's Services Department provides DCF-licensed daycare from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday. Our team also provides three healthy meals each day to the children in daycare as well as a variety of activities, tutoring and special events.

In 2012, our five-acre campus expanded to include the Paws for Peace Kennel, which enables survivors to bring their pets with them when they flee—ensuring no family member is left behind in an abusive home.

We are the only domestic abuse center in the state of Florida with both a licensed daycare and a kennel, which aligns with our holistic approach of wrap-around services that ensures all family members will be safe and can heal and thrive. When families are thriving, so is our community.

At Harbor House, our overarching goal is social change. We approach it at the individual level as well as through system-wide initiatives using our core philosophy of Recognize, Respond & Refer (R3). We use R3 to teach individuals, businesses, schools, faith institutions and first responders how to recognize domestic abuse, respond to it effectively and refer survivors to safety. Our proven success in changing attitudes and behaviors using R3 continues to be one of our greatest accomplishments, and we look forward to continuing to refine and expand it to drive social change globally.



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