



Safe Horizon offers a lifeline of services to survivors of violence and abuse. And we do it with compassion, conviction, and creativity. But we can only provide this level of support to survivors because of the kindness and generosity of our community of donors. We need you to keep showing up for Celines, Trudiann, Hyacinth, and the other 250,000 survivors who come to Safe Horizon seeking support each year.

Your tax-deductible gift helps:

- Children traumatized by abuse
- Families who have lost loved ones
- Domestic violence survivors
- Local and citywide communities

Safe Horizon's Hotline

Multilingual support is available 24-hours a day.

Domestic Violence Hotline: 800-621-HOPE (4673)

Sexual Assault Hotline: 212-227-3000

Crime Victims Hotline: 866-689-HELP (4357)

Centralized Helpline: 855-234-1042

If you are in immediate danger, call 911.

Safe Horizon has been at the forefront of helping victims of crime and abuse through crises since 1978. We are woven into the fabric of New York City, and we are here when and where you need us, in-person and virtually. No matter what, we stand with you in your community, at home, and at the other end of the telephone any hour of the day or night.



Please help us stand by survivors by making a special year-end gift today.

Because everyone deserves a Safe Horizon.

Watch Celines, Trudiann, and Hyacinth share their stories in their words

– at –

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Reflections from a Year of Walking with Survivors

In the last year, Safe Horizon advocates:

Supported over **250,000** survivors of violence and abuse.

Answered more than **180,000** calls from survivors.

Served over **8,000** children and over **3,000** of their caregivers following severe physical or sexual abuse.

Accompanied survivors to over **8,000** visits to Criminal Court, both virtually and in-person.

Sheltered nearly **2,000** children and caregivers.

Although the numbers are significant, they only tell part of the story.

This holiday season we are reflecting on the extraordinary achievements of our advocates and the inspiring stories of survival we have witnessed.

We are honored to walk alongside survivors and excited to share these incredible stories with you here.

Every day, Safe Horizon connects with survivors of abuse at very difficult moments of their lives. Since 1978, we have been helping New Yorkers find safety, support, connection and hope, and throughout the pandemic we have not stopped. During the adversity of the past few years, survivors have faced new and profound challenges. And our staff have been there every step of the way - continuing to show up with the resources survivors need.

Celines Finds Her Community at Lang House

Celines was enrolled in school for art therapy and a single mother to her young son, Chosen, when she came to Lang House during the pandemic. The connections Celines made while living in the domestic violence shelter enabled her to heal from abuse and thrive both as a survivor and as an artist. “My support team was my family. They were dedicated, genuine, and loving,” Celines says.

The staff also felt a strong connection to Celines. “I admired her motherhood – the way that she cared for Chosen and how he was so attached to her – and I think I related my experience with motherhood to hers.” Celines’ Case Manger Nakeisha commented.

The Lang House team provided resources to help Celines and Chosen rebuild their lives; going beyond the call to nurture their personal growth. To celebrate Chosen’s first birthday, they gifted him a portable DVD player with reading programs. Celines says those programs were instrumental in helping him say his first words!

Natalia, a social work intern at the time, encouraged Celines to join her weekly support groups. That’s where Celines found the space to heal. “I remember meeting Celines during my first month interning at Lang House. She told me about how she loved to paint and wanted to create art with her adorable son Chosen, who wanted to eat all the paint brushes,” Natalia reminisces.

“When you look at your artwork, it informs you about yourself - the color choice, the expression of the brush strokes; all these things have meaning,” Celines explains as she reflects on the paintings she created at Lang House.

These groups helped Celines process the hurt and trauma and express herself fully. “It’s not easy talking about these painful situations. I didn’t have the words to express what I was going through. I just kind of felt stuck in a block. After support group and playing with color, it led to more creations and opened me up like a portal - that started my healing,” Celines says.

While her stay at the shelter was healing, Celines longed for a place of her own and continued working with Nakeisha on finding a new home. When an apartment became available, Nakeisha worked overtime to help Celines fill out a



Nakeisha Carter, Celines and her son Chosen, Sabrina Jenkins, and Natalia Christie.

permanent housing application. With diligence and dedication, they were able to give Celines a fresh start.

Moving out of Lang House and into a new apartment was bittersweet, but Celines continued to keep in touch with her shelter family. She sent updates on milestone events including photos from her graduation ceremony. Today, Celines continues to express her creativity through art.

Trudiann Comes Forward and Finds Support

Survivors of sexual assault often need time to process the hurt they’ve experienced and many face obstacles that make it dangerous for them to come forward. These obstacles can be laws that criminalize survivors based on their immigration status. Trudiann was undocumented when she was sexually assaulted and suffered under the threat of deportation.

“My ex was a U.S. citizen, and he knew I was undocumented,” she explains. “I was terrified of him but even more terrified of reporting this crime to law enforcement because of my immigration status. My world was shattered.”

Trudiann decided to come forward after she discovered that he was assaulting other women. That’s when she learned about the various resources at Safe Horizon’s Immigration Law Project (ILP). ILP advocates on behalf of immigrant survivors of crime, torture, or abuse in New York City, to help them heal and seek legal recourse.

Evangeline, Director of Legal Services at ILP, helped Trudiann pursue a path to citizenship. They went through the complex process of filing a U-visa; a special type of status that is only for victims of abuse. Getting this visa would mean Trudiann could

finally feel safe without fear of retaliation. And she would be able to work with law enforcement to help prevent assault from happening to other women.

While filing the paperwork, Evangeline helped Trudiann process her emotional pain. She helped Trudiann understand that it was normal to wait before coming forward. “When people have something happen to them that’s extremely traumatic, they typically go into a state of self-preservation,” Evangeline explains.

Evangeline recommended that Trudiann speak to a professional counselor to help her emotionally heal.

While in counseling, Trudiann discovered just how much pain the experience caused her. “Before counseling, I was suffering from trauma and didn’t realize it,” she explains. “I would want to be alone and would just lock myself in my room, but once I started doing counseling here at Safe Horizon, I realized I was suppressing it. The counseling opened me up to a whole different dimension and it really helped me to overcome.”

Evangeline saw Trudiann’s healing process and found it inspiring. “Trudiann stayed strong, she stayed



Trudiann and Evangeline Chan.

fighting, and she did that, not just for herself, but for her daughter and for the other women who had gone through what she had,” she says.

Trudiann is continuing her journey toward healing and has graduated college, become a chaplain, found a career in home healthcare, and is no longer living in fear.

Hyacinth and Kaeleen’s Inspiring Connection

Coming forward about domestic violence is difficult for so many survivors. Pursuing a legal case may require survivors to talk about the abuse with court officials and other strangers, which can be intimidating, and make a survivor feel vulnerable.

When Hyacinth sought help at Safe Horizon’s Domestic Violence Law Project (DVLP), she was understandably nervous. “It was hard,” Hyacinth recalls. “I was afraid because I didn’t know what I was getting myself into. The thought of sharing things that were very personal made me nervous.”

Then she met Kaeleen, a DVLP Staff Attorney, who understood Hyacinth’s hesitation. She strived to provide emotional support in addition to meeting the legal needs for her case. “I let her know that I’m a person that cares about what she’s going through and that I’ll believe her,” Kaeleen explains.

As they continued to work together, Hyacinth was able to open up to Kaeleen and they developed a strong, trusting bond. “I call her Cosmo because I always nickname people

that I care about. I feel like she genuinely cares about me, and I definitely care about her,” Hyacinth reflects. “Cosmo made me feel very comfortable. I’ve shared things that were suppressing my soul with her that I’ve never shared with anyone.”

Although the case is ongoing, Hyacinth knows that with Cosmo on her side, she will have the support she needs to continue.



Hyacinth and Kaeleen Kosmo.