

## Join Leaders on the Horizon

We are recruiting new members for Safe Horizon's junior board, Leaders on the Horizon! If you share an affinity with our mission and our commitment to preventing violence in New York City, we would like to meet you!

Leaders on the Horizon was established to engage rising leaders across various professions in support of Safe Horizon's mission, vision, and programs. Members are volunteers who raise funds and awareness for Safe Horizon, playing a vital role in bringing about impactful solutions for survivors of violence.

To learn more about how to join, please contact Rebecca (Bek) Pak, Director of Individual & Community Engagement at [rebecca.pak@safehorizon.org](mailto:rebecca.pak@safehorizon.org).

Membership offers an exciting and challenging opportunity for committed individuals who are interested in:

- Increasing your philanthropic footprint and supporting social change.
- Learning to fundraise and leverage your professional and social connections.
- Broadening your personal and professional network.
- Gaining exposure to leadership, strategic oversight, and collaboration.
- Learning to leverage your professional and social connections to support survivors, prevent violence, and promote justice.

## 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.



2 Lafayette Street, 3rd Floor  
New York, NY 10007

Visit [www.safehorizon.org](http://www.safehorizon.org)  
for more information

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[www.safehorizon.org/donate](http://www.safehorizon.org/donate)



Winter 2023

## Young People Experiencing Homelessness Deserve Equal Access to Housing, Free from Discrimination

You are likely reading this newsletter from the safety and comfort of your home. For many of the survivors we partner with, finding a safe and comfortable home is a critical goal. Unfortunately, for many young people experiencing homelessness, this can feel hopelessly out of reach. At Safe Horizon's Streetwork Project, we work with homeless and street-involved teenagers and young adults to help them find stability. While rental assistance supplements like housing vouchers should offer access to housing, there are many systemic barriers that prevent young people from obtaining and fulfilling these vouchers.

**Here are just some obstacles that our Streetwork clients face when looking for a home:**

- To qualify for housing vouchers like CityFHEPS vouchers, homeless people must enter an adult shelter and be able to prove they have been homeless or in foster care for at least 90 days.
- Many of our young people simply are not safe in these adult shelters.
- Too often our clients experience discrimination because of age, race, gender identity, and/or income.

For many years, Streetwork Project has joined the Coalition for Homeless Youth to advocate with the city of New York to give homeless youth equal access to housing vouchers. In 2021, the City Council passed legislation that would streamline access to vouchers and let homeless young



people bypass the 90-day requirement to stay in adult shelter by counting the time they have spent in homeless youth programs toward the 90-day rule. **This was a huge policy win, but it has not changed the current practice. The city is still requiring young adults to enter adult shelters in order to access housing vouchers.**

**While we continue to fight for systemic change, we also fight against discrimination of our clients.**

Late last year Streetwork Project was able to find 14 young people housing in one building until the landlord found out

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about their homelessness status. He backed out of the agreement, denying our clients housing he previously agreed to provide, and continued to ignore our calls.

The landlord’s actions violate city and state laws against discrimination. This criminalization of poverty continues to hurt and oppress people of color. We are suing the landlord for the promise of housing and seeking damages to get our clients the justice they deserve.

**But it isn’t enough to just take on one landlord – the lack of support for homeless young people is a widespread problem:**

- Out of the 7,780 Section 8 vouchers for homeless New Yorkers the city was given by the federal government

## Overcoming Crisis at Streetwork

Over 11,000 homeless young people rely on Streetwork Project’s Uptown Drop-In Center to find food and respite. Those services were put at risk in December when the toilet pipe of a tenant above the Drop-In rained water into our space, damaging the ceiling, walls, floor, and many program materials.

As always, our first priority was continuing to offer services and support to the homeless young people who rely on us. Having pivoted during the pandemic, Streetwork staff knew how to act quickly:

- We leveraged our deep community connections to set up a drop-in at a new site in the neighborhood as soon as possible to continue client care without interruption.
- We offered meals and personal care items at the door.
- We pivoted to remote case management services.
- We dispatched pop-up services using our outreach vans.

The repairs needed are extensive and costly. As temperatures plummet, and more young people experiencing homelessness rely on us for basic necessities, we hope you will consider supporting Safe Horizon to help Streetwork get through this difficult time. Donate at [safehorizon.org/giving](https://safehorizon.org/giving)

last year, only 600 of them were allocated to homeless youth.

- For reference, NYC identifies around 7,000 young people who are homeless a year, and even those numbers are likely significant undercounts.

As part of our community of advocates, we want you to know we are fighting for these young people and working around the clock to get them housed. Streetwork Project submitted 283 Section 8 applications and of those, 152 of our clients received Section 8 vouchers so far. We continue to work diligently with New York City housing agencies because without advocacy from Streetwork, our clients would literally be out in the cold.



## The Road to Justice for Survivors

Many survivors of sexual assault need time to process the hurt they’ve experienced. It might take years or even decades for a survivor to tell someone what happened to them. For years, New York State laws were out of step with that reality. Many survivors did not have the opportunity to hold the person who hurt them accountable in court.

Beginning around 2007, New Yorkers advocated for legislation that would expand the ability for survivors of childhood sexual abuse to finally have their day in court. Known as the **Child Victims Act (CVA)**, this legislation created meaningful and long-overdue statute of limitation reform for adults who experienced sexual abuse before their 18th birthday. The CVA expanded the statute of limitations moving forward and created a window during which time-barred survivors could file a lawsuit.

Now, the **Adult Survivors Act (ASA)** creates a one-year look back window for adult sexual assault survivors who are outside the statute of limitations. Survivors – no matter when they were assaulted and even if they are outside the statute of limitations – can file a civil case against their abuser or the institution that protected them, through November 24, 2023.

**This victory was possible because of the consistent support we receive from our community of passionate advocates.**



Here is a snapshot of the milestones that brought us to these new reforms:	
2006	Safe Horizon joins a coalition of survivors, victim service providers, advocacy organizations, and national experts to advocate for statute of limitation reform for survivors of childhood sexual abuse.  Safe Horizon continues to advocate on behalf of survivors.
2019	After 13 years of being introduced in the New York State legislature, the CVA passes both houses and is signed into law. The CVA lookback window officially opens in August.
2019 Summer	Safe Horizon launches a public awareness campaign to inform New Yorkers about their new rights under the CVA.
2020 Winter	Members of the state legislature who sponsored the CVA introduce the ASA.
2020 Summer	The CVA one-year lookback window is extended in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.
2022 Spring	After years of advocacy, the ASA passes in both houses and is signed into law by Governor Kathy Hochul.
2022 Fall	Safe Horizon launches an awareness campaign with a PSA in Times Square, gathering survivors and lawmakers together in solidarity.  The 1-year window of the ASA officially opened on Thanksgiving, meaning any adult survivor – no matter when they were assaulted and even if they are outside the statute of limitations.
To learn more about the Child Victims Act visit <a href="https://safehorizon.org/cva">safehorizon.org/cva</a>  To learn more about the Adult Survivors Act visit <a href="https://safehorizon.org/asa">safehorizon.org/asa</a>	