

# MOVE The Newsletter of the Coalition

## *A Love Letter to 2025*

We laugh. A lot. The deep, cackle-until-your-stomach-hurts kind of laugh. It's not because we don't see the weight of this work. It's because joy is essential. It fuels us, heals us, and, in a world working overtime to break people, joy is revolutionary.

Laughter doesn't mean we're ignoring the hard stuff—it means we refuse to let the hard stuff define us. Survivors teach us that healing requires joy, and joy requires care and community. That's why we laugh.

As we step into 2025, we're staring down big challenges. But here's the thing—we know challenges can be overcome. How? Because we've got you. Yes, you. Right there, scrolling, wondering if you have what it takes to make an impact. We believe in you.



Here's how you can help: follow us on social media, share our posts, join our mailing list, listen and subscribe to our podcast, or donate to support our work. Every click, like, and share makes a difference—and so does every dollar.

This work is serious, but it doesn't have to be somber. Laughter is love. Joy is justice. And when we combine those with your unstoppable support, we overcome challenges. Let's make 2025 the year we laugh louder and love harder.

- Chéree and Merkeb

## *Domestic, Sexual & Trafficking Violence Hotlines*



**855-864-2374**

- You can connect with our advocates via phone call (including TTY), text message, or online chat.
- We don't need any identifying information. We won't even ask for it unless it can help locate resources for you.
- If you're not ready to talk about finding resources or making a plan, that's ok. We can just chat. You are in control.
- We don't keep a record of identifying info. No one will know that you reached out.

INTERSECTIONAL

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### *Survivor Law Clinic*



Our Survivor Law Clinic recently represented a survivor in two separate Personal Protection Order (PPO) matters stemming from the same social group. The survivor dated one of the perpetrators but not the other, so 2 different types of PPOs were requested (domestic relationship and stalking). The perpetrators hired the same attorney to dispute her claims and filed motions to terminate both PPOs.

Each hearing lasted several hours, with the perpetrators calling multiple witnesses and engaging in aggressive victim-blaming. Despite the disparaging testimony, two different judges agreed that the PPOs should stay in place. This success also impacted the criminal charges brought against the perpetrators and both ended up taking plea deals - which likely would not have happened without the momentum and information brought to light because of the SLC's advocacy.

### *New Paths, New Partners*



Economic abuse affects over 90% of survivors, often occurring even after the survivor is out of immediate danger. Those who perpetrate violence will destroy credit, close bank accounts, undermine a survivor's relationship with their employer...anything to exert and maintain control.

To combat this insidious form of abuse, we have partnered with Adventure Credit Union (previously Astera Credit Union) in Lansing to create the Survivor Cents pilot. Survivor Cents deploys trained advocates to follow a survivor through the process of gaining self-sufficiency. By using targeted financial assistance and ongoing support from trained advocates, Survivor Cents allows participants to seek safety and rebuild their financial wellness while avoiding the dangers of taking on debt while in crisis.

## Get Loud, Be Seen

### Your local domestic violence program might close next year.

The federal government funds domestic, sexual, and trafficking violence programs through VOCA, the Victims of Crime Act. VOCA funding is generated via fines for individuals and corporations convicted of federal offenses. The biggest “contributors” are the biggest fine-payers - usually those engaged in white collar or corporate crime.

Guess which type of prosecutions have plummeted over the last decade. Guess what that has done to the Crime Victims Fund. Guess what that means for your local domestic violence shelter. In 2026, Michigan programs are expecting another \$50-80 million drop in VOCA dollars. Since 2018, the amount of VOCA funding available from the federal government has fallen by 76%.

The movement to protect and support survivors of domestic violence was wrought from the blood and sweat of survivors and their allies. It was people before it was policy. Only after decades of pleas and protests did the federal government enact legislation to support its mission.

That support is evaporating. We need people power again. We need you.

Our coalition of 73 domestic, sexual, and trafficking violence programs is organizing an appeal to the Michigan legislature. We are asking them to use state funds to replace \$75 million lost due to VOCA reductions. There was never enough funding to help all survivors of domestic, sexual, and trafficking violence. Now there’s even less. We must ensure that Michigan survivors and the advocates who serve them have the resources to do this important work the right way.

You can do something. You can get a copy of an easy-to-use campaign toolkit at [tinyurl.com/75saveslives](https://tinyurl.com/75saveslives) or by following the link below the newsletter. Inside, you will find all of the information you need to let your state legislator know that Michigan stands with survivors. You can also make a donation directly to the Coalition at [mcedsv.org/donations](https://mcedsv.org/donations) or by following the “Give Help” QR code below, which will provide support for domestic, sexual, and trafficking programs across the state.

We can do something. But we need to do it together and we need to do it now.



GET  
HELP

Begin by Believing

GIVE  
HELP



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[www.mcedsv.org](https://www.mcedsv.org)