

Press Release  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Week Five: South Valley Services seeks public support for Pathways – help us help survivors in Tooele, Utah**

**TOOELE, UTAH** - South Valley Services is in its fifth week of a six-week fundraising campaign, aiming to raise awareness and support for domestic violence survivors. Your support is vital in enabling us to continue providing cost-free services. Each week focuses on a specific aspect of SVS (South Valley Services), highlighting various elements of our mission and the essential services we provide. This week, our spotlight is on Pathways in Tooele, UT, emphasizing their crucial role in supporting survivors and their families. We encourage the public to join us in this effort to positively impact the lives of survivors.

Pathways provides a range of services aimed at supporting survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. Their 24-hour Crisis Line offers trained advocates, including interpretation services for non-English speakers. They have a 12-bed Emergency Shelter, offering safe and confidential short-term housing for those at elevated risk from their abuser. Their home emphasizes trauma-informed advocacy and support, focusing on safety planning, stable housing, and acquiring necessary resources for survivors and their families. Pathways hosts Community Support Groups to foster a caring environment for discussing the impacts of domestic violence and sexual assault. Additionally, they extend services through Community Advocacy, offering safety planning, resource connections, and support, including legal advocacy for information on legal matters. Yesterday, they held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the opening of their new Survivor Advocacy Center in Tooele, UT.

**The Importance of Serving Rural Communities**

The isolation factor in rural settings, characterized by remote locations and sparse populations, contributes to unnoticed abuse. Limited access to support services, including shelters and medical facilities, poses a significant hurdle, exacerbating the vulnerability of victims. Economic factors, cultural norms, and social ties further complicate the issue, with financial dependence and tight-knit communities influencing reporting behaviors. Legal challenges in rural courts, such as resource constraints, backlog, and coordination issues, add another layer of complexity. However, rural communities often offer informal support systems, emphasizing the need for targeted strategies to address the isolation, service gaps, socioeconomic issues, cultural influences, and legal hurdles unique to domestic violence in rural areas. That is why we are excited to see the impact Pathways' new Survivor Advocacy Center will have.

**Pathways' Impact in 2023**

- 94 Survivors sheltered for a total of 3,427 bed nights
- 214 Survivors served outside of Shelter
- 123 Survivors received victim advocacy services
- 47 adults and 9 children received individual or group counseling
- 44 Survivors received criminal or legal advocacy

**Coming Weeks: A Glimpse into Our Campaign Themes**

**Week Six: Community Education and Prevention:** The final week is concluding the campaign by focusing on education and prevention efforts, emphasizing the community's role in breaking the cycle of domestic violence.

**Get Involved!**

We invite you to make a difference by contributing to South Valley Services. Your support enables us to continue providing critical services to survivors and work towards a future free from domestic violence. To donate, please visit [www.svsutah.org/donate](http://www.svsutah.org/donate).

To participate, or learn more, contact:

Sara Way

Communications Manager, South Valley Services

T: 269-282-2668

E: [saraw@svsutah.org](mailto:saraw@svsutah.org)

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South Valley Services (SVS) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that has served the local community since 1998. South Valley Services is a survivor-centered organization where individuals impacted by domestic abuse and sexual violence can realize their own strength, courage, and resilience while on their path to an empowered future. For more information, please visit our website at [www.svsutah.org](http://www.svsutah.org).

**Provided Photos:**



*\*Pictured: Pathways Shelter Director, Wendy Stilson*