

Survivors Need Urgent, Continued Support

by Beth Morrison, President & CEO

JUNE 13—At approximately 1 a.m., a woman was asleep on her sofa when she discovered a man standing over her. The man had broken into her Rochester Hills apartment and forced her to perform a sex act. She alerted the authorities after the assault, and they are still investigating the crime.

AUGUST 13—A 48-year-old optometrist in Orion Township lured a patient, a 33-year-old woman, into his personal office. While she tried on a new pair of contact lenses, the doctor exposed and fondled himself in front of the patient. The doctor was arraigned on indecent exposure charges and the sheriff's office is encouraging patients who experienced similar behavior from the doctor to come forward.

SEPTEMBER 9—A 50-year-old man, recently accused of a long history of physically and emotionally abusing his ex-wife, barricaded himself with an arsenal of weapons in the West Bloomfield home he had been ordered to leave as a part of his divorce judgment. During a 20-hour standoff with police that required the evacuation of 15 neighboring homes, the man fatally shot a police officer—a husband and father of four children—before turning the gun on himself.

SEPTEMBER 11—A woman was physically and sexually assaulted, and threatened with a firearm by her 47-year-old male acquaintance before she was able to escape the home in Farmington where she was held against her will. Her report of the crime led to a four-hour standoff with police before the suspect finally surrendered and was arrested.

OCTOBER 10—A 55-year-old Ferndale man is charged with assault by strangulation of a 52-year-old Southfield woman he had recently met at a court-ordered anger management class. When she rejected his romantic advances, the man reportedly grabbed the woman by the neck, pushed her to the floor, and punched and choked her until she lost consciousness.



If you're anything like me, and I think that you are, these stories horrified you. From the women, children and families we speak to every day at HAVEN, we know all too well the reality and prevalence of such horrors.



It's my guess that you first supported HAVEN because you believe in a world where your loved ones are safe from devastating harm at the hands of another person. We appreciate your compassion and conviction that a safer world is not only possible, but worth fighting for. That's why we need your continued support!

Your past support has been so meaningful to those who turn to us for safety and solace during times of crisis.

It is only because of your generosity that we are able to provide help and hope to victims of sexual and domestic violence, free of charge, and offer education and advocacy within schools and our community to create a culture where violence is not tolerated.

It is my sincerest hope that you or your loved ones never need the help of HAVEN...but right now, we need you. **Please consider making a gift today.**

From our families to yours, we wish you a peaceful holiday season.



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