



## FACT SHEET

### History of the Cause

Sojourner Center was founded in 1977 by a group of visionaries who believed women and children needed a safe place to live, free from domestic violence. Since that time Sojourner Center has grown from a single 28-bed shelter in a dilapidated building to three campus sites, housing 280 shelter beds and 15 transitional apartments with an array of comprehensive domestic violence services provided.

**Our mission** is to overcome the impact of domestic violence, one life at a time. **Our goal** is to increase safety, as well as promote empowerment and self-sufficiency for all of our program participants. **Our services** include safe shelter, food and clothing at our two emergency shelter facilities, safety planning, domestic violence awareness and education classes for women and children, case management, a licensed and nationally accredited child care and pre-school facility, 24-hour crisis hotline and referral service, community education services, employment and education assistance, lay-legal advocacy, transitional housing for families leaving shelter and continuing support for families beyond their shelter stay.

With a total of 280 beds, Sojourner Center is the largest domestic violence shelter in the nation. This year the organization will serve more than 2,600 women and children who are escaping violent homes.



### The Woman Behind the Mission

Sojourner Truth was an activist and abolitionist during the time of the American Civil War. Given the name Isabella Baumfree, she was born into slavery circa 1797. Following her emancipation in 1827 she became an abolitionist, women's rights activist and preacher, traveling the eastern part of the nation with her messages of non-violence and reform. In 1843 she changed her name to Sojourner Truth believing herself to be on a journey, or sojourn, to only speak the truth to all she had the privilege to meet. Sojourner Truth has become a national symbol of the strength and courage needed to create change and Sojourner Center is honored to take its name from such a powerful and honorable figure in American history.



***“Many individuals wonder why women don’t leave abusive relationships. One answer is that they often have nowhere safe to go. Sojourner Center’s vision is to expand domestic violence shelter and transitional housing in our community so no victim is ever forced to return to a violent home.”***

**- Connie Phillips, Executive Director**

## Facts of Domestic Violence

- **1 out of every 4 women will experience domestic violence in their lifetime** (*Tjaden, Patricia & Thoennes, Nancy. National Institute of Justice and the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, "Extent, Nature and Consequences of Intimate Partner Violence: Findings from the National Violence Against Women Survey," 2000*).
- **On average, more than three women are murdered by their husbands or boyfriends in the United States every day** (*Bureau of Justice Special Report, Intimate Partner Violence and Age of Victim 1993-1999, October 2001*).
- **Every 44 minutes in Arizona, one or more children witness a domestic violence incident** (*Tuscon Centers for Women and Children. Statistics of Abuse. October 31, 2007*).
- **In 2005, Phoenix police officers responded to over 14,000 domestic violence calls: 18 of those were homicides** (*City of Phoenix Police Department*).



**Partner with us and be a part of the solution! You too can overcome the impact of domestic violence, one life at time.**

### Interested in getting involved?

Join us for one of our monthly scheduled Hope Tours! Please contact Selina Carreon, Development Coordinator at 602-244-0997 ext 153 or via email at [scarreon@sojournercenter.org](mailto:scarreon@sojournercenter.org) to schedule your Hope Tour.

For more information about upcoming events and ways to get involved visit our website at [www.sojournercenter.org](http://www.sojournercenter.org) or call (602) 244-0997.

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