Mission: To provide a continuum of services so that individuals and families can achieve safety, stability, and self-sufficiency.
Dear Friends, Clients, Staff, Volunteers and Partners,

Thank you.

Thank you for believing that each woman, man and child in our community deserves to be treated with dignity, equity and compassion.

Thank you for understanding that security is not just about having a roof over your head, but also about feeling safe, enjoying a meal with your family, the pleasure of making new friends, and embracing the freedom to sleep without fear, isolation or abuse.

In fiscal year 2016 we answered over 800 calls for help, assistance and information; provided one-on-one support for more than 450 families; and provided 24,190 nights of shelter. We accomplished this in spite of facing an unprecedented state financial condition that ended other critical human services across Illinois, as well as cuts in our federal funding. We could not have done so without all of you.

Thank you for believing in people you have never met.

Most sincerely yours,

Isak

Isak Griffiths
Executive Director

SAFETY | Helping over 800 people in crisis

Our hotline, staffed 24 hours / 7 days a week, provides assistance and guidance for those in need whenever they need it.

One-on-one safety planning, counseling and court advocacy is available to clients. Court advocates guide clients through the intimidating and arduous legal process.

For those fleeing abuse, Courage Connection provides up to 45 days of secure housing; including basic essentials like clothes, food, toiletries, bedding, help with transportation, and school enrollment for children.

92 women, 2 men and 77 children received emergency shelter and safety.

“Having a person walk through the process in obtaining an order of protection can give the added strength needed to take an important step towards safety.”

– Marietta Turner, Ed.D. Courage Connection Board Member, Dean of Students, Parkland College

Office 217.352.7151  Domestic Violence Hotline 217.384.4390 or 877.384.4390  courageconnection.org
1 in 4 women and 1 in 7 men will be the victim of domestic abuse.

Leaving an abusive partner can be fatal — 3 out of 4 domestic violence murders occur after the decision is made to leave.

“Having a person walk through the process in obtaining an order of protection can give the added strength needed to take an important step towards safety.”

– Marietta Turner, Ed.D. Courage Connection Board Member, Dean of Students, Parkland College
Helping to build a new life

Housing
Stability is the foundation for developing essential skills for success. Our transitional housing gives clients a safe, secure home as they work with our staff on rebuilding their lives.

Support Groups
Support group for friends and families of victims help them understand the dynamics and challenges of abuse, and how to support others in ways that have the potential to do more help than harm.

Job Training & Life Skills
We offer programs in budget planning, parenting classes and job skills. Through the Connections resale store, clients get on-the-job training and the opportunity to develop important life and professional skills. Enactus, a UI student-based organization, partners clients with business leaders for mentoring; clients focus on interviewing skills, resume building, and interpersonal skills; as well as successful work habits. 74 women received professional development training or on-the-job training.

89 women and 105 children received ongoing safety, shelter and support.
Building a new life is laborious and expensive. Re-building is also frustrating, exhausting, and often embarrassing.
**24,190 Shelter Nights Provided**

**819 Calls on the Hotline**

**261 Women 17 Men Utilized Court Advocacy Services**

**153 Orders of Protection Granted**

**148 Women 45 Girls 5 Men 32 Boys**

**181 Women 180 Children Received Shelter**

**74 Women Received Professional Development Training**

**14 Women 16 Children Began Path to Success Through Housing and Rental Assistance Programs**

**2 Men Received Shelter**

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**Clients Before Entering Transitional Housing**

- 18% lived in a place not meant for human habitation
- 4% exited an institutional facility
- 5% lived in a hotel/motel room
- 18% lived in an emergency shelter
- 55% stayed temporarily with friends/family

**Clients After Entering Transitional Housing**

- 86% exited into permanent housing
- 88% had new or increased income
- 68% were able to access non-cash benefits following program participation
Residents achieve self-sustainability in an average of 4 months.
SUCCESS

Self-sustainability

Home

By offering affordable housing, we are able to help people access and maintain quality, independent housing. Through Tenant-Based Rental Assistance, we can offer first and last month’s rent and help clients pay off debts they may have incurred due to economic abuse from a spouse or partner.

Education

Our clients work with Illinois WorkNet, Urbana Adult Ed, Parkland College and the University of Illinois on continuing their education, learning new skills, and earning better jobs.

“If it wasn’t for Courage Connection, I wouldn’t be where I am today. I wouldn’t have been able to grow, forgive and be a better mother.”

– Monique Smith, former Courage Connection client

“If people come to us because they have courage to believe in themselves, the power of hope, and possibility.”

– Isak Griffiths, Courage Connection, Executive Director

IMPACT

CLIENTS SURVEYED UPON EXIT

95% KNOWING MORE WAYS TO PLAN FOR SAFETY

100% FEELING SAFER FROM ABUSE

100% BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF EFFECTS OF ABUSE

100% BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF VICTIM LEGAL RIGHTS

100% CHILDREN KNOWING TWO THINGS TO DO WHEN FEELING UNSAFE
THE PEOPLE WE SERVE

CLIENTS
- Women 69%
- Men 3%
- Transgender <1%
- Children 28%

AGE GROUPS
- 18-30 39%
- 31-59 58%
- 60+ 3%

RACE
- Caucasian 50%
- African American 40%
- Multi-Racial 6%
- Asian 2%
- American Indian/Alaska Native 1%
- Native Hawaiian 1%

Domestic Violence Hotline 217.384.4390 or 877.384.4390
Success Story

Jenny Hall

“Some time ago, I found myself in a situation no one ever expects to be in - I was being abused by my ex-husband. I had nothing of my own. I was scared and I felt completely alone. I needed support so I could again become self-reliant and rebuild my life. Courage Connection was there for me and was so much more than a shelter or emergency hotline. It provided me and my family with legal counsel, guidance, support and the stability we needed to move forward.”

- Jenny Hall, former Courage Connection client and current Courage Connection Board Member.
ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET - $1,989,891

**Income**
- Grants and Contracts: 59%
- Connection Store Sales: 22%
- Private Contributions: 14%
- Rent & Program Fees: 3%
- Other: 2%

**Expense**
- Domestic Violence Services: 36%
- Transitional Housing: 30%
- Fundraising: 25%
- Administration: 7%
- Connections Store: 2%

**Office** 217.352.7151  Domestic Violence Hotline 217.384.4390 or 877.384.4390  courageconnection.org
Success Story

Danielle Mason

With her 4-year old daughter and nowhere else to go, Danielle Mason arrived at the steps of Courage Connection in the middle of a blizzard. “Before Courage Connection, I barely had the will to get out of bed. Just putting one foot in front of the other was a daily struggle.” For years, Danielle suffered from depression and she knew she needed help – for herself and for her daughter.

Living in Courage Connection transitional housing gave Danielle the stability she needed. Once she learned coping skills for dealing with her depression, she had the capacity to rebuild her life. While at Courage Connection, Danielle learned life skills like budgeting and resume building while also breaking down barriers to independence. After a few short months, Danielle began a job at a local bakery and quickly moved her way up to assistant manager.

Today, Danielle is weeks away from her Associates Degree; she is currently planning a wedding, and a family trip to Disney World this year.
COURAGE CONNECTION TIMELINE

2014  Courage Connection is introduced as the new name of our united agency.
2014  Transitions Resale Store expands and is renamed Connections.
2010  The Center for Women in Transition and A Woman's Place become one agency.
2008  Transitions Resale Store opens in Lincoln Square Mall.
1985  Women's Emergency Shelter of Champaign County founded
       (later named Center for Women in Transition)
1971  A Woman's Place founded in Urbana, IL - The nation's first domestic violence shelter.