



Building Community Free From Sexual Violence

Sticking With Our New Year's Resolutions



As 2019 begins, many of us have made resolutions and are actively working to add them to our daily routines. One of mine is to not allow what I see in the media, including social media pass by without caring or **DOING SOMETHING** about it.

Most recently, as the R.Kelly docuseries aired, I didn't want to have to challenge all of the misinformation about child sexual abuse and exploitation that I witnessed. At the same time, our hotlines, requests for emergency hospital advocacy, and services were skyrocketing! How could I not speak up and stand up for these children, particularly Black girls, who are often forgotten or blamed for their abuse? I must recommit and stay the course.

Will you join me and CHH this year as we stay the course? [Follow us](#) online, [share our information](#), [refer a friend](#), [talk to a child](#), [educate your family members](#), [become a volunteer](#) or [donate](#). Whatever way you choose, stick with it and stick with us at CHH! We need each and every one of you as members of our community.

Happy New Year!
Isa Woldegiorgis, Executive Director

Clemency for Cyntoia Brown!

January marks the annual observance of Human Trafficking Awareness Month, and what great timing to recognize the strength, resilience and success of survivors.

On January 7th, 2019, Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam [granted clemency to Cyntoia Brown](#), a survivor of childhood sexual exploitation, who at the age of 16 was sentenced to life in prison, following an act of self defense.



While we celebrate the early release of Ms. Brown and the passionate work of human trafficking activists all around the country, we recognize the injustice that survivors of human trafficking face every day, particularly girls of color and Black girls. During 2017, more than 8,500 cases of potential human trafficking were reported to the National Human Trafficking Hotline. Survivors of human trafficking are constantly under the threat of sexual violence.

At CHH, we support and believe all survivors of sexual violence. We are a part of the solution to end human trafficking. We co-chair the Lowell Child Sexual Exploitation Task Force and hope that you will reach out and learn more about that work. This [Friday, January 11th](#), wear [blue](#) to raise awareness about human trafficking and to show your solidarity to survivors.

We offer free and confidential counseling to survivors of human trafficking and sexual violence and a

2018: A Watershed Year!



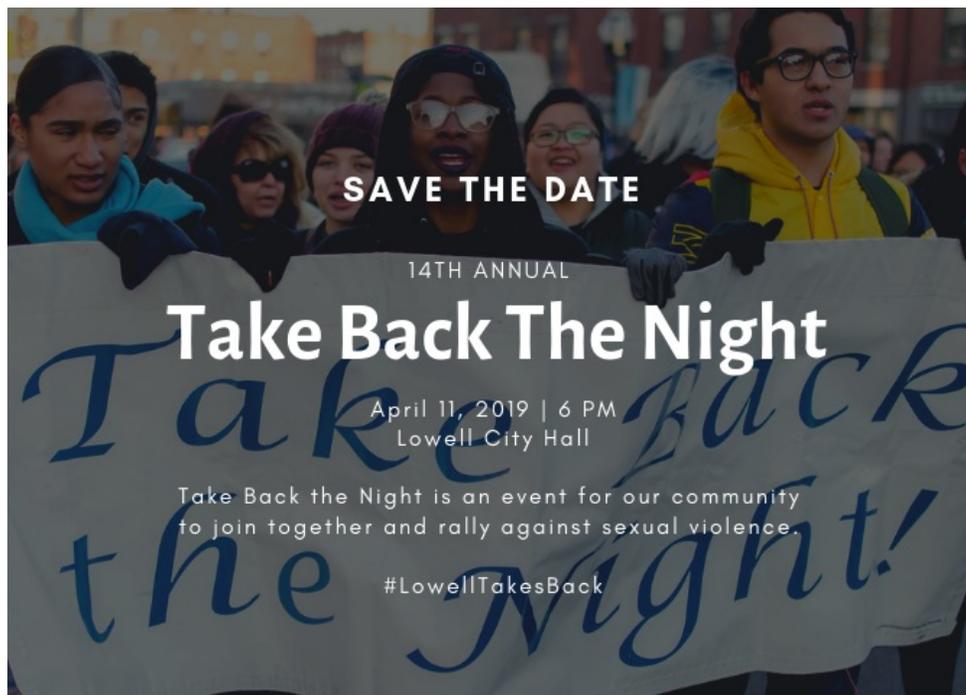
We stood ready to respond during this year of awareness around #MeToo, #TimesUp, and the continued awareness of the bravery of survivors! CHH staff and volunteers responded to huge increases in requests for services totaling 2,502 survivors and loved ones and a 52% increase in hotline calls compared to FY17.

We built a passionate and informed community of 24 volunteer advocates and expanded our reach to support and services to 1,000 people, including LGBTQ/T youth, men and boys, and community providers.

On December 4th, 2018, we hosted our Annual Meeting and Holiday Gathering and reflected on our work. We would like to thank all the wonderful board members, staff, volunteers, and community members who attended and celebrated with us. We had such a great night full of laughter, joy, and community.

[Click here to read our FY18 Annual Report.](#)

Save the Date : Take Back The Night



Take Back The Night represents the earliest world-wide stand against sexual violence. Take Back The Night events have been documented in over 36 countries, in over 800 communities, with more locations taking a stand every year. We have reached over 30 million people with our message of strength and support, and our commitment to ending sexual violence.

Join us this April at Lowell City Hall as we rally against sexual violence. #LowellTakesBack

[Follow Take Back the Night Lowell on Facebook!](#)

HealingCorps Highlight

Zobia (she, her, hers) and Ilsa (she, her, hers) Tariq are two of our newest Hotline and Medical Volunteer Advocates. They are sisters from Salem, NH and work at Salemhaven Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. Zobia recently graduated with a B.S. in Biology from UMass Lowell and Ilsa is a junior in the pre-med track. They live at home with their parents and we are so proud to have them on our team.

Zobia Tariq



"Though I've always been a strong advocate against sexual violence, it wasn't until CHH shone light on its prevalence that I genuinely understood the extent of its devastation. The values and knowledge I've learned at CHH have manifested into my personal life and I can indisputably say have molded me into a much better informed individual. I've noticed how free-spoken and confident I have become especially when it comes to taboo issues that in the past I would tend to veer away from, and that have made me a stronger and more assertive woman than I have ever been before. This is a wonderful organization which

truly ensures progress by arming individuals to provide care and solutions to those who require it most."

Ilsa Tariq

"Last year in a psychology class, I learned about 'rape myth,' 'rape culture,' and the stigma surrounding sexual assault.

It was also then that the #MeToo movement peaked. After hearing all the celebrities stories on their sexual assault incidents, I was determined to do something about it. I felt I could make a difference in the lives of survivors. CHH has helped me tremendously in becoming more informed and in understanding the prevalence of this issue. I have learned so much here and grown as a person while doing so. I have also learned the skills on being able to help and provide support to survivors of sexual assault. I feel empowered and blessed to volunteer for an organization whose main goal is to end sexual violence."



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