"We are powerful because we have survived, and that is what it is all about - survival and growth."
- Audre Lorde

The Our Voice Project

Peer-Led Wellness & Leadership Programs for Survivors

HopeWorks’ mission is to support and advocate for people in Howard County affected by sexual and intimate partner violence and to engage the community in creating the change required for violence prevention.

Through The Our Voice Project, HopeWorks’ provides opportunities for survivors of sexual and intimate partner violence (including adult survivors of child abuse) to create a supportive community for their healing journey and serve as advocates to end these forms of violence.

The Our Voice Project is comprised of eight peer-led educational and wellbeing programs that are based in trauma-informed peer support and self-advocacy. The Our Voice programs are not intended to replace or to be a substitute for clinical counseling.

Questions?

For program descriptions please see the reverse side of this flier. To register for a program, visit our website at:

HopeWorksOfHC.org/events

Call the Engagement Department at 410 - 997-0304, ext. 7720

Email Vanita Leatherwood, the Director of Community Engagement at vleatherwood@HopeWorksOfHC.org for more information.
Leadership Opportunities

The Our Voice Advisory Board is HopeWorks’ organizing mechanism for survivors to build community, share insights and provide feedback on issues such as current events, and agency services or programs. The quarterly meetings are held in the months of January, April, July, and October.

Survivors Support Group for Learning and Self-care

Survivors are invited to attend Preservation, a peer-led self-care and support circle. Through engaging and creative activities, we cultivate continued courage, self-compassion, connection, learning and self-directed advocacy. Events, and topics vary. Past events have included workshops about emotional abuse, the effects of trauma on the body and arts-based stress relief techniques. Meets on the second Saturday of the month (September to May) Noon to 2pm. Preservation Circle is supported by a grant from the Horizon Foundation.

Developing Self-care Practices

Poetry N2 Wellness one-on-one sessions features the use of poetry therapy, where survivors learn and practice wellness and healing techniques. Sessions include development of self-care practices and mindfulness tools, as well as creative activities such as expressive journaling, visual journaling, and mixed-media arts. No prior art or writing experience is needed. Call to schedule an appointment for an entrance interview.

Fostering Self-care & Healing

In our eight-week Self-care & the Healing Journey workshop series, we use expressive arts activities to explore issues, share insights and learn from guest speakers. Topics include stress relief, healing, self-awareness, identity, understanding boundaries, self-compassion, mental and physical health awareness, and the dynamics of experiencing multiple oppressions (e.g., poverty and sexual violence).

Addressing Intersections of Oppression & Healing

In LOVED: A Survivor Self-care Circle for Black Women, we address “triple jeopardy;” the exploitation and oppression experienced by survivors who are Black women. Through engaging and creative activities, we cultivate self-love, beloved community, and strategies to address the root causes of violence. Sessions feature the use of transformative language arts techniques, creative expression, guided discussions, seminars, and guest speakers. Typically meets on the fourth Saturday of the month (September to May), 10am to Noon. LOVED is supported by a grant from the Horizon Foundation.

Maintaining Your Healing Journey

After participating in Poetry N2 Wellness one-on-one sessions or a workshop series you are eligible to receive Journaling Our Voice, a monthly eNewsletter focusing on expressive arts techniques such as poetry, journaling prompts, inspirational quotes, arts journaling ideas, affirmations and more.

Annual Wellness & Self-care Day Retreat

This is a day of interactive workshops called the Unlearning Not to Speak Day Retreat, where we share, play, reflect, learn, and collectively celebrate surviving and thriving.

Preparing to Share Your Survivor Story

If you would like to be a member of HopeWorks’ Speakers Bureau, inquire about our next Speakers Bureau Training program. In this eight-week workshop series we provide you with the support and tools to be an effective public speaker. Call to schedule an appointment for an entrance interview.

finding our voice. speaking our truth. living our lives - well.

Preservation Circle and LOVED are supported by a grant from the Horizon Foundation.