

shelter for women and their children that offers a wide range of services to support survivor's in their journey to healing. Services available through Genesis include the following:

- **24 Hour Crisis Phone and Text Lines** are staffed with advocates trained to provide crisis counseling, safety planning, referrals and information about domestic, sexual and human trafficking violence.

- **Emergency Safe Shelter** offers safety and security to survivors of domestic, sexual and trafficking violence.

- **Offsite Safe Shelter** is available for men experiencing domestic, sexual or trafficking violence.
- **Safety Planning** is provided to every survivor served by Genesis.

- **Case Management** services supports survivors in assessing their needs and establishing goals for healing and transitioning to the next chapter of their lives. The Case Manager assists survivors with budgeting, employment, housing, government benefits, healthcare, obtaining important documents and furthering education or vocational training.

- **Legal Advocacy** provides information, emotional support and referrals to survivors navigating the court system.

- **Support Groups and Meditation Groups** are available to survivors of domestic, sexual and

trafficking violence.

- **Emergency Resources** such as food, clothing and limited financial assistance are available to survivors through the Good Samaritan Emergency Resource Center, Good Samaritan Thrift Shop and community partners.

For survivors that choose not to enter shelter, Genesis provides all of the aforementioned resources through non-residential services provided by the Non-residential Case Manager. In addition, Genesis provides Rural Advocacy to survivors trying to seek help in the smaller communities of Pulaski County. The Rural Victim Advocate provides services in confidential and discreet locations in Dixon, Crocker and Richland. Rural Victim Advocate Wendy Miller, shared that through the Rural Victim Advocacy Program, she can travel to the smaller communities of the county and meet with survivors who might not otherwise have an opportunity to receive services. "Those living in rural areas who experience domestic and sexual violence face specific barriers related to their cultural and social characteristics, as well as the geographical location of living in a small community," shared Miller. "The key element to the success of addressing domestic and sexual violence in a rural setting is the existence of available resources. The Rural Victim Advocacy Pro-

gram allows us to expand intervention services to a much broader base of those in need and grant them the opportunity to see themselves as a strong survivor."

Good Samaritan of the Ozarks Executive Director, Suzanne Wilber, shared that although 2020 proved to be a very challenging time, Genesis continued to provide services without closing their doors due to COVID-19. In 2020, Genesis received 390 hotline calls and texts, 75 women and children were provided safe shelter at Genesis, with 2 men receiving offsite safe shelter, and 179 non-residential and rural clients were served.

During Sexual Assault Awareness Month, Genesis will be implementing the 2021 SAMM theme, "We Can Build Safe Online Spaces". According to the National Sexual Violence Resource Center, we can all stop sexual harassment and abuse before it happens by addressing the bigger picture in which it occurs. Working together, there are ways we can keep our on-



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line spaces safe as leaders and as individuals. Leaders can take steps to secure their online spaces from outside threats, implement policies that promote equality and respect, take reports of harassment or abuse seriously and hold those responsible accountable. Individually, we can step in when we come across problematic or harmful comments, behaviors, or content. Individuals can also educate others and advocate for leaders to take meaningful action.

When it comes to ending sexual violence, we all have a role to play. People commit sexual assault and people can stop it. By its very nature, the work to address sexual violence is an ethical endeavor to ease suffering, promote justice and bring about lasting social change. The harm caused by sexual and do-



May 3 - 7
Monday - Breakfast - Toast, Cereal, Juice and Milk. **Lunch** - Chicken Pattie, Sweet Potatoe Fries, Peas, Sliced Peaches and Milk.
Tuesday - Breakfast - Pancake Sausage, Bananas, Juice and Milk. **Lunch** - Popcorn Chicken, Sweet Potatoe Fries, Steamed Broccoli, Carrot Sticks, Apples and Milk.
Wednesday Breakfast - Breakfast Burrito, Juice and Milk. **Lunch** - Grilled Ham & Cheese, Tater Tots, Fresh Fruit, Jello and Milk.
Thursday - Breakfast - Buttered Toast, Scrambled Eggs, Juice and Milk. **Lunch** - Salisbury Steak, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Roasted Vegetables, Applesauce, Bread and Milk.
Friday - Breakfast - Biscuits, Gravy, Sliced Peaches, Juice and Milk. **Lunch** - Sausage and Cheese Pizza, Salad, Raw Veggies w/Dip, Grapes, Jello and Milk.

estic violence is undeniable. It reaches into the lives of individuals, families, and entire communities. But united, we can meet each day with renewed energy knowing that each step forward moves us closer to ending the violence. For more information about sexual and domestic violence or to assess serv-

ices, please contact one of the following:

- Genesis Crisis Hotline (Available 24/7) at 573-774-2628 or toll free at 887-774-2628
- Genesis Crisis Text Line (Available 24/7) at 573-433-4631
- Genesis Rural Victim Advocate (Direct Line) at 573-528-6502



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