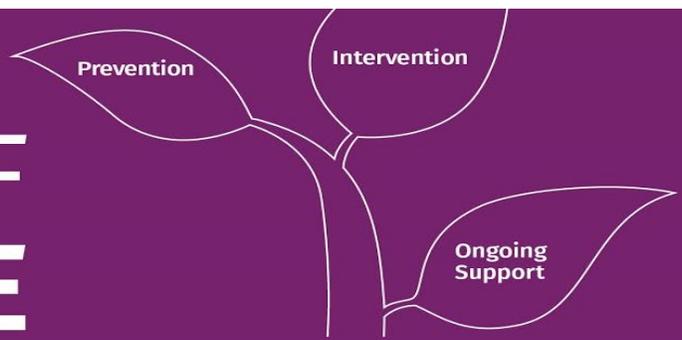


SEEDS OF CHANGE



Mutual Ground's 2nd Annual Food for Thought Fundraising Event - April 21, 2016



Mutual Ground is excited to announce its 2nd Annual Food For Thought Fundraising Event on April 21st at Fisherman's Inn in Elburn, IL. All proceeds from this event will support victims of domestic and sexual violence.

The event will include tastings from local chefs, platinum open bar, raffles, a silent auction, a wine pull and an exciting dice roll game with a \$10,000 cash prize.

Participating vendors include South Moon Barbeque, The Sugar Path, Basils Greek Dining, Fairbanks Steakhouse, Ballydoyle Irish Pub, Stockholm's, Reuland Food Service, Wild Tuna, Mamie's Toffee, Lou Malnati's, Kennedy Pointe, Fishermen's Inn, Coffeeology, Eye Candy Bake Shop and Nothing Bundt Cakes.

"During this time of State budget uncertainty, the funds raised at our Food for Thought event will mean more to us than ever before. The success of this event will help ensure this agency's ability to continue providing vital and often life changing services for the individuals calling on our hotlines, walking through our doors, meeting us in schools, court houses, and emergency rooms," said Michelle Meyer, executive director, Mutual Ground, Inc. "We are incredibly grateful for our community support and hope to see you all having a great time for a great cause with us on April 21st!"

To help celebrate the new monthly giving program partnership between State Street Jewelers in Geneva and Mutual Ground, State Street Jewelers has generously donated a specially de-

signed diamond pendant to be raffled at Food for Thought. The pendant holds 44 diamonds totaling almost .50 total carat weight and 14 kt. white gold.

Tickets for Food for Thought are available for \$125 per ticket. Tickets include open bar from 6 to 9:30 p.m. and tastings from all participating restaurants. A limited number of VIP tickets have already sold out.

To purchase tickets, please visit our website at www.mutualground.org.



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Clinical Director Spotlight

Alisa Neary, MSW, LCSW
Clinical Director

Alisa's passion for serving victims was sparked as an undergraduate student when she began volunteering on a domestic violence crisis hotline. Since that time, she has provided direct service as a victim advocate and a therapist, then more recently worked in program development, implementation and management. Whether working directly with survivors or at a programmatic level, she is committed to the empowerment of individuals, families and groups. She states, "I am inspired by the people I have encountered in my almost 2 years at Mutual Ground. We have a dynamic team of advocates and counselors who are knowledgeable, passionate and committed to the work they do. The individuals and families who seek our services possess strengths and conviction beyond compare. All together, it makes for an amazing work experience." Alisa is excited to work in support of Mutual Ground's mission and build upon the strong service model and reputation it holds in the community.

Alisa Neary joined the Mutual Ground team in the summer of 2014. Prior to relocating to Illinois from Southern California, she was a Program Manager at Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles (LAFLA). While at LAFLA, Alisa developed and managed a number of programs including Domestic Violence Supportive Services; Los Angeles City Homelessness Prevention Project; and the Veterans Justice Center. She also provided clinical supervision to a team of social workers within LAFLA's Family Law Unit, Eviction Defense Center, Immigration Unit and the Torture Survivors Project. Prior to her time at LAFLA, Alisa worked with victims of domestic violence in both emergency and transitional shelter settings.

During her 11-year tenure at Human Options Second Step, a 12-month residential recovery program for victims of domestic violence, she was instrumental in developing the clinical case management, legal advocacy, mentoring and follow-up programs. For 10 years, Alisa was a faculty member in the Human Services Department at California State University, Fullerton where she taught course work in "Intimate Partner Violence: Assessment, Evaluation and Intervention" and "Serving the Homeless Population." Alisa holds undergraduate degrees in Sociology and Child Development. She received her Master of Social Work degree from the University of Southern California and is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in Illinois and California.

Upcoming Events

Survivors' Art Show and Art Auction

Join us for a "First Fridays" Event at the Santori Public Library as we recognize Sexual Assault Awareness Month and survivors' healing journey via art, music and performance. The art exhibit will also include a silent art auction of work by local artists

Date: Friday, April 1st, 2016

Location: Santori Library

Time: 6-9 p.m.

Mutual Ground's 2nd Annual Food for Thought

Please join Mutual Ground for a very special fundraising event — a memorable night of food created by local chefs, open bar, exciting games of chance, raffles and auctions.

Tickets may be purchased online at www.mutualground.org

Date: Thursday, April 21, 2016

Location: Fishermen's Inn

Time: 6-10 p.m.

Walk a Mile in Her Shoes

Mutual Ground and YWCA Aurora are proud to announce the 4th Annual "Walk a Mile in Her Shoes". The march will take place during Aurora's Memorial Day Parade. The march gives men the opportunity to raise awareness in our community about the seriousness of violence against women.

Date: Monday, May 30, 2016

Location: Downtown Aurora

Time: 11 a.m.

Volunteer Spotlight



Meet Patty D'Arcy one of our many volunteers who work alongside us here at Mutual Ground. Patty joined Mutual Ground in December 2013 and completed her 60 Hour Sexual Assault & Domestic Violence Advocacy Training in May 2014.

Patty is part of the Hospital Advocacy Team and averages 4 shifts a month. Mutual Ground serves 4 area hospitals; Presence Mercy, Rush-Copley Aurora, Rush-Copley Yorkville, and Northwestern Medicine - Delnor. If an individual presents with signs of do-

mestic or sexual violence at one of those area hospitals, we send a volunteer hospital advocate to introduce them to services offered at Mutual Ground. Being a hospital advocate is like being a firefighter in that you need to be ready even when there is no fire or in our case no hospital call.

This is not easy work, but Patty being a nurse, is use to being ready for an emergency. Patty has also helped us in many other areas such as Awareness Tables, Santa's Workshop, and recently hosted a Volunteer Mixer meeting. Patty is a member of Holy Cross Catholic Church in Batavia and is active in the Domestic Violence Ministry. Patty is undoubtedly a superstar volunteer! We are very grateful for Patty and the many volunteers who generously give their time for our mission.



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Please visit our website to see our updated wish list at www.mutualground.org



Mutual Ground Inc. was founded in 1975, with the goal of providing programs that focus on Prevention, Intervention, and Ongoing Support for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault and their families. Mutual Ground is now one of the largest and oldest domestic violence/sexual assault agencies in the state of Illinois. All services are victim-centered and focus on advocacy that empowers each individual to make her/his own decisions.

Located in Aurora, Illinois. Our service area is the Greater Aurora area, including all of Southern Kane and Kendall Counties.

COMMUNITY PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

Mutual Ground would like to thank our friends at State Street Jewelers in Geneva for their incredible support in the development of the new “GEM-Giving Every Month” program. The new program gifts donors, who pledge to donate \$40 or more every month to Mutual Ground, with a custom piece of jewelry specially designed by State Street Jewelers.

The custom piece of jewelry can be made into a lapel pin or a pendant. For every year that a contributor is a Mutual Ground GEM, State Street Jewelers will add a diamond to the jewelry piece, free of charge.

The purpose of the program is to help provide Mutual Ground with a reliable source of revenue it can count on every month. This allows the organization to effectively plan for the future and maintain its comprehensive services, free of charge to victims of domestic and sexual violence.

For more information on the program and how to enroll, please www.mutualground.org, and click on the “Get Involved” tab.

Thank you State Street Jewelers for all that you do for your community!



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