



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Sojourner launches 24-hour domestic violence textline**

*A new, accessible way for survivors to seek help from abuse*

**MILWAUKEE** – June 27, 2021 – People experiencing domestic violence can text (414) 877-8100 for help from a trained Advocate. Sojourner, Wisconsin’s largest provider of domestic violence prevention and intervention services, recently added free, confidential 24-hour text support to complement its 24-hour domestic violence hotline.

Texting creates a new, accessible way for domestic violence survivors to seek help. Survivors often report a lack of privacy makes it difficult to call and discuss concerns over a family member or partner’s abusive or violent behavior. In addition, many survivors prefer texting due to anxiety, a disability or out of fear.

“Our goal is to make it as easy as possible for survivors to connect with us,” said Carla Washington, Vice President of Programs and Chief Partnership Officer. “We’ve adapted and evolved to meet survivors where they are, using communication channels they prefer. We want to make our services as accessible as possible.”

Sojourner rolled out the new technology during a soft launch to referring partners in late May. The text line complements Sojourner’s 24-hour domestic violence phone line, which receives over 15,000 calls from survivors, community members and law enforcement annually.

“We continue to see the pandemic’s impact on domestic violence and the people we serve,” said Washington. “Survivors are experiencing egregious acts of abuse and violence and many people lack the privacy needed to make a phone call that could save their life. We hope that adding the option to text us for help removes a critical barrier to seeking safety.”

If you or someone you know is living in an abusive situation, call (414) 933-2722 or text (414) 877-8100 to connect with a Sojourner Advocate. All calls and texts are confidential. Visit [familypeacecenter.org](http://familypeacecenter.org) for more information.

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In 2020, Sojourner answered more than 15,000 calls from police officers, community members and survivors through its 24-hour domestic violence hotline, provided more than 13,000 nights of emergency shelter and served over 10,000 survivors and their families. For more information about Sojourner, how to get help or how to help survivors, visit [www.familypeacecenter.org](http://www.familypeacecenter.org).

### **About Sojourner**

The mission of Sojourner is to transform lives impacted by domestic violence. Sojourner provides crisis housing, system advocacy and individual support. Sojourner is the largest provider of domestic violence prevention and intervention services in Wisconsin, serving more than 10,000 clients annually. Our primary goals are to ensure the safety of victims of family violence and to provide a pathway out of violence for victims and abusers through opportunities to make positive and lasting changes for themselves and their children. Sojourner is committed to creating communities where people live peacefully. For more information, visit [www.familypeacecenter.org](http://www.familypeacecenter.org) or contact the 24-Hour Domestic Violence Hotline. Call (414) 933-2722 or text (414) 877-8100.

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