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SOJOURNER EMERGENCY FUND TO HELP THE FAMILIES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS

An increased number of Milwaukeeans lost their lives to domestic violence in 2016

MILWAUKEE 10.03.16 – Intimate partner homicides are up 100% (four to eight) in Milwaukee when compared to the same time last year, while intimate partner shootings increased 700% (from one to eight). In each of these cases the couples impacted had a history of domestic violence, either in their current or past relationship.

The average cost for a funeral in 2016 is approximately \$7,000. So when an unexpected death, such as the intimate partner homicides mentioned above, occurs, many families must take out loans to cover funeral costs. To help ease the burden, [Sojourner](#), a nonprofit domestic violence agency that provides support, resources, and advocacy for families who have lost their loved ones to domestic violence, created the Sojourner Emergency Fund. Due to the increased number of intimate partner homicides in 2016, and in an effort to lessen the burden in the midst of grief, Sojourner is seeking donations to help cover funeral costs for Milwaukee families who unexpectedly lost a loved one to domestic violence.

One of those families is that of Nya Hammond. Last Monday, September 26, 2016, nineteen-year-old Nya tragically lost her life to domestic violence. Nya leaves behind a three-year-old son PJ. In the wake of this heartbreak, Sojourner asks for your support by making a gift to the Sojourner Emergency Fund to help Hammond's family (among others) with funeral costs.

As a community, we can support survivors by letting them know it's not your fault, you are not alone and Sojourner is here for you. Sojourner encourages neighbors, colleagues, friends and families to reach out to our 24-hour confidential Domestic Violence Hotline: 414-933-2722. Sojourner Advocates can help answer questions on what to do if you are being hurt, if you know someone who is hurting, or if you are hurting someone.

To make a gift to the Sojourner Emergency Fund, please call Sojourner at 414-276-1911 or visit www.familypeacecenter.org.

For interviews, contact Sojourner Public Relations Coordinator, Maren McFarlane at 414-810-1825.

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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 9,500 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. **Sojourner 24-Hour Domestic Violence Hotline: 414-933-2722**

About Family Peace Center

Sojourner is one of the first in the nation to house holistic services for victims of domestic violence of all ages, under one roof. In addition to moving our current crisis housing facility, Sojourner Truth House, and the Sojourner 24-hour domestic violence hotline, Sojourner is joined with Children's Hospital of Wisconsin, Milwaukee Police Department, Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office, Milwaukee Public Schools, Jewish Family Services and many more to co-locate services for families impacted by domestic violence.

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