



Dear Friend,

Montana is once again a winter wonderland. Snow has made a dramatic entrance, bringing both beauty and challenge. Treacherous roads put us all on alert. Extreme temperatures remind us of the real elements of life. Sparkling pine trees cause us to ponder life's deepest meaning. Here and there, amongst winter's harsh bravado are the signs of survival that keep us looking to the future. Children rolling on a pile of snow, even though the weather man says stay inside. Bleachers buried beneath thousands of pounds of frozen water, reminding us that football will return, again. A tiny bird, with a faulty GPS, seeking sustenance by picking at the bark of a naked tree. And when the sun sneaks a glance to the valley floor, a silent gasp of celebration radiates from all spirits, near and far. Beauty and joy and hope slide forth, even in the darkest of times. Friends traversing icy blankets of asphalt to gather as one; bundled beneath five layers, that are neither fashion nor form while fighting against nature's unwavering power, to be connected, for a moment or a meal or a memory. Family calling and texting and Facebooking their concern, their value, their support, their existence, their connection, their truth and always, always, their love.



SAFE Harbor Team 2016

It is a cycle that comes round each year. A cycle reflecting the greater journey we all face in life. Everyone has times of adversity and loss. Life brings new adventures; good, bad and even amazing, no matter what the season or the setting. Through it all, humanity is still the force behind the best moments we ever encounter. It is that humanity; your humanity, your laughter, your belief, your hope, your compassion and your support that helps others as they face the challenges of life that go beyond frozen pipes or a broken car. Your humanity helps SAFE Harbor carry on its work, every day, no matter what the season or the weather. It is with our partners from across the community that we are able to help victims of violence become more empowered and ready to start a new journey.

Together, SAFE Harbor's Team in 2016 delivered direct services to over 1000 clients facing the life altering challenges and societal barriers that violence brings. Many mothers and their children sought shelter. The Legal Team helped victims create permanent pathways to change, with the support of the courts. Counselors provided compassion, aiding those struggling with the emotional and psychological fallout that violence so often brings. Advocates were available around the clock; listening, caring and offering guidance for those rebuilding their life.

None of it could happen without the generosity and assistance that comes from our friends like you, who understand the need and are willing to step forth to help improve the quality of life for others. Not everyone has family who can offer support or guidance. Not everyone has friends who are able to make sure they are okay. However, together, as a community, we can ensure that our neighbors in need have the resources and assistance to make it through the storms of adversity that life presents, to a place where they can go beyond simple survival to a healthy, happy and thriving existence. Thank you for your support of SAFE Harbor and have a wonderful 2016.

SAFE Harbor *Staff and Board of Directors*

