

# DAIS DIGEST



Dear Friends,

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. I'm reminded that this is a time to bring attention to how widespread this issue truly is. Here at DAIS, we see the profound impact that awareness can have—it opens doors for survivors to

seek help, mobilizes our community, and brings us closer to a future free from violence.

This year, the need for our services has never been more urgent. As the only homicide prevention shelter in Dane County, we are acutely aware of the growing demand. The tragic events in Madison—where three out of four homicides this year were related to domestic violence—have shown us, in stark reality, how much is at stake. These incidents are a somber reminder of why raising awareness is not just important, but essential.

At DAIS, we remain dedicated to our mission of providing a safe haven for survivors, but we know we can't do it alone. The solution lies in a collective effort to support, protect, and uplift those impacted by domestic violence. Awareness is the first step toward change, but sustained action is what builds a safer, more compassionate future for everyone in Dane County.

As we prepare for the challenges and opportunities ahead—especially in light of diminishing public funding—we ask for your continued engagement. Your support is the lifeline that allows survivors to find safety, healing, and hope.

With hope and determination,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Shannon Barry".

Shannon Barry,  
MSSW Executive Director



Dear Supporters of DAIS,

As we continue to confront the challenges of domestic violence in our community, I am reminded of the power of partnership. At DAIS, we understand that addressing such a deeply rooted and pervasive issue requires more than any

single solution—it demands a collective effort.

Over the years, I have witnessed firsthand how the unique strengths of our partners—whether local restaurants, businesses, or professionals across human services and the university—have come together to support survivors. These partnerships are a testament to the compassion and commitment that exist within our community. Together, we are actively working to destigmatize domestic violence, to assure survivors and their loved ones that they are not alone, and to create a network of care that reaches across every neighborhood in Dane County.

Domestic violence thrives in silence and isolation. By uniting our efforts, we are breaking that silence. We are building a community where survivors feel not only seen and heard but truly valued while showing them that there is a place to turn. This kind of solidarity is essential in empowering survivors to reclaim their lives.

To all our partners, donors, volunteers, and supporters—thank you. It is through your generosity, compassion, and dedication that we are able to continue this vital work.

With deepest gratitude,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Heather Crowley".

Heather Crowley,  
President, Board of Directors

# DAIS

DOMESTIC ABUSE INTERVENTION SERVICES

## Our Mission

Empower those affected by domestic violence and advocate for social change through support, education, and outreach.

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## Upcoming Events

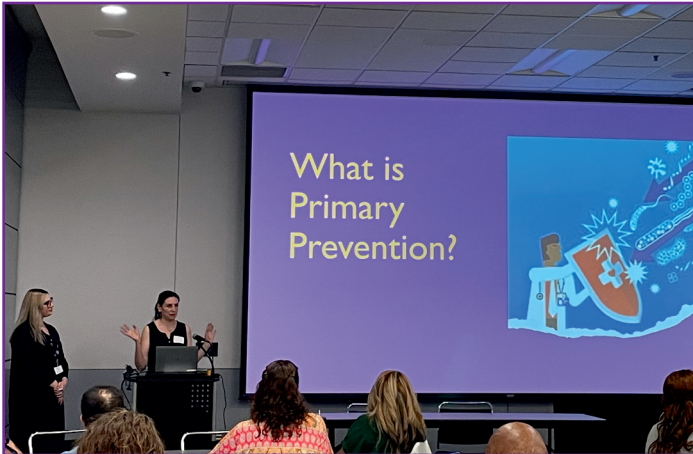
Join us this Domestic Violence Awareness Month all of October to show your support for survivors and DAIS! Stop by our events to participate in this awareness month, learn more, and help raise funds for the essential services for survivors that DAIS provides. Learn more at [abuseintervention.org/events](http://abuseintervention.org/events)



Mark your calendars for a special event- our Community Resource Fair! Hosted by DAIS, join us alongside 20+ other local organizations for a fun, family friendly community resource fair and celebration! There will be yard games, face painting, food vendors, and more.



## Prevention & Training



### DAIS Advocates for Primary Prevention at MDCVP Coalition Meeting

At a recent Madison Dane County Violence Prevention (MDCVP) Coalition meeting, Domestic Abuse Intervention Services (DAIS) had the opportunity to spotlight the critical role of primary prevention in combating domestic violence. Faye Zemel, Director of Services, and Zoë Heitzinger, Manager of Prevention, Outreach, Education, and Training, led an insightful presentation emphasizing the necessity of addressing violence before it escalates.

During their presentation, Faye and Zoë introduced the powerful river analogy to explain primary prevention. The river analogy, often used in public health discussions, helps to illustrate the concept of preventing problems before they arise. Imagine a community living along a river where people keep falling into the water and needing rescue. While rescuing those in immediate danger is crucial, it's equally important to go upstream and find out why people are falling into the river in the first place. Primary prevention is about going upstream and fixing the bridge to prevent people from falling in at all.

In the context of violence prevention, primary prevention involves strategies and interventions that aim to stop violence before it starts. This includes

addressing the root causes and social determinants that contribute to violence, such as economic inequality, social norms that condone violence, and lack of access to education and resources.

Faye and Zoë highlighted the importance of understanding the underlying factors that lead to violence. By identifying and addressing these root causes, communities can create environments where violence is less likely to occur. Effective primary prevention requires the active participation of the entire community. This includes engaging community members, organizations, and policymakers in collaborative efforts to promote safety and well-being. DAIS efforts include implementing educational programs that teach healthy relationship skills, conflict resolution, and respect, especially within our MENS (Men Encouraging Nonviolent Strength) Club at sites across Madison middle and high schools, as well as community training throughout Dane County. These programs are designed to foster positive behaviors and attitudes from an early age, as with MENS Club, and empower people in the community to embrace healthy relationships and equip them to advocate for interpersonal respect within their circles of influence.

DAIS is committed to integrating primary prevention into its comprehensive approach to violence prevention. Through education, outreach, and community partnerships, DAIS aims to build a foundation for a safer and healthier community. Faye Zemel and Zoë Heitzinger's presentation at the MDCVP Coalition meeting underscored the importance of proactive measures in preventing violence and highlighted the dedication of DAIS to this vital work.

For more information about DAIS and its prevention efforts, please visit [abuseintervention.org/prevention](https://abuseintervention.org/prevention)



## Community Connections



### Delta Beer Lab – Brewing Change, One Pint at a Time

At DAIS, we believe in the power of community partnerships, and Delta Beer Lab embodies what it means to be a committed ally. Since opening in 2019, Delta Beer Lab has woven community engagement into every facet of their business, making them not just a brewery but a catalyst for positive change. Founders Pio (Tim Piotrowski) and Speedy (Michelle Riehn) have ensured that their space in Madison's warehouse district is more than just a place to enjoy craft beer—it's a hub where local businesses and nonprofits can connect for the greater good.

In 2022, DAIS had the privilege of partnering with Delta Beer Lab during Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Together, we launched "One in Four," a specialty draft that drew attention to the sobering reality that one in four women will experience domestic violence in their lifetime—a statistic that has since worsened to one in three, according to the CDC. During this time, we enjoyed the opportunity for staff from our organization to guest-bartend—a fun and energizing way to continue raising awareness and fostering dialogue

around what support looks like for survivors of domestic violence. This collaboration was a demonstration of community support and a testament to the impact of partnerships like ours.

Delta Beer Lab's commitment to community support didn't stop with our partnership; it's embedded in their very business model. During our partnership in 2022, tips collected at Delta Beer Lab went directly to a featured nonprofit each month, allowing them to make a tangible difference while ensuring their employees earned a livable wage. This model, rooted in generosity, has allowed Delta Beer Lab to support numerous nonprofits across Dane County, including DAIS.

Even during challenging times, Delta Beer Lab has consistently adapted to uphold its mission of giving back. When the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted the way businesses operated, Delta Beer Lab showed resilience and creativity. They expanded their outreach by transitioning from 12 monthly nonprofit partnerships to featuring a different organization every Tuesday for "Change It Up Tuesdays," which





Leigh Mills, longtime DAIS supporter and anchor for NBC 15 News (left) with Shannon Barry, Executive Director of DAIS, at Delta Beer Lab in 2022 during Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

remains their model to this day. This shift not only broadened their impact, allowing them to support 49 nonprofits in a single year, but also created more opportunities for local organizations like DAIS to raise awareness and engage with the community in Delta Beer Lab's vibrant space. By prioritizing social good, Delta Beer Lab has redefined what it means to be a socially conscious business.

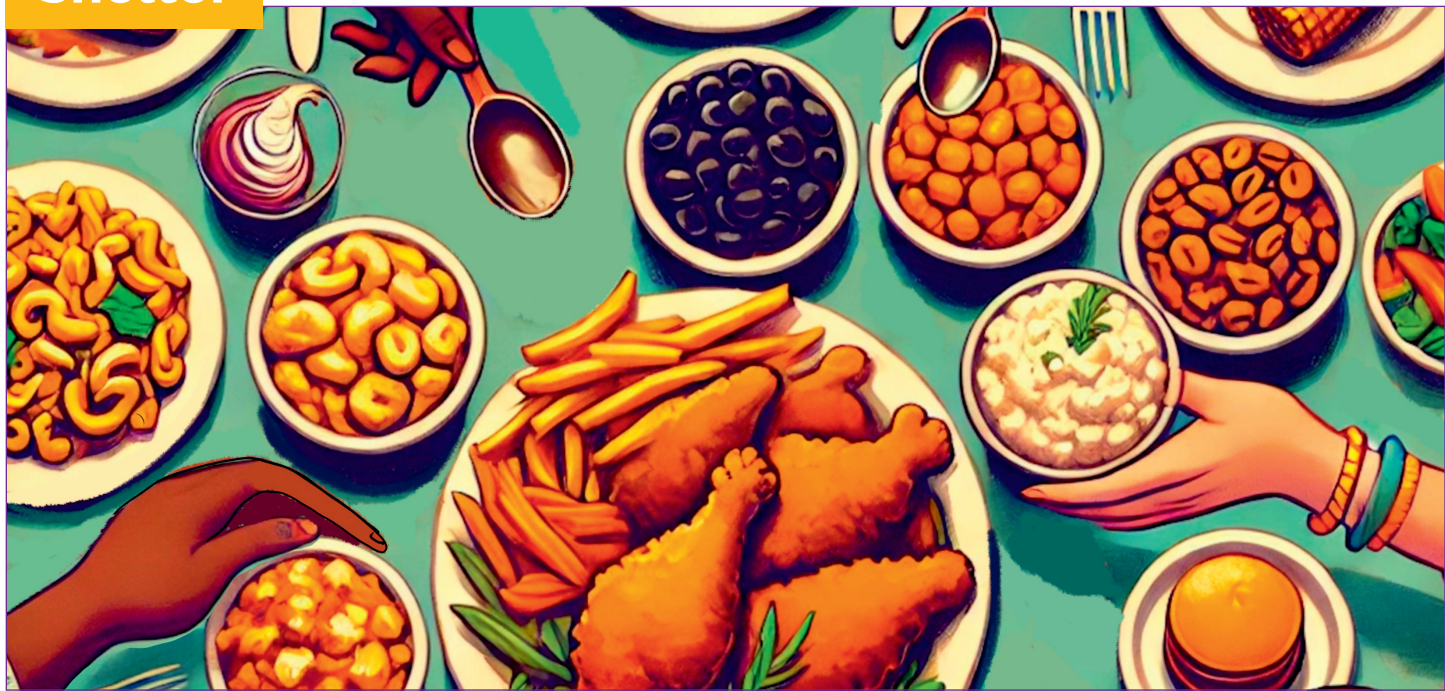
At DAIS, we know that combating domestic violence requires a collective effort, and partnerships with organizations like Delta Beer Lab are key to our success. Delta Beer Lab thrives on bringing people together, and we at DAIS have felt the strength of that connection firsthand. Their dedication to uplifting nonprofits, even during times of challenge, has created a ripple effect of support and solidarity throughout the community.

During our partnership in October 2022, they became more than just a business partner—they became true allies in our mission to support survivors of domestic violence. By amplifying our message and engaging their patrons, Delta

Beer Lab helped bring crucial conversations about domestic violence into everyday spaces, breaking down stigma and encouraging more people to get involved.

Delta Beer Lab's impact goes beyond financial contributions; it is about creating an environment where community well-being is a shared priority. From hosting events that spotlight local causes to ensuring that nonprofits like DAIS have a platform to connect with the public, Delta Beer Lab has continually demonstrated their commitment to making Madison a stronger, more connected city.

We are proud to collaborate with forward-thinking, community-centered organizations like Delta Beer Lab. They have shown that even in the face of obstacles, the spirit of giving back remains essential to strengthening our community while centering compassion. We look forward to continuing our work together, knowing that with partners like Delta Beer Lab by our side, we can create lasting change and provide unwavering support for survivors.



### Juneteenth Community Dinner

Our Juneteenth celebration this year was a heartwarming and belly-filling experience for our shelter residents. Held on Friday, June 21st, to allow residents to participate in community events on Juneteenth itself, the event was exceptionally well-attended and filled with joy and togetherness. The dinner, catered by Melly Mell's Catering—a BIPOC-owned soul food business operating out of the Feed Kitchen in our neighborhood—brought an authentic and delicious touch to the festivities.

At DAIS, we believe it's important to honor a wide spectrum of holidays, and Juneteenth holds special significance for many of our residents. For those unfamiliar, Juneteenth marks the day in 1865 when enslaved African Americans in Texas learned of their freedom—two years after the Emancipation Proclamation. It is a day of profound historical importance, celebrating the resilience, liberation, and rich cultural heritage of Black Americans. For many of our predominantly BIPOC residents, Juneteenth is not only a celebration of freedom but also a time to reflect on the ongoing journey toward equality and justice. By recognizing and celebrating Juneteenth within our shelter, we aim to create

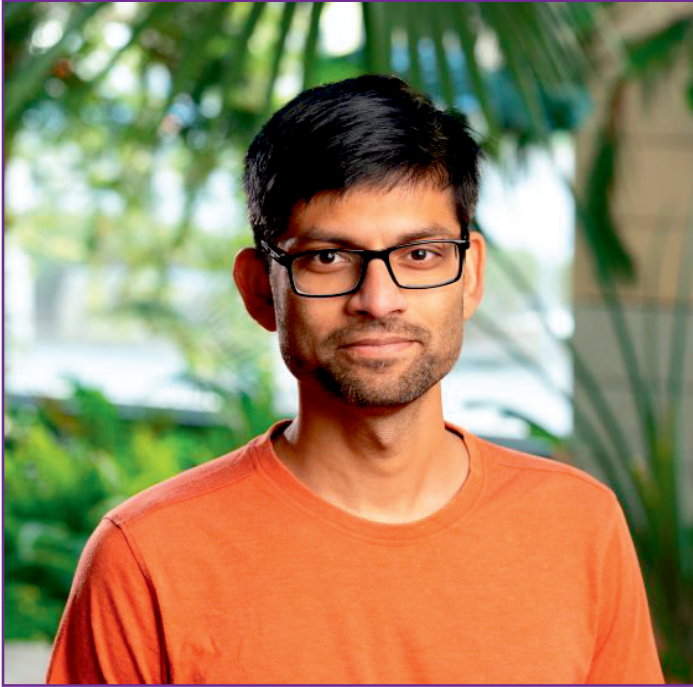
a space where all of our residents feel seen, valued, and supported.

The atmosphere was vibrant as attendees enjoyed a variety of traditional soul food dishes, including fried chicken, catfish nuggets, mac-n-cheese, black-eyed peas, vegetarian greens, candied yams, and cornbread. The fried chicken and catfish nuggets were particularly popular. Residents were thrilled with the meal, which led to the best turnout for a holiday celebration and community meal we've had all year.

Sharing a meal can be a powerful act of healing, especially for those who have experienced trauma. Coming together over food allows for moments of connection, comfort, and a sense of belonging—an experience that is vital for many of our residents as they work toward rebuilding their lives. The Juneteenth dinner was more than just a celebration; it was a chance for individuals to feel nurtured, both physically and emotionally, and to find strength in community. These shared moments remind us that healing often begins with the simple act of coming together in a supportive and caring space.



## Community Collaborations



### Protecting Survivors in Online Spaces

At DAIS, our mission to support survivors of domestic and intimate partner violence (IPV) extends beyond physical safety to address the critical issue of technology-facilitated abuse. As technology becomes more embedded in our daily lives, abusers find new ways to exploit it, further controlling and isolating survivors. We are committed to finding innovative solutions that empower survivors to reclaim their digital privacy and security.

We are proud to collaborate with Professor Rahul Chatterjee from UW-Madison's Department of Computer Sciences. His pioneering research focuses on safeguarding survivors' online spaces, an area often ignored in conversations about IPV. As a recipient of the prestigious National Science Foundation (NSF) CAREER Award for his proposal "Account Security Against Interpersonal Attacks," Professor Chatterjee has illuminated the need for security resources specifically designed for survivors, developing systems that help them maintain control over their digital lives without fear of intrusion.

Technological abuse occurs when abusers use digital tools to stalk, harass, or control victims, exploiting knowledge of devices and personal information to monitor communications, access accounts, or track locations. This under-recognized form of abuse can be pervasive, often trapping survivors in dangerous situations. Professor Chatterjee's research directly tackles these challenges with security measures like unique identifiers in login histories, ensuring survivors can securely access their accounts.

In addition to his research, Professor Chatterjee founded the Madison Tech Clinic, a free community resource offering survivors confidential consultations and digital security support. The clinic, which often meets with clients at our DAIS facility, empowers survivors by providing hands-on assistance with scanning devices, auditing accounts, and securing personal information.

We are inspired by Professor Chatterjee's dedication and proud to partner with him. His recognition through the NSF CAREER Award underscores the importance of addressing technological abuse and highlights the real impact our collaboration can have on survivors' lives. Together, we strive to help survivors regain their sense of security and control in an increasingly digital world.



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# DAIS DIGEST

Fall 2024

## Shelter Fall Wish List



*Your contributions provide comfort and support to our Shelter residents and help DAIS make the most of our resources. Thank you for your support!*

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