

FOR OCTOBER RELEASE:

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Domestic Violence Impacts Us All

Saving lives and creating change is central during Domestic Violence Awareness Month

www.peacefulpaths.org

GAINESVILLE- October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month and Peaceful Paths, the local state certified domestic violence agency, invites you to learn more about supporting survivors in our area. This year Alachua, Bradford, and Union counties experienced homicides linked to domestic violence, and the impacts of these deaths were felt by friends, family, and the community as a whole. Domestic Violence is an epidemic. It affects more than 12 million people a year in the US, with over 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men in the US having experienced rape, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime. In 2026 Peaceful Paths has provided over 1,100 survivors and their children services through residential and outreach programs, demonstrating that Domestic Violence continues to critically impact the local area on a daily basis. Learn the signs and the risks that may be impacting a friend, family member, employee, or neighbor.

Peaceful Paths dedicates efforts to increasing safety, support, and pathways to self-sufficiency for every survivor engaged in services. They strive to fill gaps, meet emerging needs, and build best practices for survivors and their families. Peaceful Paths' advocates, leadership, and Board of Directors work to ensure that survivors gain information and are connected to resources to address barriers as they move forward. A survivor shares, "Since I've been here I've found peace. The fear is gone. I'm able to sleep through the night. The dark cloud is slowly moving from above. I see hope, happiness, and a renewed confidence brewing in my soul. My lesson learned? I am not alone! There are many women of all ages, economic and academic backgrounds experiencing DV. Peaceful Paths has allowed me to decompress with staff support. You can have a new tomorrow if you allow the Peaceful Paths staff to help you today!"

Peaceful Paths offers a helpline that is available to survivors and allies seeking assistance 24/7. Services are free and confidential. People seeking support may also walk in to Peaceful Paths' Outreach office Monday through Friday and speak with a certified advocate. Additionally, they offer free education on Intimate Partner Violence and building healthy relationships to students, organizations, and businesses in the community. Contact them today for a presentation and learn more about recognizing the signs of domestic violence and supporting survivors in your lives and in your community.

A dynamic way to get involved is to attend Peaceful Paths' second *Strength in Strides* Domestic Violence Awareness Walk on October 11, 2026. The walk looks to increase awareness through education stations, anonymous testimonials, and survivor art. The event is free but you can share support through peer to peer fundraising. Learn more at: <https://www.peacefulpaths.org/strengthinstrides>

2026 October Events

Strength in Strides Awareness Walk | October 11, 2026 2:00 -5:00 pm, First Magnitude Brewing Co.

Join Peaceful Paths for our second *Strength in Strides* awareness walk on October 11th, 2026 to support survivors of Domestic Violence and to help us bring awareness to the many challenges that survivors face every day. Participants will learn about the free and confidential services offered at Peaceful Paths and how the community can support our mission to save lives and create change. Learn more at: <https://www.peacefulpaths.org/strengthinstrides>

For more information on the agency, events, volunteering, donating, or educational opportunities, please contact generalinfo@peacefulpaths.org, or visit us on the web at www.peacefulpaths.org

We exist to save lives and create change.