

The Silverleaf Supporter

Promoting awareness of sexual violence in our communities.

Our mission is to promote the health and well-being of our communities
by overcoming the impact and prevalence of sexual trauma through
service, education, and leadership.

From the Assistant Director

As we wrap up the third quarter of 2026 and move into the holiday season, I find myself reflecting on how far we have come as an agency and how much we still hope to accomplish. We work hard every day, whether we are supporting survivors or educating our communities on how to prevent violence. The work can be overwhelming, and at times, it can feel heavy. So, today I want to talk about HOPE!

I recently read an article from the American Psychological Association titled "Hope as the Antidote," and several ideas resonated with me. Hope grows when we recognize our accomplishments, connect with supportive people, and learn to adjust when things don't go as planned. It reminded me how important it is to celebrate the small victories. We are often so focused on what still needs to be done that we forget to appreciate what we have already accomplished. We move from one crisis, client, or deadline to the next without always recognizing the difference we are making.

The article also highlights how hope grows through connection with a supportive community. This brings me back to Silverleaf's 3Cs: Compassion, Collaboration, and Connection. Compassion reminds us to approach survivors and one another with empathy and understanding. Collaboration reminds us that we don't have to carry the weight of this work alone. Connection reminds us that relationships are at the heart of what we do and that we can lean on one another when things get difficult. Hope is woven into all three of these values. We also know that progress doesn't always happen as planned. Healing isn't linear, and neither is the work we do as an agency. Setbacks don't erase progress, and changing direction doesn't mean we have failed. Sometimes, moving forward means finding a different path or recognizing that even a small step matters.

Hope doesn't mean ignoring how hard things are. It means remembering that what we do matters, that progress is possible, and that we don't have to do it alone. Thank you for the compassion you show, the collaboration you bring, and the connections you build every day. I am grateful for the work we do together and hopeful for all we will continue to accomplish.

-Emily E. Neel, CSW

July - September 2026

CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER

668

CLIENTS

3242

SERVICES

1196 CASE REVIEWS

SEXUAL ASSAULT PROGRAM

293

CLIENTS

1897

SERVICES

EDUCATION & AWARENESS

260

PRESENTATIONS/
EVENTS

16,974

PARTICIPANTS

Community

Back to School Events

Silverleaf staff attended over 30 back-to-school events this quarter, reaching almost 12,000 students!



Fort Knox Community Partners

This quarter, we recognized key people who have invited us on base, introduced us to leaders, given us a seat at the table, and asked us to share our knowledge and resources through trainings. We are grateful for their willingness to advocate for Silverleaf and to help us serve survivors throughout our community. Pictured L to R: Beth Avey, VP of Knox Regional Development Alliance; Catina Haynes, SHARP Prevention Coordinator; Charles Lay, Lead Sexual Assault Response Coordinator; Mr. Jim Bradford, Chief of Staff.



Board Fairwell & Thank You

The Silverleaf Board of Directors said goodbye to Kyle Williamson. He served on the board for 6 years, most recently as the Board President. Thank you for your service, Kyle.



Community Partner Award

Silverleaf presented Detective Joey Board, Breckinridge County Sheriff's Office, the Community Partner Award. He was recognized by the forensic team for his professionalism, investigative expertise, and commitment to survivors and families.



Staff Retreat

Silverleaf staff spend most of their time focused on supporting others, but sometimes we need a little time to connect and recharge ourselves. For our recent staff retreat, our team started the day with brunch at Wild Eggs before heading to Board & Brush Louisville, KY to get our craft on.



Staff Spotlight



Stephanie Rausch, Crisis Response Specialist

I am a woman of many hats. I currently serve as the leader of the Industrial Hygiene section at Ireland Army Health Clinic, a volunteer Search and Rescue dog handler, and a Crisis Response Specialist with Silverleaf. During my military time, I served as a Victim Advocate for the Army's SHARP program. When I retired, I searched for something part-time that was similar, so I could continue serving my community. When I found the open Crisis Response Specialist position, I knew instantly that was where I was meant to be. That was March 2019, and I have cherished every minute with this agency since!

My Favorite Pastime: When I'm not working, training with the K9 team, or volunteering at something else, I enjoy watching horror movies with my boyfriend, playing at the arcade or playground with my grandchildren, or sitting back on the couch cuddling my 2 bloodhounds.

Desired Superpower: If I could have any superpower, it would be to be able to talk to and understand all living creatures. Humans are not the only animals that need a shoulder or someone to listen to them at times. I do the best I can without this power, but it sure would make it easier if they could just talk with words.

What aspects of our purpose do you identify with? All my jobs and volunteer positions emulate the Silverleaf mission. Prescribing proper protective equipment to an on-post worker, locating a lost autistic child before they come to harm, or being the voice for a survivor in the Emergency Room when they just can't find theirs are all examples of promoting health through service, education, and leadership.

Volunteer Spotlight



Erynn Henry, Volunteer Since January 2026

My Personal Philosophy: It is our duty as human beings to love and support one another. Our most important responsibility in this life is to take care of each other.

My Family: I am blessed with a 5-year-old little boy and two amazing bonus children. Our family has a bit of folklore to explain how we came to be blended - we were once all one star, and one day the star exploded and split into five pieces. Each one of us was made from those pieces, and that is why we found one another. We're now back to being one big star. This has earned me the nickname "Star Mom," and it's a title I wear with extreme pride.

How I Spend My Free Time: If the weather is nice, I want to be hiking or playing in the creek. I enjoy spending movie nights in with my family, reading thriller novels, and making soups.

Shout Outs: I want to thank my significant other, John, for his continuous support in all my pursuits. I want to thank my mentors whom I have been honored to meet and work with throughout my professional career - Chamie, Judge, and Jennifer. Thank you to every beautiful soul who has allowed me to be a part of their healing journey. You continue to bring me hope, give me purpose, and bring my life fulfillment.

Board Spotlight



Reta McMillen, Member Since 2022

Employment/Career Experience: Hardin County Schools - Family Resource Coordinator (2017-present); Hardin County Schools - FRYSC Outreach Liaison - Teens as Parents Educator (2014-2017)

Why I joined the Silverleaf Board: I wanted to support the vital work that Silverleaf provides our community. I see the impact of their services firsthand in our schools and truly believe in Silverleaf's mission.

Hobby: Traveling, making pumpkin rolls, collecting Polish pottery and German nutcrackers.

Dream Vacation: Maldives or Slovenia

THIS OR THAT

Early Bird
Sweet
Summer
Go Out
Dog
Book Planner

Night Owl
Salty
Winter
Stay In
Cat
Movie
Spontaneous



Giving

To donate, scan the QR code or visit silverleafky.org/donate/.



To support Silverleaf through our Bonfire Storefront, scan the below QR code or visit bonfire.com/store/silverleaf-sexual-trauma-recovery-services



National Children's Alliance
The Force Behind
Children's Advocacy Centers



Children's Advocacy Centers of Kentucky



KENTUCKY ASSOCIATION OF SEXUAL ASSAULT PROGRAMS



OVW
Office on Violence Against Women



OVC
Office for Victims of Crime



ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES

TEAM KENTUCKY
CABINET FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

