

When Abuse Ends, Hope Begins - Supporting the Family Justice Center of Erie County, Inc.

In moments of crisis, safety and support can change everything. The Family Justice Center of Erie County, Inc. (FJC) stands as a vital lifeline for survivors of domestic violence.

Headquartered in downtown Buffalo and established in 2006, the FJC offers life-saving services, immediate resources, and the education our community needs to raise awareness about unhealthy and abusive relationships.

At its core, the FJC provides a safe, confidential environment where survivors can access multiple services in one place—removing barriers and ensuring they don't have to navigate their journey alone. From the moment someone walks through the FJC's purple doors or picks up the phone and calls for help, the FJC staff works closely with each client to create individualized safety plans and conduct danger assessments to help them understand their risk and options.

This support extends into crucial legal pathways as well, including assistance with filing petitions, pressing charges, and navigating the court system with the help of trained advocates who offer accompaniment and guidance during an overwhelming time. Forensic medical care is also available, including imaging and body mapping, conducted by professionals who prioritize dignity, trauma-informed care, and the preservation of vital evidence.

This past year, FJC advocates supported more than 1,500 active cases and answered more than 6,000 crisis calls. To do this important work, the FJC partners with city, county, and state organizations, including the District Attorney's Office, law enforcement, courts, and other nonprofit organizations. Because of this shared commitment and in partnership with the Buffalo Police Department, a full-time Special Victims Unit detective is now onsite at the FJC, allowing survivors to press charges the moment they seek safety.

The FJC's commitment goes beyond crisis response. They offer short-term emotional support, crisis intervention,



and direct connections to trusted community partners who can help with housing, counseling, legal services, and additional long-term needs. They also work to educate the broader community, providing outreach programs that raise awareness, promote healthy relationships, and help prevent abuse before it starts.

This important work is made possible through community support. Donated gift cards—whether for clothing, groceries, gas, or other essentials—provide immediate relief to clients who often leave abusive situations with very little. These contributions help families rebuild their lives with dignity and stability.

The FJC's Mark A. Monaco Hope Shop allows survivors the opportunity to shop at no cost for brand new items for themselves and for their children. This not only provides relief and uplifts their spirit during a very difficult time, but it is a reminder of their worth and that they deserve a safe life and a fresh start.

The FJC's mission is to provide a pathway beyond our purple doors, and it is thanks to the FJC staff, volunteers, and donors who support this mission that survivors find safety and a life of healing and hope.

If you or someone you know needs help, call the FJC SafeLine at (716) 558-SAFE (7233). For more information or ways to support their mission, visit fjcsafe.org.



Family Justice Center

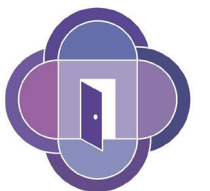
When abuse ends, hope truly begins—and together, we can help make that hope possible.



Join us in giving back to the **Family Justice Center of Erie County**

With every purchase, receive a pre-paid envelope to fill with new or gently used clothing for the Hope Shop.

Drop it back into your mailbox and it will be sent directly to the **Family Justice Center of Erie County**.



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