

Harmony House

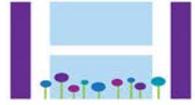
Family Violence Center  
519 East Cherry  
Springfield, MO 65806  
417.837.7700

[www.familyviolencecenter.com](http://www.familyviolencecenter.com)

# Harmony House

- Harmony House is the **only DV shelter** in Springfield/Greene County.
- 110 shelter beds
- We provide:
  - 90-day safe shelter
  - Meals, clothing & essential care items
  - Case management
  - Court advocacy
  - Childcare
  - Life skills and support groups
  - Transportation





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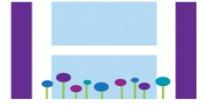
## In 2015, Harmony House:

- ✓ Sheltered **387** women & **4** men
- ✓ Sheltered **225** children
- ✓ Provided **27,437** safe bed nights
- ✓ Answered **2,379** crisis calls

*Source: Harmony House database*



# What is Domestic Violence?



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- DV does not look the same in every relationship
- One consistency across all abusive relationships – power and control

*It is **NOT** an anger management issue!*





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# Domestic Violence & Housing

- ✓ A variety of research conducted over the last decade shows a **strong relationship** between domestic violence and female homelessness
- ✓ In the U.S., it is estimated that **63%** of homeless women were victims of domestic violence
- ✓ One study into the relationship between DV and homelessness showed that domestic violence is a **significant predictor** of housing instability

Source: C.K. Baker, et al/Domestic Violence and Housing/  
2010



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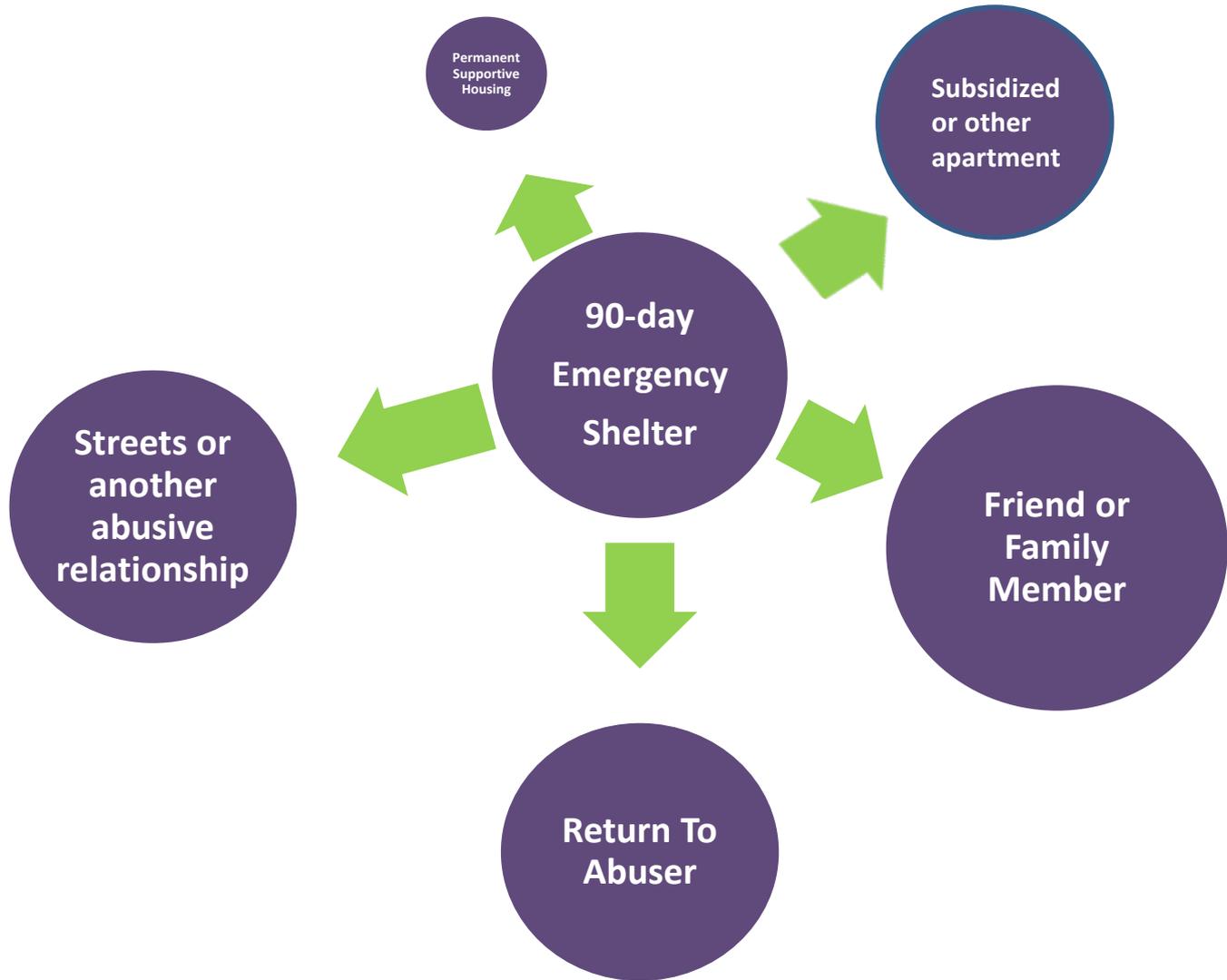




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# Barriers to Housing

- ✓ Lack of enough affordable, permanent housing
- ✓ Lack of financial resources
  - Deposit, first and last month's rent
  - Utility deposit
- ✓ Poor credit history
- ✓ Poor rental history
- ✓ Housing discrimination due to status as DV survivor
- ✓ Criminal history

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# Permanent Supportive Housing: A Critical Part of the Solution

Emergency shelter, a safe haven, is the first critical step in breaking the cycle of DV, but...

**Permanent supportive** housing is THE pivotal issue on which the likelihood of permanent escape and lifestyle change rests





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# What Do DV Survivors Need in a Housing Program?

- ✓ Assistance with deposits and first/last month's rent
- ✓ Secure/gated facility is preferred
- ✓ Ongoing case management support
  - ✓ Safety planning
  - ✓ Court/legal/other personal advocacy
  - ✓ Support groups/life skills
  - ✓ Referrals to other sources as needed

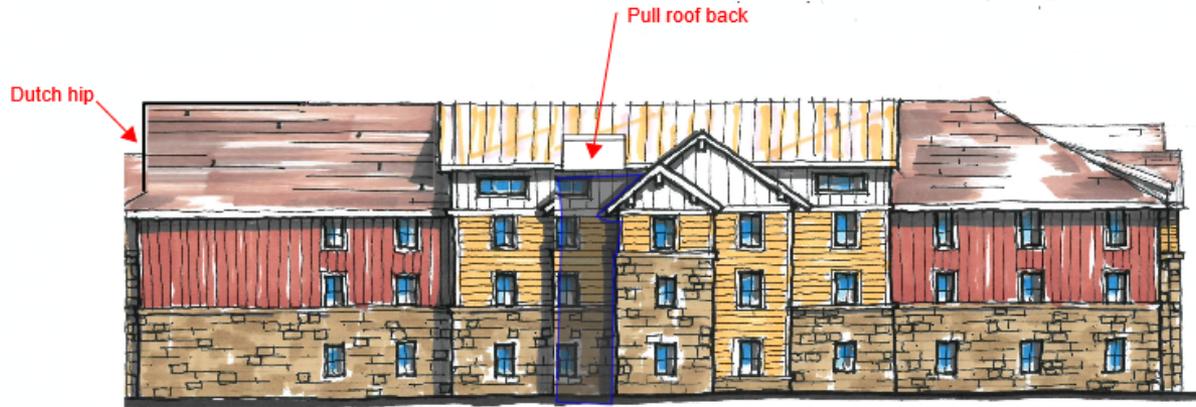




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WEST ELEVATION



SOUTH ELEVATION.

TALIA BENGALD







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# Questions?

