

# What if you couldn't recognize your own face?



May 2018

## **Do you know the face of a domestic violence survivor?**

Domestic violence does not have one face. It doesn't affect just one race, one ethnicity, one age group, one class or even one gender or sexuality.

## **When Patty, a middle-aged, trained ballet dancer, couldn't recognize her own face, she knew she needed the Elizabeth Stone House more than ever.**

Patty came to Stone House in 2015 for domestic violence support groups and individual counseling, working to heal through abuse. She gained a measure of control, but her situation worsened. Recognizing this, she worked with Page Clark, our director of community programming to manage and cope with escalating abuse.

Earlier this year, Page received an email from Patty. It contained a photo of Patty, but after such a severe beating, that her face was unrecognizable. Her abuser had held her hostage, assaulted her physically and sexually and strangled her.

**Patty and Page strategically planned for days, because leaving isn't simple. Leaving is the most dangerous time of all.** The time in which those experiencing abuse are at the highest risk of losing their life, and Patty's circumstances were undoubtedly life or death.

Our team worked feverishly with each other, Patty and the police. This was Patty's third attempt to press charges on her abuser, and thanks to Stone House, the police detectives and **you**, she was finally able to.

Yes, you are part of the team that put Patty's abuser in jail without bail.

**Thanks to you and your commitment to the Elizabeth Stone House, Patty is alive.** She remains in our support groups and continues counseling. She works daily to move forward, healthily and happily. Her journey endures, but she is safe and thriving. She lives each day with intention, working to heal and to find and fulfill her purpose in the greater community.

**Thank you for being part of this team and our community. All of our hundreds of families rely on you as advocates every day.**

**Another important assemblage of our team is on the move again – our Wilderness Heals hikers.** Every July, dozens of women spend a weekend hiking New Hampshire's White Mountains to raise money for the Elizabeth Stone House. Some are new trailblazers, while others have been change makers on the trails for years. Perhaps you know one of them.

The three-day physical journey they've committed to is no easy feat. But they do it for the adults and children at Stone House who are facing much more difficult, complex realities.

**I ask that you cheer them on with a donation. Your monetary gift to their efforts not only reinforces your role as a champion to survivors, but translates to life-changing resources and support for people like Patty and their families.**

Domestic violence is centered on power and control – one person dominating another physically, sexually, emotionally, psychologically and financially. Sufferers lose their independence, and often lose sight of their identity, both inside and out.

**Though bruising and pain go well beyond the surface, wounds can heal and control can be regained. But only with the proper resources and care. That's why we still need you, why our families still need you.**

You can help more survivors like Patty recognize themselves again. You can ensure they find encouragement and relief in our support groups. You can give their children therapeutic child care. You can provide families with safe shelter.

**Please make a gift to Wilderness Heals for the women and families reclaiming control of their lives. That's the best way to celebrate the women hiking in their honor. Our survivors and families depend on you.**

Gratefully,



Nancy Owens Hess  
Executive Director  
Elizabeth Stone House

**P.S. Please, will you be a champion for domestic violence survivors with a gift of \$100, \$250 or more? Donate online at [wildernessheals.elizabethstone.org](http://wildernessheals.elizabethstone.org) or <http://www.elizabethstone.org/donate-now/>.**

*\*name and likeness changed to protect confidentiality*