



saving lives rebuilding lives securing safer futures

## February 2026 Newsletter

### Helping survivors navigate the Wake County courts

A survivor of abuse navigating the courthouse and attempting to understand the unfamiliar process of completing and submitting a domestic violence protective order may become overwhelmed and stressed to the point of giving up.

Just like any unfamiliar place, the Wake County Courthouse can feel intimidating and confusing, filled with complex terminology, rigid procedures, and unfamiliar expectations that are difficult to manage while already coping with trauma.

Survivors may feel anxious or fearful about encountering the abuser, not being believed, or facing retaliation, and the requirement to recount painful experiences in detail can open emotional wounds. The process can also trigger feelings of powerlessness, vulnerability, shame, or self-doubt, particularly when survivors question whether their experiences are "serious enough" to warrant protection.

Long wait times and bureaucratic hurdles can add to emotional and physical exhaustion. At the same time, there may be a cautious sense of hope that the protective order could provide safety and relief, even as uncertainty remains about the outcome.

Enter **InterAct's Court Services team**, including the Court Services Coordinator, Civil and Criminal Court Advocates, and Legal Support Center Advocate, led by the Associate Director for Court Services and supported by volunteer Court Navigators.



The **Civil or Criminal Court Advocate** may serve as a liaison with a member of the Wake County Domestic Violence Unit (Clerk or Wake County Deputy Sheriff).

Once the survivor completes the desired protective or no-contact order, the LSC advocate can notify the **Civil/Criminal Court Advocate**, and a 'warm hand-off' of the survivor can be completed, if additional emotional support is needed. The Civil Court advocate can provide brief temporary emotional support by validating the survivor's experiences and helping manage feelings of fear, shame, or anxiety.

Additionally, the Civil Court Advocate can connect survivors with InterAct by providing the 24/7 crisis line number to speak with a **Crisis Counselor** or the **Crisis Line Coordinator** if immediate attention is needed, such as food, clothing, or shelter.

Once the survivor has connected with a Crisis Counselor who can provide additional emotional support and empowerment, a Court Navigator may be requested. The **Court Navigator** can accompany survivors to civil and criminal domestic violence courts, helping them feel safer and less isolated.

Court Navigator is a volunteer position overseen by the **Court Services**

**The Legal Support Center Advocate (LSCA)** can play a critical role in supporting a survivor through the courthouse and answering all questions related to the completion of the 50B/50C order. The LSCA can help the survivor understand each step of the process, explain legal terminology as it relates to the 50B/50C, reducing confusion and stress.

**Coordinator (CSC).** The CSC serves as the trainer for all of the positions mentioned above and is responsible for knowing each position and filling in when required. In addition, the CSC serves as the primary liaison between community partners, especially when a survivor is involved.

## A guide to protective, restraining, and no contact orders

**Domestic Violence Protective Order (50B):** Often referred to as a restraining order, DVPO 50B is specifically for victims of domestic violence to protect them from the abuser. It is applicable when the plaintiff (survivor) and defendant (abuser):

- are spouses or former spouses
- are persons of the opposite sex who are not married but live together or have lived together
- have a child in common
- are parent and child or grandparent and grandchild
- are current or former household members
- are persons who are in or have been in a dating relationship.

A **Civil No-Contact Order (50C)** protects survivors of stalking or nonconsensual sexual conduct from individuals with whom they do not have a personal relationship (strangers, neighbors, coworkers). The orders do not require physical injury; they can order the defendant to cease contact with the plaintiff, cease any harassment, and stay away from the survivor/victim's home, school, or workplace.

## Tribute gifts recognize and remember those who are loved and admired

Many donors to InterAct choose to remember a loved one or honor someone special with their gift. The [donation portal](#) makes it easy: check **Dedicate my donation** when you select your gift amount, and you will be asked if you are honoring (a living person) or giving the gift in memory of someone.

InterAct will notify the honoree or a family member via email or a card--your choice. The recipient will not see the amount you donated, just that you gave a tribute gift. You can also write a short message to go along with the notification. You can choose not to have your name publicly associated with the gift, and you can choose to remain anonymous altogether.

Finally, you can add a comment that will appear in the gift portal, hide your gift from the public if you like, provide an email for a tax receipt, and see if your

company provides matching gifts.

The list below includes all those honored or memorialized in the past year.

**In Honor Of:**

A cherished community member

Amy Bason

Amy Parker

Amy Richardson

Baby Arya

Bianca Valladares

Cheryl Freda

Courtney Britt on her Birthday

Cynamon Chawla

Daphne's birthday fundraiser for InterAct

Denise McDonald

Donna DeWolfe

Dr. Jan Rogers and Ms. Janine Kossen

Emily Nassif

Eric David and Anne Harvey on their wedding

Erin Cosgrave

Fay Ross

Gena Rich's birthday fundraiser for InterAct

Glenn And Diane Rupert

Harriet & Jerry Worley

Jamie Gabriel

Jim And Cathy Higgins

Jocie And Kevin Northrup

John S. Gallagher

Kaitlyn Tun

Katheryn Langley Anderson

Katie Hendrick

Keegan Sell

Kerrith McDowell

Laurence "Lennie" Spece

Leslie Kepler

Lex & Juliette Carroll

Makayla Haag's solo exhibition, *Time Moves Through My Body Like a Knotted String*

Mary Frances Moody

Matt And Makeda Agius

Melissa's birthday fundraiser

Melissa White

My mother

Nancy Anderson

Nancy P

Olivia Joyner

Paula Bost

Rachael Brooks

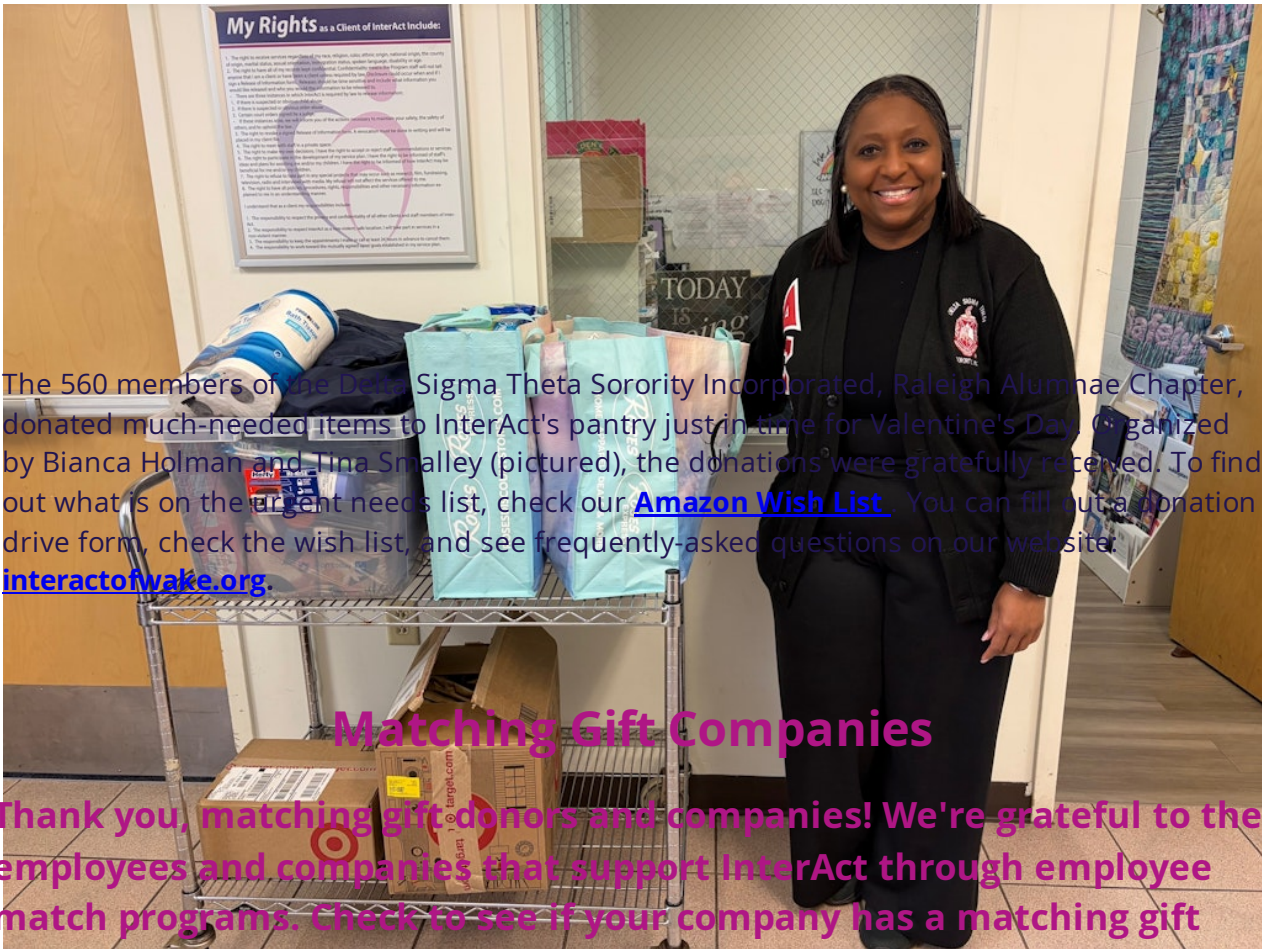
Rachel Rogers on her birthday  
Referral Partners At TDL  
Sandra Elam  
Selah Jenssen on her Graduation  
Sheila Kekesi  
Taylor Gordon Payne & Paige Gordon  
The Zetas of Raleigh  
Thomas Mauer  
Tina Howard on her Retirement  
Tomiegrace Brutus on her birthday  
Walker Mabe

**In Memory Of:**

All who lost their lives  
Dr. Molly Glander  
Ernesteen J. Summerlin  
Ethan Naftalin  
Glenda Milikin Myers-In Memoriam  
Honorable Judge Jennifer Green  
Juanita Sinclair  
Kym Forbes  
Mary Ellen Truxell  
Melissa  
Michelle Young & Nancy Cooper  
Priya  
River and Jet Collins  
Sepi Saidi-In Memoriam

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## Volunteer Spotlight



The 560 members of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated, Raleigh Alumnae Chapter, donated much-needed items to InterAct's pantry just in time for Valentine's Day. Organized by Bianca Holman and Tina Smalley (pictured), the donations were gratefully received. To find out what is on the urgent needs list, check our [Amazon Wish List](#). You can fill out a donation drive form, check the wish list, and see frequently-asked questions on our website. [interactofwake.org](http://interactofwake.org).

### Matching Gift Companies

Thank you, matching gift donors and companies! We're grateful to the employees and companies that support InterAct through employee match programs. Check to see if your company has a matching gift program that will double your impact.

**Delta Sigma Theta and a Valentine gift of love**

|                           |                            |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| BCBSNC                    | Red Hat                    |
| Charles Schwab            | SalesForce                 |
| Cisco Systems             | The CLOROX Company         |
| Duke Energy Progress      | Yahoo                      |
| Gigamon, Inc.             | GiftHub                    |
| Google                    | Starbucks Coffee           |
| IBM Corporation           | Ameriprise Financial Group |
| John Deere Company        | Apple Inc.                 |
| Liberty Mutual            | Nationwide                 |
| Principal Financial Group | CLSB Holdings, Inc.        |
| Lenovo                    | Accenture                  |



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## Sustaining Momentum

# THANK YOU

**GRANTORS,  
DONORS,  
AND  
SUPPORTERS!**



- Crown Premiums
- SHE NC
- Lord of Life Lutheran Church
- Raleigh Civitan Club
- Think Medical, Inc.
- My Way Tavern - Fuquay-Varina
- First United Methodist Church, Cary
- White Memorial Presbyterian Church
- United Methodist Women of Edenton Street UMC
- United Way iof Central Maryland



## Pass It On Thrift Stores

Pass It On Thrift Stores support InterAct's mission to help victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Ninety cents of every dollar you spend goes to support survivors of domestic and sexual violence.

309 S. Main Street  
Fuquay-Varina, NC 27526  
919-557-8020

1012 Oberlin Road  
Raleigh, NC 27605  
919-865-1601

To schedule a donation, please email [passiton@interactofwake.org](mailto:passiton@interactofwake.org).

Regular hours:  
Fuquay-Varina 10 am to 4 pm M-F.  
Raleigh 10 am-4 pm Tuesday-Friday.

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