1. THANKS & Overview
   1. Therese, Rita, Barb, Doris
2. Our mission
   1. It is our mission at Friend to Friend to help survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking rebuild their lives.
3. Impact of DV in NC
   1. In 2022, there were 47 homicides directly attributable to DV, at least one of which was right here in Moore County.
   2. Through June 30, 2023, there have been 40 homicides and 17 suicides because of DV The NC Coalition Against Domestic Violence gathers this data, demonstrating the deadly impact that domestic violence can have here in our state.
   3. DV is one of the leading causes of homelessness in our state…
4. F2F core services
   1. **Emergency Shelter**- Our Serenity House is an all-green, four-star energy-efficient cottage-style home that can house up to 34 adults and children. In the fall of 2021, we opened our new Butterfly Cottage. This space serves several purposes:
      1. It provides a separate housing space for highly traumatized human trafficking victims
      2. It makes it possible to isolate individuals testing positive for contagious illnesses
      3. Provides a setting for guests to receive support/counseling away from group activity in the Serenity House
      4. Gives some extra time for clients, with housing being the challenge that it is in NC & beyond.
   2. Pet shelter on the property for clients fleeing DV who want to bring their furry friends. F2F is only one of a few shelters in the state with this option.
   3. During their time with us at the Serenity House and Butterfly Cottage, clients are able to receive **counseling** from a licensed clinical social worker and meet with a peer support specialist certified in substance use support, regardless of whether the client has a substance use disorder.
   4. We operate under a housing-first approach, so we prioritize connecting clients in our shelter with the services and resources they need so that can eventually exit to safe, permanent housing.
   5. We operate a **24/7 crisis hotline** so that those seeking shelter, services, and support can connect with a trained advocate day or night. If our shelter spaces are at capacity, we provide callers with information for other shelter options in surrounding counties. In the last few years, we have also added a live chat feature to our website, so that survivors who may not feel safe making a phone call can connect with a trained advocate in a more discrete way. This live chat feature is currently available M-F during our advocacy office hours.
   6. We provide **24/7 hospital accompaniment** for survivors, helping ensure that adult victims of rape/sexual assault can have a trained advocate on-site for emotional support throughout the process at the hospital. Our advocates also offer follow-up information, community referrals, and connect survivors with resources for ongoing support and healing.
   7. Our **court advocacy** program assists with filing out protective orders. Our court advocates help clients understand the differences between a 50 b (domestic violence protective order) and a 50 c (civil no contact order). The court advocate will help them navigate the forms, requirements, and procedures of the court system, explain what to expect throughout the process, and accompany them to their court appointments. They also offer safety planning and can connect survivors with counseling and support groups.
5. F2F Additional Services
   1. Bilingual counseling and translation support, an outreach program at local bars for sexual assault prevention, and community education and prevention awareness. Many of our community education sessions are conducted at schools across the county—and we’ve recently launched a training on domestic violence for salon professionals. Because of the unique relationship that salon and barbershop professionals share with their clients, they can be great advocates to help safely refer clients to information and resources.
6. Prior Year Impact
   1. Last year, Friend to Friend provided more than 4,101 safe shelter nights at our Butterfly Cottage and Serenity House for individuals and pets. Our crisis line received 1,510 calls. Our Court Advocates completed 560 protective orders. And we provided 101 community education sessions and 17 professional trainings.
7. US Open
   1. Now we know that the US Open is coming. We know that means a huge influx of visitors to our beautiful Pinehurst. This may also bring concern about human trafficking – and sexual assault-- increasing in our community. Friend to Friend is preparing a toolkit and trainings to offer hotels across Moore County. We hope to help hotel staff recognize and respond to potential indicators of human trafficking.
   2. Great partnerships with local law enforcement and First Health, so that we can serve as a resource if instances of human trafficking are reported during the US Open OR sexual assault victims present at the hospital. And, of course, our 24/7 crisis hotline will remain operational so that victims may immediately connect with a trained advocate…
8. Thanks again !
   1. …For your generous support of Friend to Friend. As you’ve heard today, we offer a number of services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking as well as our community. Your support helps bolster our services. AND you are helping make our beautiful community safer for all. Thank you!!