

## 2022 National Night Out!



This August Tubman celebrated with clients and community members during National Night Out. This year we hosted a carnival themed event at Harriet Tubman Center East in Maplewood with fair food, games, a bounce house, and visitors from the City of Maplewood, and their police and fire departments!



### Inside this year's summer newsletter:

- An in depth look at how Tubman's legal services support survivors moving from fear to freedom, p. 4-7
- Program highlights, p. 8
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*“And the norms and notions of what ‘just is’  
Isn’t always justice.”*

~Amanda Gorman



**By Jennifer J. Polzin**  
Tubman CEO

I've been thinking a lot about the wisdom of inaugural poet Amanda Gorman lately. Her poems are all about maintaining hope, taking action, and creating the future we wish to live in. To me, her two lines above sum up exactly why we must do all three of those things.

This newsletter features a deeper dive into Tubman's legal services, one pathway for survivors seeking justice. You'll find other program highlights and see a few other things we've been up to. We've also shared a few notes we've received from clients, so you can hear in their own words just how powerful the impact is that you make possible by supporting Tubman. If you're seeking additional inspiration, I hope you'll go to our website and watch our new video, *Tubman Helps You Keep Going*. And if you want to keep that momentum going, we've got a whole list of other ways you can help us change what 'just is'.

This past April marked 30 years since I first started at this organization, as a shelter advocate working part-time overnights. Since then we've grown, changed, and strengthened our services and reach. I have learned so much from the survivors who have trusted me with their stories, the youth who've taught me to keep it real, the staff I've had the pleasure to serve alongside, and the volunteers & interns, board members, community partners, and donors that amplify our impact.

We stand on the shoulders of giants: our founders and so many trailblazers who saw a future full of possibilities and continue to change systems, break barriers, and build better futures.

So much has changed for the better over the past three decades, but our work is far from finished. When I find myself grieving yet more lives lost to gun violence or hearing the heartache in a survivor's story, I'm reminded of two other lines by Amanda Gorman that give me focus and guide me forward:

“  
**“May we not just grieve,  
but give.  
May we not just ache,  
but act.”**  
”

I hope you'll join me.

Yours for the challenge,  
Jen

# Notes from Our Clients

Explaining the court process and helping me stay updated on all the proceedings in a timely and very compassionate manner during a very difficult and stressful process is something I can never thank my court advocate for. Very helpful!

It is because of the advocates Tubman provides that I am and have been able to get through OFP. Without Tubman's help I question my abilities to be able to do what they have helped me overcome. I thank you with my entire heart!

The information I learned was very important, as I now know, and I'm glad I got to become educated on topics usually not given enough attention at school.

The most important thing I learned was that abuse can come in many different forms and can be shown in many different ways.

I learned that things I thought were normal are all kinds of abuse.

...the Tuesday group Pieces of Peace has been amazing. so good.

Thanks for treating me like a person with respect and dignity and not judging me because of the situation I was dealing with.

She helped me with tough decisions along the way. Helped make what seemed like a mountain, not so massive.

Even after I left Tubman's shelter unsuccessfully because of where I was at on my journey, I always knew you guys deeply cared for me and my family. I have stayed in other shelters and didn't feel that. Thanks to the connections I made during my stay with you, I am now employed, housed and my son is doing much better. So remember even when people don't look to have a perfect ending, sometimes it comes later.

# Get to Know Tubman Legal Services

Increasing their safety, elevating their voices, and advocating for survivors



## Criminal Court Advocacy

Victims of domestic assault and related crimes receive help from legal advocates who provide information on the court process and meet with victims at court.

## Orders for Protection (OFP)

Tubman legal advocates write and file Orders for Protection, and assist at Order for Protection hearings in Hennepin, Washington, and suburban Ramsey counties.

## Family Law Pro Bono Representation

Tubman staff attorneys and volunteer attorneys provide pro bono (free) legal representation to low-income people with family law cases in Hennepin, Washington, and Ramsey counties.

## Law Clinics

Volunteer & staff attorneys meet one-on-one with clients for 30-minute sessions concerning family law and other legal issues

## Self-Represented Law Clinics

Volunteer & staff attorneys meet one-on-one with clients for a two-hour session designed to help people represent themselves in family law cases.

## Legal Services for Immigrant Families

Tubman partners with Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota and Esperanza United to provide comprehensive legal advice, brief services and legal representation to immigrant families fleeing relationship violence.

## The Safety Project

Pro bono (free) legal representation to low-income victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking who are seeking Orders for Protection and Harassment Restraining Orders in Hennepin, Ramsey, and Washington counties.

## Sexual Assault Clinic at Aurora Center

Tubman partners with the Aurora Center at the University of Minnesota to provide on-campus & remote legal advice and representation to University of Minnesota and Augsburg College students who have experienced dating violence and/or sexual assault.

## Did You Know?

Tubman actively practices prevention by calling domestic abuse victims and survivors to see how we can best support them and their family.

A key way a victim's voice is heard in a criminal case is through writing a victim impact statement. Tubman advocates for clients to ensure they are able to share their thoughts and experience during the criminal court process.

Tubman serves three metro counties, Hennepin, Washington, and Ramsey, but only receives funding from 2 of the 3 counties we serve, and the funding we DO receive only partially covers our costs.

## Legal Services By the Numbers

- Tubman legal advocates have written 4,433 safety plans in the past eighteen months.
- 838 Orders for Protection and Harassment Restraining Orders were written and supported in the past eighteen months by advocates and attorneys.
- Tubman provided criminal court advocacy for 3,016 clients in the last eighteen months.
- Our dedicated law enforcement intervention line has received over 1,871 calls in the past eighteen months. We helped create safety plans and offered shelter resources, while they were on the scene of a domestic violence call.

# Tubman's Legal Services Support Survivors on their Journey from Fear to Freedom



For over 45 years, Tubman has served survivors of domestic violence in the Twin Cities metro area as a multiservice organization serving adults, youth, and families.

In 1977, Tubman began offering legal services to clients, starting with legal advice and information on family law matters. Over the years, additional services have been added such as criminal and civil legal advocacy through Orders for Protection and Harassment Restraining Orders, and support in domestic violence related criminal cases. Legal advocates have supported the implementation of lethality assessments, which identify the cases most at risk of ending in homicide and offenders most likely to reoffend, provide immediate services for victims, and support an argument for higher bail and closer supervision for offenders. The establishment of the Freedom Fund also provides clients with emergency cash assistance for tangible safety needs such as lock replacements, security systems, help with moving costs, and more.

Today's services at Tubman have even more scope and serve clients in Washington, Ramsey, and Hennepin Counties. Our legal team helping survivors move from fear to freedom is comprised of advocates, case coordinators, staff attorneys, and volunteer attorneys who provide services such as: criminal court advocacy (suburban Ramsey County and Washington County) in domestic violence related criminal cases, civil advocacy in Orders for Protection (OFPs) and Harassment Restraining Orders, pro bono representation for family law cases, law clinics, self-represented legal clinics, partnerships to provide legal services for immigrant families, sexual assault legal clinics, and The Safety Project providing pro bono representation in protective order hearings for victims of violence.

“**In the last eighteen months we've seen an increase of over 12% in services provided, with fewer staff, resources continuing to decline, while the costs of doing this work continue to rise.**”

**- Jena Reed, Tubman's Director of Legal Services**

Creating comprehensive responses to domestic violence victims and survivors is an integral aspect in holistically supporting victim-survivors and their families seeking safety and stability. Whether someone is referred to us, seeks us out directly, or is contacted by our team after law enforcement intervenes, we aim to make the process feel more comfortable and safe. “Clients do reach out to us for support and services, but what many do not realize is that we also reach out to the clients after an incident occurs. We also partner with law enforcement who call us from the scene of a domestic violence call, to connect clients with shelter and safety planning options in the moment of immediate need.” – said Jena Reed, Tubman's Director of Legal Services.

“Advocates are often the first and potentially the only access point for victims to understand and receive support through any involvement in the legal system.” Jena says, “Most people don't know they need us, until they need us. A lot of people have never interacted with the legal system, so it can feel really overwhelming and inaccessible. Having someone on their side can be a huge relief.”

# Tubman's Legal Services Support Survivors on their Journey from Fear to Freedom



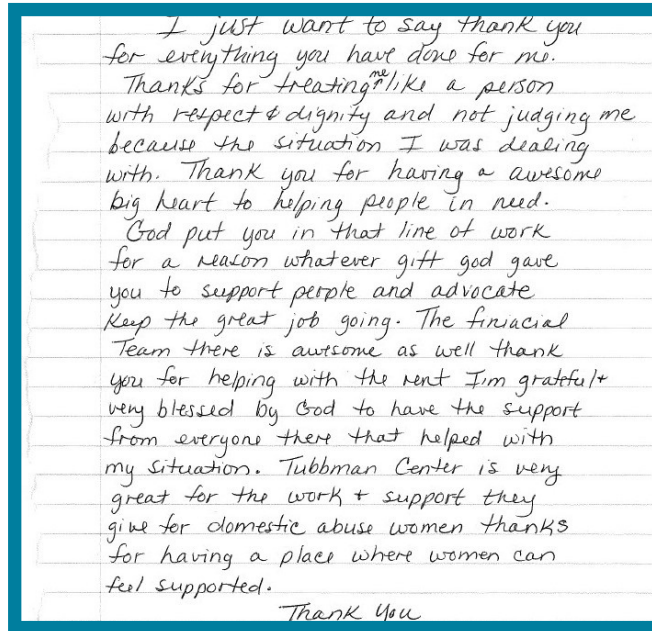
In criminal court, Tubman's advocates play an especially important role in supporting victims and survivors. In fact, advocates are the primary point of contact for victims to confidentially provide input, ask questions, and receive updates during the process.

If advocates are not present to work with a victim, one could utilize the prosecutor for support, however they are usually overwhelmed with all of the other types of charges

and responsibilities to provide the level of emotional support and resources a survivor needs and deserves.

Further, since the pandemic and the requirement of remote court appearances, offenders are less likely to be taken into custody for bench warrants and other charges, leaving a victim feeling powerless. "Having support from someone, like an advocate, provides a more personal ally who can help victims and survivors avoid feeling dismissed or like another number in a big system that often feels like it sides with those in power – the abuser," Jena shared.

Our attorneys and advocates support clients through difficult processes, such as writing Orders for Protection and Harassment Restraining Orders. "Protective orders are intended to be a resource for individuals to pursue protection on their own, but it can be difficult for people to write a petition that meets the statutory requirements without the support of an advocate," Jena shared, "Additionally, abusive parties will often use the legal system as an additional form of abuse, forcing victims into court multiple times, or making baseless allegations that



*Thank you note from legal services client.*

require a victim to attend multiple hearings. Having support from our attorneys and advocates can make these appearances less intimidating and cumbersome, and sometimes even avoidable altogether."

Recent trends also show that in addition to offenders being entitled to public defenders, they are also hiring private attorneys more often, further perpetuating the imbalance of power. With the support of

Tubman attorneys and advocates in person at court or via remote court hearings, victims are more likely to achieve positive outcomes and a feeling of empowerment that may not have occurred otherwise. Providing attorney services when a victim may not have otherwise been able to afford them allows for the opportunity to resolve cases outside of court, preventing the trauma that may be experienced if a survivor or their minor children would have needed to testify in court. Additionally, our attorneys have extensive knowledge about the dynamics of domestic violence, which means that safety is the top priority in divorce, child custody, or child support cases.

As we continue to see an increased need for services while funding continues to be divested, we feel great concern knowing many survivors and victims will not receive the help and support they need to feel safety, hope, and healing. "Unfortunately, the need for our services is not going away," Jena adds, "And with legal systems that are confusing and complex, survivors deserve our support when they are experiencing crisis."

# Will You Help Us Raise \$21,500 for Legal Services?

## Demand Rises, Resources Dwindle

"Since the pandemic, we've seen an increase in demand for services, the costs of doing this work continue to rise, and our overall funding for legal services continues to decline." said Jena Reed, Director of Legal Services at Tubman. Cases are also becoming intricately more complex and time consuming. These circumstances are creating challenges which are requiring us to examine whether we continue to provide all of these services as we are, or if we will need to pull back on offerings. "The increase in demand, paired with the decrease in funding creates obstacles to support and is putting our clients in more danger," said Jena.

Tubman provides legal services for the community in three counties. While Hennepin and Washington Counties provide some funding (at the time of this writing, Ramsey County does not), the funding doesn't cover the full costs of the services Tubman provides. "Additionally, Tubman receives referrals from other agencies who are unable to provide, or simply don't have the services we do for clients in need," Jena said. "And an already challenging situation may become even more dire, if our federal Legal Assistance for Victims grant is not renewed at the end of this year. The bottom line is, we do not have enough resources to meet the needs of people in our community who need our help." Creating pathways to safer spaces and getting protections for survivors and their family members who may fear for their safety is our primary concern, and we need your help.

Your support for Tubman's legal services provides life-changing measures for victims and survivors. And your gift can exponentially impact those in need. For instance, providing funding for one Order for Protection or Harassment Restraining Order may impact multiple people by providing safety for a parent, their children and other family members.

Supporting the cost of a security system for a family in danger provides not only the safety needed, but the peace of mind to begin moving forward.

Supporting adults, youth, and families experiencing domestic violence is about more than emergency shelter or calling the police. In fact more often than not, immediate legal support can help individuals leave an unsafe home or stay safely in their current home, preventing homelessness. Tubman's legal services provide protection for people at risk and in danger, support and amplify victims' voices in the judicial system, provide education on their rights, and guidance as they make their way from fear to freedom.

We need your help! Please consider making a gift today to avoid disruption and continuity of services to the hundreds of people who need them. Your contributions will help us continue to provide these services in the coming year. Contributions can be made with the enclosed envelope, online at [tubman.org](http://tubman.org), or by calling 612.825.3333.

### WAYS YOUR GIFT CAN MAKE AN IMPACT:

- \$35 covers the cost to develop a safety plan with an advocate
- \$52 covers the cost for one hour of Tubman's attorney services
- \$110 changes the locks on a door after an assault
- \$250 covers the initial cost of a security system so a client can stay safely in their home
- \$370 covers the cost of writing and filing a Harassment Restraining Order (HRO)
- \$640 covers the cost of filing an Order for Protection (OFP)

Tubman is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Your contribution is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

# Program Highlights

## Shelter

Our shelter programming remains dedicated to an experience which feels welcoming, holistically caring, and mindful to the needs of people we serve through hosting events and experiences such as a “Pamper Yourself” event in honor of Mother’s day, with haircuts, styles, and nail treatments, Juneteenth celebrations, HIV testing and education, and Summer of Peace programming for kids with activities such as tie dying, a field trip to the zoo, and water fun to stay cool!

## Legal Services

Legal services continue to both serve clients and the community through various ways such as hosting a Minnesota Justice Foundation fellow interning with our attorney team, partnering with other agencies to host an Advanced Order for Protection (OFP) Mock Trial training, served on various interview panels for local police departments, and participating in county council subcommittees to recommend and shape changes that may be needed in cases involving domestic violence.

## Clinical Services

Our mental and chemical health services remain focused on accessibility by offering online services, as well as increasing in-person programming as safety allows, thoughtfully focused on removing barriers which may impede clients receiving support when needed. Additionally, some programming has evolved, such as our parenting group, which is now the Health Relationships group open to all female-identifying clients, which includes parenting and relationship skills, boundaries, safety, wellness, and communications skills.

## Housing & Youth

Our housing and youth programs continue to build depth in our communities through various partnerships, such as paid internships in our violence prevention initiatives via Minneapolis’ Step Up program, drum & dance workshops through the Minnesota State Arts Board and theater workshops via the Minnesota Regional Arts Council, our Economic Advancement program co-created with survivors in partnership with Hennepin County, and transformative partnerships with property managers who are helping survivors experience safer, longer-term housing option with comprehensive support.

# Welcome to our Incoming Board of Directors

This Spring we welcomed five new Board of Directors to Tubman, and said goodbye to a couple of outgoing board members as well. Join us in welcoming Latrina Caldwell, Sarah Erickson, Christina Kolles, Marissa K. Linden, and Mary Lucic to their first board term!

We also want to extend our utmost gratitude to our outgoing members of the Board, Chris Sur who served eighteen years over two different terms, and Diane Gates who served first as a volunteer on the finance committee, then served a nine year term on the board. Both served as Board Chair, and continue their involvement through volunteer service.



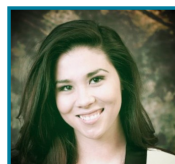
Latrina Caldwell



Sarah Erickson



Christina Kolles



Marissa K. Linden



Mary Lucic



Diane Gates



Chris Sur



# Celebrating Juneteenth

It was another celebratory evening at Tubman this year, as we celebrated Juneteenth with families and the community at Harriet Tubman Center East, in Maplewood. The evening was a fun one with food provided by Famous Dave's, games, and entertainment provided by Titambe West African Dance Ensemble of Minnesota and African Contemporary Dance!

*Note: This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.*



Members from Titambe West African Dance performing.

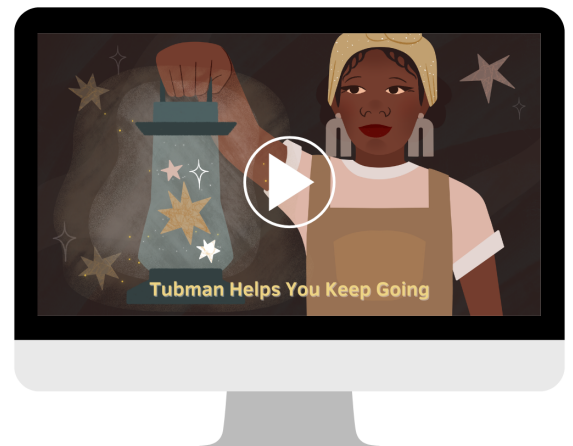


Members of African Contemporary Dance performing.

## The Premiere of Tubman's New Video: *Tubman Helps You Keep Going*

This spring at the Starlight Soirée, we premiered our new video, "Tubman Helps You Keep Going". Our intention was to create a video which expresses the heart of our organization and shares our mission to advance opportunities for change so that every person can experience safety, hope, and healing.

With the incredible work of our partners at Pollen, we hope our new animated video brings our vision to life, inspires people to take action, and encourages people who need support to seek it. To watch our video, head over to our website at [www.tubman.org](http://www.tubman.org).



# VAWA Reauthorized

Last year we hosted U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar for a press event highlighting the importance of reauthorizing the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). Since 1994 when it first passed, VAWA created responses to domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking. However, VAWA must be reauthorized every five years, and while it passed in the U.S. House of Representatives in 2021, it failed to do so in the U.S. Senate.

We continued to advocate for the reauthorization of VAWA with our coalition partners by writing and calling legislators asking for their support of this bill, and for the expansion of its existing protections to better meet the needs of survivors. This hard work and coalition building paid off, and VAWA was reauthorized and signed into law by President Joe Biden in March of 2022. In addition to this success, the so-called 'Boyfriend Loophole' was closed in gun legislation that passed in June, which prohibits the purchase of firearms by dating partners who have been convicted of domestic violence.

A special thanks to all of you who continue to use your voice by writing and calling your legislators for legislation that supports survivors and victims of domestic violence. Thank you.

## Starlight Soirée

In April, we held our first in-person Starlight Soirée, since 2019! The energy in the room was palpable, as our guests were excited to be together again. With hostess Jearlyn Steele, auctioneer Glen Fladaboe, and music from the Reggae All Stars, we welcomed back an evening that included a silent auction, champagne reception, dinner and dessert, the incredible story of one of our clients from our Safe Journeys program, the premier of our new Tubman Helps You Keep Going video (page 9), a live auction of incredible experiences, and a little dancing to close out the evening. Thank you to all who attended, contributed, volunteered, and celebrated with us! We look forward to seeing you at next year's event on Friday, May 5th, 2023.



(Clockwise, L to R: Guests enter into the Soirée, host and performer Jearlyn Steele, Soirée guests in the ballroom, Jearlyn Steele and Tubman client Kermina share a moment of gratitude with attendees)

# Ways You Can Help Clients

We cannot fulfill our mission and vision without you! There are many ways to get involved and give help at Tubman. If you're looking for a way to make a difference and to 'Be the Change', check out these opportunities below:

**Become a Volunteer:** Many of our services at Tubman rely on the incredible commitment and hard work of our volunteers working across departments and programs. Our training program for volunteers is well known and appreciated for how it prepares each person for roles ranging from assisting with transportation needs and shelter meals, to advocating for youth and legal clients, and more.

**Host an Event:** Gather your friends, family, and colleagues and host a donation drive, fundraising event, or informational conversation about issues in our community. Tubman staff can attend and support your gathering with materials and guided conversations about domestic violence, homelessness, youth violence prevention, and other topics.

**Become a Sustaining Donor:** Become an ongoing change-maker by joining our Keep Going Giving Circle of monthly donors. The monthly donation amount can be of any size and can be started and stopped at any time. Your ongoing support contributes to our vision of thriving people, healthy relationships, and peaceful communities.

**Consider Planned Giving:** This form of giving creates a legacy benefitting others long after it is initiated. Planned giving creates long-term support for Tubman's life-changing programs through bequests, retirement plan assets, trusts, and other estate gifts.

**Plan a Group Volunteer Project:** Both small and large groups are welcome to help with one-time projects at Tubman locations. Our projects vary based on need and may include projects like organizing donations, painting shelter bedrooms, cleaning and sanitizing children's play areas, or outdoor beautification activities.

To get involved or talk to someone about ways to give, call 612.825.3333 or email [give@tubman.org](mailto:give@tubman.org).



## HOPetober is Around The Corner

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and also Tubman's annual online fundraising campaign, HOPetober. HOPetober raises money for our Freedom Fund which provides direct assistance to clients for needs that help build stability in their lives. These needs include things like changing locks to help increase safety for someone experiencing violence from an intimate partner, buying clothes and school supplies for children so they can continue their education uninterrupted with care, helping with repairs on their vehicle so they can safely attend school or get to work, and more.

***Watch for more this Fall on Tubman's website, social media channels and in our e-news for ways you can help!***

Interested in getting our monthly e-news? Sign up at [tubman.org](http://tubman.org)



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## Black Lives Matter

Tubman Chrysalis Center  
4432 Chicago Avenue S  
Minneapolis, MN 55407



Harriet Tubman Center East  
1725 Monastery Way  
Maplewood, MN 55109

**Tubman's mission is to advance opportunities for  
change so that every person can experience  
safety, hope, and healing.**

To update your mailing address, please call 612.825.3333