



Name of Press Contact:

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THE HIVE PARTNERS WITH NELSON MULLINS TO PROVIDE PRO BONO SERVICES TO SURVIVORS OF ABUSE AND VIOLENCE IN SC

Columbia, SC, September 5th, 2023. To address the critical legal needs of survivors of domestic and sexual violence in South Carolina (SC), The Hive Community Circle (“The Hive”) has developed a partnership with law firm, Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP, to provide pro bono services to eligible low-income survivors to help ensure their safety after enduring abusive situations. The pilot pro bono program will assist with non-emergency Richland County cases requiring orders of protection, restraining orders, and expungements.

Ari Foster, Peer Support Program Manager at The Hive, shared that volunteer attorneys were provided the necessary legal training by knowledgeable attorneys from South Carolina Legal Services. The Hive provided training on trauma-informed services to assist victims of intimate partner violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

The Peer Support Manager expressed excitement about this new partnership that aims to reduce the barriers faced by survivors of domestic abuse when seeking legal protection. “Financial difficulties and complex legal processes often make it hard for survivors to access the help they need to ensure their physical and mental safety. With this partnership, survivors have a renewed sense of hope and are one step closer to healing,” she concluded.

To access these services, survivors can contact the advocacy team at The Hive, via phone (803) 888-7725, or email at heal@thehivecc.org. Once connected, the legal advocate will conduct a screening process to establish eligibility for acceptance and referral.

Ashley Olayinka, Chief Executive Officer, reiterated the importance of providing wrap-around services to survivors of abuse, describing how this initiative is part of The Hive’s Emergency and Economic Justice Program, which supports survivors who can benefit from economic-based services to attain financial freedom and stability.

“Sadly, in our state, the femicide rate, in which a woman is murdered by a man, is often



twice the national average. In 2021, we had 57 domestic violence homicides. It is an essential need for survivors to procure legal defense from perpetrators; therefore, we invite survivors to contact our Advocacy team for any questions or inquiries, because their safety is our priority,” said Olayinka.

The Hive is a local, culturally specific peer advocacy organization serving survivors who have experienced sexual assault, intimate partner violence, and stalking in SC.

To learn more about The Hive, visit www.thehivecc.org.

Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:00 - 5:00 PM

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