# A Survivors Guide to

# Inspiration

# Advocacy

Hope

Booklet created by OneEighty Victim Services Team, Interns, and Survivors

*Note from the artist:* The dragonfly symbolizes change, transformation, adaptability, and self-realization.



Dear Survivor,

You've made it so far.

With courage, determination, and strength of spirit you have survived the experience of domestic violence.

We at OneEighty understand the impact of having life disrupted by sexual assault, and we realize the substantial changes and difficulties it brings. Yet, healing on a multitude of levels is possible. We are here to support you as you continue your healing journey.

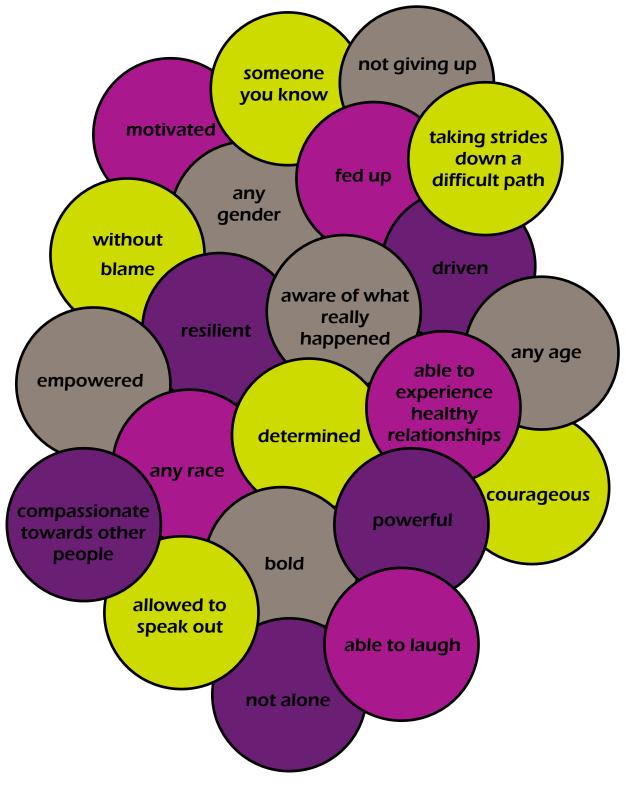
As you move through the stages of healing, our Victim Services team offers this booklet as a source of inspiration and resource materials. There are many opportunities to help end domestic violence and interventions to make our community safer. Whether you choose to advocate for change, or simply utilize the booklet's contents to find hope and peace, we wish you well.

Hopefully, you find this booklet helpful. The future is filled with possibilities!

Warmly, OneEighty's Victim Services Team



A Survivor is...





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"Healing may not be so much about getting better, as about letting go of everything that isn't you—all of the expectations, all of the beliefs, and becoming who you are."

-Rachel Naomi Remen

# **Baby Steps**

# "A journey of one thousand miles begins with a single step"

--Mao Tse-Tung





Some days it is impossible to take big steps in the healing process. The following list of baby steps can be taken anytime to help heal from the effects of sexual assault. Put the hotline number in your wallet Laugh—watch a movie or read a book that makes you laugh out loud Put the hotline number on your bulletin board at work Donate a book to the library **F**xerCise Use your sense of humor to get through the tough days Say it yourself "I'm a Survivor" Get educated Look in the mirror and say "I love you" Eat healthy food Put positive self messages on your computer screensaver Pick up The Courage to Heal Don't think about it for a while (don't obsess) Cat chocolate Look at beautiful things Buy yourself flowers Educate someone in your life about sexual violence Change your routine Forgive yourself Dream of a world where it doesn't exist Take a nap Watch a happy movie Acknowledge your angry feelings Breathe Take good care of yourself Turn your anger into passion Remind yourself that it is not your fault Don't question yourself Join a self-defense class Tell a friend you are a survivor Distribute OneEighty brochures to a new location Take half a baby step and feel good about it

# Self-Care

"The path to our destination is not always a straight one. We go down the wrong road, we get lost, we turn back. Maybe it doesn't matter which road we embark on. Maybe what matters is that we embark."

--Barbara Hall



### WHAT IS SELF-CARE?

Often times, many of us go through our lives, practicing daily routines in an almost automatic fashion. What we may be missing while doing this are the cues and signals our body and minds are sending us about what they might need to change. Self-care is simply that; paying attention to the cues we are receiving and attending to them.

It can be as simple as asking yourself, "What do I need to do to take care of myself right now?" It is recognizing that although we may appear okay on the surface, we may need to be paying a little more attention to certain areas of our lives so that small problems do not turn into larger ones. It is also accepting that we will have setbacks, that they are natural and okay, and that dealing with them will only help us on our journey of survival. Keep in mind that healing is not linear, and some days may require more self-care than others. Self-care should include activities that help you to relax, and in many ways reboot. It should feel more like relaxation than yet another thing to do, and ultimately should help make you feel more balanced and alive.

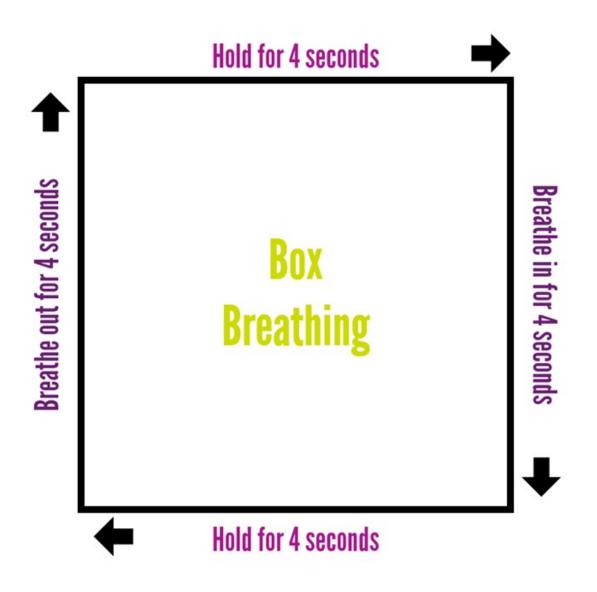
### WHEN DO YOU NEED TO PRACTICE SELF-CARE?

- Everyone seems more irritating than usual
- Everyone seems less competent than usual
- You suddenly have very strong feelings that overwhelm you
- You try to talk yourself out of those feelings
- Your feelings seem out of proportion to your current situation
- You find yourself wanting to practice self-destructive behaviors
- You can't decide whether you need to take care of yourself or not
- You isolate yourself from others

### WHAT CAN YOU DO TO PRACTICE SELF-CARE?

- Practice deep-breathing exercises
- Engage all five senses: identify what you are feeling, hearing, touching, smelling, or seeing
- Treat yourself kindly utilize positive affirmations
- Disconnect turn your phone off for a little while and focus on you
- Embrace your creativity: color, draw, paint, knit, write, etc.
- Create a playlist of your favorite songs
- Do something physical: go for a walk, hike, run, dance, yoga, etc.
- Plant a garden
- Re-decorate a room in your house
- Play with a pet
- Cook a favorite meal or bake a favorite dessert
- Try cooking a new dish
- Mindfully eat your favorite meal take the time to savor it and enjoy the flavors

- Pamper yourself take a bath, put on some relaxing music, light some candles, do a face mask, etc.
- Experiment with your makeup
- Go on a self-date
- Café-hop until you find your favorite one
- Go see a movie
- Call a friend
- Go out to dinner with a friend
- Go to a support meeting
- Go to therapy
- Write in a journal
- Make a list of goals you want to achieve throughout your healing process



It can be hard to find time for self-care in our lives. Many of us tend to think of self-care as something that requires a larger chunk of time than we can commit to, which makes it easy to neglect ourselves. However, self-care can be something that takes as little as five minutes. It may be helpful to create a list of activities that you find helpful as self-care techniques and divide them by the amount of time each activity takes. We have included an example created by a survivor to get you started.

5-60 Minutes	1-3 Hours	3+ Hours
Practice deep-breathing	Take a relaxing bath	Get a massage and facial
Take a walk	See a movie	Spend time with friends
Eat a meal mindfully	Get lost in a good book	Go on a self-date
Take a nap	Write for pleasure	Get hair done
Play with my dog	Watch a comfort show	Go to a concert
Experiment with makeup	Bake something	Plant a garden



The journal *Preventative Medicine Reports*, found that gardening has a wide range of health outcomes including reductions in depression, anxiety, and body mass index, as well as increases in life satisfaction, quality of life, and sense of community.

- Forbes, 2020



The fastest path to peace is gratitude. It puts life in perspective, helps you weather storms, and reminds you of the good-even when it might seem hard to find upon first glance. The following prompts are meant to work as a gratitude journal you can use over the span of a month-or several days if you feel like completing multiple prompts each day. I hope you enjoy it and that it helps put you in a grateful space!

Day 1

I'm most grateful for my ability to: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Day 2

In this moment, the things I love most about my family are: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Day 3

Something that made me smile today was: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Day 4

The best thing I smelled today was: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Day 5

One of the memories I'm most grateful for is: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Day 6

Thank goodness someone taught me how to: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Day 7

The strongest part of my body in this moment is: \_\_\_\_\_\_

The Path to Wonderfor 30 Days of Gratitude	l
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#### Day 8

Even after a rough day, the things I'm most grateful for at work are: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Day 9

I'm grateful that my legs carry me: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Day 10

I felt a little burst of energy today when: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Day 11

The	best	song	I	heard	today	was:	_
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#### Day 12

When I look inside my closet, I'm grateful for: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Day 13

I'm lucky that I'm smart enough to figure out how to: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Day 14

In this moment, the things I love most about my friends are: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Day 15

I'm grateful that my hands can hold: \_\_\_\_\_

The Path to Wonderful 30 Days of Gratitude
Day 16
The prettiest thing I saw today was:
Day 17
When I look in the mirror, I'm grateful for:
Day 18
Three of my most prized possessions are:
Day 19
I'm grateful that my eyes let me see:
Day 20
The things I would never change about myself include:
Day 21
The best thing I tasted today was:
Day 22
I love going online to:

### Day 23

I'm grateful for the way these things feel: \_\_\_\_\_



Day 24
Today I felt supported (by a person, the Universe, God) when:
Day 25
When I look around my home, I'm grateful for:
Day 26
When I look around at the world, I'm grateful for:
Day 27
I love that I have the ability to daydream about:
Day 28
I love it when I see animals:
Day 29
The nicest thing I felt on my skin today was:
Day 30
I'm grateful that I'm learning to:



# Legislative Advocacy

"The path to our destination is not always a straight one. We go down the wrong road, we get lost, we turn back. Maybe it doesn't matter which road we embark on. Maybe what matters is that we embark."

--Barbara Hall



The act of pleading or argui in favor of something, such a cause, policy, or interest active support of an idea (

# Advocacy in as Little as 5 Minutes

# Advocacy doesn't have to take a lot of time or cost anything at all.

### You can make an impact in many ways:

- Call your legislator You don't need a bill number or to be an expert in sexual assault or intimate partner violence policy. Just share what concerns you, what you read that you can't get out of your mind, a great idea that you have for reform, etc. If there is a particular bill that you would like to address – great! They would much rather hear from you before the vote than to get an angry call afterwards. They not only welcome such calls, but they employ staff that wait for your call. You can find their phone numbers online.
- Request to be added to the mailing list of an advocacy organization that addresses the issues you care about, such as Ohio Domestic Violence Network (ODVN) and Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence (OAESV). You can join listservs and learn about events, research, and upcoming issues in Ohio's sexual assault and domestic violence policies. You can also join lists for more specific organizations, from mental health to cancer to political lists.
- Inform someone Share your concerns with a friend, family member, work colleague, neighbor, social group associate, or casual acquaintance. Never underestimate how powerful word-of-mouth can be.
- > Write a letter to a policymaker This option takes more than five minutes but is fairly simple.

A U.S. Capitol switchboard operator can connect you directly with the correct Senate or House of Representative office: (202) 224-3121 or visit <u>https://www.senate.gov/states/OH/intro.htm</u> (Senate) or <u>https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative</u> (House of Representatives)

If you'd like to be heard, but are nervous about speaking with a legislator, consider leaving a message on voicemail after hours. In this way, you can lend your support or share your disapproval of a bill in a comfortable way.

Just like with phone calls, policymakers expect to receive letters, and in many cases, they rely on receiving information from their constituents. And they trust the public far more than lobbyists. You will also likely receive a response, usually written, explaining the issue more fully and letting you know what the policymaker intends to do about it.

- Visit a policymaker Take advantage of the knock on your door or the greeting at the grocery store during campaign time by a candidate with literature. Don't run away or avoid the confrontation. Take a moment to stop and ask the candidate about their intentions regarding your issue, if elected.
- VOTE It is critically important that everyone who is eligible to vote exercises that right. If you aren't registered, visit the Ohio League of Women Voters website: <u>https://olvr.ohiosos.gov/</u>
- Advocacy Day Each spring, the Ohio Domestic Violence Network (<u>www.odvn.org</u>) and the Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence (<u>www.oaesv.org</u>) lead prevention professionals, survivors, advocates, and interested members of the public in *Advocacy Day* at the Ohio Statehouse. It is an opportunity to meet with legislators, network, and advocate for change on behalf of survivors. You can find the specific date each year on each coalition's website.
- Local Advocacy Share your voice and ideas for change at local Board of Education and city council meetings where you live.

# WRITING TO POLICYMAKERS

Letters are an extremely important tool in advocacy. Public officials expect to receive mail from constituents (those citizens whom they represent). They depend on input from the public to do their jobs and fairly represent those that elect them to office. Often legislators rely on letters and calls to help them decide how to vote. Letters are one of the best ways to communicate your message, since you can take the time to craft your wording perfectly to reflect your logic and emotion. It is a permanent record which the policymaker can refer to as needed.

Some tips for an effective letter

- > It is not necessary to be an expert on the subject matter. Just explain your point of view.
- > Be brief. Keep your letter to one page.
- > Be polite, respectful, and reasonable.
- > Use your own words. Don't try to be impressive by using a thesaurus.
- > Personal stories and observations are the most persuasive.
- > Avoid jargon, technical language, and acronyms.
- > Be specific about your concerns and what you would like the policymaker to do about them.
- > It is best to address only one issue.
- > If you are a constituent, say so in the first paragraph. Your vote is important!
- Call the legislator's office or visit their website beforehand to get the correct address, title, and spelling.
- > Be sure your letter is legible. It doesn't need to be typed, but it must be easily readable.
- > Ask for a response.
- Include your name, address, phone number, and other contact information on the letter.
   Do not rely on the return address envelopes often get separated from the letters inside.
- Ensure your letter is spellchecked and edited for proper grammar and appropriate language by a "friendly editor" prior to sending it.
- If you don't get a response within a few weeks, call the legislator's office to ensure the letter was received. Ask again for a response.
- > Share the response with any coalitions or partners with whom you are working.
- Follow up and find out how the policymaker acted on your issue. Write to thank them, if appropriate.
- You can "recycle" the language from your letter in correspondence with other policymakers, to the same policymaker next year, a letter to the editor of your local newspaper, etc.

## CALLING POLICYMAKERS

Policymakers expect to receive calls from the public. Many employ staff dedicated to the task. They rely on calls and letters to help them make the best decisions on behalf of their constituents.

Some tips for an effective phone call

- Look up their office and/or home phone numbers online. It is acceptable to call elected officials at their published home numbers; they are listed for a reason. Just be courteous and don't call late at night.
- Prepare for the call. Write down the issue you are calling about and what you would like the official to do about it in case you get flustered once the call begins. It isn't necessary to have a script, but concise talking points will keep your conversation focused.
- > Identify yourself with your name, where you live, and the reason for your call.
- > Ask if it is a good time to talk. If it isn't, ask when an appropriate time would be to call back.
- > Be polite, courteous, and respectful of the policymaker's time.
- > Remember to ask for the action you want.
- > Speak your mind, then listen. Don't interrupt or argue.
- If the policymaker wants more information, promise that you will provide it and make arrangements to do so.
- If there is a question that arises that you cannot answer, say so. Then get the answer and call back with the information.
- > Finish the call by thanking the policymaker for their time and support (if appropriate).
- You may speak to an aide or answering machine/service. If so, leave a message with the issue you are calling about, your name, phone number, and the best times to reach you.
- > Don't be discouraged if they haven't returned your call in a few days. Call back.



## SAMPLE SCRIPT FOR PHONING A POLICYMAKER

Note: If you get the Senator, ask if this is a good time to talk. If not, ask when would be an appropriate time to call back. If you get the voicemail, leave a message.

*Hello, my name is* ( first name last name I am calling for Senator Jones. home address ) in your district. I live at ( I am calling to urge you to support current proposals to increase funding for sexual assault crisis services. These services help survivors recover from their assault and help them to contribute to society. In Ohio, 19% - or nearly 1 in every 5 residents - report having been sexually assaulted in their lifetime. This data comes from the Sexual Assault and Experiences Survey. With the number of victims that need these important services, this funding increase is critical. Again, I urge your support. If you have any questions or comments, please call me at (phone number). Thank you for your time and for your public service.

## VISITING WITH A POLICYMAKER

Meeting with a policymaker enables you the opportunity to fully explain your concerns, allows them to ask questions, and develops a better understanding of the issue for both parties through open dialogue.

Some tips for an effective meeting

- Call the policymaker's office or public home phone number in advance to ask for an appointment. Leave a number where you can be reached.
- Choose a convenient place to meet where you can talk without being interrupted (a library, a conference room in your office building, their office).
- > Share in advance the issues you plan to discuss.
- Learn what you can about the official previous votes and actions on your issues, committee assignments, professional background, and any public statements on your issues.
- > You may take a guest to two with you but keep the group small.
- Prepare for the meeting define your goal, brief yourself on the issue, plan what you want to say, practice your delivery with a friend.
- Bring a one-page fact sheet to leave behind for reference which contains your most important points, your desired action plan, and your contact information.
- > Arrive on time. Be patient and understanding if the policymaker is not.
- Introduce yourself. Describe your interest in the issue, any organizations you are representing, and disclose that you are a constituent, if you are.
- Be friendly and courteous. Get to the point after minimal small talk. Be respectful of the policymaker's time.
- Explain your point of view but be sure to actively listen to their side as well. You can disagree politely, but do not argue or interrupt!
- > Remember the point of the meeting clearly state what you want the policymaker to do.
- The policymaker may ask a question you cannot answer. Don't guess or make something up! Promise to find out the answer and call their office with the correct information.
- > Do what you promised. Get back to them with the information. If it seems to take longer than expected to find the answer to their question, call to let them know you are still working on it.
- If by mistake you say something that you later discover was incorrect, call right away and share the correct information.
- Send a follow up thank you note. Handwritten is best but typed is also fine. It should be signed by everyone that attended the meeting. Include your contact information again and a copy of any materials or fact sheets that you left at the meeting.

# **TESTIFYING AT A PUBLIC HEARING**

Legislative public hearings have become less and less user-friendly but remain an important opportunity for advocates to raise awareness of important issues. They are held early in the year by legislative committees to collect public comment on bills they are considering.

Some tips for an effective testimony

- Hearings are listed online at the Ohio Legislature including date, time, hearing room at the Ohio Statehouse, and the list of bills that will be considered at that hearing: <u>https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/schedules/session-schedule</u>
- > Attempt to meet, call, and/or write to committee members prior to the hearing.
- > Arrive early to sign up to speak. Find others who plan to testify on your bill.
- The first hour of the hearing is typically reserved for public officials other legislators, agency representatives, other elected officials. Then the committee chairs begin calling speakers from the public sign-up list, in the order in which they signed up. If you have a disability or special need, talk to the committee staff.
- You will generally only have three minutes to speak. Do not rush. You are not required to use the entire three minutes in your statement. You will be signaled when your time is up. Finish your sentence and thank the committee.
- Use your allotted time to summarize your talking points and refer the committee members to your written testimony for more detail.
- > Speaking from personal experience is most persuasive.
- > Attempt not to repeat other speakers' remarks.
- Briefly answer any questions committee members may have. If you don't know the answer to a question, say so and tell them you will get back to them with the correct information.
- Be polite and respectful. Do not disparage anyone who testifies against your position. Point out differences, answer concerns, but do not get personal.
- Prepare written copies of your testimony. The Legislative Bulletin will note how many copies you need to submit to the committee staff before you speak. Bring extra copies to share with other advocates and with legislators you may see in the halls.
- Follow up with a written thank you letter to the committee. Include your testimony again and any updates or answers to questions that arose after your statement.

Testifying is often not a pleasant experience. You may arrive early in the morning, only to find that you are far down the list of speakers. You may find that only two or three legislators are still at the hearing and the rest of the public has left. But there are instances where a bill did not pass out of committee because no one showed up to testify in favor of it. This is important work.

# **Book Lists**

# "Some books leave us free and some books make us free."

# --Ralph Waldo Emerson



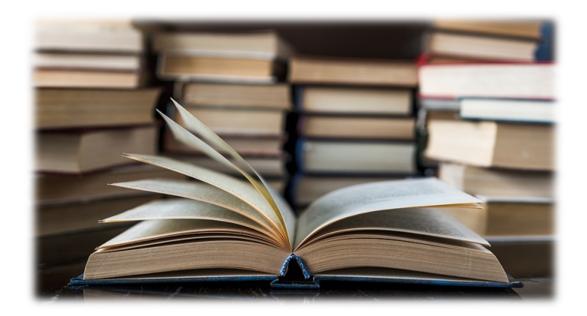
Reading about the subjects of sexual violence and trauma can be very healing. It may allow you to learn from what has worked for others. It can also help to make you feel like you are not alone. Following are some books that have been identified by survivors and advocates that may be helpful for you in practicing self-care.

## SEXUAL ASSAULT

- I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou
- The Courage to Heal by Ellen Bass and Laura Davis
  - The Courage to Heal Workbook: For Women and Men Survivors of Child Sexual Abuse by Laura Davis
  - Allies in Healing: When the Person You Love was Sexually Abused as a Child by Laura Davis
- Secret Survivors: Uncovering Incest and Its Aftereffects in Women by E. Sue Blume
- Transforming a Rape Culture by Emilie Buchwald
- When Rabbit Howls by Truddi Chase
- Obsession by John Douglas and Mark Olshaker
- The Rape Poems by Francis Driscoll
- The Devil on the Doorstep by Annabelle Forest
- Telling: A Memoir of Rape and Recovery by Patricia Weaver Francisco
- Tears of the Silence: An Amish True Crime Memoir of Childhood Sexual Abuse, Brutal Betrayal, and Ultimate Survival by Misty Griffin
- Men Who Rape: The Psychology of the Offender by A. Nicholas Growth
- Asking for It: The Alarming Rise of Rape Culture and What We Can Do About It by Kate Harding
- Father-Daughter Incest by Judith Herman, M.D.
- Working with Available Light: A Family's World After Violence by Jamie Kalven
- Journey to Wholeness: Healing from the Trauma of Rape by Monique Lang
- Shining Through: Pulling it Together After Sexual Abuse, Edition II by Mindy B. Loiselle and Leslie Bailey Wright
- The Sexual Healing Journey: A Guide for Survivors of Sexual Abuse by Wendy Maltz
- Never Tell: A True Story of Overcoming a Terrifying Childhood by Catherine McCall
- Know My Name by Chanel Miller
- How Little We Knew: Collusion and Confusion with Sexual Misconduct by Dee Ann Miller
- Unbelievable by T. Christian Miller and Ken Armstrong (Previously published as A False Report)
- Lost in the Mirror: An Inside Look at Borderline Personality Disorder by Richard Moskovitz
- Surviving the Silence: Black Women's Stories of Rape by Charlotte Pierce-Baker
- After Silence: Rape & My Journey Back by Nancy Venable Raine
- Spilled Milk by K.L. Randis
- No Visible Scars by Alice Walker
- Predators: Pedophiles, Rapists, and other Sex Offenders Who They Are, How They Operate, and How We Can Protect Ourselves and Our Children by Anna C. Salter, PhD
- Scared Selfless: My Journey from Abuse and Madness to Surviving and Thriving by Michelle Stevens, PhD
- I Never Called it Rape by Robin Warshaw
- Being Lolita by Alisson Wood

# TRAUMA AND SELF-HELP

- Your Perfect Right (10<sup>th</sup> Edition) by Robert Albert, PhD and Michael Emmons, PhD
- Goddesses in Every Woman by Jean Shinoda Bolen
- I Thought It Was Just Me (but it isn't): Making the Journey from "What Will People Think?" to "I Am Enough" by Brene Brown
- *Rising Strong: How the Ability to Reset Transforms the Way We Live, Love, Parent, and Lead* by Brene Brown
- Relaxation & Stress Reduction Workbook, Edition VII by Martha Davis, Elizabeth Eshalman and Matthew McKay
- *Relaxation* & Stress *Reduction Workbook for Kids* by Lawrence Shapiro and Robin Sprague
- The Gift of Fear: and Other Survival Signals That Protect Us from Violence by Gavin de Becker
- One Small Step: Moving Beyond Trauma and Therapy to a Life of Joy by Yvonne M. Dolan
- Blink: The Power of Thinking without Thinking by Malcolm Gladwell
- *Tipping Point: How Little Things Can Make a Big Difference* by Malcolm Gladwell
- Trauma and Recovery by Judith Herman, M.D.
- The Body Keeps the Score: Brain, Mind, and Body in the Healing of Trauma by Bessel van der Kolk, M.D.
- The Woman's Comfort Book: A Self-Nurturing Guide for Restoring Balance in Your Life by Jennifer Louden
- Getting Through the Day: Strategies for Adults Hurt as Children by Nancy J. Napier
- The Boy Who was Raised as a Dog and Other Stories from a Child Psychiatrist's Notebook: What Traumatized Children Can Teach Us About Loss, Love, and Healing by Bruce D. Perry, M.D., PhD
- What Happened to You?: Conversations on Trauma, Resilience, and Healing by Bruce D. Perry, M.D., PhD and Oprah Winfrey
- Reviving Ophelia: Saving the Selves of Adolescent Girls by Mary Pipher, PhD
- Possessing the Secret of Joy by Alice Walker



# Resources



MHA (Mental Health America) — www.mhanational.org

NO MORE www.nomore.org

RAINN (Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network) - 800-656-HOPE (4673) www.rainn.org

#### Self-Care

<u>Art</u>—www.arttherapy.org/art-therapist-locator

Emotional Well-Being - CDC-https://www.cdc.gov/populationhealth/well-being/index.htm

Information for Survivors – National Sexual Violence Resource Center—https://www.nsvrc.org/survivors

<u>Self-Care in Times of Distress and Continuous Crisis – National Sexual Violence Resource Center</u> https://www.nsvrc.org/blogs/self-care-times-distress-and-continuous-crisis

Stress and Coping Resources - CDC-https://www.cdc.gov/mentalhealth/tools-resources/index.htm

<u>Your Healthiest Self: Wellness Toolkits – National Institutes of Health</u>—https://www.nih.gov/health-information/your-healthiest-self-wellness-toolkits



Best wishes as you continue your healing journey

OneEighty's Victim Services Team is available for continued support:

Main Office
Gault Liberty Center
104 Spink Street
Wooster, OH 44691
330.264.8498

Millersburg Office 34-C South Clay St. Millersburg, OH 44654 330.674.1020 www.one-eighty.org



Helping people change direction.

24-Hour Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Hotline:

800.686.1122

This resource was inspired by

Legacy of Survival

Victim/Survivor Advisory Council — Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services, Inc.