

May 24, 2024

An announcement from the United Open Arms Board of Directors:

United Open Arms (UOA), a nonprofit organization registered in Minnesota, has been created to provide therapy funds for sexual abuse survivors connected to our fellowship. Survivors located in the United States will be considered for this financial assistance. As there is a continuing need for this support, UOA will complement other therapy funds and private efforts. UOA is managed by unpaid volunteers with a variety of backgrounds.

UOA has launched a website, www.UnitedOpenArms.org, where survivors can learn about UOA and where donations can be made.

A confidential process has been established to maintain the privacy of survivors needing therapy funds and of donors who wish to provide financial assistance. UOA has partnered with RAINN, the nation's largest anti-sexual violence organization, to develop a dedicated therapy fund helpline for survivors. Trauma-informed intake specialists from RAINN will answer survivors' calls. These specialists, trained specifically for UOA's helpline, will assist survivors who call to determine eligibility for financial assistance.

The UOA helpline will not investigate abuse allegations or provide crisis intervention. If a survivor calls and needs immediate assistance, the RAINN intake specialist will transfer the call to a crisis center. Also note that RAINN is a mandatory reporter, meaning that if a caller discloses identifying information concerning the abuse of a child or vulnerable adult a report will need to be made to local authorities.

RAINN will refer survivors who qualify for financial assistance to an independent third party claims administrator who will work with the survivors to pay for the therapy as funds become available. RAINN and the claims administrator will safeguard survivors' privacy so others, including the UOA Board, will not know who has received financial assistance.

The UOA Therapy Fund Helpline will be operational in July when training of the intake specialists and claims administrator is complete. For more information, visit www.UnitedOpenArms.org.