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South Valley Services Welcomes Congressman Burgess Owens for Informational Visit on Survivor Services

WEST JORDAN, Utah — South Valley Services (SVS) was honored to welcome U.S. Congressman Burgess Owens from Utah's 4th District to the South Valley Sanctuary in West Jordan. The visit served as an opportunity to highlight SVS's work empowering survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault, and to exchange ideas on how community leaders and service organizations can deepen their impact together.

"We appreciate Congressman Owens' support of H.R. 909, the Pet and Women Safety Act, which would expand protections and resources—such as veterinary care and emergency housing—for survivors and their pets," said Lindsey Boyer, Executive Director of SVS. "His engagement on practical, evidence-based policies is exactly what survivors need."

<u>H.R. 909</u> would help reduce barriers to safety by extending protection orders to include pets, enabling abusers to be held accountable, mandating restitution for veterinary care, and authorizing grants for safe shelter housing for survivors and their animals.

"I'm grateful for leaders who take the time to understand the complex needs of survivors," said Rob Roake, Development Manager. "Our discussion emphasized how lawmakers, nonprofits, and frontline providers can collaborate to improve outcomes for families and children statewide."

The conversation centered on the needs of survivors, service gaps, and how community-based organizations and public officials can collaborate to create safer environments for children, families, and individuals throughout Utah.

South Valley Services remains committed to collaborating with leaders from all backgrounds to advance safety, dignity, and equitable access to resources for all.

South Valley Services (SVS) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that has served the local community since 1998. South Valley Services is a survivor-centered organization where individuals impacted by domestic abuse and sexual violence can realize their strength, courage, and resilience while on their path to an empowered future. For more information, please visit our website at <u>www.svsutah.org</u>.



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