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The Retreat Urges Year-End Giving as Long Island Survivor Services Face Dual Crisis: Rising Need and 2026 Federal Tax Changes

EAST HAMPTON, NY — December 11, 2025 — The Retreat, one of Long Island’s only 24/7 domestic violence service providers, is urging community support before December 31 as the region confronts an unprecedented demand for safety services *and* looming federal tax changes that will reduce charitable deductions beginning in 2026.

“This year has been unlike any in The Retreat’s history,” said Elise Trucks, Director of Development. “Calls for help are rising sharply at the same moment that survivor services across Long Island are shrinking. Federal tax changes add another pressure point for nonprofits that rely on year-end giving to stay open.”

In 2024 and 2025, multiple peer agencies on Long Island—including Safe Center LI and ECLI-VIBES—closed programs or reduced core services due to funding cuts. The Retreat now serves more than 9,000 survivors a year and has absorbed a significant surge in crisis referrals, particularly for shelter and legal advocacy.

Tax Changes Taking Effect in 2026

Beginning in 2026, federal rules governing charitable deductions will shift in ways that reduce tax benefits for many itemizing donors:

Smaller gifts may no longer be deductible.

Only donations exceeding 0.5% of a donor’s adjusted gross income (AGI) will qualify for a deduction.

High earners will see reduced tax savings.

The value of all deductions—including charitable gifts—will be capped at 35 cents per dollar donated.

Because of these changes, many donors may receive greater tax advantages by giving before December 31, 2025. The Retreat encourages supporters to consult their tax advisors to determine how the new regulations may affect them.



Ways Donors Can Maximize Impact Before December 31

Give Early:

Gifts made in 2025 enjoy the current, more favorable tax structure.

Bundle Donations:

Some donors may choose to combine several years of giving into a single larger 2025 gift to maximize deductibility.

Why Year-End Giving Matters Now — Especially on Long Island

A year-end gift helps sustain core safety services at a time when regional capacity is stretched thin:

- Emergency shelter for families escaping violence
- Counseling, legal advocacy, and trauma-informed support
- School-based and community prevention programming
- A 24/7 hotline that remains active even during funding gaps

“With peer services disappearing and demand rising, The Retreat has become the safety net for much of Eastern Long Island,” said **Cate Carbonaro, Executive Director of The Retreat**. “Your gift today ensures that every survivor has someone to turn to. If there is capacity, the time to give is now.”

How to Give

To make a tax-deductible gift before the December 31 deadline, visit allagainstabuse.org/ways-to-give/donate, call 631-329-4398, or email Elise@theretreatinc.org.



About The Retreat:

The Retreat provides safety, shelter, counseling, legal services, and violence-prevention education to survivors of domestic and sexual violence across Suffolk County. Its 24-hour hotline is available at (631) 329-2200. For more information, visit allagainstabuse.org or follow @allagainstabuse on Instagram and Facebook.