

# THE DRAMA CLUB IS PROUD TO PARTNER WITH SURVIVORS OFFERING SUPPORT

**In July of 2016, playwright and performer Terry Vandivort, put The Drama Club in contact with Burke Burnett of the Dallas based community support organization, aptly called Survivors Offering Support (S.O.S.). Together we are partnering for the production of Terry's show, *The Incident*, to raise awareness and spread hope.**

## Their Story:

"S.O.S. = Survivors Offering Support is a group devoted to working closely with people affected by violence in the LGBT Community. We ourselves are survivors of violent assaults, and strive to be community "first responders" to fellow survivors. Our mission, first and foremost, is to ensure that the mental and physical well-being of the survivor is taken care of. We offer emotional support through 1 on 1 sessions, group meetings and referrals to licensed counselors. In addition, we offer financial aid for medical expenses, lost wages, property, etc to those who qualify. Through this process, we also pair the survivor with long-term assistance from the DA's office, which can provide more financial assistance as well as professional therapy. All of our services are free of charge, and all funds raised go directly to help the survivors and their families.

SOS was co-founded by Burke Burnett and Michael Dominguez in response to the string of violent assaults and robberies that began after the Alan Ross Freedom Pride Parade on September 20, 2015 in the vibrant LGBT community of Oaklawn in Dallas, TX.

Burnett is a survivor of a 2011 hate crime. Through his experience, he was made aware of inadequacies and deficiencies in victims's assistance. His goal for starting the organization was to work closely with other survivors, as he prefers to say, to help navigate through the sometimes lonely and confusing path of healing and recovery. Looking back on his journey, he now feels as though he has a wealth of knowledge that could positively impact others, and is working diligently to eradicate violence in the area and the effects that survivors often feel long after.

Dominguez is a survivor of the second assault reported in the Oaklawn area on October 2, 2015. Driven by a need to turn his negative experience into something positive, he now works to help other survivors strengthen their emotional state while stressing the importance of reporting their assaults. He works closely with area activists to bring about improvements in area security as well as bridge relationships and confidence with local law enforcement and community residents."

**On the evenings of October 19th and 26th, members of S.O.S. will lead talk backs following the performance of *The Incident*, to continue the community conversation. Please, join us. For more information, please visit the S.O.S. Facebook page, or their donation page.**

**[S.O.S. Facebook Page](#)**

**[S.O.S. Webpage](#)**