

# SOUTHBOROUGH SAFE SPACES



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Southborough Safe Spaces to Receive Prestigious Abernethy Award from Wellesley Village Church**

SOUTHBOROUGH, MA – 12/08/2023 – Southborough Safe Spaces, a dedicated community organization committed to support and advocacy for queer youth, is honored to announce that it will be receiving the prestigious Abernethy Award from Wellesley Village Church.

The Abernethy Award, established by Wellesley Village Church, recognizes outstanding organizations that have made significant contributions to building bridges within the community, fostering unity, and promoting social justice. It honors the Rev. William B. Abernethy and his wife, Ann, both pastors of Village Church for about 20 years, who shared an enthusiasm and passion for outreach. Southborough Safe Spaces has been selected as the 2023 recipient for its exceptional efforts in creating a welcoming and safe environment for LGBTQIA+ youth and their families.

Wellesley Village Church acknowledges Southborough Safe Spaces for its unwavering commitment to providing a haven for youth who need a safe place to be fully themselves. Through various initiatives and programs, Southborough Safe Spaces has played a pivotal role in promoting understanding, empathy, and collaboration within their community.

"We are delighted to honor Southborough Safe Spaces with the Abernethy Award. Their work stood out to us right away as something we at Wellesley Village Church wanted to support. This award is a testament to their outstanding contributions to our shared community," said Megan Strouse, Pastoral Intern at Wellesley Village Church.

The award ceremony will take place on December 10th at 10am at Wellesley Village Church, located at 2 Central Street in Wellesley, MA. Members of the community, local leaders, and the media are invited to attend this special event to celebrate the positive impact of Southborough Safe Spaces.

"We are humbled and grateful to receive the Abernethy Award from Wellesley Village Church. This recognition inspires us to continue our mission of building a world where queer youth are understood, celebrated, and loved. Together, we can create a future where everyone feels valued and supported," said Dawn Sorensen, Co-Founder of Southborough Safe Spaces.

For more information about Southborough Safe Spaces or the Abernethy Award ceremony, please contact Dawn Sorensen at [dawn@southboroughsafespaces.org](mailto:dawn@southboroughsafespaces.org), or visit our websites, [www.southboroughsafespaces.org](http://www.southboroughsafespaces.org) and [www.wellesleyvillagechurch.org](http://www.wellesleyvillagechurch.org).

About Southborough Safe Spaces: Our focus is on sharing, learning about, and supporting one another through queer experiences in a safe and fun environment. We hold youth only meetings, parent/caregiver meetings, whole family events, and provide community partners with support and education to become good allies.

We are committed to supporting LGBTQ+ youth and families in leading happy, healthy, full lives. We are called to respond to families with queer children and youth experiencing mental and spiritual health crises. Our dream is to create an environment where queer youth are equipped to respond to societal pressures in ways that are healthy and self-affirming.

About Wellesley Village Church: With open hearts and minds, Wellesley Village Church welcomes the curious, the seeker, and the sure at every stage of life. Guided by the love of Jesus, our growing congregation shares in inspiring worship, inclusive community, and intentional service. We are continually transformed by following Jesus' example that in giving we receive, in feeding we are fed, and in loving, we are loved. Our intergenerational ministries deepen our faith and compel our service. Together we are called to pursue justice and joy for all people and to care passionately about God's creation and the shared health of our world. Energized by the Holy Spirit, we joyfully live into our future together.