

WOMEN'S Center



Protect, educate, advocate, counsel and empower

Summer/Fall 2020

NATIONAL DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE AWARENESS
MONTH

October

Every October the Women's Center celebrates survivors while building awareness in our communities about domestic violence. This year was no different. Yes, our events may have looked a little different in a world dealing with a global pandemic, but we knew that if there was ever a time to bring talks about domestic violence to the forefront, it's now. We took to social media and to local parks to educate the public on our ser-

services for domestic violence survivors as well as to inform them about the prevalence and devastation of domestic violence. All month long we held events such as virtual speakers and 5ks, "Shop 'Til it Stops" at Pak Ratz, our Gwinn Open House, public art displays in our community, and a call to action for others to help spread the word by wearing purple.



Domestic Violence Awareness Month 2020 Art Display

This year especially we felt the importance of this month as we know a lot of people are suffering and need some help. Our goal is always a world without domestic violence, but we understand that that isn't the reality. However, until it is, we will be here supporting survivors, change, and prevention.

*"Real change, enduring change
happens one step at a time."*

- Ruth Bader Ginsburg

R.I.P September 18, 2020





FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

So many people say the year of 2020 is “the year that was not.” We all want to forget 2020 ever happened. For us, however, 2020 is the year we reinvented ourselves and our service delivery. And for every dark cloud, there is a silver lining.

When restaurants, non-essential stores, and many businesses closed down during “Stay at Home orders, the Women’s Center shelter, its services, and its staff carried on. It was not “business as usual,” and we had to change the way we deliver our services. Our in-person services for our clients not in the shelter turned towards “digital advocacy” so that we can continue to serve the people who rely on us.

We were able to maintain all our DV, SA, and housing services and our 24/7 support line; we have kept our emergency shelter open. Although we have had to significantly reduce the number of survivors and their children that we can safely shelter, fortunately, we have not had to turn anyone away who met criteria for emergency shelter. Our shelter continues to regularly remain full since lockdown ended. Most people in the shelter remain there for about 30 days as staff work with them to either relocate or obtain safe housing.

Hundreds of people in Alger and Marquette County depend on the services we provide for safety planning, advocacy, housing resources, referrals, legal resources, food and supplies, and crisis counseling. Our staff has been resilient and flexible through the crisis and they exhibit much courage each and every day.

The pandemic has had a severe impact on victims, survivors, and the advocates that serve them in our communities. Many victims faced the challenge of being trapped in their homes during lockdown with an abusive partner they could not escape. Violence escalated for many in their homes. Victims who may have lost their jobs or saw their work hours reduced are forced to financially rely on an abusive partner more than they would have previously.

It is time we treat domestic violence as a public health crisis, much like COVID-19. What if we developed models to “flatten the curve” of domestic violence by addressing the needs of programs? We have plans for “emergency responses,” but if we want to eliminate domestic violence in our society, we need to have long-term, systemic, and capacity building discussions. We need to address root causes such as patriarchy, privilege, and oppression. We need to talk about how we can respond better to the violence and address prevention, much like a vaccine for COVID-19.

Beth Casady
Executive Director

GWINN WOMEN’S CENTER & BLUEPRINT OFFICES MAKE A MOVE

Our Gwinn office, along with the Blueprint for Safety office, recently made a move to the KI Sawyer Heritage Air Museum building at 403 3rd Street, on the former airbase grounds. If you have not seen the museum, take a ride out, it offers a wonderful display of the history of the air force and its people while located at Sawyer from 1955 up until 1995. Check out their website, <https://kishamuseum.org/>, for times they are open as they do have limited hours.

We are happy to be in a much more visible location and are hoping that with the move we will see more “drop in” traffic. Our hours at the office are M, W, F: 8 AM TO 2 PM; TU & THUR: 2 PM TO 6 PM. Christy can be reached during those hours at the office, 906-346-2022 or her work cell, 906-869-4549





PROGRAM DIRECTOR REPORT

Alisha Young

COVID has changed many of our lives in different ways. COVID has had an especially unique effect on victims of domestic violence. While the “Stay Home and Stay Safe” order put out by the government was meant to protect individuals and families from illness, it left many victims of domestic violence trapped in their home with their abuser. Abusers that once went to work or left the home at some point during the day, were now ordered to stay home. Evans, et al. (2020) found that in some areas, domestic violence shelters saw a 50% decrease in the number of crisis calls they were receiving. The authors further explained that the decrease was not due to less domestic violence, but due to victims not being able to safely reach out to obtain resources and services because they were now with their abuser all day and night. While this pandemic has been a blessing for some folks in that it has allowed them to spend more time with their family and focus on what is important to them, it has been a disaster and lethal for others.

So, what can we do to help those trapped at home?

- If you hear something, say something. If you hear your neighbors arguing, call 911.
- Encourage victims to safety plan by keeping their phone on their person and charged at all times, identify safe areas within their home, have a code word between you and the victim so that when you hear/see the code word, you immediately call 911, and check-in with the victim regularly.

Reference:

Evans, M., Lindauer, M., Farrell, M. (2020). A Pandemic within a pandemic—intimate partner violence during COVID-19. *The New England Journal of Medicine*, 1-3.

SAFETY PLANNING

Navigating abusive relationships requires resources and safety planning. Your safety is our priority and here is what we can do for you:

- 24/7 crisis line available with advocates ready to assist.
- Filing of personal protection orders.
- Housing resources and shelter.
- Emergency access to clothing and personal items.
- Assistance in creating action steps that will make each part of your life safer: home, community, job, relationships, and family.
- Legal advocacy and support.
- Crisis Intervention.

"History is written by the survivors." — Proverb



“Each success no matter how small, is a step in the journey of healing and acceptance.”

-Domestic Violence Survivor

GET TO KNOW OUR RESOURCES

NEW ALGER SART TEAM

Darcie Forslund, SA Program Coordinator

Alger County officially has a volunteer Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) as of February 3, 2020!!! A SART is a group of individuals who volunteer their time after regular business hours, on the weekends, and during the holidays. They respond to all sexual assault and domestic violence victims who present to Munising Hospital, Bay Care Medical Center, and Alger County law enforcement agencies. This group of highly trained volunteers provide emotional support, crisis intervention, information, and referrals to all victims. If need be, they will also advocate for the victim during their hospital stay and their interview with law enforcement. They will also make sure they have a safe place to return to along with having their basic needs met until the Alger County Women's Center Advocate is able to follow up with the victim.

On February 3rd, two SART volunteers were trained by the SART Coordinator from the Marquette Women's Center location. These two amazing ladies covered 6 months of on call during COVID without any hesitation; as they knew how important it was to have an advocate to respond if the call came in. They were very thankful when another SART training was held at the end of August to add more volunteers to the team. This training brought in four new volunteers bringing the team to a total of six. The Women's Center's Alger County office is very grateful for these wonderful volunteers. We recognize that we would not have the response team if it wasn't for them.

The Women's Center's Alger County office is always looking for volunteers to join their SART. They are currently planning another SART training in the month of November. If you or someone you know would like to be part of our SART, please contact Alex, our Alger County Advocate at 906-387-4554. She will be happy to answer any questions!

Just a little side note ~ Sexual assault is more than rape. Sexual assault is defined as unwanted and illegal sexual contact which is without consent or is incapable of giving consent (such as age, physical or mental incapacity, or under the influence of substances). This includes any touch over one's clothing.

The Women's Center is a community-based service organization that serves all population groups. We provide no cost crisis counseling, support groups, and supportive services to survivors of sexual and domestic violence, sexual exploitation, and human trafficking. Please reach out if you or someone you know needs our services ~ 800-455-6611.

Did you know that domestic violence is a leading cause of homelessness for women?

-National Network to End Domestic Violence

"Upon receiving the keys to her new home, the survivor was elated and stated, 'I finally feel free.'"

-Ohio Advocate

TRANSITIONAL SUPPORTIVE HOUSING (TSH)

Housing support is essential in creating a safe environment for success. Here's how we can help:

- Assistance in assessing safety concerns in regards to housing.
- Locating and applying for safe housing.
- Breaking down barriers (finance concerns, lease issues, background check issues, etc.).
- Goal and action step development.
- Connection to other resources to support you and your home.

"A house is a home when it shelters the body and comforts the soul."

— Phillip Moffitt



GET TO KNOW OUR RESOURCES

OUR SPECIAL SUPPORTERS



Bobbi Brey of Girls Ride PERIOD



Homemade quilts by Messiah Lutheran Church



**Spread Goodness Day
Getz's Donations**



**Spread Goodness Day
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**Darci & John Scheidt
Huron Mountain Bakery**

Your support makes
us possible, thank
you!

“A single act of kindness throws out roots in all directions, and the roots spring up and make new trees.”

-Amelia Earhart



Heather Mosher of VAST presenting a check in honor of Pam Hillier



Spread Goodness Day



Theresa Hamari Marquette Wallpaper & Paint Mask Sale Fundraiser for WC

Donating your IRA distributions to a charity.

Qualified charitable distributions (QCDs) have been permanently extended. When an IRA holder is age 70½ or over, they are eligible to make a charitable distribution to qualified charities. . There are some key benefits to donating, such as tax benefits, Adjusted Gross Income, and lower taxation of Social Security benefits.

Making a QCD provides an opportunity to make a charitable contribution that you might otherwise not have been able to make and/or receive potential tax benefits make There are some restrictions with QCDs. Consult with your tax advisor and/or estate-planning attorney about your situation.



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Dish soap
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Basic Cleaning Supplies

Trash Can Bags (13 gallon)
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Disinfectant Wipes
Tissues
Baby Wipes
Shampoo

"It's not about how much you do, but how much love you put into what you do that counts." - Mother Theresa

WAYS TO DONATE

Donate by Phone or Mail

Please contact (906) 225-1346 during office hours (9am – 5pm EST) if you would prefer to make your credit card gift by phone. We accept Visa, MasterCard, American Express and Discover. If you prefer to mail in a check or cash donation, please mail in your contribution to:
Women's Center
1310 S. Front Street
Marquette, MI, 49855

Donate Stock or Securities

You may make a gift in the form of stocks, bonds, IRAs distributions or mutual funds. There may be tax benefits to making these gifts directly to the Women's Center. Please call 906-225-1346 and speak to Executive Director, Beth Casady, or email executivedirector@wcmqt.org.

Memorial and Honor Gifts

There are many options for leaving a lasting legacy through your will, estate, or long-term financial plans. Please contact Beth Casady, Executive Director to start a conversation about how this giving option can work for you. Call 906-225-1346, ext. 210 or email executivedirector@wcmqt.org for more information.

Gifts In Kind

If you are looking to donate anything other than cash, please contact Beth Casady, Executive Director, to talk further about your donation. Please call 906-225-1346, ext. 210 or email executivedirector@wcmqt.org.



New Outreach Office in Ishpeming!

We have opened an outreach office in Ishpeming in the historic **Gossard** building, 308 Cleveland, next to St. Vincent DePaul. We are located on the first floor in Suite 113. Our advocates are staffing the office Monday thru Friday from 9 am to 5 pm. Stop in and see us anytime.

We will also be hosting an open house on Small Business Saturday, Nov. 28 from 9 am to 12 noon. We hope you stop in and see us as well as take a look at this beautiful building where the Gossard factory once employed over 600 women at one time. We think it so fitting to have an office in this space.

Ishpeming office: 308 Cleveland, Ste. 113
906-204-2749.





Thank you to our supporters and to
the Mining Journal

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In Honor of:

Tim Aho from Kathleen Aho
Viola Beishline & Beatrice Mapes
Joyce Canale from Mark Canale
Bob Chapman from Barb Coleman
John C. Craik from Mary L. Craik
Mark, Kevin & Scott Ehlert from Sandy Ehlert
Aaron, Perry & Chip Truscon from Karen Eldevick
Gail Gray from Richard Gray
Mary Jane Bolton from Jim Jajich
Jane Johnson from Rich Johnson
Randy Johnson from Cecelia Johnson
Thomas Knuff from LaVonne Knuff
Russ Magnaghi from Diane Kordich
Phil, Phillip & Eric May from Sally May
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Bob Miller from Eeva Miller
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Joe Rapport & Davis Mosher from Karlyn Rapport
Mary Snitgen from Don Snitgen
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Stuart Sundell-Norlin from Karen Sundell
Kim Swanberg from Steve Swanberg
Nan Taube & Melva Royce Taber from Steve Taube
Hans & Bernard
Robert M. Syrja & James M Syrja from Dennis Syrja
Abel, Noah and Gregg H. Seiple from Babette Welch
Stephen Wissler—Happy 40th, Deborah Wissler

In Honor of:

Neil Winkler from Laurie Winkler

In Memory of:

Joanne Hamel from Paul Arsenault
Thomas Cappuccio from Carol Cappuccio
Adelbert Harper Carpenter from Daniel Carpenter
Veronica (Cadeau) Fasana from Lou Chappell
Frances Mar Colwell from Charles Colwell
J. Harold Cotey, Sr & Joseph H. Cotey Jr from Virginia Cotey Cota
Robert Eiseman Family from Rick Eiseman
Clinton Dale Erickson from Scott Erickson
Two men in my life from Jill Essinger
Kitty Fisher from Bob Fisher
Len Henderson from Roberta Henderson
Roger R. Hytinen from Gloria Hytinen
Wendell Anderson from Larry R. Keller
Randy Kivisto from Esther Kivisto
Marge Hendra from Nancy & Dick Lutey
Viola Belshline & Beatrice Mapes from Dennis Mapes
Madonna Marsden from Michael Marsden
Patty Meyers Bailey from Michele Moran
Charles Ollila from Phillip Ollila
Bill Addison from Janis Peterson
Robert Rans from Susan Rans
Hazel Robina from Robert Robina
Robert Waudby from Sheryl Waudby
Robert Welker Jr from Bob Welker III
F. Flynn Wyche from Abigail Wyche
Daniel Zdroik from Carole Zdroik



Volunteers

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| Phebe Burns | Becky Kolbus |
| Ann Casady | Lexi Pettengill |
| Jacqueline Caswell | Mary Martin |
| Angie Cherrette | Tina McCorkle |
| Claire Clifton | Katrina Meyers |
| Katie Deaver | Izzy Nebel |
| Lynn DeRoche | Beth Roberts |
| Miranda Gohlke | Gale Rogers |
| Abbey Helppi | Lea Rudzena |
| Joni Hendrickson | Dana Sadler |
| Emmalee Houle | Dana Selin |
| Keena Jones | |

“Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they have the heart.”

- Elizabeth Andrew

Women’s Center

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Newsletter designed by Angie Cherrette



Women's Center

1310 S. Front Street,
Marquette, MI 49855
906-225-1346

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SERVING MARQUETTE & ALGER COUNTIES

WOMEN'S CENTER
1310 S. Front Street
Marquette, MI 49855
Office Hours:
9:00-5:00pm Mon-Fri
906.225.1346

HARBOR HOUSE
Open 24 hours/day
24/7 Support Line:
906.226.6611
or 1-800.455.6611

ALGER COUNTY OFFICE
Munising Central Comm. Ctr.
413 Maple Street
Munising, MI 49862
Office Hours:
9:00-3:00pm Mon-Fri
906.387.4554/906.250.2595

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403 3rd Street
KI Sawyer MI 49841
Office Hours:
8:00am-2:00pm
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