

WOMEN'S Center



Protect, educate, advocate, counsel and empower

Fall 2021



Domestic Violence in Rural Areas

People living in abusive domestic violence (DV) relationships in rural areas, such as ours, have hardships when it comes to getting help. Marquette County is the largest county in the state of Michigan, comprising 1,821 square miles. Alger County comprises 918 square miles. The vast, remote rural areas of each county lend itself to isolation and an array of barriers for survivors of domestic violence to seeking services.

- Over 25% of women who live in rural, isolated areas live more than 40 miles away from their closest DV program.
- Access to transportation is limited and poses a significant barrier.
- According to the American Society of Addiction Medicine, DV co-occurs with substance use 40-60% of the time.
- Lack of anonymity in small communities affects survivors reporting abuse.
- Lack of access to safe child care and support services for the children of survivors affects getting help.
- Access to legal representation for divorce, child custody and parenting time is limited.
- Rural communities often lack the resources to address the needs of survivors.
- Survivors express challenges and barriers in obtaining medical care.
- Obtaining employment or attending college classes most often becomes impossible for survivors to sustain.
- Survivors often encounter housing barriers that render them ineligible for safe and affordable housing.

At the Women's Center we are continually challenged with reaching people living in intimate partner violent relationships that need our assistance. We have resources for survivors and their children. Our services are free and confidential. We do not make decisions for people, we give them the knowledge they need to make their own decisions. Empowerment.

Our task to providing services is quite different from providing the same services in urban areas. It is hard to reach isolated individuals. We know that people living in rural, isolated communities report a higher prevalence of DV (22.5% compared to 15.5% in urban communities).

That is why we need your help to get the word out about our services, especially during this month, Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM). Give us a call at 906-225-1346 and we will gladly give you brochures to take a friend, your church, your gym, or any place. We have, through out this newsletter, ways you can participate in DVAM to help promote the Women's Center. Domestic Violence is a community issue, not just the Women's Center's issue or someone else's. It affects our society as a whole.

Connection is why we're here; it is what gives purpose and
meaning to our lives.

— Brené Brown



#YOUARENOTALONE



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This past summer was a whirlwind for us. We have six contracts with the state that primarily pay salaries and benefits for staff that work directly with survivors, offer some specific assistance for survivors, provide some shelter expenses, support staff mileage for work, pay for a little staff training, and that is about it. We had to recontract for four of those. Then, for the first time since 2015, the State of Michigan issued an RFP for domestic violence services in Michigan which combined four funding sources. It was very interesting!

The Women's Center submitted a bid in response to the State of Michigan Division of Victim Services' (DVS) DV RFP with a request for more funding for domestic violence services in Alger and Marquette Counties. Working with our new Program Director, Hannah Holma, and our DV Program Coordinator, Kim Kruhlik, both recent graduates of NMU's MSW program and both are now LLMSW's, we shifted a bit on how we can provide immediate therapy services to domestic violence survivors. Both of these professionals can provide these services. This makes a huge difference in the lives of the people we serve. Behavioral health services are extremely hard for lower income persons, and those in rural areas, to access. That is our experience here in the Upper Peninsula.

We also see, on a regular basis, co-occurring substance abuse with DV survivors. That is a reality in our world. Having Kim and Hannah with their expertise in addiction counseling to lead the DV team is a plus for our organization. Our bid did score high (it was a competitive statewide bid), but with many changes within DVS, the state agency that oversees domestic and sexual violence agencies in Michigan, and their federal funding sources, we actually received cuts in funding. It was not just our agency, it was across the state. Most of this was the Victim of Crime Act (VOCA) funding that has fallen. All I can say is, IT'S COMPLICATED. (Feel free to call me for details!)

The reality is, we had to make cuts to the DV budget to the tune of \$189,000 for the upcoming fiscal year that starts October 1. We are committed not to cut staff or programming. We eliminated two positions that were open and not filled. Like the rest of the nation, it has been hard to fill positions as they have become open with qualified staff.

We simply will need to raise more money. And we will do it, we will survive. So please continue to support us. Gender-based violence has never been so prevalent in our society as we are seeing now. We need your continued support. Thank you so much for all you do for us – we cannot do what we do without you.

Beth Casady
Executive Director

A Simple Gift Changes Lives

A bequest is one of the easiest gifts to make. With the help of an advisor, you can include language in your will or trust specifying a gift be made to family, friends and The Women's Center. It's as easy as: "I, [name], of [city, state, zip], give, devise and bequeath to the Women's Center [written amount or percentage of the estate] for its unrestricted use in changing the lives of vulnerable women and their children." It's best to include our Tax ID number as well, which is 38-2340624.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

OCTOBER 1981

The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV) observes their first **Day of Unity**, intended to bring together advocates from across the nation.

OCTOBER 1989

The U.S. Congress passes a public law proclaiming October to be National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The same legislation has passed **every year since then**.

OCTOBER 1987

NCADV and domestic violence resource centers all around the country begin to dedicate the **entire month of October** to domestic violence awareness.

HOW CAN I SHOW MY SUPPORT DURING NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH?

- attend **local Domestic Violence Awareness Month events** -- happening all over the country!
- share your support on your **social media**
- **donate** to or **volunteer** for your local domestic violence resource center



MEET OUR NEW PROGRAM DIRECTOR!

My name is Hannah Holma and I am the new Program Director at the Women's Center. I have been a social worker in the community for over six years. I began my career as a substance abuse counselor and through that, worked with many survivors of intimate partner violence and sexual assault.

While working as a clinical social worker, I realized I needed to do more to be able to help the people I serve. This led me to seek my Master's Degree in social work. Through my time in graduate school, I realized much of my passion lies in systems change, so a career change ensued.

When the opportunity to take the position as the Program Director came, I jumped on it. I could not believe that the work I am passionate about, coupled with the ability to do both micro and macro social work, was falling into my lap.

I come into the agency with a philosophy that includes creating an inclusive, safe place for everyone, knowing that communication is key in any agency, and wanting to develop new, survivor-centered programming. As a part of the leadership team, my approach is best summarized by the late, great Ruth Bader-Ginsburg: "Fight for the things you care about, but do it in a way that will lead others to join you." I'm so grateful to be a part of the Women's Center team and look forward to creating change!



Domestic Violence Awareness Month 2021 Events

Friday, October 1st:

Ribbons and Pinwheels to Promote Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Monday, October 4th:

Stay in the know; Encouraging the community to check our social media sites and learn about domestic violence and how they can support survivors

Tuesday, October 5th:

Listen, communicate, and educate individuals in the community by visiting and participating at our displays at local libraries

Wednesday, October 6th:

Shop for a Cause- Show your support by shopping at Pak Ratz- Enter to win a Gift Certificate

Thursday, October 7th:

Social Media Event

"Reader With a Cause"- join the book club sponsored by #National Network to End Domestic Violence Home Page - <https://NNEDV.org>.

Friday, October 8th:

Donuts against Domestic Violence: Visit your local Huron Mountain Bakery to order some delicious baked goods. 50% of all sales on this date will be donated to the Women's Center

Sunday, October 10th-October 15th:

Post it Purple: Wear purple to support survivors and victims of domestic violence

Sunday, October 17th-October 22nd:

No More/This is DV- Fill out one or both signs and post it to The Women's Center and to your own social media to share DV awareness. <https://nomore.org>

Monday, October 25th:

Northern Michigan University Event

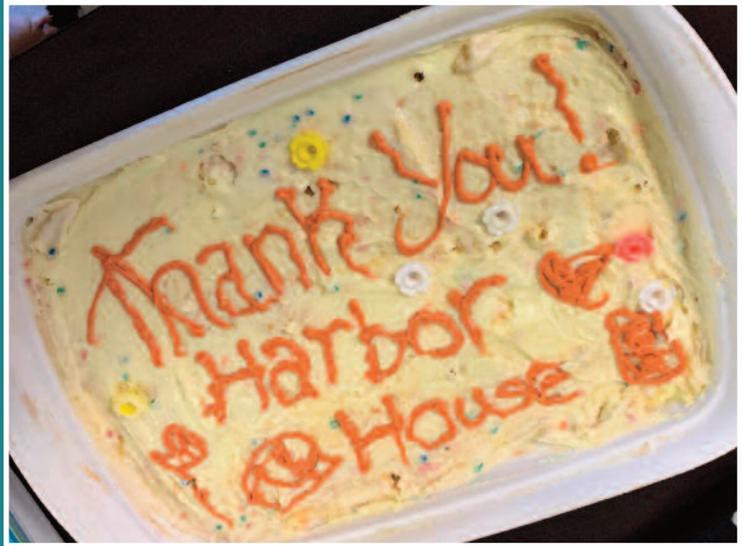
NMU students wear all purple this day to raise awareness for domestic violence

Tuesday, October 26th:

Law Enforcement Appreciation Day

HARBOR HOUSE THANK YOU

Our shelter has been full for months now with many children and their mothers. One cute little boy and his mom made our shelter staff a cake in late June- how cute is this?!? This is how we are rewarded - by this sweetness that just makes you smile from ear to ear.....



CELEBRATE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH WITH US AT

DONUTS AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Hosted by Huron Mountain Bakery

OCTOBER 8TH
7AM-7PM

Proceeds from the event go to support survivors of Domestic Violence

The Steinhaus Restaurant Supports The Women's Center in October during DVAM Net profit for the day on Wednesdays in October go to The Women's Center. Support us by eating good food!

OUR SUPPORTERS



Anytime Fitness Harvey delivering needed goods & supplies!



Thank you Logan for honoring us with Anytime Fitness Harvey non-profit donation for the month of September!



Mitchell & Michell: Last spring, Mitchell & Michell were 5th grade students at Ne-gaunee Middle School who came up with a project that impacts their community in a positive way. With COVID, the boys wondered how those struggling right now get fun masks and sanitizers. They made kits that include a mask with a UP emblem, some masks that are tie-dyed, a pocket sized hand sanitizer and a new pair of socks. They donated these to the Women's Center, along with large bottles of hand sanitizer for our buildings. How thoughtful of them and creative - it makes our hearts feel good to see this in our youth - thank you Mitchell and Michell! You are heroes in our book!



Lakeshore Skin & Body Blueberry Fest fundraiser.



Social Justice for Us presented the Women's Center Program Director, Hannah Holma, with a check to support services for DV and SA survivors.



Bay College RN Students delivering supplies to Harbor House.

NMU PRSSA Coffee Crawl 1: In the spring, NMU's PRSSA held its annual Coffee Crawl during sexual assault awareness month. They raised \$4,500 for the Women's Center!



Your support makes us possible, thank you!



Left to right: Rebecca Finco, DDA; Beth Casady, WC, Tammy and Bill Dupras; Tara Laase-McKinney, DDA.

As a memorial to Jessica Drummond, who lost her life to domestic violence on November 26, 2015, along with her dear friend, Brody Dagenais, her mother, Tammy Dupras, step father, Bill Dupras, sister Jessica Darcy, owner of Third Base Bar, hold an annual car show, Classic Cars on Third with the support of the Marquette Downtown Development Association. Their love of cars has turned into an annual benefit for The Women’s Center. They think it is a fitting way to honor Jessica and her life.

“We tried to think of something to do, to not forget about Jessica. We took a love of our cars and every-

one else’s and just tried to pull it together, see what would happen. And we’ve had so much support, so many contributions – it’s just amazing. Small community pulling together, because everybody’s was hurting. But, it’s all good,” said Tammy.

One hundred and thirty six cars lined Third Street from Park to Hewett Street on Saturday, August 21 with more than twenty-six local businesses as sponsors. Hundreds of people walked up and down Third Street. This year, the show raised more than \$16,000 for The Women’s Center.

In Remembrance

This year has been a hard one for many of us with our own personal losses. Here at The Women’s Center we mourn the loss of long time supporters Rod Aldrich and Bill and Kathy Davis. The Marquette community has lost three of its finest individuals.

Adopt A Family

Hard to believe that the year end holidays are three months away. We are already gearing up for Adopt A Family. We will be looking for people to adopt families for the holiday. Please call us at the beginning of November at our main office 906-225-1346 if you’d like to adopt. Our families are not just at the shelter but are also our outreach clients in Alger and Marquette Counties.



**Thank you to our supporters and to
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Howard Cohodas	Marc Grove	Joseph Maino	Deborah Potts	Scott White
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In Honor of:

Hans & Bernard from Anonymous
Dick, Stan, Rick Greer from Lori Blaker
Nick Bogator from Johanna Bogator
Tim Blanchard from Johanna Bogator
Wells Chapin from Michelle Butler
Bob Chapman from Barb Coleman
Gisele Duehring from James Duehring
Mark, Kevin, and Scott Ehler from Sandy Ehler
James H. Hein from Paul Hein
H.A. Bolton from James Jajich
Thomas Knuff from LaVonne Knuff
Tom Leone from Kathy Leone
Connie Mazzuchi from Daniel Mazzuchi
Paul Menhennick from Jackie Mehennick
Lucas Piggot from Sarah Piggot
Lev Rooks Rapport from Karlyn Rapport
Joes Rooks Rapport from Karlyn Rapport
John & Joseph M. Seymour from Karlyn Rapport
John Stassek from Air & Rob Stassek
William & Rob Sullivan from Mary Sullivan
Gregg H. Seiple from Babette Welch
Robert E. Shanahan from Carolyn Wheat
Stephen R. Wissler from Deborah Wissler

In Memory of:

Clark Lambros from Michelle Butler
Edward L. Buys from Joe Buys
Veronica Cadeau Fasana from Lou Chappell
Thomas Cappuccio from Carol Cappuccio
Dorothy Lewis Keller from Dan Carpenter
Kathy & Bill Davis from Beth Casady
Bobbie Christensen from Larry Christensen
Bill Greer from Cathy Greer Cole & Fred Cole
Rod Aldrich from Kathleen Conover
Bob & Phyllis Eiseman from Rick Eiseman
Kitty Fisher from Robert M. Fisher
Richard L. Greer Sr. from Stan Greer
Carl Hammerstrom from Lynne Hammerstrom
Milosav Jajich from Jim Jajich
ARJ from Margaret Jensen
Randolph Kivisto from Esther Kivisto
Marilyn Klahn from Joel Klahn
Judy Kruger from Greg Kruger
Ernie LaJoie from Jim LaJoie
Madonna Couglin Marsden from Michael Marsden
Kathy Davis from Don Snitgen
Robert Welker Jr. from Bob Welker III
Rod Aldrich from The Women's Center Board of Directors



wish/needs list

- Toilet paper
- Paper Towels
- Paper napkins
- Dish soap/dishwasher detergent
- Basic cleaning supplies
- Trash can bags - 13 gallon
- Fragrance-free laundry dryer sheets
- Cleaning/Clorox wipes
- Tissues
- Baby wipes
- Shampoo and conditioner
- Body wash

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Kim Kruhlik, LLMSW, DV Program Coordinator

*Newsletter printed and mailed
thanks to a generous Donor*

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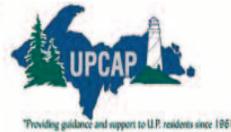
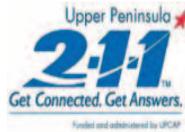


Women's Center

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SERVING MARQUETTE & ALGER COUNTIES

WOMEN'S CENTER

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9:00-5:00pm Mon-Fri
906.225.1346

HARBOR HOUSE

Open 24 hours/day
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ALGER OFFICE

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