Women's Center

Spring/Summer 2026



Our Services

Shelter: Temporary, emergency shelter for individuals fleeing domestic or sexual violence.

Advocacy: Providing crisis intervention, resources, and safety planning for survivors.

Therapy: Trauma-informed therapy to support survivors' emotional and psychological healing.

SANE: Comprehensive, trauma-informed medical care and forensic evidence collection for sexual assault survivors.

Child Advocacy Center: Conducts forensic interviews, and connects children and families to supportive services.

MISSION

Provide programs and services in Marquette and Alger Counties that Protect, Educate, Advocate, Counsel, and Empower all survivors of domestic and sexual violence.

VISION

To cultivate a future of safety, autonomy, and healing for survivors.

WOMEN'S Center

VALUES

Trauma-Informed, Client-Centered, and Intersectional

We are committed to a values-driven approach that informs every aspect of our programs, services, and organizational culture.

A Message from the Executive Director

There is a heaviness many people are carrying right now, even if we do not always talk about it out loud. Families are under stress. Communities feel divided. Many people are navigating uncertainty, burnout, grief, fear, and emotional exhaustion while trying to simply make it through each day.

We continue to see anger, division, coercion, attempts to control or overpower others, and justifications for harmful behaviors. These dynamics do not only exist behind closed doors in abusive relationships. They can slowly shape communities, workplaces, systems, and the ways we speak to and treat one another. Difficult times may magnify these behaviors, but they should never normalize or justify them.

At The Women's Center, we see every day how violence, trauma, fear, and isolation impact survivors, children, and families. Many people are carrying burdens invisible to those around them. We also see the power that compassion, support, and human connection can have in helping people begin to heal.

Communities do not become stronger by accident. They become stronger when people continue showing up for one another. Healing begins when people feel safe enough to ask for help, when we choose empathy over division, and connection over control.

At its core, the work of The Women's Center is about more than crisis response. It is about creating a community where people feel seen, heard, safe, and valued. Every 24/7 Support Line call answered, every survivor supported, every child comforted, and every act of advocacy helps build a stronger, safer, and more compassionate community for all of us.

As Coretta Scott King once said, "The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members."



This work is not possible without community support. Whether through volunteering, advocacy, donations, partnerships, or simply treating others with kindness and dignity in everyday life, every person has the ability to help create safer and more compassionate communities.

Jennine Frazier

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Newsletter printed and mailed thanks to a generous Donor.

Board Spotlight

Laura Kennedy, Ph.D.



Marquette resident since 2020, Laura M. Kennedy, Ph.D. brings nearly two decades of educational expertise to the board. As an associate professor at NMU, Laura has spent the last six years mentoring future educators across Michigan's Upper Peninsula. She joined the board to actively contribute to the growth, safety, and well-being of the community she now calls home. Her work is deeply grounded in collaboration, community, and the holistic well-being of others—a philosophy beautifully reflected in Maya Angelou's words: "I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

Staff Spotlight

Anna Fry

Community Engagement and Outreach Liaison



Meet Anna Fry, who joins the team as the Community Engagement and Outreach Liaison. Program Director, Hannah Holma, interviewed Anna to get a glimpse into her work here at the Women's Center.

Hannah Holma (HH): Tell us a little about yourself and what brought you to this role.
Anna Fry (AF): Hi! My name is Anna, and I've lived in Marquette on and off since 2020. I am originally from the Northern region of lower Michigan, and first came here to attend NMU, where I completed my undergraduate degree. I am currently a Master of Social Work Student at NMU, and happy to be back! Marquette is the most beautiful place, and filled with such a vibrant and engaging community, which I have come to cherish in my years spent here! My internship here at the Women's Center during the 2025-2026 school year is what brought me to this role, as it gave me the opportunity to engage in advocacy, collaboration with other agencies, and crisis intervention work through a social work lens.

HH: What excites you most about serving our community through this position?
AF: What excites me most about this position is the opportunity to help facilitate and expand resources and interpersonal connections in our community, for our community.

HH: How would you describe the importance of community outreach and engagement?
AF: I am a firm believer that survivors of sexual assault and domestic abuse deserve respect and dignity, safety, justice, and the right to have their voices listened to. Community understanding, support, and action all combine to help elevate the visibility of this social issue that we experience here at a local level, and beyond.

HH: What do you hope community members feel when they connect with our agency?
AF: I want community members to understand the depth of need in our community and how they can help be a supportive presence in their everyday lives, as well as advocates for reforming harmful rhetoric, policies, or beliefs surrounding sexual assault and domestic violence.

HH: What are some of your goals or hopes for this role in the coming year?
AF: My goals within this role include assessing the needs of our agency and community and carrying out sustainable ways to engage with and meet those needs. I'd like to build upon existing community partnerships and add to the network of support that we have at the Women's Center, which may include looking at new fundraising events and outreach initiatives for us to host or participate in as an agency!

BEAN's Project

Bringing Empowerment through Advocacy and Nurturing Supports

SART Coordinator, Alex Peterson, partnered with Marquette County Jail and launched BEAN's Project in June 2025.

BEAN's Project is a trauma-informed support initiative created to serve women incarcerated at the Marquette County Jail on drug-related charges. The project exists to reduce stigma, build connection, and support healing by recognizing the person beyond the addiction and the crime.

Substance use is often intertwined with experiences of domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, and other forms of trauma. For many women, addiction can function as a coping mechanism and a mask for unresolved pain. BEAN's Project creates space to talk about that intersection—openly, safely, and without judgment.

What BEAN's Project Provides:

- Trauma-informed group support focused on supportive listening, dignity, and peer connection
- Trauma education to help participants understand how trauma impacts the brain, behavior, and relationships
- Practical tools for healing, including coping skills, grounding strategies, and boundary setting
- Barrier identification and problem-solving to help women anticipate challenges during reentry
- Community resource navigation and information to strengthen support upon release

At its core, BEAN's Project is about reminding women that they are seen. They are powerful—not powerless. Their voices matter, and hope and healing are possible.

BEAN's Project was founded in honor of Alex's sister, Sabrina (Bean) who passed away in 2019. By sharing Bean's story—her struggles, and the impact on their family—our hope is the women in this program feel less alone and more understood. Addiction, Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence do not discriminate, yet stigma continues to silence far too many people who need support. Thank you, Bean, for allowing us to carry on your legacy.



Thank You MCSO staff and Captain Brian Steede for working with us to bring this type of supportive service to your department.

Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Sexual Assault Awareness Month is observed each April to raise public awareness about sexual violence, support survivors, and promote prevention efforts. It highlights the importance of education, community engagement, and accountability in creating safer environments and ending sexual violence.



Denim Day began after a court case in Italy in which a survivor's clothing was wrongly used to justify sexual assault. It has since become a global symbol of support, education, and advocacy for ending sexual violence. The Women's Center held our second annual Denim Day walk in April.







Child Abuse Prevention Month

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month, dedicated to raising awareness and fostering community action to support families and prevent child maltreatment. It highlights the importance of protective factors, such as nurturing environments and social support, to prevent child abuse before it occurs.



Dine-to-Donate at Texas Roadhouse



Free Night at the UP Children's Museum



Healthy Kids Day at the YMCA of Marquette County

Events and Community



NMU Wellbeing Fair



Teen Dating Violence Awareness



Marquette Alternative Rock the Socks



Fox Negaunee Volunteers



Ring of Silence Panel



NMU Coffee Crawl



NMU Cosmetology Fill the Cruiser



Human Trafficking Awareness Month



Free Night at the Children's Museum



Child Abuse Prevention Month



NMU Women's Basketball Team



Marquette Community Baby Shower

Mark Your Calendars

Please join us at our upcoming events!

THE LULLABY PROJECT BENEFIT CONCERT | July 2

The Lullaby Project uses the creative process of songwriting to help parents and caregivers express their hopes and dreams for the future through music. Community members are invited to attend the Lullaby Project Benefit Concert to celebrate the participants' original songs and support the healing power of music and connection.

Date: July 2
Time: 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM
Location: Ore Dock Brewing Company



CLASSIC CARS AND BIKES ON THIRD | August 15



In collaboration with the Marquette DDA, we announce the 10th annual Classic Cars & Bikes on Third Street. The car show commemorates Jessica Drummond, and all proceeds support programs and services of the Women's Center.

Date: August 15
Time: 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Location: N. Third St. between Ohio St. and Park St.

Donation Spotlight

Thank you to our incredible community for your generosity, kindness, and unwavering support—your contributions make it possible for us to provide safety, comfort, healing, and hope to survivors every single day.



Above: Westwood Highschool Business Professionals of America collected non-perishable goods for the pantry.



Right: NMU PRSSA held the 8th Annual Coffee Crawl with proceeds going to the Women's Center. They raised $10,224.08!



Above: Don Fassbender organized a pasty fundraiser to stock the freezer at Harbor House.



Right: The Negaunee Elks Club collected purses to support Purses with a Purpose. They donated over 50 purses filled with self-care items. They also shared their special traveling purse to spread light and love to women of the organization.



Above: Marquette County Exchange club donated $1,000 to support programs and services of the Women's Center.



Right: Jilberts Dairy provided financial assistance to ensure that the Women's Center and Harbor House are able to provide fresh dairy items in our pantry.

Giving Tuesday & Year-End Giving

Thank you for your support!

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Thank you to our incredible community for your generosity and support. Your contributions make it possible for us to provide safety, healing, and hope to survivors every day.

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Women's Center
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Marquette, MI 49855
906-225-1346

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WOMEN'S CENTER
1310 S. Front Street
Marquette, MI 49855
Office Hours: 9:00-5:00pm Mon-Fri
906-225-1346
Or 906-226-6611

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1025 W. Washington St. Marquette, MI
906-226-6611

NLCAC
1310 S. Front St.
Marquette, MI
906-262-0091