



Women's Advocates

Breaking the cycle of domestic violence.

Newsletter // Issue: January 2017

'Twas A Safe and Bright Holiday Season at Women's Advocates!

From volunteerism efforts to full car-loads of donations to financial support, Women's Advocates programs and services felt the love throughout the holidays. Community members donated brand-new (and comfortable) pajamas so residents had the opportunity to pamper themselves for New Years Eve, ringing in the new year together, ready to continue down the path of self-sufficiency. Furthermore, several individuals and organizations donated Target Gift cards to our shelter. These are needed year-round to support immediate purchase needs of our residents. During the holidays, they are used to allow moms to independently purchase holiday gifts for their children, bringing normalcy and extra joy to the season for the whole family! Former residents continuing to receive supportive services have the opportunity to take part in our Adopt A Family program during the holidays, where generous donors are sent a "wish list" of gifts and necessary personal items. These donors then thoughtfully shop and wrap gifts and deliver them to our shelter. These gifts are picked up by families or delivered by our staff, ensuring the family is equipped with gifts, ready to celebrate! To all donors, volunteers, and community partners throughout the holidays and all year, THANK YOU for supporting Women's Advocates! We look forward to a safe and hopeful new year!

February 2017: Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month

Nearly 1.5 million US high school students experience physical abuse from a dating partner each year. Women's Advocates is amongst hundreds of anti-violence organizations taking part in "Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month" this February to bring attention to this serious matter. Because only 1/3 of teens who are in a violent relationship tell anyone about their abuse, we are dedicated to raising awareness about the seriousness of intimate partner violence and share resources for safety with teens in our community. In February, Women's Advocates will be visiting schools and community groups to discuss teen dating violence and give teens the tools they need to stay safe and help others be safe. If you or

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anyone you know is experiencing dating violence, call Women's Advocates' Crisis Line at 651-227-8284, text LOVEIS to 22522, or talk to a school resource officer, police officer, or a friend.



What's New in the Women's Program

A resident-led council started this fall at Women's Advocates. Residents wanted to empower each other by providing a voice and shared responsibility of the space and each other. Residents wanted to encourage open lines of communication between staff and residents, and foster a cooperative living environment. This council has already encouraged self-advocacy through peer support, an ongoing resident-authored newsletter, electing council leadership, and working through challenges as a team. A resident-led council has been started this fall at Women's Advocates. Residents wanted to empower each other by providing a voice and shared responsibility of the space and each other. Residents wanted to encourage open lines of communication between staff and residents, and foster a cooperative living environment. This council has already encouraged self-advocacy through peer support, an ongoing resident-authored newsletter, electing council leadership, and working through challenges as a team.

Volunteer Spotlight - House of Hope

House of Hope, a long-time volunteer group at Women's Advocates, hosted an annual Holiday party, where volunteers hosted a celebration with snacks, hot chocolate, and brought Santa Claus along with them to hand out special gifts to women and children! It was an evening full of laughs, joy, and several selfies with Santa! Thank you House of Hope!



Supporter Spotlight - Alpha Chi Omega



ALLSTATE FOUNDATION

Alpha Chi Omega, a sorority at the University of Minnesota – Twin Cities, has raised over \$10,000 in 2016 for Women's Advocates through a series of fundraising events. One of those events was the "Allstate Purple Purse Challenge" and this group of young women competed with



What's New in the Children's Program

Women's Advocates has begun therapeutic intervention for children at our shelter. To reduce traumatization of children who have witnessed domestic abuse and experienced homelessness, Women's Advocates has engaged the Improve Group to conduct an assessment of our current Children's Program and has also hired a full-time Children's Case Manager to work individually with children and their mothers to ensure that mothers have relevant tools to nurture their children's healing during their family's journey to stability.

Summit Hill Association needs YOUR help to help others!

Do you have an eye for design or communications materials? Are you familiar with the barriers of those experiencing illiteracy? Help victims of domestic violence get the help they need. Beginning in March, a collective of Summit Hill residents is invited to help create a "Safety Self-Assessment Tool" that can be used by anyone, even if they may not be able to read English, to determine if they are being abused by their intimate partner so they can access safety and support. Contribute your thoughts, talents, and time while meeting others who are part of the solution. Join the Summit Hill Association and Women's Advocates for ongoing meetings to create and improve visual safety self-assessment tools. Email theresa@summithillassociation.org or call 651-222-1222 if interested.

groups around the country to fundraise for Women's Advocates' shelter and programming to help women become independent and work towards a safer future. Alpha Chi Omega members also continued to bring smiles to the shelter with their monthly Craft Nights throughout the year. Thank you, ladies!

In Case You Missed It: New Website!

We not only updated our branding and resources alongside Domestic Violence Awareness Month, but we also unveiled a new website, chaulk full of updated information for those interested in Domestic Violence prevention. The URL is the same (www.wadvocates.org), but everything about the site is brand new! Have a look!

FYI: Donations

We ask for all donations to be NEW. Also, because of limited storage, we are unable to accept unscheduled clothing, goods, and item donations at this time. To inquire for our current needs and schedule a donation, contact Shirley at 651-726-5211 or sjohnson@wadvocates.org.

Quick Links

[Our Website](#)

[Donate Now](#)

[Volunteer](#)

[Wish List](#)

Crisis Line: [651-227-8284](tel:651-227-8284)

Please visit our website at wadvocates.org.
Donations: wadvocates.org/donate.

