



# Women's Advocates

Breaking the cycle of domestic violence.

**Newsletter // Issue: August 2017**

## **Join Women's Advocates for lunch on Oct 11th!**

Women's Advocates invites you to join us on October 11 to recognize domestic violence awareness month and celebrate the compassion and courage of our community.

Women's Advocates is committed to breaking the cycle of domestic violence. Donations received at this event will support emergency shelter, counseling, advocacy, and a journey to a safer future for survivors of domestic violence and their children.



WOMEN'S ADVOCATES

## **COURAGE TO FLY** ANNUAL LUNCHEON & BENEFIT

October 11, 2017  
11:30am - 1:00pm

Keynote: Professor Oliver J. Williams, Ph.D., Univ. of MN,  
& advocate for survivors of domestic violence for 35 years

MEET WOMEN'S ADVOCATES' NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ESTELLE BROUWER &  
SUPPORT THE NATION'S FIRST SHELTER FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

University of St. Thomas | Woulfe Alumni Hall  
2115 Summit Ave, St. Paul MN

Sponsored by:



Attendees will hear from keynote speaker Professor Oliver J. Williams, Ph.D., about the journey to healing for those who have experienced domestic abuse, including children who have been exposed to violence in the home. Dr. Williams has worked in the field of domestic violence for more than thirty-five years. Dr. Williams is a clinical practitioner working in mental health, family therapy, substance abuse, child welfare, delinquency and sexual assault programs. He has worked in battered women's shelters, developed curricula for batterers' intervention programs and facilitated counseling groups.

Rousing music will be provided by Reverend Carl Walker of Walker West Music Academy.

Free parking | Lunch served | No cost to attend | [RSVP HERE](#)  
Questions? Contact Lauren at [Irimestad@wadvocates.org](mailto:Irimestad@wadvocates.org) or 651-726-5217.

## Coming Up: Allstate Purple Purse Challenge!



**The Allstate Foundation Purple Purse Challenge** is an annual friendly fundraising competition in October during Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Nonprofit organizations serving domestic violence survivors around the U.S. compete to raise the most financial support. The top fundraisers have the opportunity to win a grand prize cash donation, up to an extra \$100,000! Women's Advocates is grateful to have been selected as one of 75 organizations in our division.

**Allstate Foundation Purple Purse is aimed at creating long-term safety and security for survivors through financial empowerment.** Domestic violence and financial abuse don't discriminate. They affect people of all races, genders, religions and income levels — even right in your own community. Financial abuse prevents victims from acquiring, using or maintaining financial resources. Financial abuse is just as effective in controlling a victim as a lock and key. Abusers tightly monitor and restrict their partner's spending and employ isolating tactics such as preventing their spouse or partner from working

## Did you know?

### Domestic Violence & Affluence

Domestic violence in affluent families is more common than many might think. Pressure to maintain the image of a perfect family is one factor that leads many affluent female victims to remain in abusive relationships. In addition, despite stereotypes that affluent women have the necessary financial resources to flee, financial abuse by affluent partners in wealthy families is still pervasive. On paper, affluent victims look wealthy, but in reality, they sorely lack the financial resources to leave, and their wealth on paper also prevents them from qualifying for necessary pro bono legal services. Affluent male partners may also attempt to sabotage their female partner's career, further straining their partner's financial resources. <https://news.illinois.edu/blog/view/6367/408719>

### Domestic Violence & Plastic Surgery

Plastic surgery involves the reconstruction, repair, or restoration of the human body-making it a potential popular option for female domestic violence victims, who may elect plastic surgery procedures to repair damage perpetrated by abusive partners. In some cases, abusive partners may even pressure victims to undergo plastic surgery to control the victim's appearance. A handful of plastic surgery clinics, such as Reconstructing Hope in NYC, offer free cosmetic and reconstructive medical care to domestic violence victims. Women's Advocates has several September presentations on domestic violence planned for plastic surgeons in the Twin Cities and greater Minnesota. <http://www.reconstructinghope.org/>

or accessing a bank, credit card or transportation. Victims of financial abuse live a controlled life where they have been purposely put into a position of dependence, making it hard for the victim to break free. In 99% of all domestic violence cases, financial abuse helps keep victims trapped in the abusive relationship. Don't let them become a silent statistic.

### **The Purple Purse Challenge runs from Monday, October 2, at 12 p.m. ET through Tuesday, October 31, at 1:59:59 p.m. ET.**

You can create a fundraising team by going to <https://www.crowdrise.com/womensadvocates> and clicking "Fundraise" to get started. If you would simply like to donate or have questions about this challenge, please contact Tom at [tbrinker@wadvocates.org](mailto:tbrinker@wadvocates.org) - we will keep you in the loop via email when the challenge gets closer and when it begins on October 2!

### **Quick Links**

[Our Website](#)

[Donate Now](#)

[Volunteer](#)

[Wish List](#)

[Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Tumblr](#)

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

### **Volunteer Spotlight: Target!**

Earlier this month, a group of 30 Target employees from various locations spent their day at Women's Advocates repainting and redecorating several of our resident rooms. These updates provide a refreshing environment for our families as they continue their journey to safety, independence, and healing. Thank you Target!



### **Volunteer & Donation Needs**

All year round, we look for volunteer groups to assist with indoor and outdoor cleaning projects at our shelter, as well as off-site groups who can accomplish assembly tasks for upcoming events, outreach goals, and resident care packs. To see a full list of volunteer opportunities and information on how to get started, head to [www.wadvocates.org/volunteer](http://www.wadvocates.org/volunteer).



### **In Kind Donation Needs**

We've recently updated our wish list! Some of our greatest needs include school supplies, twin bed size quilts/blankets, and gift cards for Target and Cub Foods to help offset the immediate needs of our residents and aftercare families. Please contact us at 651-726-5211 to arrange for a donation or to find out more.

More needs and donation scheduling info at <http://www.wadvocates.org/donate/womens-advocates-wish-list/>