



Women's Advocates

Breaking the cycle of domestic violence.

You're Invited!

Women's Advocates invites you to join us on October 10th to recognize domestic violence awareness month and raise critical dollars to help survivors of domestic violence and their children. Donations received at this event will foster hope and open doors to safety.

To register for this event, find out more about sponsorship, or help Women's Advocates reach more community members by hosting a table of ten, click [here](#).

WOMEN'S ADVOCATES
COURAGE TO FLY
ANNUAL LUNCHEON & BENEFIT

YOU'RE INVITED!

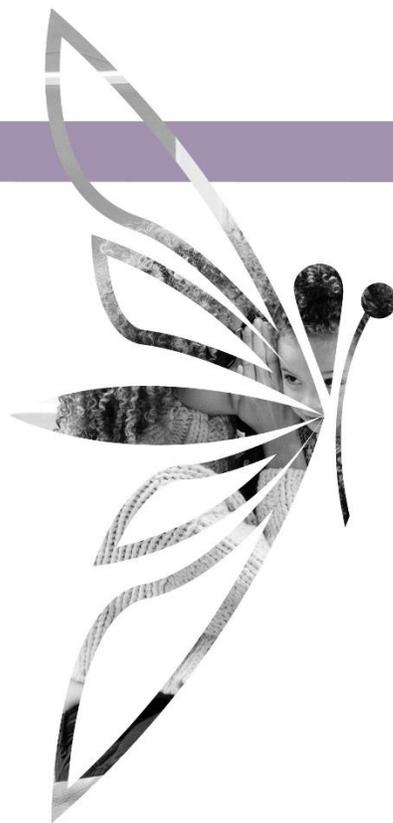
October 10, 2018 | 11:30am - 1:00pm
Envision Event Center
484 Inwood Ave. N., Oakdale, MN

HOST: Lynne Warfel, Radio Host for Minnesota Public Radio

FEATURED GUEST: Anne Barry, Director of Public Health for Saint Paul and Ramsey County

SPECIAL MUSIC: UNITY SINGERS

EVENT SPONSORS



At the Shelter - Circle of Togetherness

The Circle of Togetherness, until recently known as Resident Council, is a space where residents come to be together and share a leadership role within the shelter, with staff present to offer support and guidance when requested. Participants share their highlights or progress made towards their goals, talk about things they want to take place or experience while in shelter, and even talk about house issues and their responsibilities in keeping shared spaces safe and clean.

Why the name change? Our residents chose the new name as it is more reflective of the group's true purpose and spirit. "We come in here every week, sit in a circle, and just talk it out. Why not call it the circle of togetherness?" one resident reflected. Residents are excited to come to the circle every week to talk about things that are happening in shelter. They share updates about their housing or employment journeys, talk about activities they would like to plan for the upcoming weeks, share resources, and even offer love and support when someone is struggling.

Looking to the future, residents and staff aim to grow the Circle, ensuring a gathering place for women to come and have leadership and ownership of what they experience while here at Women's Advocates, and ultimately, in their own lives.



Volunteer Appreciation: Cummins, Inc.

On a hot afternoon in July, this mighty team from Cummins, Inc. Sales & Service spent time in our yard helping ensure our outdoor space is warm and welcoming for the families we serve! Thank you Cummins team!



Did You Know?

Smart Technology as a Tool of Abuse:

Smart home technology refers to technology such as appliances, air conditioning, camera systems, and entertainment systems that can communicate with one another and can be controlled remotely. Such technology is designed to increase peace of mind and efficiency for users, but for domestic violence victims, the remote control of smart home technology by an abusive partner can wreak havoc and fear in the home. Last month, the New York Times interviewed more than 30 domestic violence victims, their lawyers, and advocates on how the women's smart home technologies were being used by their abusers to control, harass, and monitor them. Some of the women said their abusers would remotely switch their air conditioners on and off, remotely ring their doorbells over and over again, and more. Abusive behaviors such as these demonstrate that domestic violence is all about power and control, and that some abusers will go to great lengths to maintain this power. Women's Advocates strives to provide basic information about technology abuse, including revenge porn and monitoring, during every educational presentation we provide. Learn more [here](#) about how smart home technology has become a new tool of domestic abusers.

Minnesota Center for Nonviolence:

Did you know? Bloomington, Minnesota hosts the MN Center for Nonviolence, a nonprofit created in 2012 that seeks to reduce violence in our communities. It began as a grassroots organization and functions as a collective. Some of its projects include the distribution of educational materials on nonviolence and the facilitation of community conversations, as well as contributions to research on gun violence and intimate partner violence. MCNV also does work with public and private schools and plans to provide direct counseling services for the community in the future. They are

We Need Volunteers!

We are in need of extra volunteer support in the following ways:

Groups:

- Shelter clean-up (weekday afternoons, 3 hours)
- Yard work (weekday afternoons, 3 hours)
- Room painting & redecoration, sponsored by the volunteer group
- Evening or weekend activities for women & children

If you are interested in volunteering as an individual or with a group, connect with development@wadvocates.org.



How to Help

We seek community support to fulfill shelter and resident needs, including:

Facebook Fundraiser: You can easily raise awareness and encourage your network to support our cause with just a few clicks. No fees are deducted for donations made on Facebook. Start at [our page here](#) and click "Create Fundraiser."

Target Gift Cards: To help fulfill immediate resident needs year-round.

AmazonSmile: Start your online shopping [HERE](#). Designate Women's Advocates as your charity of choice, and the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to us!

Any questions about volunteering, fundraising, or donating gift cards can be sent to development@wadvocates.org.

In-Kind Donations & Wish List

We are currently not accepting clothing or toy donations.

Questions about specific item donations can be sent to donations@wadvocates.org. When immediate needs arise, we post requests for those items on our [Facebook](#) page.

Our Amazon **Wish List** of new, essential needs items is now available: <http://a.co/jkkHfvm>.

always looking for community partners and shared knowledge. To learn more about the MN Center for Nonviolence, visit their website [here](#).

Obstetric Violence:

In past issues of this newsletter, we've provided education on reproductive coercion, a form of behavior intended to maintain power and control over an individual's reproductive health and choices, which often falls under the category of domestic violence. Similarly, a phenomenon termed "obstetric violence," or abusive maternity care, is becoming more recognized and more discussed, both in the maternity care world and beyond. Examples of obstetric violence include nonconsensual C-sections and other nonconsensual procedures, coercive and discriminatory behavior from birth care providers, and even sexual assaults carried out during maternity exams. *Broadly* interviewed several doulas and reproductive health educators about their experiences advocating for women who have experienced obstetric violence, in addition to their experiences witnessing obstetric violence. Learn more about this form of abuse [here](#).

**Please be warned that there are graphic descriptions in this article.*

Women's Advocates' Blog Update

"Just Lovely People" by Meggie Royer, Education and Outreach Coordinator for Women's Advocates

A common media response to domestic violence homicides or domestic violence murder-suicides is to interview neighbors. Most often, neighbors express grief, shock, and sadness. There is rarely, if ever, any mention of domestic violence or control. These are, after all, just normal families. These are, after all, [as one neighbor described an Australian family who was shot dead in May 2018, "just lovely people."](#) The perpetrator of the shooting, who murdered his wife, daughter, and four of his grandchildren, was included in this description.

[Full blog post here](#)

For the safety and privacy of our staff, shelter, and residents, *deliveries of donation items must be previously approved and scheduled in advance. Unscheduled deliveries will not be accepted.*

Quick Links

[Our Website](#)

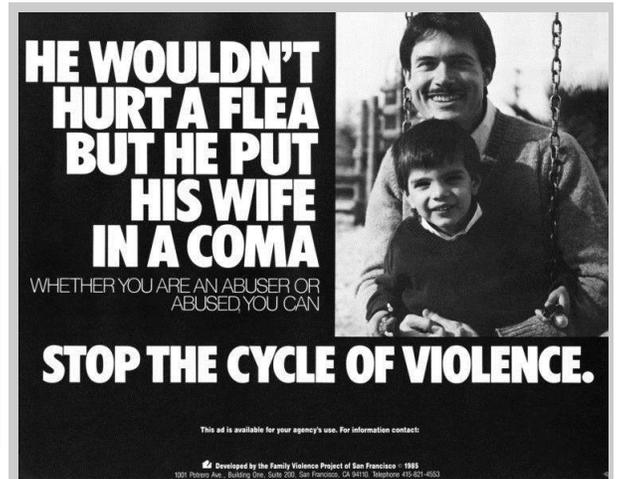
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Crisis Line: [651-227-8284](tel:651-227-8284)



-Futures Without Violence, 1985