



Women's Advocates

Breaking the cycle of domestic violence.

Thank YOU - Open House

On May Day, more than 50 community leaders, friends, and first-time visitors spent the evening touring our facility and learning about our programs and services. Our Executive Director, Estelle Brouwer, welcomed guests and discussed Women's Advocates' role in ending violence against women in the past, present, and future. Our Aftercare coordinator, Erin, told the story of a former resident family. She highlighted this family and their journey from arrival at Women's Advocates to safe, independent living, where the mother was empowered to finish her high school education and proudly walk in the graduation ceremony.

Thank you to all guests who took time out of their day to learn more about our historic shelter!



At the Shelter - Summer Garden



In April, our child care team worked with children staying at Women's Advocates to start a vegetable and herb garden, which will be planted outside at the end of May. The garden will have tomatoes, bell peppers, green beans, leaf lettuce, carrots, onions, and several different herbs. This project gives the children a wonderful opportunity to experience the entire process from planting seedlings to the harvesting of produce. We look forward to a summer of learning and more importantly, tasting!

Did You Know?

Pregnant women, HIV, and violence:

A 2017 study found that a diagnosis of HIV during pregnancy makes domestic violence twice as likely to start for some women after their baby has been born. Although

We Need Volunteers!

As we head into warmer months, 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)
- Evening or weekend activities for women & children

Individuals:

- Child care (weekday mornings, experience required with consistent weekly schedule)
- Research (various topic areas, 2-4+ hours a week, can be remote or on-site)

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

Questions about specific item donations can be sent to donations@wadvocates.org. When immediate needs

this study was conducted with South African women, the researchers believe that the results are generalizable to women across the world, as intimate partner violence and factors that make HIV-positive women more vulnerable are not unique to South Africa. The researchers have suggested that a diagnosis of HIV may bring stress into a relationship that is not already impacted by intimate partner violence, and that early intervention is important. Women's Advocates seeks to provide information on the health impacts of domestic violence to every community organization where we provide trainings. Learn more about the HIV study and its implications [here](#).

Connections between animal cruelty and domestic violence:

Pets may be an important factor for individuals who are attempting to leave an abusive relationship, as 71% of abusers have threatened to hurt a family pet, or have harmed that pet, as a means of maintaining power and control. This can be a motivating factor for some victims to leave, or, if the abuser owns the pet, some victims may remain in the relationship in order to protect the pet. However, there are resources for victims who feel stuck between a rock and a hard place when it comes to pets. The Domestic Violence Initiative, a service from Minneapolis Animal Care and Control, has provided free boarding and veterinary care for the last eight years to animals owned by individuals experiencing domestic violence or homelessness. Learn more about the program and links between domestic abuse and animal cruelty [here](#). Women's Advocates provides training on this topic to veterinarians.

Violence in the literary community:

This year's Nobel Prize in Literature award and ceremony was cancelled by the Swedish Academy after a popular French photographer linked to the Academy was accused of sexual harassment and assault against 18 women. After the accusations became public, eight members of the Academy walked out, several of them women who were protesting his conduct. The literary community has faced a #MeToo reckoning of its own this year, with

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>.

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](#)

[Donate Now](#)

[Volunteer](#)

[Wish List](#)

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

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

revelations that several high-profile authors, such as Junot Diaz and Sherman Alexie, have engaged in misogynistic verbal abuse and sexual harassment against multiple women. Behaviors such as sexual harassment and verbal abuse are forms of power and control, and are well documented in the realm of domestic violence. Women's Advocates regularly provides education on the [Power and Control Wheel](#), a tool developed by the Domestic Abuse Intervention Project in Duluth, which highlights the forms of behaviors that prompted the Swedish Academy to cancel the prize.