



Women's Advocates

Breaking the cycle of domestic violence.

Looking Back at 2018

In 2018, Women's Advocates welcomed new Board members and leadership, grew our prevention outreach efforts, updated our spaces, and connected to more partner organizations throughout the community, all while helping women and children heal, day in and day out. Read below for a few updates from the last year at Women's Advocates.

Women's and Children's Programs and Services

One of the ways we are working to improve accessibility is with A.D.DV.O.C.A.+E, an initiative to ensure access for deaf persons experiencing domestic violence through outreach, collaboration, allies and education. The mission of A.D.DV.O.C.A.+E is to create a collaborative service delivery system for all deaf or hard of hearing (D/HH) persons experiencing domestic violence that is accessible, empowering and welcoming. The collaborative partners are ThinkSelf, Cornerstone Advocacy Service/Day One and Women's Advocates. Most recently, Women's Advocates, in partnership with ThinkSelf, created a series of videos for use on our website and in our programs to provide essential information to those who can hear, and those who cannot. The videos feature a staff member of Women's Advocates speaking, and someone from ThinkSelf signing. Additionally, ThinkSelf donated a video phone that we can have on site to provide phone service with ASL translation to D/HH residents.

Outreach and Education

In 2018, Women's Advocates provided domestic violence education to 7,272 individuals. We helped health care staff, students, churches, child care staff, and chemical and mental health service providers learn about healthy relationships, digital dating violence, reproductive coercion, and human trafficking. Furthermore, we provided 555 individual educational presentations and shelter tours for community members. This year, we hope to develop a strong focus on educating housing providers and landlords on the impacts of domestic violence,

2018 in Photos



-Staff Retreat



-Leprechaun's DreamCycle Ice Cream Party

especially the financial and housing implications for victims. All presentation topics and a presentation request form can be found [here](#).

At the Shelter

The International Interior Design Association (IIDA) Northland Chapter spent two weekends in the shelter renovating our former clothing closet space into a beautiful room we now use for new resident intakes and meetings with residents and staff teams. We are so thankful for their donation of time and materials to make this a calm, trauma informed space.

Our Team

Over the summer and fall, our programs, outreach and HR teams worked together to coordinate a variety of helpful trainings for staff. Training topics included:

- Refugee services with Minnesota Council of Churches
- Chemical health with AVIVO
- Suicide assessment and prevention with Barbara Schneider Foundation
- "Care with Justice - Involved Women and Girls in Mind" with The Link
- Interactive play with the Minnesota Children's Theatre
- Financial wellness with Lutheran Social Services
- Sharing session with The Saint Paul and Ramsey County Domestic Abuse Intervention Project

We also had an all staff retreat, where most of our staff gathered off site for a half day of team building, communication about organizational topics like equity and inclusion, and our upcoming strategic planning as well as a training on vicarious trauma and self care with Suzanne Koeplinger of the Minneapolis Foundation.

New Board Members

This past summer, Women's Advocates welcomed a diverse group of new Board members. These caring individuals are now part of a 13-member volunteer Board of Directors, who represent a wide variety of professional backgrounds and perspectives. [Read more](#).

Volunteers

More than 500 individual volunteers completed 2,750 hours of volunteering at or for Women's Advocates in 2018. On average, that is nearly 8 hours every single day of the year! [Click here](#) to visit our volunteer page.

Our Website

Throughout the fall, St. Paul Media worked with our team to refresh our website, making it more user friendly and easier to navigate. You can see our revamped website at www.wadvocates.org.



-Newly Renovated "Serenity Room"



-Courage To Fly Luncheon



-Women's Advocates Halloween Party



-Open House

How to Help in 2019

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

Community Events: Support from local business and groups in the form of fundraisers or donation drives is essential to Women's Advocates' shelter and services. To view upcoming community events you could participate in, head to our events page [here](#). If you'd like to host an event benefitting Women's Advocates, contact our Development & Outreach team at development@wadvocates.org.

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."

Gift Cards: Gift cards to Target, Walmart, gas stations, coffee shops, grocery stores, and local restaurants are useful to help fulfill immediate needs for our residents and aftercare participants year-round.

AmazonSmile: Your online shopping can create REAL impact for Women's Advocates. All you have to do is 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.

Volunteers: We are looking to schedule 1-2 volunteer groups each month to help with shelter-wide cleaning and organization projects. You can find our volunteer information and application [here](#).

Any questions about donations, volunteering, 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 arise, we post requests for those items on our [Facebook](#) page.

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

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



-Yardwork and Landscaping volunteers

Quick Links

[Our Website](#)

[Donate Now](#)

[Volunteer](#)

[Wish List](#)

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

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