



# Women's Advocates

Breaking the cycle of domestic violence.

## We Need Your Help: #SurviveTogether

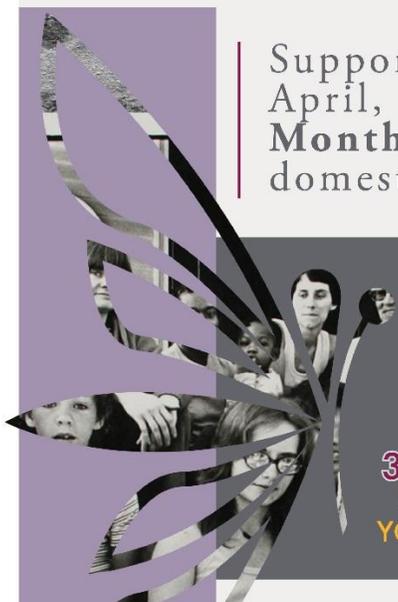
In recognition of Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) this April, we are asking supporters to start fundraisers on Facebook for the month and select Women's Advocates as the organization they'd like to support in recognition of SAAM.

By participating in the #SurviveTogether campaign, you will help us reach new supporters who can easily contribute a gift of any size to a meaningful cause, ensuring we can continue our critical work with survivors of abuse. We will ensure each participant has clear directions on how to take part. Additionally, #SurviveTogether is a way for YOU to share vital education information and resources specific to Women's Advocates, domestic violence, and sexual assault throughout SAAM this April with your friends and network.

Contact [development@wadvocates.org](mailto:development@wadvocates.org) if you want to take part – we will send out a kit of information via email at the end of March to get you started, as well as weekly updates and news relevant to SAAM and #SurviveTogether.

## #SURVIVETOGETHER

Support Women's Advocates this April, **Sexual Assault Awareness Month**, and increase awareness of domestic and sexual violence.



- 1 CLICK "+CREATE FUNDRAISER" ON WOMEN'S ADVOCATES' PAGE\*
- 2 INVITE YOUR FRIENDS TO DONATE AND SUPPORT THE NATION'S FIRST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTER
- 3 WE'LL SEND YOU A DIGITAL RESOURCE KIT AND WEEKLY UPDATES SO YOU CAN EQUIP YOUR FRIENDS TO ADVOCATE FOR SAFETY

## At the Shelter: New Team Members

Women's Advocates is thrilled to share that it has welcomed three new staff members to its Programs and Services leadership.

### Joan Countryman - Director of Programs and Services

Joan has an impressive background that includes several years working with The Bridge for Youth, ultimately as program director. Earlier in her career, Joan worked for our sister organization Cornerstone, as a women's advocate and later as children's program coordinator. Her mother was one of Cornerstone's founders and Joan and her family have been connected to Cornerstone ever since. Joan holds a Master of Arts degree in counseling and psychological services from St. Mary's and a Bachelor of Arts in sociology and anthropology from Gustavus Adolphus College.

### Alison Canty - Programs Supervisor

Alison brings over 10 years of supervisory experience and has held positions at the Minnesota Department of Human Rights (Investigator), Model Cities (Director of Children's and Youth Services), the City of Minneapolis (Civil Rights Investigator), and Metro State (Director of Women's Services). Alison has her Bachelor of Arts in Social Work, her Masters of Business Administration, and is working towards her doctorate.

### Christina Middleton - Programs Supervisor

Christina has been an employee of Women's Advocates, serving in the position of Part Time Relief Advocate, and has recently accepted this new position. Christina brings over 10 years of supervisory experience, having worked at Axis MN (Program Supervisor), Community Involvement Programs (Case Manager), and Dungarvin (Program Director). Christina has a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Macalester College and is working towards her Master's degree.

## Minnesota Wild Shows Love for Women's Advocates

On Valentine's Day, Women's Advocates had a special visit from some Minnesota Wild hockey players, players' significant others, and the mascot Nordy, who hosted a Valentine's Day party for our shelter guests! This party included valentine-making, cookie decorating, and more.

This event helped wrap up (and celebrate) a wildly successful online auction fundraiser that the Minnesota Wild hosted to benefit our shelter.

Thank you to the Wild staff, volunteers, and any supporters who bid on the auction.

## Available Now: Women's Advocates' 2017-2018 Annual Report

[Click here](#) to view our most recent annual report.



## Women's Advocates' Blog Update #1

Check out our latest blog post "I Left, So You Should Have Too."

"In September 2018, after Dr. Christine Blasey Ford revealed to an unforgiving world that Supreme Court Justice nominee Brett Kavanaugh had sexually assaulted her in high school, survivors of sexual violence took to Twitter in droves with a new hashtag. They were responding to President Trump's suggestion that if Ford's abuse had been "as bad as she said it was," she or her parents would have immediately notified the authorities." [Full blog post here.](#)



-Art by Maggie Chiang

## Women's Advocates' Blog Update #2

Take a look at another recent blog post "Crossing the Lolita Line: Treating Girls Young Enough to Be Preyed Upon as Old Enough to Know Better"

"On Monday, January 7, 2019, Cyntoia Brown of Tennessee, who was sentenced to life in prison in 2004 for killing a man who



## Clothesline Project: Honoring Lives Lost to Domestic Violence

The Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women (MCBW) hosts an annual volunteer effort called the Minnesota Clothesline Project, inspired by the national art project of the same name started by women in Massachusetts as a memorial for people who died as a result of domestic violence. Each year, volunteers make shirts honoring these victims. Women's Advocates' team members contributed two shirts this year.

Our shirts honor David Leonard Riess and Shana Lynn Hollins. MCBW displayed memorial shirts at the Domestic Violence Homicide Memorial event in January.



## Join Us: Shop for a Cause on International Women's Day

Come to Encore Boutique from 10:00 am to 8:00 pm on International Women's Day (Friday, March 8th) to shop and benefit Women's Advocates. On that day, 20% of profits from the consignment store & 100% of profits from clearance will benefit the first domestic violence shelter in the nation. RSVP to the Facebook event [here](#).

had participated in her sex trafficking, was granted clemency. Despite being sixteen at the time of the murder and in fear for her life, Brown had been tried as an adult." [Full blog post here.](#)



-Art by Jen Mann

## Did You Know?

### Criminalizing Emotional Abuse in Ireland:

Emotional abuse is now a crime in Ireland. The Domestic Violence Act 2018, which went into effect on January 1, criminalizes coercive control in intimate relationships. Ireland has now joined France, England, Wales, and Scotland as only a handful of countries that criminalize emotional abuse. Women's Advocates strives to provide awareness of emotional abuse at every educational training we offer, including information on how abusers may use isolation, stalking, gaslighting, and constant criticism to control their victims and wear down their self-esteem. These emotionally abusive tactics can cause victim/survivors to question their experiences, doubt their feelings, and

	<p>Shop for a cause on <b>International Women's Day!</b></p>
<p>Friday, March 8 • 10am-8pm   242 Hamline Ave South, St. Paul</p>	
<p>20% of profits from consignment &amp; 100% of profits from clearance will benefit Women's Advocates in St. Paul, the first domestic violence shelter in the nation.</p>	 <p><b>Women's Advocates</b> Breaking the cycle of domestic violence</p>

### Join Us: Dine for a Cause at Panera Bread

When you eat at the Panera Bread location at 2056 Ford Parkway, Saint Paul, on Thursday, March 21, 2019, between 4:00 pm and 8:00 pm, 20% of sales will be donated to Women's Advocates.

You must bring a printed or digital copy of [this flyer](#) with you and present it to the cashier when ordering for your sale to count!

Need to order online for pick-up OR delivery? Enter "PRFUND" as your promo code during the event time and from the Ford Parkway location to have a portion of your proceeds donated to Women's Advocates. RSVP to the Facebook event [here](#).

### How to Help Year-Round

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."

**Gift Cards:** Gift cards to Target, Walmart, gas stations, coffee shops, & local restaurants are useful to help Women's Advocates fill 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.

Please bookmark the link and use it over the holidays!

*Any questions about volunteering, fundraising, or donating gift cards can be sent to [development@wadvocates.org](mailto:development@wadvocates.org).*

blame themselves for the abuse they are experiencing.

### Coerced Debt:

As part of a new series on debts, BuzzFeed recently released an installment on financial abuse. The reporter interviewed a woman named Cheryl about her relationship with her husband, who opened multiple credit cards in her name and left her thousands of dollars in debt. The first study on how male abusers purposefully drive their partners into debt was conducted in 2012, after a law professor found that women filing for bankruptcy were much more likely to have experienced abuse than the general population. [Check out Buzzfeed's article to learn more about financial abuse](#) and "coerced debt," in addition to legal remedies.

### Quick Links

[Our Website](#)

[Donate Now](#)

[Volunteer](#)

[Wish List](#)

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

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

