



Women's Advocates

Breaking the cycle of domestic violence.

Join Us: #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.

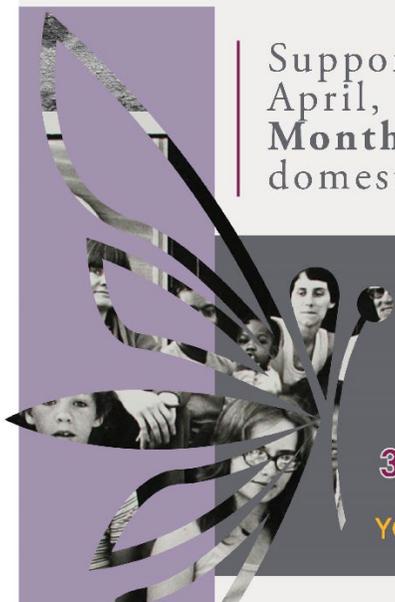
By participating in the #SurviveTogether campaign, you will help us reach new supporters who can easily contribute a gift of any size to a meaningful cause, ensuring we can continue our critical work with survivors of abuse. We will ensure each participant has clear directions on how to take part. Additionally, #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 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



Minnesota Leads the Way - Action Day: March 27

Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women's (MCBW) Action Day is set for Wednesday March 27th at 11:00 am in the Rotunda of the Minnesota State Capitol. This is a day for our programs and our communities to come together around the message that *Minnesota Leads the Way* to effectively address domestic violence.

Sharing their motivation for Action Day, MCBW has outlined, "We believe in the power of survivors. We believe in the power of naming what is happening in our communities. We believe in listening to survivors, victims and their loved ones. We believe that each person has the power – and responsibility – to make change in our communities and our state."

In addition to Action Day at the State Capitol in St. Paul, there will be actions happening in several other cities around Minnesota. Details on locations, times, and more event information available via MCBW [here](#)



Community Supporters: Carlson 4 Community

In February, Carlson 4 Community (C4C), a student organization within the University of Minnesota Carlson School of Management, hosted their annual Charity Auction in support of Women's Advocates.

While final numbers are still being tallied, we know that over 325 Carlson School students, faculty, alumni, and community partners were in attendance, filling the DQ Club room at TCF Bank Stadium for an evening of delicious food, games, and learning more about our work in the lives of women and children. Additionally, over 100 auction items were available for silent and live bidding to benefit Women's Advocates.

C4C serves to promote volunteerism and community involvement both at the Carlson School and the surrounding community. Thank you C4C!

Finding Independence After Shelter

This is a story about Kelly*. Kelly was a resident at Women's Advocates.

Kelly had endured months of death threats from her boyfriend before calling Women's Advocates to seek shelter. She and her children arrived with nothing but the clothes on their backs. At Women's Advocates she worked on a safety plan for her children, which involved going to live with their trusted father for the meantime. She then worked with staff to get an Order for Protection from her boyfriend, and she made a plan for her housing, health insurance, and children's education.

By being and feeling safe at our shelter, Kelly was able to accomplish many of her goals during her stay with us. Housing took a bit longer than expected due to low vacancy in the Twin Cities, but Kelly did find an apartment in a suburban neighborhood. She has a new full-time job with benefits and is laying the groundwork for her children to come back to live with her in a safe and supportive environment.

**Name has been changed to protect identity.*



Did You Know?

DARVO

Have you ever heard of DARVO? This article, focused on R. Kelly's recent interview with Gayle King of CBS News, describes a classic pattern called DARVO: Denial, Attack, and Reverse Victim and Offender. [More here](#)



-Attendees bidding during the C4C live auction.

Join Us: Dine for a Cause at Augustine's Bar and Bakery

On Monday, April 1st, from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm, 20% of all food sales at Augustine's Bar & Bakery (1668 Selby Ave. in St. Paul) will benefit Women's Advocates. We hope to see you there.



DINE FOR A CAUSE:

20% of all food sales will benefit Women's Advocates in St. Paul, the first domestic violence shelter in the nation.



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Monday, April 1st • 4pm-8pm | 1668 Selby Ave, St. Paul

RSVP to the Facebook event [here](#).

Join Us: Shop for a Cause at Scarborough Fair

On Tuesday, April 30th, 10% of sales all day (hours 11:00 am-7:30 pm) at Scarborough Fair, 2238 Carter Ave South in St. Paul, will benefit Women's Advocates. Located in the St. Anthony Park neighborhood of Saint Paul, MN, Scarborough Fair offers artful clothing, eccentric accessories and specialty hats.

Later that evening, Scarborough Fair will host a shopping event from 4:00 pm to 7:30 pm, where food and wine will be served. Extra staff will be on hand to help shoppers and Women's Advocates' team members will be available with safety resources and a few remarks.

A WORKPLACE RESPONSE FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS

Women's Advocates is developing a workplace policy for employees experiencing domestic violence. The Sick and Safe Time Ordinance was passed in St. Paul and went into effect last year, and with this new development we want to make sure we provide the most supportive and helpful workplace response to any employees experiencing domestic abuse. As stated by Sophie Howe, commissioner for sustainability organization Future Generation, in an article by BBC News, "It is very important to me that my staff are aware that they are not alone in dealing with a serious and frightening situation, and that there is crucial, practical support immediately available, in order to help leave an abusive relationship." [Read article here](#)

HOW ABUSERS GROOM FRIENDS OF THEIR VICTIMS

This article from Psychology Today educates the community on how abusers are not always "mean" or publicly forceful. Some abusers do not entirely isolate their victim from friends, but rather groom those friends instead. One of our organization's posters from 1985 has a happy picture of a father and child with the quote: "He wouldn't hurt a flea, but put his wife in a coma." People experiencing abuse are pushed by others to prove their experiences because others simply couldn't imagine that the "abuser" would do something like that. This doubt can lead to someone second guessing themselves and not seeking help, allowing the abuse to continue privately. As stated in the article, "Abusers often groom friends, family, and others to overlook signs of abuse and cut ties with the victim. They strategically act charming and helpful so people cannot imagine the cruel acts occurring behind closed doors."

[More here](#)

GASLIGHTING: OXFORD DICTIONARY'S 2018 WORD OF THE YEAR



SHOP FOR A CAUSE

Tuesday, April 30

Scarborough Fair
2238 Carter Ave. South, St. Paul

10% of sales all day will benefit
Women's Advocates in St. Paul, the first
domestic violence shelter in the nation.



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Store Hours • 11am-7:30pm

Event Hours • 4-7:30pm

*The event will feature food, wine,
safety resources, and remarks from
Women's Advocates at 6pm.*

This article directly addresses the act of gaslighting and considers its modern day application. An older term that has recently gained popularity, it has now become a part of the gender-based violence lexicon. "It's not just the abuse, but the erasure of abuse as it happens. It's the obliteration of another person's perspective, insistence that it's not the action that's wrong, but their reaction."

[More here](#)

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, and 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 in your browser.

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

Quick Links

[Our Website](#)

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