



# Women's Advocates

Breaking the cycle of domestic violence.

## Volunteer Appreciation Cookout

On May 30, Women's Advocates hosted many of our dedicated volunteers for a cookout to recognize their help in every aspect of our organization, from child care, to evening activities, to yard work. It was a celebratory night!

In the last year, over 525 individuals volunteered more than 2,600 hours in support of our mission to eliminate violence in the lives of women, children, and families.

That means on average, volunteers spent more than 7 hours a day out of the kindness of their hearts on behalf of our shelter and people we serve. We are so grateful!



*-A group from Cummins, volunteering on site in Women's Advocates' yard*

## Partner Highlight: Domestic Abuse Legal Advocacy Center

Women's Advocates partners with many organizations across the community to help us accomplish our mission. From time to time we will feature our partners in this newsletter.

Domestic Abuse Legal Advocacy Center, PSC (DALAC) regularly visits Women's Advocates to provide a wide variety of free legal resources and support, including on-site legal clinics to shelter residents and pro-bono attorney representation in court for Orders for Protection and eviction expungements. The clinics enable women to access legal services in a safe and convenient setting, and the in court representation increases the likelihood that the residents' request for an Order for Protection or eviction expungement will be granted. The presence and the knowledge that DALAC's volunteer lawyers share at our site helps so many women. Since DALAC started their work at Women's Advocates over three years ago, the women staying here can have confidence that their legal matters, issues, or concerns will be heard. Not only that, being able to triage their legal issues helps them navigate the legal system with confidence.

DALAC's work is essential in helping Women's Advocates achieve our mission and goals. Thank you to the team at DALAC for your continued partnership!

## Mississippi Market #PositiveChange Program supports Women's Advocates

Women's Advocates was chosen as the #PositiveChange program partner with Mississippi Market for June 2019. Throughout the month, shoppers were given the opportunity to round up their grocery bills and/or donate their reusable bag credits at one of the three [Mississippi Market Natural Foods Co-op](#) stores in St. Paul to Women's Advocates. Through thousands of transactions, shoppers raised over \$13,500 for our shelter and services!

Thank you to Mississippi Market, their cashiers, and generous shoppers for making positive change in the lives of domestic violence survivors!



-Women's Advocates and Mississippi Market (Selby Ave. location) staff celebrating Positive Change results at a check presentation in early July 2019.

### 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, Cub Foods, and local gas stations 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



-DALAC Co-Founders Rachel Schromen (left) and Evon Spangler (right)

## Did You Know?

### Three things to know about teen dating violence

In an article in a University of Calgary newsletter, three major contributors to adolescent dating violence are highlighted by Deineria Exner-Cortens, a leading researcher in teen dating violence.

1. Teen dating violence is a strong risk factor for future intimate partner violence.
2. Healthy relationship skills need to be learned and developed from childhood.
3. Social issues intersect with dating violence. According to Exner-Cortens, "Addressing structural barriers including racism, sexism, homophobia and ableism is critical to promoting youth well-being."

These issues are a driving factor for the [presentations](#) that Women's Advocates provides our local community. See the full article [here](#).

### Dementia and domestic violence

Dementia is a growing, but often neglected problem for senior citizens in the United States, with symptoms that include confusion, public safety concerns, and domestic abuse. Notably, one study shows that spousal abuse could be associated with the development of Alzheimer's. Between five and 20% of seniors globally may be physically abused, while up to 55% may be

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](mailto:development@wadvocates.org).*

abused in other ways. Patients with dementia are especially vulnerable to this disturbing trend. Read more [here](#).

### **Domestic violence as an economic issue**

*The Status of Women in San Antonio* report, commissioned by the City of San Antonio, Texas, connects higher rates of gender inequality to domestic violence as well as a declining wage gap to reduction in violence against women. Economic costs in the workplace related to domestic violence, including absenteeism, declining productivity, and actual medical costs for those experiencing domestic violence are also highlighted. Learn more about the connection between economic well-being and domestic violence rates [here](#).

### **The National Domestic Violence Hotline milestone**

Established in 1996, The Hotline is the only national 24-hour domestic violence hotline providing services via phone, online chat, and text. Headquartered in Austin, Texas, and serving nearly 1,000 people a day from across the country, the organization's mission is to answer the call to support and shift power back to those affected by relationship abuse. On May 8, 2019, the Hotline answered its 5 millionth call. Read more about their impact [here](#).



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