

# Women's Advocates

2017-2018  
ANNUAL REPORT

## Women's Advocates

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### MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



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Dear Friends,

Warm greetings from Women's Advocates!

To begin a recent meeting here at 588 Grand, those in the room were asked to randomly draw from a selection of quotes assembled by a member of our staff. My quote was from the late Maya Angelou: "We delight in the beauty of the butterfly, but rarely admit the changes it has gone through to achieve that beauty."

The butterfly is our emblem here at Women's Advocates. It's on our letterhead, in our e-mail signatures, even painted on the wall in one of our conference spaces. Its symbolic meaning is obvious. Women come to our shelter as if to a cocoon. They can be still and safe here for a while, attending to their own needs. And then they emerge, transformed. But I love the Angelou quote, because it hints at just how much grit it takes to become a butterfly. The transformation that takes place inside a real cocoon is astonishing, and not restful at all! It's incredibly hard work, requiring huge amounts of energy. The same is true of the process victim/survivors go through as they come to terms with what they've been through, heal, and take steps toward building a new life. We at Women's Advocates are deeply privileged to walk with so many of them as they navigate this tender, vulnerable, transformative time in their lives.

Thank you, dear friends, for helping us celebrate the beauty of the butterfly, and for acknowledging the hard work it takes to get there.

With gratitude,

Estelle Brouwer, Executive Director  
Women's Advocates

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## MISSION

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The mission of Women's Advocates is to eliminate violence in the lives of women, children and families.





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## COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

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"In your class I learned that abuse causes a lot more harm than I thought."

"I learned that my friend has some of the effects mentioned in your presentation."

"There are more ways to abuse someone than I knew about."

-Students who attended a Dating Violence training.

### In the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year:

(Between July 1, 2017, and June 30, 2018)

**7,272** students and professionals attended 282 domestic violence and related trainings.

**555** people learned about Women's Advocates at community events.

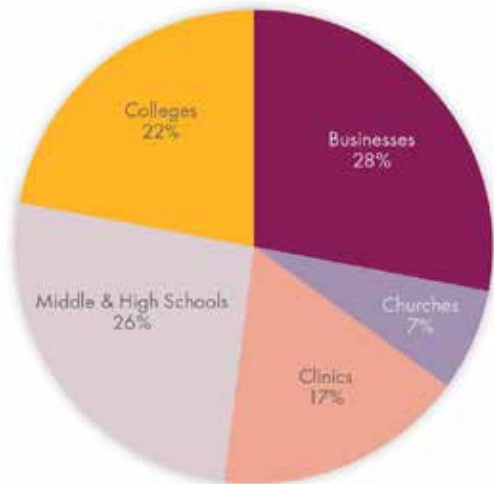
**63,229** unique visitors used safety resources from Women's Advocates' website.

Students showed a **119% increase** in knowledge about dating violence after our trainings, and an **87% increase** in knowledge of the consequences of domestic violence.

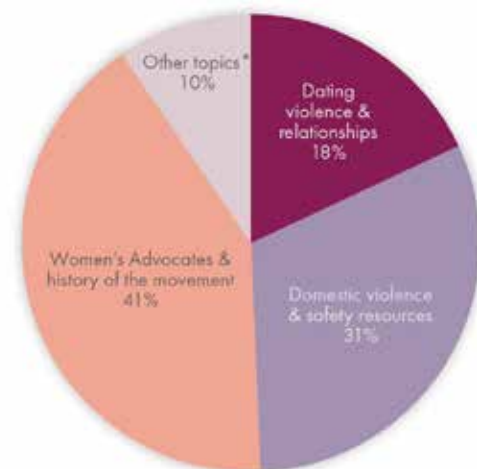
Outreach expenses for the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year were \$59,358.

Outreach expenses comprised 3% of organizational expenses.

## Education and training locations in 2017-2018 Fiscal Year



## Education and training topics in 2017-2018 Fiscal Year



\*Other topics include sexual violence, stalking, revenge pornography, human trafficking, reproductive coercion, and engaging men and boys.

## VIOLENCE PREVENTION

To break the cycle of domestic violence, Women's Advocates teaches violence prevention education in schools and colleges, as well as training businesses, clinics and community organizations on how to connect potential victims to safety resources. In the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year, Women's Advocates significantly bolstered its violence prevention efforts through online outreach and daily trainings in the Twin Cities and other parts of Minnesota. Using curriculum based on national best practices, Women's Advocates' outreach team educates the community on the signs of domestic abuse, power and control, reproductive coercion, healthy relationships, teen dating violence, sexual violence, stalking, sex trafficking, engaging boys and men in violence prevention, and digital dating violence. Women's Advocates' chief outreach and education goal is to increase awareness of domestic violence in our community.

1 in 3 women in the U.S. will be or has been a victim of domestic abuse.





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## EMERGENCY SHELTER

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"My friend was emotionally and mentally probably the best she's been. This was the best place for her based on the supportive services and resources at your shelter."



-Someone who brought her friend to Women's Advocates

### In the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year:

(Between July 1, 2017, and June 30, 2018)

**298** women and children received emergency shelter at Women's Advocates.

**56** days was the average length of stay for residents.

Residents received **14,572** nights of shelter.

Shelter/facility expenses for the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year were \$666,194. Facilities expenses comprised 28% of organizational expenses.

**68% OF  
3-PERSON  
FAMILIES\***

STAYED AT WOMEN'S ADVOCATES FOR  
**2 MONTHS OR LESS.**

\*A MOM AND 2 CHILDREN

**90 days**  
IS THE TYPICAL STAY  
AT WOMEN'S ADVOCATES FOR  
**A FAMILY OF 6.**

**60% OF SINGLE WOMEN**  
STAYED AT WOMEN'S ADVOCATES FOR  
**LESS THAN A MONTH.**

## EMERGENCY SHELTER

Three connected homes laid the foundation of Women's Advocates' emergency shelter. One of these three homes was the very first shelter in the nation dedicated to women and children escaping domestic violence. Our space today has 15 bedrooms and typically provides emergency refuge to 17 women and up to 33 children nightly. Our kitchen serves three meals daily and residents have access to laundry facilities, a computer center, a welcoming common living room and dining room, and a secure children's playground. Women's Advocates is a secure place where a woman and her children can trust they will be safe 24/7 from physical harm and emotional trauma. Time at our shelter is time to breathe, focus, and plan for a safer future. Beginning on the day of arrival or soon thereafter, residents work with our on-site staff and programs to chart the course to a new chapter in their lives. Our space is productive, reflective, and supportive.

We could fill Target Field 17 times with MN women who have experienced domestic and/or sexual violence.





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## WOMEN'S PROGRAM

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### In the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year:

(Between July 1, 2017, and June 30, 2018)

**113** crisis interventions took place for women staying at our shelter.

Family advocates dedicated **2,370** hours of support to residents.

**3,010** people called our 24/7 crisis line for help.

Crisis resource advocates provided **1,797** crisis interventions and shelter referrals via our crisis line.

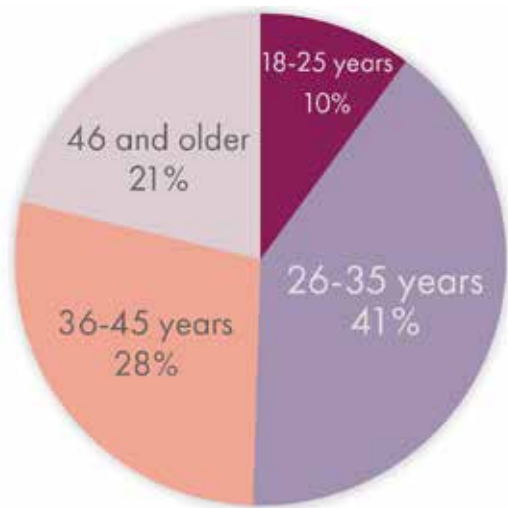
Women's Program expenses for the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year were \$684,584. Women's Program expenses comprised 29% of organizational expenses.

"Thank you for helping me get on my journey to the life I am about to begin and continue with."

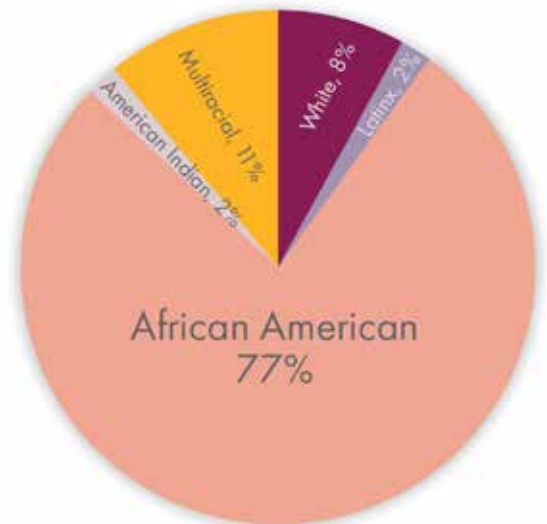
-A survivor of domestic violence and a Women's Program participant







**Ages of women residents in  
2017-2018 Fiscal Year**



**All resident race/ethnicity in  
2017-2018 Fiscal Year**

## WOMEN'S PROGRAM

Our Women's Program offers on-site, one-on-one mental health counseling from a licensed therapist, legal support from volunteer lawyers on-site, systems navigation for courts-related issues and public assistance programs, and assistance with housing and employment searches. Those requiring medical help receive immediate referrals to emergency medical assistance, and a weekly health clinic is conducted onsite for residents and their children to meet any emergency medical needs. Support groups are available throughout the week to all residents, including children. Callers to Women's Advocates' 24/7 crisis line have access to experienced advocates so they can obtain emergency domestic violence shelter referrals, safety planning, and on-the-spot crisis interventions.

**38% of all domestic violence  
victims become homeless at  
some point in their lives.**





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## SHEILA WELLSTONE CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

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"Our children depend on us to make this world safer for them."



-A mother of children who were staying with her at the shelter

### In the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year:

(Between July 1, 2017, and June 30, 2018)

**160** children ages 0 to 17 stayed at Women's Advocates.

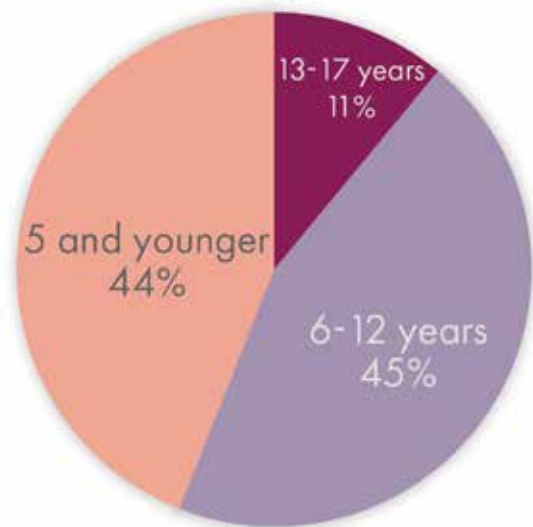
**128** children participated in family and educational activities.

Children received **2,448** hours of advocacy, activities, school enrollment, and assessments.

Women's Advocates provided an average of **18** hours of child care for each participating child.

Children's Program expenses for the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year were \$244,819.

Children's Program expenses comprised 10% of organizational expenses.



**Ages of children staying in shelter  
in 2017-2018 Fiscal Year**

**92%**  
OF CHILDREN  
AT WOMEN'S ADVOCATES  
WITNESSED/EXPERIENCED  
DOMESTIC ABUSE.

## SHEILA WELLSTONE CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

Our Sheila Wellstone Children's Program is focused on the children who arrive at our shelter with their mothers/guardians. Through this program, children have access to safety planning, school support, family activities, art and music activities, and drop-in childcare. Sadly, 92% of children at Women's Advocates have witnessed/experienced domestic abuse. Children arriving at our shelter need a nurturing environment with a focus on predictability, healing, and space to be whatever age they are, whether they're infants, toddlers, preschoolers, or school-aged. Mothers at our shelter reported a 35% increase in community involvement (with schools, libraries, and mom groups) during their stay, which is critical for supporting the individual and community growth of their children beyond their shelter stay.

Domestic violence has a  
multigenerational impact:  
150 MN children lost their mothers to  
domestic violence in the past 5 years.





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## AFTERCARE

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### In the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year:

(Between July 1, 2017, and June 30, 2018)

**128** women and children participated in Aftercare, across 44 households.

**90%** of households have maintained stable housing for 6 or more months.

**86%** of households increased income through obtaining community benefits.

**36%** of households increased income through employment.

Aftercare Program expenses for the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year were \$139,941.

Aftercare expenses comprised 6% of organizational expenses.

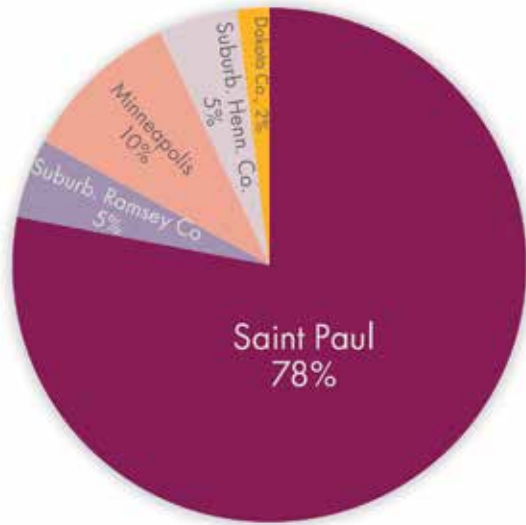


"We wanted to say a special thank you for being an angel to our daughter. She needed help this summer and you were very supportive and available to come alongside her. She is doing better with help from professionals and continues to be in a much better place."

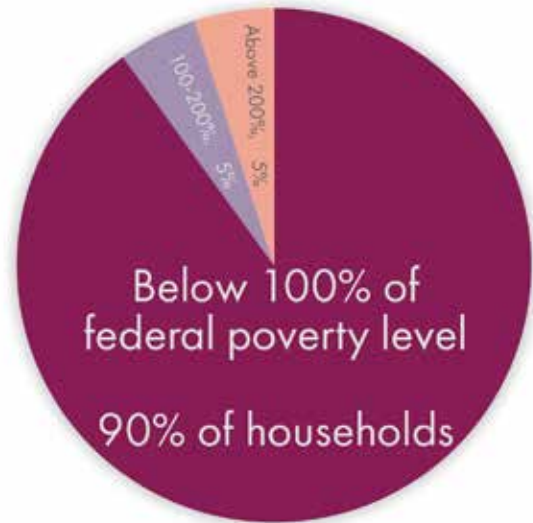


-Parents of an Aftercare participant

Where Aftercare Program families lived in the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year



Income levels of Aftercare Program families in the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year



## AFTERCARE

Our full-time Aftercare Advocate works with families for one to two years after leaving our shelter to identify and help mitigate risks to their safety and independence. We strive to support a woman from the moment she leaves her abuser through to a stable, safe, sustainable living environment. Annually, 25 employed, yet low-income families avoid the risks of homelessness and recurrent abuse as we nurture positive relationships with landlords, provide resources and coach on tenants' rights, and ensure access to housing stability stipends when needed. Because of our rental subsidies, women have been able to focus on enrollment in academic programs or focus on more stable employment that may take longer to obtain.

84% of U.S. domestic violence shelters reported a need for finding affordable housing.



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## Women's Advocates

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### IMPACT IN THE 2017-2018 FISCAL YEAR

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#### Emergency shelter for people fleeing domestic violence

**298** women and children received **14,572** days of shelter.

The average stay was **45** days.

#### Programming at the shelter for survivors

**113** crisis interventions took place for the women staying at our shelter.

Residents received **2,370** hours of individual support from family advocates.

Our data show a **52%** increase in housing resources for residents, a **26%** increase in income, a **31%** increase in employment, and a **35%** increase in community involvement during residents' stay at our shelter.

An average of **18** hours of child care was provided for each participating child.

#### Resources for community members seeking safety

**3,010** people called our 24/7 crisis line seeking safety and resources.

**1,797** callers received crisis interventions and shelter referrals.

#### Preventing continued violence and increasing awareness

**7,272** students and professionals attended **282** trainings on awareness and safety resources for domestic violence and related topics.

**63,229** unique visitors used safety resources from our website.

#### Sustained safety for residents leaving our shelter

**44** households participated in the Aftercare Program.

**90%** of households maintained stable housing for 6 or more months.

**86%** of households increased income through benefits, and **39%** of households increased income through employment.

# FINANCIAL REPORT



77%: Programs & Services  
16%: Management & General  
7%: Fundraising

75%: Program Revenues  
22%: Contributions  
3%: Debt Forgiveness, Miscellaneous

Audited Financial Statements		2017-2018	2016-2017
Assets	Total Current Assets	2,686,213	2,668,386
	Net Property & Equipment	998,161	1,056,112
	Total Other Assets	-	-
Liabilities	Total Assets	3,684,374	3,724,498
	Total Current Liabilities	111,095	98,694
	Long-Term Debt	126,268	151,697
Net Assets	Net Assets: Undesignated	1,406,256	1,402,720
	Net Assets: Board Designated	1,956,184	1,956,184
	Net Assets: Temporarily Restricted	84,571	115,203
	Total Liabilities and Net Assets	3,684,374	3,724,498
Revenue	Program Service Revenue	1,741,677	1,756,027
	Contributions	504,526	440,492
	Debt Forgiveness	25,584	25,584
	Interest & Miscellaneous	36,428	32,559
	Total Support & Revenue	2,319,247	2,254,662
Expenses	Programs & Services	1,794,896	1,801,875
	Management & General	376,782	348,589
	Fundraising	174,665	132,409
	Total Expenses	2,346,343	2,282,873
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS		(27,096)	(28,211)
NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR		3,474,107	3,502,318
NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR		3,447,011	3,474,107

Audited Financials provided by third party auditing firm CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

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Lalitha Belur  
Bruce Beneke  
Marilyn Berc  
Jessica Berger  
Brielle Bernardy  
Sara Bischoff  
Jennifer Bisciglia-Heideman  
Martha Boemker  
Georgia Ann Bond  
Bonnie & Greg Borrell  
Brian & Angela Newhouse  
Emma Bridges  
Tom Brown  
Alicia Brown  
Ethylon B. Brown  
Nancy Browne  
Katie Brula  
Pam Buchan  
Thomas Campbell

Jennifer Carlson  
Casey Cashman  
Nicole Catlin  
Cerio Family  
Mary Chase  
Melinda Christenson  
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church  
City of Lakes Waldorf School  
Jennifer Clark  
Kathleen Clinton  
Susan Clough  
Ridley Coate  
David Colby & Laura Clay  
Phyllis Conlin  
Hanna Cooper  
Cheryl Cosgrove  
Mary Costello  
Barbara C. Crosby  
Sterline Saran Cryer  
Meredith Cuda  
Megan Cunningham  
Patrick Currie  
Betsy Currie  
Marilyn Ann Curtis  
Sarah Cyrus  
Savanna D'Amico  
Jillaine DeGraw  
Duane Delperdang  
Julene Kay Denet  
Erin DeStasio  
Elizabeth Dickinson  
Nancy Dilts  
Megan Dobratz  
Nancy Driessen  
Elizabeth Nowlin Drumm  
Katherine Dudding  
Jennifer & Sean Dunn  
Laura Durenberger-Grunow  
Jackie Edwards  
Connie Eide  
Kelly and Phillip Elkin  
Janet Engeswick  
Sandra Engwall  
Billie Erdmann  
Nancy Ericson  
Nancy Evert  
Kathleen Lohmar Exel  
Sandra Mae Fecht  
Jane Fosse  
Kim S Fossey  
Lucille Fredericksen  
Helene Freint  
Johanna Froeming  
Bryant Gaden  
Timothy Galdunick  
Jackie Gale  
Linda Galib  
Iness Gildish  
Erica and Tom Giorgi  
Karen Gochberg  
Mary Sue Godfrey  
Jacqueline Gohdes  
Marina Goldshteyn  
Jodi Gonyer  
Katie Goodin  
Chelsea Gordon  
Robert Grafsgaard  
Mary Lou Grahek  
Kimberly Green  
Roger and Nancy Green  
Abigail Greenheck  
Constance Anne Greig  
John Guenvuer  
Masiti Haji  
Margaret "Peggy" Hall

Ginny Halloran  
Joan Hancock-Dow  
Lisa Hannum  
Marilyn Hansen  
Sarah Hansen  
John Harrington  
Mary Harris  
Pat Harris  
Jonathan Hatch  
Ron Hawkins  
Nora Hayes  
Krista Heilman  
Kathleen Heinze  
Joan Henry  
Kate Hildebrand  
Bridget Schoenberger Hills  
Kamarra Hobson  
Kelsey Hokenson  
Laura Holasek  
Marion Holly  
Judy Holmquist  
Lisa Houdek  
Audrey House  
Joseph Houston  
Hayden Howland  
Linda Hucke  
Mary Hunter  
India Hicks  
Amy Innes  
Nancy Jambor  
Joy Jayaram  
Jeffrey Stephenson and Sheila Casey  
United Way-Philadelphia & So. New Jersey  
Kathleen Jesme  
Jo and John Retter  
John & Sandra O'Brien  
Allison Johnson  
Kelsey Johnson  
Sara Johnson  
Jennifer A Jones  
Sheri Lynn Judge Arnett  
Karin and Timothy Chisholm  
John Kaul  
Pamela Kerber  
Kayla Keuler  
Susan Knight  
Melissa Komarek  
Kristen Kranzler  
Barbara Kratt  
Brian Krieger  
Zachary David Krueger  
Angie Kub  
Ann Kuitunen  
Rachel Kunst  
Allison Laberge  
Beatrice Laizer  
Frances Larson  
Sheila Larson  
Jennifer Lee  
Erica Luteyn Lensink  
Renee Lewis  
Madie Ley  
Carol Lindow  
Llewellyn Worldwide  
Nicole Lovold-Egar  
Barb Luck  
Jo Ellen Lundblad  
Kathleen Magnuson  
Amanda Maguire  
Robert & Helen Mairs  
Marisa Anne Malahowski  
Anthony Manno  
Michelle Manno  
Marc Al & Louise Livesay

Donald & Abby Marier  
Marilynn Thaney and Karen Mahler  
Melissa Martinez-Sones  
Robin Martinson  
Mary Holmes  
Monica Mauritsen  
Amy McDonough  
Mark and Gina McDonough  
Kim and Tom Medin  
Patrice L. Meier  
Debby Meinke  
Rosa Mejia  
Claudia Melbye  
Debora Mevissen  
Patty Michaud  
Margaret L. Miller  
Kimberly Mills  
Jennifer Millsap  
Mary-Helen Mische  
Jean Moede  
Lisa Moncrief  
Fatima Moore  
Nancy Morales  
Lisa Mountain  
Zoe Mullendore  
Dianne Murdock  
Valerie Murphy  
Abigail Nadeau  
Kathleen Nelson  
Neon Esquire, LLC  
Hao Nguyen  
NW Area Foundation  
Laura Nortwen  
Charles Norwood  
Amanda Olson-Faust  
Donna Marie Oman  
Stormi Oman  
Margie O'Neill  
David L. Ostendorf  
Ruth Palmer  
Katie and Jeff Pan  
Park Place on Broadway, Inc.  
Laura Park  
Tara Patet  
Patricia Eaves and Stuart Alger  
Susan Pearson  
John Peine  
Terease Pelfrey  
Laura Peters  
Stephanie Peterson  
Adam Petras  
Catherine Polley  
Tom and Laurie Pratt  
Elizabeth B. Prescott  
PRIMP  
Christine Pulkrabek  
Mike Pumroy  
Nikkie Purvis  
Molly Quinlan  
Sara and Mitch Radtke  
Thomas Ragatz  
Julianne Ragland  
Sandra Ramsay  
Mimi Randall  
Angela Reichert  
Elizabeth Reinhart  
Patricia Richmond  
Shelley and Michael Robshaw  
Frances Roen  
Lorie Roux  
Mary Rozwadowski  
Thekla Rura-Polley  
Gigi Sadat-Hendi  
Judith M Salaba  
Jackie Salvato  
Jessica Sandberg

Zachary Scanlan  
Michelle Schaubroeck  
Lori Schmidt  
Dirk & Tamara Schmitz  
Jacqueline Schroeder  
Rachel Schromen  
Kristin Schulze  
Lauren Seaman  
Judith Searles  
Molly Semlak  
Ayesha Shariff  
Julia Anne Shaw  
David Shea  
Jamie Shingledecker  
Mary Jane Shultz  
Paul Christopher Sisson  
Michael Slovenkay  
Linda Smart  
Michon True Smith  
Cherrol Soiseth  
Mary Spadoni  
Nicole Spears  
Karin Spencer  
Joann Springer  
Paul Steiner  
Lora Meatbox Strey  
Jonathan Sundby  
Dennis Sundlie  
Samantha Sunquist  
Christina Teetzel  
Terry & Nancy Engfer  
Rachel Thaney  
Marney Thomas  
Jenny Thompson  
Rebecca Thompson  
Jennifer Tong  
Sharon Toscano  
Matthew Toupal  
Janice Tracz  
Kristin Trapp  
Kristi Tremblay  
Donna Troka  
JoAnn Trygestad  
United Hospital Pharmacy  
Laura Utley  
Mary Vanderwert  
Roxey Walker  
Connie Walkingstick Catlin  
Janet Walsh  
Leanne Walter  
Kathryn Walters  
Bailey Webster, Margo Hanson-Pierre  
Jessica Webster  
Lorelee Wederstrom  
Julie Lynch Weegman  
Kristin Weise  
Kathleen Weiss  
Jill Weitz  
Allison Welby  
Wells Fargo Community Support  
Lori Whittaker  
Cheryl Wilke  
Ann Wilson  
Ardith Wilson  
Lorelei Wilson  
Lois Wintersteen  
Sue Wintz  
Christine Wolf  
Karyn Wrenshall  
Malini Wright  
Michael Zamarripa  
Cindy Zvareck

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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*Board Members from July 1, 2017, through June 30, 2018*

Jill Johnson, Chair  
John Steiner-Manning, Secretary  
Karen Nancekivell, Treasurer  
Janice Barker  
Elizabeth Boyd  
Matt Fisher  
Tanya Gladney, Ph.D.  
Kathryn Hammond  
Sgt. David McCabe  
Anisha Murphy  
Erin Westerlund  
Estelle Brouwer, Executive Director

*Board Members as of July 1, 2018*

John Steiner-Manning, Board Chair  
Tanya Gladney, Ph.D., Board Secretary  
Matt Fisher, Board Treasurer  
Elizabeth Boyd  
Dennis Gerhardstein  
Erica Lister  
Sgt. David McCabe  
Kevin McGuigan  
Maria Mitchell  
Kathy Moriarty  
Kate Rykhus  
Somah Yarney  
Estelle Brouwer, Executive Director

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## STAFF

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*Staff Members from July 1, 2017, through June 30, 2018*

Cierra Adams	Mandie Kender
Kelly Anderson	Beatrice Laizer
Robin Barnett	Alexandra Leaskas
Nikki Beasley	Rachel Lilleboe
Jacqueline Beck	Jill Mantor
Marilyn Berc	Maricio Mata-Thelen
Emma Bridges	Theresa McClimmek
Tom Brinker	Shanell McCoy
Estelle Brouwer	Rosa Mejia
Danielle K. Carter	Christina Middleton
Nancy Colvin	Brittany Norwood
Dawn Cornell	Ellie O'Brien
Sterline Saran Cryer	Sophie Phan
Amy Gaffin	Carly Rickey
Hafia Gray	Lauren Rimestad
Erin Gregoria	Sam Robertson
Masiti O. Haji	Karen L. Roerig
JoAnn Hawkins	Meg Royer
Claire Holtz	Kathleen Sheehan
Audrey M. House	Misty L. Thompson
Carmen Iverson	Roxey Walker
Kaujah Iverson	Shirley Johnson
Kelsey Johnson	Detra L. Wilson



Some of Women's Advocates staff members at a staff retreat in 2018

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## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN 2017-2018

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Women's Advocates and sister organizations at the 2018 Day on the Hill with MN Coalition for Battered Women

### Volunteers

**2,333** hours of volunteerism at the shelter (an average of 6 hours per day from volunteers)

**3** interns provided research and development support, averaging 120 hours per intern

**406** volunteers spent time helping Women's Advocates' programs and events.

**1,577** individual visits from volunteers to the shelter, averaging 4 volunteers per day.

### In-kind donors

**166** individuals donated items on our wish list.

**79** groups supported our material needs through donation drives

In-kind items directly helped those we served while allowing us to save our precious resources. Items donated included gift cards, pajamas, birthday presents, children's clothing, hygiene items, blankets, towels and more.

### Partners in service

Community organizations are integral to our work at the shelter and in the community. We'd like to thank our partners in service who help us provide direct service to shelter residents:

- Continuum Care Center
- Family Tree Clinic
- MacPhail Center for the Arts
- Healthcare for the Homeless
- Kids Create
- Saint Paul Public Schools





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Women's Advocates

588 Grand Avenue,  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102

[wadvocates.org](http://wadvocates.org)  
[facebook.com/wadvocates](https://facebook.com/wadvocates)

Admin 651.227.9966  
24 Hour Crisis Line 651.227.8284