



# Women's Advocates

## Breaking the cycle of domestic violence

### Women's Advocates' Response to COVID-19

Please read our full update below. If you can support us financially at this time, your donations will go directly to Women's Advocates' Aftercare Program to support domestic violence survivor families and former Women's Advocates' residents with rent support. Donate [HERE](#).

Women's Advocates is committed to the safety of our residents, Aftercare families, community members, staff, volunteers, and supporters. Women's Advocates' team will continue to monitor and follow public health advisories regarding COVID-19 (Coronavirus). In response to this rapidly changing situation, we are continuing our regular shelter operations and advocacy for the families staying in our shelter. **We continue to operate our 24/7 crisis line (651-227-8284)**, offering phone support and referrals to services for victim/survivors of domestic violence.

We are implementing extra safety precautions when it comes to our meal service, shelter cleaning, staff schedules, group meetings, and shared spaces. Non-essential staff are working remotely when possible. We have suspended all volunteer activities and are limiting visitors to Women's Advocates' offices.

### Seeking Safety During COVID-19

Staying home isn't a safe option for everyone. [This document](#) is continually updated with safety resources, crisis lines, interactive tools, press coverage of COVID-19's impact for survivors, and more. Follow the link above to learn about the resources and helplines available for you or someone in need.



### "Home Isn't a Safe Place for Everyone"

"We know that isolation compounds violence. It increases people's risk, and it compounds the type of violence that people experience," Emilee Whitehurst, CEO and president of the Houston Area Women's Center, told Jezebel. According to the National Domestic Violence Hotline's CEO Katie Ray-Jones, the hotline has already seen an increase in clients who report that partners are using the

### **Urgent Supply Needs**

For the time being, we are not allowing in-kind donation deliveries, *except* for the items below, which we are in great need of.

Needed items (all new):

- Toilet paper
- Kleenex
- Latex or rubber gloves
- Face masks
- Oral thermometers
- Hand soaps
- Hand sanitizer (60% or more alcohol content)

If you can support us with these items, please reach out to [donations@wadvocates.org](mailto:donations@wadvocates.org) to coordinate. Unapproved donations will not be accepted.

### **How You Can Support Victim/Survivors**

At this time, our abilities to share our violence prevention education, resources, and presentations in-person are limited. We need community support to continue reaching people in need:

- Share our social media pages and posts
  - [@womensadvocates](#) on Instagram
  - [facebook.com/wadvocates](https://facebook.com/wadvocates)
- Read through our [crisis resources](#), [safety resource hub](#), and much more throughout our website
  - Share our information online and print off resources to have available at home or work
- Keep a lookout for online digital learning opportunities from us!

Organizations nationwide, including ours, may see a dip in philanthropic support for an unknown length of time. You can help:

- Head to our [donate page](#) to review the various ways you can support Women's Advocates

threat of COVID-19 to, as she put it, "further isolate, increase fear, and manipulate."

Click [here](#) to read the full article from Jezebel. Many other stories and articles have been shared recently, including from [Huffpost](#), [Twin Cities Pioneer Press](#), [The New York Times](#), and [The Washington Post](#).



Image Source: Getty

### **How YOU Can Help**

#### **April 16-30: #SafeTogether online fundraiser**

The need for support for our shelter and services, especially our [Aftercare Program](#) participants is just as critical as ever, even more so during a pandemic. Highlighted in several publications including [Huffpost](#), [Twin Cities Pioneer Press](#), [The New York Times](#), [The Washington Post](#), and [Jezebel](#), domestic violence victim/survivors and recent shelter residents are at a high risk of loss of wages, social and program support, and reentering the cycle of violence during a crisis as "staying home" may present its own challenges.

From April 16-30, Women's Advocates encourages our supporters to start Facebook or GiveMN fundraiser pages to benefit Women's Advocates via a campaign titled #SafeTogether. Funds raised will directly benefit our Aftercare Program and rent support for survivor families who have recently left our shelter. This is a vulnerable time for our Aftercare Program participants, made

- Start a Facebook or GoFundMe fundraising page and select Women's Advocates as the beneficiary OR donate directly to us [here](#)
- Ask your employer to match your donations  
(email [development@wadvocates.org](mailto:development@wadvocates.org)) to coordinate
- Shop our Amazon wish list (<http://a.co/jkkHfvm>) for cleaning items, clothing basics, and personal care/hygiene products to be directly shipped to us



even more risky with social distancing from support like family, friends and social programs.

You can start a campaign on Facebook by visiting [our page](#) and clicking the "+Create Fundraiser" button or on GiveMN by visiting [our page here](#) and clicking the "(Fundraise)" button. Any questions about #SafeTogether can be sent to [tbrinker@wadvocates.org](mailto:tbrinker@wadvocates.org).

## #SAFETOGETHER



From April 16-30, work together to support Women's Advocates' Aftercare Program.

By raising funds via **Facebook** or **GiveMN**, you can help survivors of domestic violence leaving shelter begin their safe and independent journeys, free from abuse.

**Start your campaign:**

[facebook.com/wadvocates](https://facebook.com/wadvocates)  
Click "+Create Fundraiser"  
*No Fees!*

[GiveMN.org/organization/Women-s-Advocates](https://GiveMN.org/organization/Women-s-Advocates)  
Click "(Fundraise)"  
*Fees Donated Back!*

## Quick Links

[Our Website](#)

[Donate Now](#)

[Volunteer](#)

[Wish List](#)

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

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