



Women's Advocates

Breaking the cycle of domestic violence

New Opportunities to Support Women's Advocates

Most non-profit organizations, including Women's Advocates, have been forced to cancel in-person fundraising events this spring and summer. This coincides with a decrease in philanthropic giving as businesses close or deprioritize their charitable giving efforts in response to the current COVID-19 pandemic.

For individual victims of domestic violence, including recent shelter residents, there is 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. As mentioned this month in the Star Tribune article titled "[Advocates brace for possible spike in domestic abuse during pandemic](#)", "Crises like the pandemic can force victims to stay in abusive situations because they're unable to work and cannot afford to find a place to live or be on their own."

The need for support for our shelter and services, especially our [Aftercare Program](#) participants is even more critical than ever. Highlighted in a recent MinnPost article, "[As domestic violence shelters deal with COVID-19 and extra expenses, Franken fashions a fundraiser](#)", our Executive Director Estelle Brouwer shared, "Beyond the shelter, we have a program we call [Aftercare](#) where we

Domestic Violence Distance Education Options

Looking to learn more or provide educational opportunities related to dating violence and family violence?

Women's Advocates has created a mini-series of videos available on YouTube on these two topics discussing what they are, who is impacted, different forms, lasting impacts, and how to help yourself or someone in need.

Check out [this link](#) to watch the videos now!

DISTANCE EDUCATION

New online curriculum on our website

- Dating violence
- Family violence
- More topics coming soon!



support survivors after they've left shelter and we work with them in the community to make sure that they're staying safe and getting all the connections that they need and are not isolated, and also helping them pay their rent. So we need some extra funding right now to make sure that we can continue to accept survivors into that program during this time."

GiveMN has announced #GiveAtHomeMN, a virtual fundraising event taking place May 1 - 8 for nonprofits and schools across Minnesota. This weeklong focus on Minnesota organizations will coincide with #GivingTuesdayNow, a special fundraiser for nonprofits all around the world put on by the Giving Tuesday organization on May 5.

Typically, these platforms host their major campaigns in the Fall, but they have quickly organized these efforts to offer support during a time of increased uncertainty and need. Women's Advocates looks forward to opportunities like these, especially at this time as we expect a decrease in philanthropic support stemming from the cancellation of several community-based fundraisers. We ask our supporters to mobilize, share our mission online, and ask their friends and colleagues to donate any amount they can.

You can participate by encouraging your friends, family, and colleagues to support Women's Advocates May 1 - 8. Donate directly at our website www.wadvocates.org. Additionally, we encourage you support via GiveMN using this link that you can copy/paste far and wide: <https://www.givemn.org/story/Piplxf>.

Funds raised via the GiveMN link above May 1 - 8 and on our website on #GivingTuesday 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 even more risky with social distancing and staying away (physically) from support like family, friends, social programs, etc.

COVID-19 Specific Safety Resources

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.



New Blog Post: "Social Isolation May Put Additional Strain on Domestic Violence Victims"

Guest writers periodically contribute blog posts to our website about topics relevant to our work in breaking the cycle of domestic violence.

"The nationwide coronavirus outbreak has affected everyone's life from layoffs, company closings, reduced income, to the inability to attend community events, a night out with friends or church services. It is true that COVID-19 is affecting everyone. So imagine the additional strain of..."

Check out the link [here](#) to read this post and any of our other blogs as well!

Please send any questions about these campaigns to tbrinker@wadvocates.org.



Women's Advocates' Urgent Needs

We are so grateful for the support we are receiving from business and individuals to help Women's Advocates with immediately supply needs.

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):

- Kleenex
- Latex or rubber gloves
- Face masks, including home-made
- Oral thermometers
- Bleach
- All Purpose Cleaners
- Disinfectant Wipes

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



Quick Links

[Our Website](#)

[Donate Now](#)

[Volunteer](#)

[Wish List](#)

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

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

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 in these ways:

- Share our social media pages and posts
 - @womensadvocates on Instagram
 - 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
- Participate and share our online digital learning opportunities!

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
- 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) 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

