Dear Friends,

The year 2020 was quite tumultuous, not only at the Women’s Shelter and Support Center, but globally. Although we were faced with the unpredictable nature of the Covid-19 pandemic, we made it our priority to ensure services were delivered without interruption. While learning to adapt to our “new normal”, we learned that Stay at Home orders often created even more unsafe situations for many victims and survivors. Victims and survivors became further isolated from their loved ones and support systems, and we observed a decrease in the number of individuals seeking services, but a distinct increase in the severity and intensity of abuse.

To help protect clients and staff from the Covid-19 virus, we adjusted and modified our physical space, programs, and sheltering options. In person meetings and support groups were replaced with video conferences and Zoom meetings. In-house sheltering capacity was reduced, and off-site locations were used for safe sheltering. New processes around meal distribution and food delivery were implemented. Physical space was modified to support social distancing requirements.

Moving forward, we will continue to adapt as we strive to meet the unique needs of the times. Focus areas include training on Trauma-Informed Care, enhancing services to underserved populations, and fostering community partnerships to ensure victims and survivors receive confidential, autonomous, nonjudgmental services.

Most importantly, we learned just how vital, and lifesaving domestic violence programming is. We know now, more than ever, that programs like the Women’s Shelter and Support Center are a lifeline for so many, and we are grateful to all who join us in our mission.

Respectfully,

Artyce Thomas
Executive Director
Women’s Shelter and Support Center
MISSION AND LEADERSHIP

Mission: It is our mission to provide temporary shelter and services to abused women, individuals and families while transforming our communities through education and leadership for social change.

Vision: For women, individuals and families to have the freedom and dignity to live safely in our communities.

2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Gail Sauter
President (August 2019 - )

Kelly Classic
Immediate Past President
(August 2019 - March 2020)

Cathy Stroebel
Vice President (September 2019 - )

Bill Oertli
Treasurer (August 2019 - )

Karen MacLaughlin
Secretary (September 2019 - )

Richard Bennett

Vickie Ernste

Mara Kubisch

Caitlin Matera

Sue Palen

Gerald Weinrich

Robyn Wood

WSSC LEADERSHIP STAFF

Artyce Thomas
Executive Director

Kara Hoel-Kleese
Director of Housing

Barb Schramm
Director of Development

Jodi Skurdahl
Director of Shelter Services

Jeannie Thompson
Director of Youth Programming
and Community Outreach
Emergency services & support to victims of domestic violence.
815 Individuals (77 children / 738 adults) received services from our trained staff located in Dodge, Fillmore, and Olmsted counties, such as:
- Crisis intervention
- Advocacy and support
- Safety planning
- Court Advocacy
- Shelter and housing
- Transportation, meals, personal care needs, household items, etc.
- Ongoing and follow-up support
- Resource referrals: legal, financial, housing, childcare, employment, education, etc.

Emergency & long-term housing to meet unique safety needs and remove barriers.
125 Individuals (103 adults / 22 children) received emergency shelter
33 days is average stay for shelter resident.
9 Permanent rental units.
19 Households (20 adults / 31 children) served in supportive housing.
6 Households moved from supportive housing into self-identified safe housing.
33 Households received financial assistance to obtain or maintain stable housing.
177 Individuals received assistance with relocation.
Additionally, we one of the few shelters that allows pets, removing the barrier of leaving beloved pets behind where they could be hurt or killed.
Support and education to reduce the impact of domestic violence for children.

172 Children participated in 46 activities, such as:
- arts and crafts
- music
- field trips
- holiday parties, etc.

42 Youth received educational and supportive programming through support groups and activities.

180 Students attended youth focused community education presentations on topics such as:
- healthy relationships
- teen dating violence
- consent, etc.

Raising awareness of services and the impact of domestic violence on community.

1,950 Individuals attended 28 community education sessions covering agency services and domestic violence related topics.

1,486 Individuals received education through our 6 available support groups, covering topics such as self esteem, power and control, ACES (Adverse Childhood Experiences), anger management, healthy relationships, and domestic violence awareness.

20 Volunteers provided 1,681 hours of service through the foster grandparent program, childcare, support groups, data entry, graphic design, maintenance, gardening, presentations, community booths, and organizing material donations.

237 Individuals attended 31 educational "Women's Shelter Experience" presentations to learn about services.
FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Revenue

- Contributions 12.8%
- In-Kind Contributions 5.6%
- Grants 78%
- Rental Income 2.1%
- Other 1.5%

Total Revenue: $2,040,080

Expenses

- Administration 13.9%
- Program Activities 86.1%

Total Expenses: $2,085,552

"This place has been more than a safe haven. It has provided a multitude of opportunities to pave the way emotionally, mentally, physically, for our family to move forward with our lives."

- Client statement from exit survey

Data reflects 2019 Audit
THANK YOU

We wish to extend a special thank you to our generous donors who make this critical work possible.

Giving Society Donors
- Multi-Year Giving Society Members
- Shelter Stewards Monthly Giving Members
- Planned and Donor Advised Fund Giving Members

Contributors
- Volunteers
- Financial Donors
- Donors of Goods and Services

Community Groups and Businesses (≥$5,000)
- Mayo High School GOFA
- Luxury Bath Remodeling and customers
- IBM Employee Charitable Contributions

Grantors (≥$5,000)
- Minnesota Dept. of Human Services
- Minnesota Dept. of Public Safety
- Office of Violence Against Women
- US Dept. of Justice
- US Dept. of Housing and Urban Development
- United Way of Olmsted County
- Mayo Clinic

Tributes (≥$1,000)

In memory of:
- Camilla Berry
- Dave Bishop
- Rae Ann Vigen
- Keona Foote and Miyona Miller

In Honor of:
- Leah Hickman
- Dr. John L.D. Atkinson

Transforming Lives 2020 Sponsors

Platinum:
- Minnwest Bank
- Bremer Bank

Gold:
- Knutson Construction
- Olmsted Medical Center
- Think Mutual Bank
- Willow Creek Working Women's Golf League

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Volunteer
Donate
Request a presentation for your group
Speak out against injustices

To make a donation:
Online: https://www.womens-shelter.org/waystogive
Mail: WSSC, PO Box 457, Rochester, MN, 55903
Phone: 507-292-6743