Thank you, Oakwood Haven!

Thank you to all of the inspiring women at the Oakwood Haven Shelter for letting TimeOut Staff stop by for an afternoon potluck and wellness get-together. It was absolutely wonderful to have the opportunity to meet you all and learn from the incredible work you are doing in Sawyer County and on the La Courte Oreilles tribal reservation. Thank you inviting us and sharing your comfortable and welcoming space with us.

We took back everything we soaked in from our many discussions that day—from working to shift the culture of our Shelter by better understanding generational trauma to creating a laundry room signup sheet—and have gotten the new, genius ideas going right away! We can’t wait to collaborate more with you all, and we are thrilled to be able to offer our team approach services to Native American individuals who come to TimeOut. Our dual advocacy efforts will ensure all people receive tailored services honoring their cultural heritage and experienced trauma. We’re looking forward to seeing you all again down in Ladysmith and hearing your decorating tips that will help us make the Shelter more welcoming for people of all backgrounds.

Thank you again, and see you soon!
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New Location, New Faces
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"This is the best day EVER!"
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"Never let yesterday use up too much of today." -- Former shelter resident's advice to future residents
New Location, New Faces

This past quarter, TimeOut’s Washburn County Outreach Office underwent some big, exciting changes! The Board of Directors voted to move the office location to Shell Lake, the county seat, to be closer to our community partners (a block away!) and to improve advocacy services to individuals needing assistance in navigating the legal and human services systems. The bright and comfy space is located in the Shell Lake Mall at 11 5th Avenue. When you swing by the new office, you’ll meet our two Program Coordinators, Brittny Olson and Kati Ann Dussl, who have recently become part of the organization and bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to share. Welcome, Brittny and Kati Ann!

Kati Ann Dussl (left) and Brittny Olson (right) in our new Washburn County Outreach Office location at 11 5th Avenue in Shell Lake.
Domestic Violence Program Coordinator, Brittny Olson

Hi, there. I’m Brittny. I love spending time outdoors with my family. We enjoy hunting, camping, cooking out and sitting around campfires. I developed my passion for this work while working as the Executive Assistant at TimeOut. It was really an eye opening experience to see the overwhelming amount of domestic abuse and sexual assault that goes on in our rural communities and the underwhelming public knowledge of it. I believe that our communities and our youth need to be educated about these issues to prevent violence and end the cycles of abuse. I’m ready to spread awareness, start hard conversations, answer tough questions and be a strong source of support to victims.

Sexual Assault Program Coordinator, Kati Ann Dussl

Hello, I am Kati Ann. I really love anything outdoors, reading, horseback riding and eating!! I am originally from the Twin Cities, but moved up with my husband to take up some old family roots. My busy home includes my husband, three dogs, two cats, and three horses; all rescued/adopted. My background is actually in the field of veterinary medicine, I went to school for Veterinary Technology and Horse Training. I was very fortunate to be able to work with some of my greatest mentors who sparked a passion of animal behavior/psychology in me. As my two greatest passions are Animal Welfare and Human Rights, I wanted to get involved with TimeOut any way I could. I interned with the organization for a little over a year before signing on full time as a Sexual Assault Program Coordinator at our outreach office in Washburn County. As a student of psychology (animal AND human), supporter of human rights, and a survivor myself, I cannot imagine doing anything more fulfilling at this time in my life. Not everyone has a voice, and I hope I can be that for those who need it, be a support on the path to healing, and educate our community to prevent sexual assault before it happens.

“This is the best day EVER!”

This year, the Rusk County Community Foundation selected TimeOut’s Children’s Program as a recipient of the GIVE 365 Rusk grant initiative. With the funds, TimeOut’s Domestic Violence and Youth Program Coordinator is developing monthly field trips and weekly educational activities for the children staying in shelter throughout the grant year. Special activities are also coordinated when a child is celebrating a birthday while living in shelter. These field trips and activities will help to strengthen the parents’ relationships with their children and build the children’s trust with staff enhancing therapy and allowing the children to work through past trauma and heal.

TimeOut Staff have reached out to several local Rusk County businesses, such as Maple Hill Farm and Christie Mountain, who have agreed to conduct field trip events for children in the Shelter, while maintaining the family’s confidentiality. Other field trips exploring and learning about our local community will also take place such as snowshoeing and hiking on the Ice Age Trails, fishing trips and knitting with Rusk County volunteers, and Geocache GPS scavenger hunts put on by the City of Ladysmith. The funds from Give 365 Rusk supports travel and activity supply costs like fishing bait, gardening supplies, hiking snacks, art and science experiment supplies, baking supplies for birthday cakes, and yard games. In order to make travel to the field trips possible and utilize GIVE 365 travel funds and staff hours most effectively, Rusk County Transit Commission (RCTC) agreed to partner with TimeOut in assisting with the transportation of children to the field trip events.
Thank you to the Rusk County Community Foundation, RCTC, and the many partnering local businesses and volunteers who are making these field trips and birthday celebrations possible. YOU are the reason the seven year old birthday celebrant exclaimed, “This is the best day EVER!”

If you have a suggestion for a field trip or would like to volunteer in planning birthday celebrations, give Ashley a call at 715-532-6976.

**Truckers Against Trafficking**

More people are enslaved TODAY than at any other time in history. Over 27 million people in our world are modern-day slaves. Human trafficking generates $32 billion dollars each year, making it the second largest illegal industry in the world——second only to drug trafficking. Human trafficking is not only a problem impacting foreign countries half way around the world, it happens right here in our small rural communities of northern Wisconsin. Trafficking cases have been reported in all 50 states with many of the victims being children, and TimeOut Staff have assisted victims locally.

This type of enslavement constitutes both domestic and sexual violence. Victims are often recruited online, at schools, in malls, and other public places. Recruiting tactics include, but are not limited to, coercion, threats to safety, and debt bondage—all elements of abuse. Sexual abuse is often used as a form of power and control over the victim by the abuser. In addition, victims are subjected to emotional, verbal, economic, and physical abuse while enslaved.

This summer, TimeOut’s Program Coordinators and Sister Cecilia from our local Servants of Mary are partnering with Truckers Against Trafficking (TAT) to empower local truck stops and trucking companies, the eyes and ears of our nation’s highways, in the fight against human trafficking. TAT is a national non-profit organization that “exists to educate, equip, empower, and mobilize members of the trucking and travel plaza industry to combat domestic sex trafficking.” TimeOut Staff are now trained as TAT Volunteer Distributors. As TAT Volunteer Distributors, we will share TAT wallet cards, brochures, videos and posters with truck stops and trucking companies throughout Rusk, Washburn and Price Counties. We are also offering full trainings for the drivers of the local trucking companies about identifying potential victims and how they can help end trafficking right here in our communities. If you know of any companies or individuals who are interested in this information, please give Angela a call at 715-339-4521.

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