WE SERVED:

789 men, women, teens and kids with in-person domestic and sexual violence counseling and advocacy services - a 27% increase in in-person services when compared to 2017's services.

22 survivors at high-risk of homicide received 1,836 nights of safe shelter services, counseling, advocacy, and case management support. 41% were children including 2 runaways, and 25% of shelter residents were Native or African American.
OUTREACH, PREVENTION & AWARENESS

Meeting Survivors Where They Are At
22 adult survivors participated in the evidence-based Seeking Safety group curriculum offered in local jails that addresses PTSD and co-occurring addiction

Connecting with Teens
113 teens received services for teen dating violence in student groups and/or on-site counseling sessions at the schools

Alternative Healing Support Groups
387 survivors received support group services; an 162% increase in support group attendees compared to 2017

Medical Response
32 response backpacks created to give to survivors after evidence collection is completed as part of a medical exam with a forensic nurse

Prevention Education
765 student and community education presentations offered to all three counties reaching 10,000+

Innovative Partnerships
Five teens who experienced sexual assault accessed Embrace and Rusk County Public Health’s 24/7 emergency contraception and advocacy at the Embrace Office

SERVICE NUMBERS

BARK AGAINST ABUSE
2nd Annual An Awareness Walk
Thursday, October 3
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm Walk starts at 6:30 pm
Learn more to report to your abuse and get family support
Sign up, professional photo with your pet

SAFE SPACE
I am an Ally
You can make a difference volunteer

You Can Make a Difference Volunteer
Embrace services hiring volunteers to work at the Embrace office

Every BATHROOM STALL
Thank you to our local businesses who helped turn BATHROOM STALLS to TAKE A STAND AGAINST DOMESTIC, SEXUAL, AND CHILD ABUSE:ᚙquette, THE HUNTING GROUND, DISTRICT ATTORNEY OFFICE
In fall 2016, the Embrace Board of Directors underwent a planning process that identified areas needing strengthening and established targets for improvement. Activities and a timeline to achieve the desired outcomes were formulated into an ongoing Action Plan. The Board completed the following activities to build the organization’s capacity:

- Researched and developed a monitoring report and process to measure the Board and Executive Director’s adherence to Embrace’s Board Governance Policies following the Carver Policy Governance Model.
- Enhanced the Board Director orientation and training process including hosting an annual Board Retreat and Training on Embrace’s programming and service philosophy.

EXPANDING COLLABORATIVE PROGRAMMING & SYSTEMS ADVOCACY

Early in 2018, Barron County Health and Human Services invited Embrace to consider including Barron County in its service area. “More outreach, prevention, and awareness programs were identified as a need in Barron County, and Embrace’s advanced services will meet this important need,” said Katie Bement Executive Director at Embrace. “Embrace’s wrap-around services and program growth over the past several years have been very positive for survivors and the communities of our current tri-county area.” With this invitation to collaborate with Barron County Health and Human Services, Embrace applied for the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families Domestic Violence Outreach Services funding to support Barron County. Embrace was awarded the grant contract in late 2018 officially expanding Embrace’s services to Barron County.

“Embrace has the capacity to bring innovative and unique approaches to services that will meet the needs of domestic and sexual violence survivors in Barron County,” explained David Willingham President of Embrace’s Board of Directors. “By relying on Embrace’s current set-up, the expansion of services will be possible without a major increase in administration costs.”

The Barron County service expansion will enable Embrace to hire more staff members in 2019 and 2020. A new office will be set up in the County in 2019 that will allow easy-to-access and high quality services. “Embrace hopes to share an office space with the sexual assault services provider in the County, St. Croix Sexual Assault Response Team and Community Referral Agency (CRA), to create a single hub for services,” said Brittany Olson Domestic Violence Program Coordinator at Embrace.

“Embrace Board and Staff are looking forward to working together with Health and Human Services staff, Law Enforcement, and all community agencies serving survivors to add to the County’s system response and reduce the risk of violence and homicides throughout the communities,” highlighted Cassandra Clark Sexual Violence Program Coordinator at Embrace. “Embrace has already begun partnering with local businesses to raise awareness and end the silence around domestic violence.”

“The Embrace Board of Directors is proud of the high quality and effective services provided by our staff and share the excitement of the staff as they embark on this new chapter in the Embrace Services story. Most important of all is to know domestic and sexual assault survivors will have healing services and support available to them to regain hope and build a trauma-free life,” continued Willingham.
"... all of the staff are absolutely top notch! I learned more in 2 years than 30 years of therapy! I am an absolute different person with every large tool box. Although I moved, I will absolutely miss [my advocate] as she was part of my life. The changes in my life now are shocking even me! Thank you many times!" - Survivor

Board of Directors
Dave Willingham - President, Kelly Swan - Vice President, Kathy Mai - Treasurer, Susie Daniels - Secretary, Thomas Frost - Personnel Chair, Kevin Julien, John Kmosena, Annette Barna, Sherrie Wiegand, Karla Potts-Shufelt, Stacey Frolik, Bob Carter, Chris Fitzgerald

Staff
Katie Bement, Angela Frieze, Brittny Olson, Cassandra Clark, Kendra Taber, Robyn Wiemer, Heidi Woldhuis, Jessica Christianson, Brandy Carlsen, Chris Mortenson, Keith Rudi, Nicholas Wisnieweski, Geri Guertin, Georgette Bembeneck, Debbie Meye, Melissa Baisden, Mindy McConnell, Judy Bubolz, Amanda Camren, Kristie Walker

34 volunteers and interns donated over 400 hours to the organization.