



2018
**ANNUAL
REPORT**

Providing hope and safety
to survivors of domestic
and sexual violence



A MESSAGE FROM BOARD PRESIDENT, KATE BECHEN

"A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step." –LAOZI

Through your support of Advocates, you provide compassionate, high quality and trauma-informed services to children and adults in need throughout Ozaukee County and beyond. You help real people make real progress, stepping from abuse to healing.

Advocates has been intentionally increasing our community outreach, so that people in peril know where to find us, when they need us. Making the first call to Advocates represents the single step to launch the healing journey. We are particularly gratified when our clients tell us that we have made a difference in their lives. Said one woman, *"I've been wanting to send this to you for a while.... Thank you for allowing me to stay at Advocates at my lowest point, looking for a place to live. God sent me to you, and for that I am thankful."*

I'm thankful that your support allowed her, and 619 victims last year, turn to Advocates to help walk alongside them on the journey toward healing and renewal. Please read further to see how you make this possible.

–Kate Bechen, President



NIGHTS OF SHELTER



ADVOCACY & COUNSELING CONTACTS



GROUP SUPPORT CONTACTS



CRISIS AND HOTLINE CALLS



Children's Program

June brought her 18-month old son Alex to Advocates shelter to escape an abusive partner. Alex was very shy and clung to his Mom. He wasn't walking fully on his own, atypical for a toddler, and panicked whenever she was out of sight. Advocates child case manager met with June and asked her about Alex's development and what he had previously witnessed at home. While they were talking, our child advocate tried to distract Alex with toys. Alex showed no interest at all and just climbed on June. June explained that Alex never had toys and he didn't know what to do with them. A plan was made to help socialize Alex so that June could leave a room without him panicking. As time went, on Alex began to interact with others, learn how to play with a few toys (particularly the foam building blocks that he liked), then he started walking and running on his own and played with others during the children's group. His personality started to come out and he laughed a lot. Alex showed great strides in his development in the 84 days they were in shelter. June has since left shelter but continues to come to support group and so does Alex. He now runs into the room, gives our child advocate a big hug and goes off to play with his friends. We don't know what the future holds for Alex, but we know he has developed and become more independent in the 7 months we have known him. This major step sets him on a path toward healthy relationship development.



GROUP SUPPORT

Every week, Advocates runs two support groups for victims of domestic and sexual violence. A children's group happens at the same time, so parents and children can heal concurrently. During each session, there is a check in with all the members and a topic for group discussion. Through these groups, members learn from each other's experiences, challenges, and victories. They become a new support system for each other at a time when many have lost their previous network. There are tears in every group but there is also laughter, and many, many hugs.



COUNSELING

Domestic violence and sexual assault can leave survivors feeling alone, lost, helpless, and trapped in a cycle of deep depression and anxiety. The healing process often starts through one-on-one meetings with a counselor. Survivors will learn about the dynamics of sexual violence and begin to understand that the abuse wasn't their fault. A survivor can begin to learn self-care strategies and tactics to aid in daily functioning, when life feels overwhelming. One-on-one counseling can help increase self-esteem, promote healing and change the focus to brighter futures, free from abuse.



LEGAL ADVOCACY

From 2013 to 2018 legal advocacy contacts increased by 249%. Legal advocacy brings critical services and support to victims when interacting with the justice system. Whether it's helping to fill out and file a restraining order, accompanying a victim to an appointment within the legal system or sitting with them in court, we provide an advocate during difficult times. We go to court with victims when they will be in the presence of their abusive partner, often for the first time since they left. Our encouragement helps victims be heard in a setting that often stifles them.

Services

SAFETY PLANNING
Individual planning for adults and children

SHELTER
16-bed shelter at undisclosed location which is accessible 24 hours

SUPPORT GROUPS
Ongoing trauma informed support groups for adults and children

INDIVIDUAL SUPPORT SERVICES
Confidential, free, support including one on one counseling

PREVENTION/ EDUCATION
Community training at schools, workplace, or civic and church groups.

ADVOCACY
Legal - Provide assistance with filing restraining order paperwork and attending all necessary court appearances.

Medical - Accompaniment and support during post assault examinations and for ongoing medical or emotional needs.

YOUTH OUTREACH
Prevention/education to children k through 12th grade and colleges

VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS
Advocates is always in need of volunteers to provide transportation, child care, donation pick -ups and organization, phone support and shelter maintenance.

2018 Financials



REVENUE

Contributions	\$125,263
United Ways	\$138,092
Foundations	\$124,300
Fundraising Special Events	\$12,228
Government Grants	\$454,576
Investment Income	\$1,458
In-Kind Contribution	\$60,000

Total Revenue & Support \$915,917

EXPENSES

Domestic Abuse Program	\$359,237
Children's Program	\$171,140
Sexual Assault Program	\$250,594
Total Program Expenses	\$780,971
Administrative Services	\$52,104
Fundraising Support	\$87,718
Total Support Expenses	\$139,822

Total Expenses \$920,793
Net (\$4,876)

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VOCA Case Manager &
Child Advocate

Robert Kirsling
Resource Development

"I wasn't expecting the service I was offered. My experience has been amazing."

”

ASSOCIATES

Shaina Buckner
Mary Ferwerda
Nancy Johnson
Samantha Jones
Christina Kotlowski
Sara Nelson
Kerry Pratt

Advocates serves nearly 700 women, men and children annually.

Sexual Assault Services

YOU CAN CHANGE THE CONVERSATION AROUND SEXUAL ASSAULT

In my 19-year career at Advocates of Ozaukee, I have worked with and supported numerous child and adult survivors of sexual assault. In my ongoing work with survivors, I am always inspired by the amount of courage each person demonstrates on the long healing process. It is not uncommon for survivors to discuss fear of not being believed by those around them or the systems they trust to protect them. That continues to be one the biggest reason survivors report much later in life or never at all.

Advocates of Ozaukee started offering sexual assault victim services in 2001. Since then, we have worked very hard to provide prevention and education to schools, churches and the community to raise awareness of sexual assault. Unfortunately, we continue to hear victim blaming and doubt as very common themes. We often address comments and questions such as: *Did you see the way she was dressed? Why didn't she fight back? If this really happened, why wasn't it reported? What did they think was going to happen at a party where there was drinking?* These comments echo what we hear from survivors and suggest that it is ridiculous for women to expect to be safe.

Rarely do we hear: *Why do people abuse? Why would someone sexually assault another person?*

As professionals, it sometimes feels that changing the community perception of sexual assault is an insurmountable task. In these moments, however, we think about how difficult it must be for survivors to continue to confront victim blaming. It is their courage and strength that propels the need to change the culture. Blaming the victim does not help anyone other than those who commit acts of sexual assault. When we spend so much time talking about what a survivor did or did not do, how they should or should not respond, we shift the responsibility for sexual assault from the perpetrators to the victims. Neither victims nor their clothing bear responsibility for assaults. It is time to support survivors and place the blame where it belongs - on the offenders.

We all know someone who has been sexually assaulted, whether we are aware of it or not. This could be a partner, child, neighbor or co-worker. Take a few minutes to think about how you would respond if someone told you they had been assaulted. Some survivors have heard: *Why didn't you tell me sooner? Why didn't you report it? Are you sure that is really what happened? Why didn't you just leave?*

We offer you more supportive statements: *What do you need from me? I'm here to support you. Thank you for trusting me. How can I help?* These simple affirmations will make a world of difference to a survivor, and ultimately change the conversation around sexual assault. To learn more about how to support survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault, please contact Advocates of Ozaukee.

– Mary Knetter, MSW, Sexual Assault Services Director



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PRESENTATIONS
TO 1,463 OF PEOPLE



OVER \$2,500 IN ANNUAL DONATIONS

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"Advocates has taught me so much in the past couple of years. I'm at a point where I feel I am here more to give support to others."

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THANK YOU TO ALL WHO GAVE THROUGH A UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN



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"I will no longer allow the abuse to control me. This is not who I am, it is just something that happened to me."

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Our Mission

To support and empower those who have experienced domestic or sexual violence by providing safety, advocacy, education and resources;

To educate and work with and within the community to promote respect, dignity and appropriate behavior;

To transform our community so that domestic and sexual violence no longer exists.

Our Purpose

To end domestic and sexual violence through support, empowerment, education and transformation.



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