



I refuse to be identified as
the worst thing that has
ever happened to me.



**NIGHTS OF
SHELTER**



**ADVOCACY &
COUNSELING
CONTACTS**



**GROUP
SUPPORT
CONTACTS**



**CRISIS AND
HOTLINE CALLS**

2019 ANNUAL REPORT



A MESSAGE FROM BOARD PRESIDENT, Kate Bechen

Greetings,

During 2019 Advocates worked hard to continue to provide quality, holistic and healing services to an ever increasing number of victims and survivors. Your support of Advocates made it possible for us to be successful in providing those services and a record breaking number of prevention and intervention programs. Thank you for your support.

We had many successes and changes in 2019.

Advocates opened a new office in Grafton at the Family Enrichment Center to better be in the thick of things and to be able to reach everyone in the community who needs our services. As one of our supporters said, "This is a new era for Advocates in the community."

We launched our Ambassador's program that is meant to bring together those interested in assisting Advocates and Advocates board and staff. The Ambassador's group met for the first time and took on an advocacy challenge that had a very successful outcome. If you are interested in joining the Ambassador's contact Barb Fischer at 262-284-3577 ext. 1.

Our amazing outreach staff, well yes, mostly Mary Knetter, met with over 3,700 children and adults to discuss domestic violence, teen dating violence, bullying, sexual assault and sexual harassment. Many lessons were learned and mind and heart changing discussions were had. Presentations grew by 120% over 2018 demonstrating the importance of these issues and the need for community conversations about these difficult topics.

Advocates also changed its tagline to better reflect what it is we do to end domestic and sexual violence. The new tagline reads: **Providing Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness, Advocacy, Safety and Justice**. This statement gives a much better understanding of the services Advocates provides daily and of the societal changes we are working toward to assist survivors and victims in their healing journey. It also brings to the forefront the need to look at domestic and sexual violence as social justice issues.

Finally, we continue to work our strategic plan with the goal of reaching the "last person" (that person in need of our services but most likely not to be seen or know where to go for help). Our plan is working well, reinforcing support for our core services and pushing us to look at new ways to provide services and reach out to the many in our community we know are in need of help but aren't sure how or where to go. We know that domestic and sexual violence are the most underreported crimes; many of the steps in our strategic plan speak to that fact and our goal to make it easier and safer to get help and heal.

Again, we could do none of this without you, our supporters! Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your belief in Advocates, it's board, and staff; and for your caring and concern for victims and survivors. Together we are making life better for many.

—Kate Bechen, President

Awareness

Advocates of Ozaukee is very proactive in providing a variety of prevention and education services to schools, churches and community groups. Presentations and trainings on dating violence, healthy relationships, domestic violence, sexual harassment, sexual assault and consent are always in high demand.

IN 2018, 45 PRESENTATIONS WERE DONE AND REACHED OVER 1450 YOUTH AND ADULTS. IN 2019, 115 PRESENTATIONS WERE DONE AND REACHED 3178 YOUTH AND ADULTS.

It is not unusual for someone in the audience to disclose their own story of abuse shortly after hearing one of these presentations and services then being offered to these survivors.

Advocates staff is also often invited to host a booth at health and wellness fairs, career fairs and other safety night events. During the months of October and April, Advocates of Ozaukee increases the amount of awareness activities and information put out to the community. If you are interested in having someone come speak to your staff, your students or your community groups, contact Mary Knetter at (262) 284-3577 or email svdir@advocates-oz.org.



Advocates Success Story

Glenn and his mother came to shelter after fleeing abuse at the hands of his father. Glenn's mother expressed concern for her son and reported that he had become increasingly withdrawn and depressed. Our children's advocate noticed that Glenn didn't interact with the other children in group and often didn't even respond when spoken to. She started out by advocating for Glenn with his school explaining what was happening at home. She then advocated to find a therapist for Glenn to see and was successful in finding him one he clicked with almost immediately. In addition to this the biggest change seemed to appear when Glenn was introduced to Zoey! Zoey, Concordia University of Wisconsin's comfort dog, has been spending time with the kids at Advocates for a number of years. Glenn immediately began to display more openness and a change in mood and behavior. Everyone noticed that Glenn was excited and looked forward to Zoey's visits. After only a few short weeks, Glenn began interacting with the other children in group. When asked how he was feeling he smiled and said, "I'm happy!" So were we.

Advocates served 157 active child clients in 2019 providing 294 support group contacts in addition to 571 counseling and advocacy contacts.

Advocacy

After days of carefully planning her escape, Hannah arrived at Advocates of Ozaukee in the middle of the night. Hannah is 25 years old and a victim of sex trafficking. "I was homeless and I just needed somewhere warm to stay. I wanted to get back on my feet, so I posted on Facebook that I was looking for a roommate". Hannah was contacted by a man claiming he had a room to rent. The man and Hannah had mutual Facebook friends, so it didn't seem that unusual to her at the time. She went to meet the man who was offering the room for rent. Hannah didn't know it then, but from the very first time she walked through that door, she would not be able to leave. He made me take nude and provocative photos, posted them online and set up meetings with different men. Sometimes I would just cry when these men would sexually assault me. Afterwards, my trafficker made me feel like I was special. He also scared me". Hannah wasn't allowed outside and had little to eat. She knew she had to leave. Hannah made a courageous and terrifying choice one night and left in secret while her trafficker was working third shift. Soon after entering shelter, Advocates staff were able to accompany Hannah to make a police report. Many of the questions gave her flashbacks, causing her to re-live the very experience she was trying to flee but she persevered through questioning. "I just want him to stop doing this to women." During this time, Advocates provided a safe place for Hannah to stay, counseling, as well as a safe and consistent place to meet with Detectives and other professionals. After her trafficker was officially charged with a total of four felonies and criminal proceedings began, Hannah knew she needed intensive treatment. Advocates helped to facilitate her admission to a treatment facility out of state. In addition, Advocates continues to coordinate services and provide support to Hannah. She remains in close contact and expresses immense gratitude towards Advocates of Ozaukee. "Thank you for not giving up on me."

IN 2019, ADVOCATES HELPED 25 NEW CLIENTS NEEDING LEGAL ADVOCACY, 450 LEGAL ADVOCACY CONTACTS, 125 CONTACTS NEEDING INFORMATION ABOUT THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROCESS, AND 134 CONTACTS NEEDING INFORMATION ABOUT VICTIM RIGHTS.

Safety

Starting in April 2019, Advocates along with law enforcement agencies in Ozaukee County, launched the Lethality Assessment Program (LAP), an assessment done when officers are called to a domestic violence situation to determine the likelihood of homicide to the victim in the future. 96 LAP assessments were completed by law enforcement in 2019. 52 of those assessments, or 54%, of those incidents were determined to be at a high risk for lethality. When high risk is determined, an officer with the victim, calls Advocates' hotline for services. 32 victims asked for assistance with life-saving services from Advocates. Sandra, now a client of Advocates and survivor of domestic violence, states that the LAP assessment helped her to realize the severity of the situation she was in. "I knew it was bad but never thought he would kill me." "After talking with an officer and an advocate, I knew I had to leave to keep me safe." Sandra was able to break free from her abuser and met with a legal advocate for a restraining order. "This has been life changing. I can't help but think what could have happened had I stayed."

Thank You to our Caring Annual Donors

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2019 Financials



REVENUE

Contributions	\$84,586
United Ways	\$158,033
Foundations	\$136,885
Fundraising Special Events	\$7,994
Government Grants	\$441,617
Investment Income	\$5,929
In-Kind Contribution	\$60,000
Other	\$44

Total Revenue & Support \$895,088

EXPENSES

Domestic Abuse Program	\$398,494
Children's Program	\$207,719
Sexual Assault Program	\$269,672
Total Program Expenses	\$875,876

Administrative Services	\$58,355
Fundraising Support	\$88,788
Total Support Expenses	\$147,123

Total Expenses \$1,022,999
Net (\$127,911)

Advocates Staff

Barb Fischer
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Kristen Nicholson
Associate Director

Mary Knetter
Sexual Violence Services
Director

Emily Fleissner
Volunteer & Community
Engagement Manager

Janet Schmitt
Accounting Manager

Tara Raboin
Legal Advocate

Charlotte Coenen
Shelter and Housing
Manager

Pamela Molina
VOCA Case Manager

Natasha Keiser
VOCA Case Manager &
Child Advocate

Robert Kirsling
Resource Development



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*"You are all a blessing to me.
What in the actual world would
I do without y'all? HUGS!"*



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.