



ANNUAL REPORT

2021

Women's Shelter and Support Center



SAVING LIVES
RESTORING HOPE
CHANGING FUTURES

Women's Shelter and Support Center
PO Box 457, Rochester, MN 55903



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

2021 proved to be another busy year at the Women's Shelter and Support Center as we continued to modify programming in an effort to meet requests for services and reach those most effected by domestic violence during the pandemic. We moved from handling the pandemic as a short-term crisis, to managing it long-term, working hard to understand survivors' urgent needs and the issues and barriers they face.

As part of our ongoing strategic plan, committed efforts were made to reach those in marginalized communities, and underserved populations. The impact of ongoing racial injustice, the pandemic, and a devastating economic downturn have exacerbated their struggles and brought their unique needs to the forefront. Survivors of color experienced these barriers to safety more acutely, because of the disparate impact of burdens they already bear due to racism and systemic discrimination that can put resources further out of reach. For these survivors—for all survivors—we must, and can, do better.

Local partnerships were both established and strengthened through this process as we understand that the best work is done collaboratively. We are grateful for support of local organizations, businesses, institutions of learning, and the community at large for your generous support throughout the year. It is through your giving that we are able to carry on with our life-saving services and raise awareness about domestic violence and the work we do every day.

There was also a renewed passion we all felt as many businesses lifted mandates and loosened restrictions around social distancing. Moving forward, we plan to continue to expand programming to meet the ever-changing needs of our 10-county region, by Saving Lives, Restoring Hope, and Changing Futures.

With your help, we will continue to ensure all survivors get the support they need by advancing access to safe, affordable housing, supporting policies that promote economic justice and financial security, and centering the needs of marginalized communities.

Respectfully,

Artyce Thomas

Executive Director

Women's Shelter and Support Center

FOCUS AND LEADERSHIP

FOCUS

Our focus is to provide temporary shelter and services to abused individuals and families while transforming our communities through education and leadership for social change, and to have the freedom and dignity to live safely in our communities.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION STATEMENT

The Women's Shelter and Support Center is built on a foundation of equity, diversity, inclusion, and safety. We strive to provide this through the people who we serve, the staff we employ, and the culture we promote. The Women's Shelter and Support Center is committed to serving all victims of domestic violence through services and supportive housing options that meet the needs of the community. We endeavor to do this by incorporating the input of clients, volunteers, staff, and board members into these values and the future of the organization. We respect the unique experience of diverse clients and staff, and we are committed to the preservation of our values.

2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Cathy Stroebel

President (Oct. 2021- present)
Vice President (Sept. 2019 - Sept 2021)

Gail Sauter

President (Aug. 2019 - Sept. 2021)
Past President (Oct. 2021 - present)

Bill Oertli

Treasurer (Aug. 2019 - present)

Karen MacLaughlin

Secretary (Sept. 2019 - July 2021)

Richard Bennett

Vickie Ernste

Mara Kubisch

Caitlin Matera

Sue Palen

Gerald Weinrich



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

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Crisis Intervention & Advocacy

Emergency support services to victims of domestic violence.

2,385 Individuals received advocacy, safety planning, and assistance with civil and criminal court activities, such as writing, filing, and amending orders for protection and other court proceedings.

2,032 Individuals received community referrals for legal assistance, childcare, financial resources, housing, and other crucial resources in our area.

579 Individuals called our 24-hour crisis line for assistance, information, and support.

4 Regional offices: Dodge (1), Fillmore (1) and Olmsted (2) Counties.



Shelter & Housing

Emergency & long-term housing to enhance safety and remove barriers.

5,455 Nights of shelter were provided for individuals impacted by domestic violence to sleep safely, free from harm or intimidation.

24 Days is the average shelter stay per resident.

9 Permanent housing units were maintained.

23 Households (**25** adults and **42** children) utilized our transitional housing programs from which **12** households moved on to self-identified safe housing.

23 Households were assisted financially to obtain or maintain their own stable housing.

332 Individuals received additional relocation assistance from our agency.

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

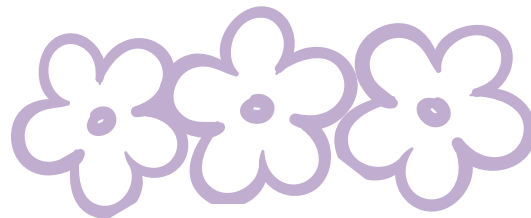
Children and Youth

Support and education to reduce the impact of violence for children.

82 Children participated in **28** interactive activities throughout the year.

54 Youth received educational and supportive programming through support groups, learning about topics such as self-esteem, anger, and communication skills.

Note: *The ongoing Covid pandemic limited much of WSSC's interactive children's programming.*



"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." - B.

Community Outreach & Volunteering

Raising awareness of domestic violence and services available.

443 Individuals attended **35** virtual and in-person educational presentations.

2138 People follow WSSC's Facebook page.

633 Individuals watched WSSC awareness videos on domestic violence related topics and WSSC services.

351 individuals participated in virtual and in-person educational support groups covering topics such as self-esteem, power and control, anger management, healthy relationships, and domestic violence awareness.

14 Volunteers provided **1518** hours of service through the foster grandparent program, childcare, support groups, data entry, graphic design, maintenance, gardening, presentations, and organizing material donations.

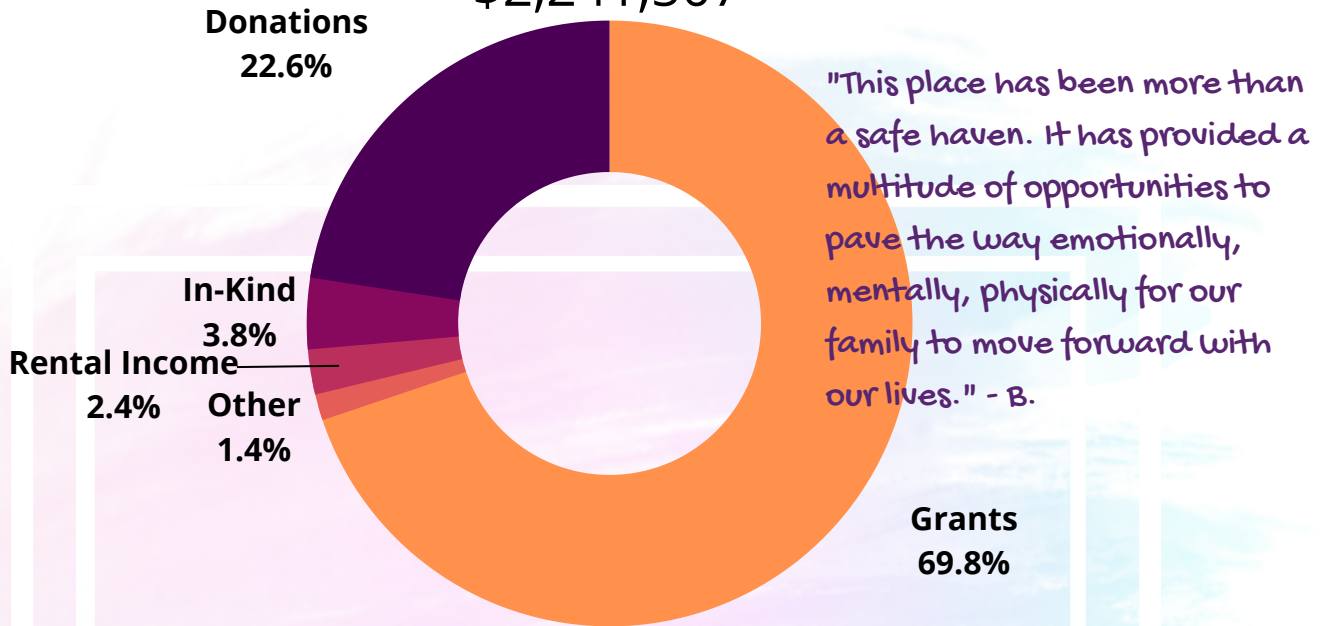
Note: *The majority of WSSC's in-person presentations and volunteering were put on hold during the ongoing Covid pandemic.*

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Revenue

(includes value of in-kind goods and services)

\$2,241,507



Expenses

\$2,077,807

"I was inspired to donate after watching the limited series "Maid" on Netflix. I feel ashamed that it took me this long to realize that there was a women's shelter in my own town that I should be donating to but nevertheless, I hope you guys are able to continue providing a safe place for those in need. Thank you for all that you do!" - M.

Program Activities
76.3%

Administration
23.7%

Data reflects 2020 Audit

THANK YOU

Your kindness and generosity saves lives, restores hope and changes futures.

GIVING SOCIETY and CONTRIBUTORS

Founders and Leadership Club
Multi-year Giving Society (Pledges)
Shelter Stewards (Monthly Giving)
Legacy Society
WSSC Donors and Volunteers
In-Kind Donors (goods and services)

COMMUNITY GROUPS & BUSINESSES (≥\$4k)

Bamber Valley School Students
Carl & Verna Schmidt Foundation
Dodge County United Way, Inc.
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
IBM Employee Charitable Contributions
Luxury Bath Remodeling (*Recipient of 2021 Donor of Distinction award*)
Mayo High School students (*Give One For All*)
United Way of Olmsted County

GRANTORS

Minnesota Department of Human Services
Minnesota Department of Public Safety
Office of Violence Against Women
US Department of Justice
US Department of Housing and Urban Development
United Way of Olmsted County

TRIBUTES (≥ \$500)

In memory of:

Camilla Berry
Marcia Christensen

In honor of:

Janine Kamath
Jayantilal Patel

TRANSFORMING LIVES 2021 LEAD SPONSORS



HOW YOU CAN HELP

We all have a role to play in ending domestic violence. Here are some ways you can join us and make a difference:

- Volunteer
- Donate goods, services or monetary donations
- Learn about domestic violence
- Attend or host an educational WSSC presentation for your group
- Reach out if you or a loved one needs help
- Speak out against injustices

DONATIONS

Online: www.women's-shelter.org/waystogive

Mail: WSSC, PO Box 457, Rochester, MN 55903

Phone: 507-292-6743



Women's Shelter
AND SUPPORT CENTER

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