



## Become a Sustaining Member of the WRC: Give Monthly



Help support survivors by becoming a Sustaining Member. Receive special updates, be a part of our community, and make a lasting impact.

**\$35**

Provides bus passes and gas cards to survivors

**\$50**

Covers the cost of one week of security and surveillance at our emergency shelter

**\$80**

Pays for one day of crisis response, ensuring that our crisis helpline is open 24/7/365

**\$100**

Offers one night of safe shelter at Helen's House

**\$175**

Helps a survivor understand and file a Personal Protection Order (PPO)

## With Gratitude

We would like to thank these community partners for helping to raise funds and awareness for the WRC

Thank you for standing with us. Together we can continue to provide services with inclusion, integrity, compassion, respect and excellence. Together we can help survivors feel heard, understood and safe.

- Oleson Foundation
- TJ Maxx Foundation
- Aerie Restaurant
- Higher Grounds Trading Co.
- Look About Swimwear
- DJ Trivia & DJ Bingo of NWM
- The Children's House
- Stillness and Strength Yoga
- Left Foot Charley

If you would like to know more about how you can support the WRC, please contact Jamie Bell or Cindy Lardie at 231-941-1210, jbell@wrcgt.com or clardie@wrcgt.com.

## WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Juliette Schultz

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### WRC THRIFT SHOPS

Thrift Shop South Airport  
1331 W. South Airport Road  
231-421-3033

Thrift Shop US-31  
3030 US-31 South  
231-946-4180

Monday-Saturday 10am-6pm  
Sunday 11am-5pm

### CONTACT

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womensresourcecenter.org  
24-hour Helpline: 1-800-554-4972

Follow us on social media



To protect, shelter, and empower people impacted by domestic and sexual violence.

## This Homelessness Cause Deserves Attention

By Amy Peterson  
WRC Board Secretary

Amy Peterson, PhD, is the Director of Research and Sponsored Programs at Munson Healthcare and has served on the WRC Board of Directors since 2018.

The intersection of domestic violence and homelessness in rural areas is a silent epidemic that demands urgent attention. Understanding the magnitude of this issue is crucial to implementing effective solutions and providing the necessary support for those in need.

National statistics reveal a grim reality: According to the National Network to End Domestic Violence, 57% of homeless women report that domestic violence was the immediate cause of their homelessness. The National Alliance to End Homelessness reports that 80% of homeless mothers with children have experienced domestic violence. In Michigan, 35% of the homeless population are women, many of whom cite domestic violence as the primary factor leading to their homelessness. A survey by the Michigan State Housing Development Authority found that 43%

of homeless women in Michigan had experienced domestic violence at some point in their lives. These figures take on a new dimension when viewed through the lens of rural regions. In these less populated areas, survivors of domestic violence face additional hurdles that exacerbate their plight.

Rural areas often lack the infrastructure and resources available in more urban settings. According to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV), around 70% of rural survivors have limited access to emergency shelters. This lack of proximity to safe spaces means that escaping an abusive relationship can result in immediate homelessness. The scarcity of shelters and services in these regions forces many survivors into precarious situations, where their options are severely limited.

The impact of this deficiency is profound. Rural areas typically have fewer affordable housing options, and the social services available are often spread thin. When survivors of domestic violence are forced to flee, they face a dearth of resources that can provide the necessary support for recovery and stability. Without adequate shelters or transitional housing, many are left with no choice but to endure further instability or return to their abusive environments. In our region, the Women's Resource Center (WRC) works to fill this gap and provides emergency shelter, transitional housing and supportive services to those impacted by

domestic violence. However, the WRC's shelter beds, and transitional housing are limited and often at capacity.

Addressing these issues requires a multi-faceted approach. Increased funding and support for rural domestic violence shelters and transitional housing are essential. Expanding these services not only involves increasing housing opportunities but also enhancing outreach programs that can connect survivors with available service providers like the WRC.

The link between domestic violence and homelessness in our region is a pressing challenge that requires thoughtful and collaborative action. By addressing the challenges faced by our community members and enhancing the support systems available to them, we can begin to dismantle the barriers that perpetuate this crisis. Ensuring safety and stability for survivors is not only a matter of policy but a fundamental aspect of our shared commitment to justice and human dignity.



Amy Peterson



## Why We Recognize Domestic Violence Awareness Month

By Jamie Bell  
Director of Donor Engagement

**In 1989 the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence designated October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month.**

The purpose being to raise awareness about domestic violence and connect advocates across the country. October is also an opportunity for us to remember those who lost their lives at the hands of an abuser.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month, has helped to educate people about this very real issue and reduce stigmas. And although progress has been made and people are beginning to have a broader understanding of domestic violence, it continues to impact 1 in 4 women and 1 in 9 men and is the leading cause of injury to women between ages 15 and 44 in the United States - more than car accidents, muggings, and rapes combined.

To honor survivors, during October, we wear purple ribbons, speak to community members, and we rally supporters to stand with us to support survivors of domestic violence (DV) and help lift their voices.

During this month we shine a light on the very real issue that is often hiding in plain

sight and is impacting our friends, family, colleagues, and neighbors. We take time to reflect on our own connections to DV, and let our community know that they are not alone.

**On average, nearly 20 people per minute are physically abused by an intimate partner in the United States.**

That equates to more than 10 million people annually. Our community is not an exception to the epidemic of domestic violence. Last year alone WRC Advocates worked with nearly 500 survivors. Through survivors we've witnessed terror and heartbreak, and we also have witnessed healing and strength that continues to inspire the work we do.

According to the National Network to End Domestic Violence, it was reported that more than 20,000 phone calls are placed to domestic violence hotlines nationwide every day. Our small agency answers about 15 calls to our crisis line daily; adding up to about 5,500 calls annually. Not only do survivors reach out to us, so do concerned family members and friends. Our free and confidential services help thousands of people every year.

The WRC is the only local organization providing survivors with advocacy, timely referrals and critical information. While most of the calls we receive are local, we also receive calls from outside of our four-county region, and no one is turned away. To ensure that services are accessible to everyone, the WRC subscribes to a real-time translation service with interpreters who can translate over 70 languages.

When a survivor reaches out to the WRC, an Advocate will help them to come up with an individualized plan. Some survivors need a referral, and others need housing or emotional support during a court hearing. In some cases, a survivor chooses to leave town to be closer to family, or for a fresh start somewhere else. Advocates are regularly communicating with agencies like ours all around the country, to get survivors the help they need.

When Domestic Violence Awareness Month began the hope was that it would inspire a network of people working together to protect survivors. Today the WRC is part of this network that has helped thousands of survivors from all walks of life.

Thank you for pausing this month and taking a moment to reflect on and share the WRC's services with a friend or family member. Talking about the work we are doing and services like our crisis line spreads awareness, and sends an important message to survivors in our community that- "They don't have to face this alone."

Thank you for standing with us this month and always.



Jamie Bell

## An Inclusive Culture

By Juliette Schultz  
Executive Director

**For nearly 50 years, the Women's Resource Center (WRC) has provided all survivors of domestic and sexual violence with protection, shelter, and empowerment.**

A common question that people will ask is "Do you only help women?"

And our answer is always that we don't turn anyone away.

This commitment was what prompted us to have a deeper conversation about Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB). Two years ago, we engaged with respected community members Ashley Troy and Marshall Collins to help educate our staff and Leadership Team about how to maintain and continue evolving as an inclusive, empathetic, and aware organization where all survivors feel safe, valued, and supported.

When we asked facilitator Marshall Collins about his opinion on whether our name was exclusive/inclusive he thoughtfully responded...*Women have traditionally been a marginalized community. As an agency you support all survivors regardless of how they gender identify. Women and others who are marginalized need to know that this is a safe place to come for support. If the name were to change, that feeling of safety also might change.*

**Not turning anyone away** means that when someone calls the WRC for help furnishing their new apartment, we refer them to our Thrift Shop and if they are struggling financially, we offer a store credit so they can pick out free clothing and/or household items.

**Not turning anyone away** means that regardless of how a person gender identifies, the WRC is here to help survivors of domestic and sexual violence. If a survivor identifies as a woman, they are welcomed into our emergency shelter. And if a male survivor needs safe shelter, we arrange temporary safe housing

for them.

Domestic violence does not discriminate. All genders can be victims and perpetrators of physical and sexual violence. Statistics tell us that these experiences are clearly gendered. *Women are nearly three times more likely to have experienced domestic violence than men.*

As we continue to deepen our commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging, the WRC will remain a trusted space for all survivors in northern Michigan and we will not turn anyone away.



Juliette Schultz



**We Are Proud to Serve All Survivors**

**We are here to offer free and confidential help 24/7/365.**

**1-800-554-4972**



We are incredibly grateful for the TJ Maxx Foundation and their generous grant of \$10,000 in support of Madeleine's House, our transitional housing program for survivors of domestic and sexual violence. This funding will provide safe shelter, essential resources, and a stable environment for individuals and families as they work toward healing and independence. Thank you, TJ Maxx, for making a lasting difference in the lives of those who need it most!