



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)

WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER

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WRC THRIFT SHOPS

1331 W. South Airport Road
231-421-3033

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

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WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER

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

NEWSLETTER | WINTER 2025



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.

- Aggie Treats
Bay Ridge Choir
Bonobo Winery
Chelsea Park West Apartments
Cunningham-Limp Development Company
Delmar
DTCA
DTE Energy Foundation
Earthen Ales/Tank Space
Empire Area Food Pantry
Eugene's Record Shop
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Glen Arbor Women's Club
Grand Traverse Bay YMCA
Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation
Greenspire School
GTRCF Youth Endowment
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Michigan State Federal Credit Union
National Indigenous Women's Resource Center
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Outpost TC
Philanthropic Education Organization
Prince of Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church Youth Group
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Solitude Float and Wellness
State Savings Bank
Stormcloud Brewing Company
The Little Fleet
The Oleson Foundation
The Workshop Brewing Company
Tinker Studio
TJ Maxx Foundation
Water Bearer Coffee
Wilson Kester The Empowered Divorce Source
Zonta Club of Traverse City

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.

NEWSLETTER | WINTER 2025

Local Leaders Should Respect Women's Right To Consent

By Edward Carlson
WRC Board Treasurer

Edward Carlson is a former Northern Michigan healthcare executive and a member of the Board of Directors of the Women's Resource Center for the Grand Traverse Area

The allegations against a local elected official has again forced issues surrounding sexual misconduct to become center stage in our community. As the case that has been in the headlines, proceeds, and regardless of the outcome of the investigation, it will be important to keep the voices of survivors of sexual abuse top of mind.

I have always believed that in our community, survivors are worthy of our support. I first got involved in this mission 30 years ago and have served on the Board of the Women's Resource Center (WRC) since the late 1990s.

Overall, as a society, we tend to believe women more now than we did 30 years ago. But still too often, we default to unfair stereotypes. We still can hear that some thinking about women has not changed. We hear that women who report assaults or domestic violence were "asking for it" or even that they "enjoyed it." While we must listen to women who step forward, we must also remember that abuse is not about sex. It is always about control.

Now, a common community understanding about consent is especially important. Putting any legal definitions aside, leaders here must agree that women have rights, no matter what they may be wearing in a social situation or what their conversation with men they meet or know may entail. Anyone who wants to be considered a true leader in this community should show respect for women without clinging to the thinking or language of the past.

There would be no education on these matters for anyone in the community that could match talking to the professionals at the Women's Resource Center, who hear dozens of stories every year from women who survive abuse and sexual misconduct. The survivors who choose to share their stories with WRC Advocates confidentially

or within the larger community demonstrate incredible courage. I applaud them to no end.

After all of these years of serving as a Board Member at the WRC, I am unaware of any cases where a woman recanted because their story was not true. National research shows that as many as 98 percent of reported cases of sexual assault are validated through the legal system. What is far more likely is women choose not to report because they feel like they will lose the power struggle.

Believing survivors and understanding consent are the right ways for leaders in our community to balance power for the good of everyone.



Edward Carlson

WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER

Advocating for Survivors Then and Always

By Jane Hayes, WRC Board of Directors & Jamie Bell, Director of Donor Engagement

This year commemorates the 50th Anniversary of the Women's Resource Center, established in 1975.

For 50 years we have fought to protect, shelter and empower people who have been impacted by domestic and sexual violence. Sometimes it feels like we have come so far, and other times it is like time has stood still, as we continue to face the same heartbreaking issue year after year.

As we reflect, we remember two critical stories of domestic violence that happened decades apart – Jeanette Smith and Tina Talbot – Michigan women who survived a “kill or be killed” situation.

In 1979, Jeanette killed her husband in Kalkaska County and was charged with second-degree murder. The story shocked

the community. She pleaded not guilty, and the jury agreed. The ruling made her the second woman in the country to be found not guilty on the defense of Battered Woman Syndrome. Jeanette was held hostage by her husband in her own home, isolated and terrorized, convinced that she would be murdered if she left.

Today, we pause and reflect on a similar story, the story of Tina Talbot of Oakland County. Like Jeanette Smith, Tina endured decades of abuse and was tormented by her husband. In 2018, she was trapped in a four-day long tirade of physical, sexual, and emotional abuse that included threats to kill her and her 7-year-old autistic son, Phillip. In a fight for their lives, Tina killed her husband. She was sentenced to 20 months in prison.

Jeanette and Tina are women separated by nearly five decades, yet they are bonded by their history of circumstance. As their stories were told through the media and the courts, a community of people surrounded them with support and services, acknowledging the reality of the violence they endured. These women

not only suffered the abuse but also the trauma of the stigma that followed.

As we recognize 50 years, we celebrate the success of individuals who have overcome; we also mourn the loss of those who didn't. We are proud to support, and listen to survivors, and we will fight to be here as long as there are people who need us.



Tina Talbot

WRC Staff Spotlight: Cindy Lardie

By Jamie Bell
Director of Donor Engagement

We are thrilled to have Cindy on the team!

Cindy joined the fundraising department this September, as the Fund Development/Marketing Assistant. Her kind spirit and her passion for the Mission are a natural fit. Cindy is a lifelong resident of Traverse City. She comes to the WRC with a background in, program development and secondary education.

After college, Cindy returned to Traverse City to teach English at the middle school level. Her career eventually led her to advancing a free Student-Run Credit Union program in area schools through a local credit union and overseeing marketing for a downtown business.

Cindy is passionate about public education and assuring that all students

have access to fundamental opportunities that help them learn, grow and succeed: “I’m excited to support the ongoing work of the WRC and be a part of its future growth. It’s a crucial resource to support children and their families in our community.”



Cindy Lardie

Cindy has a bachelor's degree from Western Michigan University and a master's degree from Michigan State University. She enjoys reading, volunteering, gardening and learning new board games with her family. Cindy has a lofty life bucket list but currently is focused on watching her son play high school tennis, keeping the weeds out of her garden and beating her husband in at least one card game.

Become a Volunteer!



CALL 231.941.1210
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INFORMATION



WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER: A LOOK AT 50 YEARS

