



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

NEWSLETTER | SPRING 2021

Blessed: A Good Way to Sign Off

A couple of years back, I started handwriting thank you notes and sending letters to friends I knew who supported the Mission of the WRC. I honestly can't recall when I started doing it, just that when I did, I had a habit of signing off "Blessed, Juliette."

I've always heard, and have had my own direct experience with, the idea that writing down goals and aspirations can be a way to manifest them. Throughout my life, this has been true. And this past holiday, as I began to write cards and letters to friends who care, it struck me: I am signing off with:

Blessed, Juliette.

"That's one lovely manifestation," I thought.

And I bet you can guess what happens next? Yep. We have been blessed. It's hard to count them all, but I wanted to take a moment to share three highlights:

Holiday Needs: A family came to pick up their gifts on the last day of pick up in a small SUV. There were two people in the front, and Grandma was in the back. As Tracey and I opened the hatch to start loading in gifts from generous donors, we realized there wasn't nearly enough room in the car for all of the gifts that had been donated for the family. I let the passenger know, and the family was visibly shocked. I asked how far away they were coming from and could they come back to pick up the rest of the gifts? That's precisely what they did. At that moment, we were all a bit overwhelmed. The generosity of our community washed over us all. *They were blessed.*

The Rocking Chair: the friend who texted to ask if she could drop off a rocking chair for the emergency shelter? "Absolutely!" I said. She arrived, and I walked out to help her unload. Out came a beautiful, caned rocking chair. It appeared vintage. Gently loved—a beauty. My friend paused as she placed it on the ground and looked up at me "this rocker was given to me at a time when I needed some peace. I had just left my abuser, and my world was inside out. I hope they can use this at the emergency

shelter," she said. I have begun to almost expect a story like this from people who donate to the WRC. There are so many survivors. I had heard the night before that a Mom in the shelter had just given birth. I smiled big and let my friend know that the rocker would be perfect for her to nurse and rock the baby. *We were blessed.*

The Cash: I was doing some last-minute holiday shopping and got a text from one of our Client Advocates letting me know that there was a "guy who wanted to make a cash donation to the WRC, and could I call him back?" My call was answered by a man with a deep, warm resonating voice. He was smiling. "I'd like to make a donation, he said quickly. When can you meet me?" I let him know I could meet him in ten minutes and asked where he would be? "The Salvation Army parking lot on Barlow." And what kind of vehicle are you driving, I asked? "A big, white F150. Right out front." I spotted the idling truck immediately and pulled right up next to him – my window facing his. The man's smile went from ear-to-ear as he got out, handed me an envelope with WRC written

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WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER

Volunteer Spotlight

Say "Hello" to Sue Napolitano



Sue is our very own treasure at the Thrift Shop. Carol Rose, Store Manager, refers to her as a "Super-Star"! Sue works at the US-31 South location and is a pants & skirt specialist where she hangs, tags and prices hundreds of clothing items that are lovingly hung on the racks throughout the store. Sue knew she wanted to volunteer for the WRC as soon as she moved to Traverse City. She retired from AT&T in 2003, and quickly began her volunteer journey at the Thrift Shop in 2004. "I want to help people that are making the first step to get out of a bad situation" is what motivates Sue. She enjoys her time at the Thrift Shop where she describes everyone as "so nice".

In her free time, Sue loves to golf and line dance. She is a Snowbird and enjoys the sandy beaches on the gulf side of Florida where she spends the winter.

Are you interested in volunteering? Please visit our website or give us a call 231-941-1210

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in pencil, said, "thank you so much for all you are doing," and got back into his truck and took off. I was stunned again. I took a deep breath and opened the envelope. Ten \$100 bills were tucked neatly inside. I realized that this man was making the

With Gratitude

During these challenging times, we find light in the constants: the meaningful difference our supporters make in our daily activities, and the lives of domestic and sexual violence survivors.

Your generous contributions helped us provide free life-saving shelter and advocacy services to those who need it in our community. We have been comforted, encouraged, and humbled by the outpouring of generosity and support from remarkable people, organizations, community groups, small businesses and corporations that have stepped up to support our Mission: *to shelter, protect and empower people impacted by domestic and sexual violence.* To us, YOU are our heroes and we Thank You for helping us

A Survivor's Story

A survivor was sexually assaulted by an acquaintance and reported to the Munson ER for a forensic exam. A WRC Client Advocate met her there and stayed through the night during the exam. Weeks later, still struggling, the survivor called and made her first appointment at the WRC.

In order to get to the appointment, she had to drive past where the assault occurred; this was incredibly difficult for her but she persisted. As the weeks turned into months and the investigation dragged on during COVID lockdowns, she

struggled but continued to push through. She struggled with depression, anxiety and panic during these months, but found the strength to reach out for help and the support from WRC. With the assistance of her Advocate, she was able to meet with law enforcement and express how the investigative process had failed her. This led to a commitment to protocol changes that are more survivor-focused, and to WRC providing sexual assault trainings to the law enforcement agency. The brave survivor stated that she "wants it to be easier for the next woman who is raped" and now identifies herself as a survivor. She is doing much better, and said "the staff at the WRC has been absolutely amazing and honestly I might not be where I am without everything that they have done for me".

rounds, gifting to local non-profits. *He was a blessing.*

And the "blessed" sign-off? I now use it for just about every card I send. It seems to be working!

Blessed,

meet the challenges of this moment, so we can continue to provide free services to survivors.

With Gratitude,

- Cherryland Electric
- DTE Energy Foundation
- Founders Brewing & Cheboygan Brewing Company
- Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation
- Michigan Economic Development Corporation
- Presbyterian Church
- Rotary Goodworks
- Sam's Club
- Sunrise Rotary Club
- West Shore Bank

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Zonta and the WRC Honor Survivors

1 in 4 women and 1 in 7 men will experience severe physical violence at the hands of their intimate partner in their lifetimes.

According to the book: *No Visible Bruises: What We Don't Know About Domestic Violence*, a study by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime cited 50,000 women around the world were killed by partners or family members in 2017 alone, and the report called their home the most dangerous place for women."

Domestic Violence is an epidemic. The COVID-19 pandemic has made it even

more difficult for victims to reach out for help, and the health crisis has caused a spike in incidents of abuse. Everyday, we focus our attention on honoring the voices of survivors who are with us, and those who have passed. Here is how we honored survivors and raised awareness this past year:

- A giant purple ribbon and flag display was painted onto the lawn at the WRC main office. People stopped by to write on a flag and place it in the ground in the painted purple ribbon. And purple ribbons were given away.
- Our activist friends at the Zonta Club of Traverse City joined us to honor survivors and end violence against women.
- The City Commission declared October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Domestic Violence is prevalent in every community, and affects all people regardless of age, socio-economic status, sexual orientation, gender, race, religion, or nationality. The devastating consequences of domestic violence can last a lifetime. That is why we are here, 24/7/365 to provide free-and-confidential support to people impacted by domestic and sexual violence.

Last year we answered over 4,400 calls on the helpline; and more than 700 of those were from survivors in crisis.

Community support is a vital component for survivors as they travel along the path to safety and security. Please use the enclosed donation envelope to help ensure life-saving services will continue to be available.

No one should face this alone.



Your Generosity = Impact

Through the generosity of our cherished family of donors, the WRC continues to fulfill our Mission to protect, shelter, and empower people impacted by domestic and sexual violence. The power of giving brings light and hope to those living in challenging times.

When COVID-19 changed our lives, the WRC continued its Mission without interruption, ensuring every crisis call was answered, and every survivor in need was given safe shelter, warm meals and professional support.


Your contributions make a lasting impact on survivors and the communities in which they live. **Your support makes everything possible.**



Our **new Thrift Shop** (1331 W. South Airport) opened its doors in August. Thanks for Shopping. For every **\$2 someone spends at the Thrift Shop, \$1 is returned to support the Mission.**

"A donation to the Thrift Shop is a gift to the community"

– Mary Lee Lord,
Former Executive Director





WRC Client Advocates answered over **4,400 calls.** More than **700 calls** were from survivors in crisis.

Because of our donor support, the WRC was able to provide emergency financial help to **284 survivors.**



The Women's Resource Center is the only agency in Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska and Leelanau counties dedicated to providing safe shelter and advocacy for survivors of domestic and sexual violence. Thank you.

We couldn't do it without you.



WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER

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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

CONTACT


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Thanks to Allegra for their generous support, and printing this newsletter