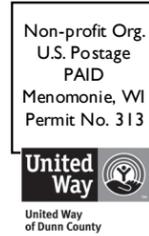




The Bridge to Hope  
P.O. Box 700  
Menomonie, WI 54751



Advocacy services for victims and survivors of domestic and sexual abuse and human trafficking

Return Service Requested



# Newsletter Summer 2019

Editor: Brittany Olson

Providing a bridge to hope that creates a safer, more just and compassionate society

## Save The Date!

### *A 5 Year Old Hero in our Shelter...*

When a small shy 5-year-old boy came in to our shelter just before Halloween, I asked him what he wanted to dress up as later that month for trick-or-treating. He replied, "Spiderman, cuz' then I could fight and make sure my mom never gets hurt!" Some form of that statement would occur regularly, I'd later find out from his mom, but it broke my heart nonetheless.

Living in a shelter is tough; relying on what the pantry is stocked with for food, close quarters with strangers, new faces asking you questions that you don't know how to answer, and for this child, starting a new school on top of all of that. It's no wonder that this kid had trouble adjusting; tantrums, stomach issues, nightmares, asthma flare-ups, and outbursts of anger.

As his mom began to heal, the realization began to dawn on him that he was safe and that his mom was safe. Talking to him calmly through his meltdowns, giving hugs, making him laugh; those were things that were encouraged while he stayed in the shelter. When the exciting day came for he and his mom to move out, he was sad to leave but very proud of his new home that his mom worked so hard to get. They both come to our Thursday night support group and he always comes running to me for a hug and big smile; he handles his emotions better and has been healthy and happy. His mom called me to ask if I would attend his end of the year picnic because he specifically asked for me to come celebrate his last day of school with him. Having to protect his mom is not brought up in conversation nearly as much as it was when I first met him in October.

Relationships like this are built every day with the children we serve, taking a small part in their journey to happy lives.

~ Jennifer McDermid  
Family and Youth Advocate

## 200 tickets go on Sale August 1st.

## Elder Abuse Awareness

Did you know one in ten Americans that are ages 60 and up have experienced some form of elder abuse? However, only one in fourteen is reported. Anyone can be abused at any age; there are several types of abuse that our aging generation can experience:

- Physical abuse: inflicting physical pain or injury upon an older adult.
- Sexual abuse: touching, fondling, intercourse, or any other sexual activity with an older adult, when the older adult is unable to understand, unwilling to consent, threatened, or physically forced.
- Emotional abuse: verbal assaults, threats of abuse, harassment, or intimidation.
- Confinement: restraining or isolating an older adult, other than for medical reasons.
- Neglect: caregiver's failure to provide an older adult with life's necessities, including, but not limited to, food, clothing, shelter, or medical care.
- Deprivation: denying an older adult medication, medical care, shelter, food, a therapeutic device, or other physical assistance, and exposing that person to the risk of physical, mental, or emotional harm.
- Financial exploitation: the misuse or withholding of an older adult's resources by another, or internet scams.



60 percent of perpetrators of elder abuse are the family member of that person. Dementia and Alzheimer's diseases tend to put the elder at a higher risk of experiencing abuse due to their mental impairment. The elder may also assume that a family member wouldn't do such a thing to their loved one. What are some signs that abuse is happening to your loved one? Bruises, burns, unusual withdrawal, sudden changes in financial status, bedsores, and poor hygiene are a few red flags of elder abuse.

If you or someone you know is in need of help, please reach out to us at 715-235-9074. We are able to help victims through the process and give them options. We also offer trainings on the types of elder abuse listed above.

Jamie Gibson  
Pepin County Advocate

## Thank you Erika and Tim from 3M!

Erika Soto and Tim Kesting, 3M Engineers, volunteered many hours on a Community Engagement Project at The Bridge to Hope. They carefully assessed our space and gave recommendations. New shelving and cabinets were put in place in our conference room, and closets and basement space were re-organized. They worked hard to guide us to a more efficient and tidy use of space.

Thank you Erika and Tim!

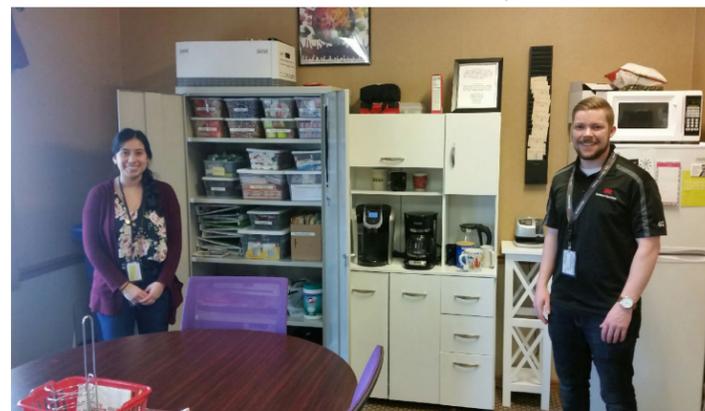


## Look for us this summer!

We will have our pop-up tent at the Farmer's Market this summer on the following dates:

July 20  
July 24  
August 17  
August 28

We will also be at the Durand Blues Festival the first weekend in August. We're hoping to raise more awareness in our community about abuse. We'll have coloring pages, bracelets, and brochures for anyone who would like one!



## Here's to the Men

Here's to the men whose actions reflect gentleness and kindness over domination and aggression.

Here's to the men with meek and humble spirits over violent and lustful vengeance.

Here's to the men who work beside the women in the kitchens and the homes

because those women have worked beside them in the fields and job centers.

Here's to the men who have an active hand in child rearing over their own entertainment

and recreation.

Here's to the men who love souls versus possessing their bodies.

Written by Rebekah Palmer  
read at Take Back the  
Night at the Raw Deal,  
April 2, 2019.



## We have a new Pride flag flying at The Bridge to Hope!

Brandon Beaulieu, one of our summer interns, obtained it for us from The Qube at UW-Stout. Our pride flag shows our community that we are a safe space for all people. The new version of this flag includes a brown and black stripe to represent inclusivity of people of color. Displaying this flag shows that we stand by all LGBTQIA+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex and Asexual) victims.

Brandon said, "I think it's important to have this flag at The Bridge because as a biracial member of the LGBTQIA+ community it makes me feel safe and accepted knowing that the place I work supports me, as well as clients from the community."

Thank you Brandon!

## The Bridge to Hope Board of Directors

Tom Harris: Chair  
Stacie Breitung: Treasurer  
Julie Furst-Bowe: Secretary  
Gary Johnson  
Ruth Potter  
Mary Osteraas  
Lisa Montgomery  
Debbie Stanislawski  
Sarah Shonts  
Mickey Boyle

## Our Wish List

- Pillows
- Pillow cases
- Bath Towels
- Laundry soap
- Toilet paper
- Dish soap
- Frozen meat
- Paper towels
- Dish washer soap
- Printer paper
- Gas Cards
- Full sized hygiene products
- socks and underwear (new) all sizes

Thank you to  
William and Bonnie Dehoff for  
their donation so we could  
purchase pool passes for the  
kids in our shelter!