



## Summer Newsletter 2017 Editor: Brittany Olson



### *From a recent shelter resident:*



"If it wasn't for The Bridge to Hope, I would be sleeping in my car with my dog. And I would have probably gone back to my boyfriend even after he broke the windshield in my car. After being here I learned that I am not to blame for what he did to me and I got my self-worth back. That book, *"Why Does He Do That?"* is exactly word for word what happened to me. They saved my life."

### *Everlasting Prom 2017.....*

We would like to thank and congratulate Dan and Sharon Rockwell on the Everlasting Prom event that they hosted on May 6th. They generously donated \$480 from their raffle to The Bridge to Hope!

We are looking forward to 2018 and the next "prom for adults" and we can't wait to see it grow with more and more people. Our director, Naomi, attended and she was amazed at the dresses, the atmosphere, and how much fun it was to see the king, queen, and princess crowned. We look forward to many more fun prom events put on by Vision Quest Event Center.



### *Why Women Don't Report Rape...*

- \*Fear of retaliation: If it's a boss, you might lose your job. If it's a teacher, you might worry about your grades. If it's a "friend", he might post lies on facebook or tell all your friends that you're lying. If it's a relative or family friend, he may have threatened to harm your family if you tell.
- \*Fear of being blamed: Our culture practices many forms of victim-blaming including questions about what the victim was wearing, if she was drinking, if she was in the wrong place at the wrong time, and if she wasn't careful enough.
  - \*Fear no one will believe you: It may be your word against his and if he's in a position of power, popular, or well respected the victims credibility may be questioned.
  - \*Fear that there's not enough of the "right" evidence: D.A.'s are reluctant to try sexual assault cases they don't think they can get a conviction on. Unless there are witnesses, bystanders, or other solid pieces of evidence, a woman may think it's not worth the trauma and hassle.
  - \*The desire to pull a cover over one's head and hope the whole nightmare just goes away.

*Thank you to our Dunn County D.A. Andrea Nodolf for her strong stand on prosecuting sexual assault cases. After winning a recent case where a jailer was convicted of assaulting an inmate she stated, "I think it important that sexual assault in this county be taken very seriously."*

# Christmas in July

On Thursday July 20th, The Bridge to Hope is celebrating Christmas in July. Christmas in July is an event to help bring joy and happiness to children and their parents. We are hoping to help children feel confidence, love, and safety through family fun activities, and a welcoming warm environment. To be able to have Christmas in July meet our goals we are in need of your help! The Bridge to Hope is looking for donations for the children and parents attending. If you have any questions please contact Chloe at 715-235-9074.

Donation ideas: Gas cards, Wal-Mart gift cards, children's toys (all ages), certificates for children's activities (water park, movie theater, ect.) beauty products (make up, nail polish), spa-like items.

Over 3 million children in the United States witness domestic violence every year. Children who witness domestic violence in the home are at a higher risk of becoming victims of abuse themselves, or becoming abusers. They also struggle with mental health issues, addiction, and a have a higher rate of incarceration. Many of the children who are seen at The Bridge to Hope have witnessed and been victims of violence in the home. They have thoughts of guilt that they were not able to stop the violence or feel like the abuse was their fault. In a time of crisis we would like to help put a smile back on each child's face; Christmas in July will help us do this.

## Client in need of baby items.....

We have a client that will be having a baby girl in October. We are looking for donations of baby items. She currently has no items so anything will be helpful; she is in need of a crib, bottles, clothes, and all the main necessities.

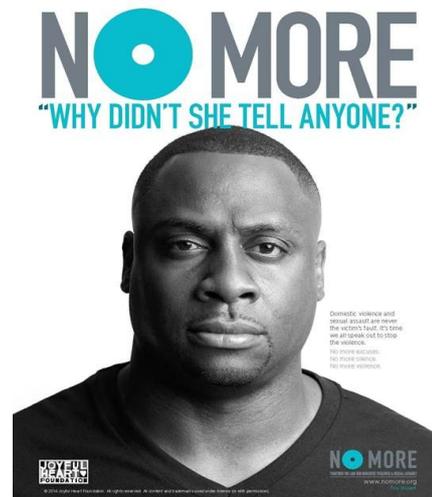
If you have any questions please call us at 715-235-9074 and ask to speak with Chloe. Donations can be dropped off at any time and just state they are for the expecting client.



In the decades I've served as an advocate to end domestic violence, one truth is abundantly clear to me: domestic violence is predominantly a man's issue. As a husband and father, part of my mission in life is to break the silence. It is men who must not only hear, but heed our call to action to end domestic violence.

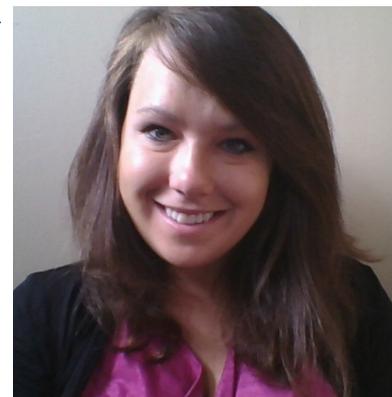
As men, we must speak up and say: *domestic violence will not happen in my home, in my neighborhood, on my campus, on my team, in my workplace or in my circle of family and friends.*

We must not be bystanders to this behavior. Individually and collectively men have tremendous influence over other men; especially young men. We must use our power and our platforms to bring hope to those who want to believe that a new life, a better life, awaits them."



Cited from a *No More* article; *Standing Together with One Voice Against Domestic Violence*. By Troy Vincent

Hello! My name is Kristy and I am the new Pepin County Advocate! I grew up in Cumberland WI and recently graduated from UW-Stout with a Vocational Rehabilitation degree. I am a huge family and animal lover, and love the outdoors. I am very excited to be taking this position because I have always loved to help others and am glad I will have a way to give back and try to help improve other's lives.



## **Gifts Received:**

In honor of "the Children" from *James and Melva Harmer*  
In honor of Peggy Alberg by *Kay M. Alberg*  
In honor of Menomonie Lions club by *Menomonie Lions Club*  
In memory of Dennis Timm by *Don and Arlys Olson*  
In memory of Eva and Lloyd Rogers by *Peggy Rogers Kraemer*  
In memory of Bonnie Byrne by *Robert Byrne*  
In memory of Marjorie Weston by *Susan Weston*  
In memory of Mike Levy by *Warren and Marion Lang*  
In memory of Dan Riordan by *Pat and David Reisinger,*  
*Patrick and Jan Pesek-Herriges, Alvin and Jeanette Fremouw,*  
*Art and Judy Muller, Naomi Cummings, Michael and Sally Schendel,*  
*Martha Wallen, and Jason Smith.*

## **Thank you to the following Churches and Businesses:**

Vision Quest Event Center (prom event)	Taco John's
Women of the ELCA-SWO	Keyes Chevrolet
Women of the Moose	Nevins Flooring
Oshkosh Area Community Foundation	
Dunn Energy Cooperative (Operation Round Up)	
First Congregation Church (Maundy Thursday Offering)	
Christ Lutheran Church	

UW-Stout Students, Cole, Neal, and Ben stopped by The Bridge to Hope with a surprise check from their Keg Krawl that they organized. We did not know that they were going to donate their proceeds to us and we were pleasantly surprised when they handed us a check for over \$3,000!

We always enjoy seeing young men helping out their community and standing up for such a good cause. It's always heart warming knowing that our community supports our mission!

Thank you, boys!



### **Bridge to Hope Board of Directors**

**Deb Meyer:** Chair-Retired educator  
**Tom Harris:** Vice Chair-Menomonie 3M Plant Manager  
**Kaley Walker:** Secretary-Attorney at Eiden & Hatfield,  
**Howard Lee:** Treasurer-Retired from UW-Stout  
**Mary Orfield:** - Retired from UW-Stout  
**Becky Kneer:** Parish Nurse at Our Saviors Lutheran Church  
**Gary Johnson:** Aurora Community Counseling  
**Julie Furst-Bowe:** Vice President at CVTC  
**Tracy Glenz:** Senior Associate, HWC  
**Mary (Mame) Gale:** - Personal Asset Manager

Sigma Lambda Chi recently donated over \$2,000 from their annual golf tournament. Eric stopped by to surprise us with their check from the event. We are extremely grateful to have such wonderful and thoughtful men supporting our cause to end abuse! (Pictured with Angie, our Sexual Assault victim advocate.)

**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

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

# Save the Date!

**September 9<sup>th</sup>**

*Yata and Friends* will be doing a concert at the First Congregational United Church of Christ to raise awareness of homelessness in Wisconsin. There will be original songs, poetry, and readings. 7:00-9:00, with proceeds split between The Bridge to Hope and Stepping Stones. Admission by donation.

**October 1<sup>st</sup>**

*Over the Bridge*-Restaurant Crawl of five Menomonie restaurants. 12:00-3:00. A "taste-full" fundraiser!

**Donating is Easy!**

**Visit our website:**

**[thebridgetohope.org](http://thebridgetohope.org) and click on Donate!**

## **Our Wish List:**

- |                                      |                         |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Gas Cards</b>                     | <b>Laundry soap</b>     |
| <b>Toilet paper</b>                  | <b>Paper towels</b>     |
| <b>Dish soap</b>                     | <b>Dish washer soap</b> |
| <b>Tampons/pads</b>                  | <b>Body Wash</b>        |
| <b>Shampoo</b>                       | <b>Conditioner</b>      |
| <b>Deodorant</b>                     | <b>premade meals</b>    |
| <b>Gift cards for kid activities</b> |                         |
| <b>Non perishable food</b>           | <b>Frozen meat</b>      |

*We would like to thank Tracy Glenz and Kaley Walker for their service on our board. They will be greatly missed by all of the board members and staff members at The Bridge to Hope. Thank you for all you have done for us!*