



303 1st Avenue NE
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Faribault MN 55021

CENTER

www.hopecentermn.org

Creating zero tolerance for sexual and domestic violence through healing, outreach, prevention and education.

STAFF

Melia Garza, *Sexual Assault Program*
Tracy Goodwin, *Financial Coordinator*
Alec Irwin, *IT/Webmaster*
Joan Kindem, *Child Resiliency Project*
Deb Lustig, *Criminal Justice Intervention*
Leah Lutz, *Executive Director*
Kari Lynn, *Domestic Violence Program*
Melanie Matson, *Special Projects*

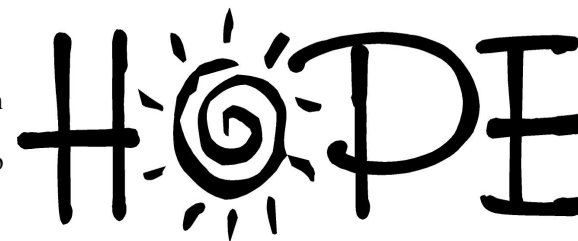
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HOPE Center would like to thank the United Way of Faribault, the Northfield Area United Way, WINGS, and the Minnesota Office of Justice Programs for their generous support of our work and mission.



4th Avenue United Methodist Church ~ All Flex, Inc ~ Amy and Kevin Allin ~ Anne Meyer-Ruppel ~ Anne and Ed Lundstrom ~ Anonymous ~ Arlene Sivanich ~ Beth Schmoll ~ Bill and Pam Schwartau ~ Bonnie and Ken Prawer ~ Brad and Veronica Wille ~ Brenda Bokman ~ Bret and Sue Riedel ~ Brett Reese ~ Carleton College Moustache Club ~ Carleton Mortar Board ~ CC Linstroth ~ Cheryl Arnold ~ College City Sertoma ~ Community Resource Bank ~ Constance Rew ~ Dan and Cahrene Dimick ~ Dan Schnonebaum and Sigrid Nelson ~ Daughters of Isabella Our Lady of Victory Circle ~ Dave and Carol Beranek ~ Dean Nelson ~ Diane Hall ~ St. John's Dorcas Circle ~ Doug and Lori Wiegrefe ~ Douglas and Mary Staughton Jones Foundation ~ Dr. Dick Huston ~ Dusek's Bakery ~ Ed Fox ~ Elizabeth Alspach ~ Elizabeth Jose ~ Emelda and Gordon Rasmussen ~ Emily Kass ~ Faribault Home Town Credit Union ~ Faribault Women's Club ~ First English Lutheran Church ~ First English WELCA ~ First United Church of Christ ~ Frago and Lasswell, PA ~ Carleton Gender and Sexuality Center ~ George Wickstrom ~ Goodrich Foundation ~ Hy-Vee ~ J. Scott Braden ~ Jana Reed ~ Janet McGrath ~ JavaLive ~ Jean Delong ~ Jeff and
and Patricia Ophaug ~
Judith King-Harvey ~
dies Auxiliary ~ Keith
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Krenz ~ Kiwanis Club
Slipper Doll Club ~
Blaisdell ~ Linda
~ Lynn Vincent ~
Margaret Clayton ~
Abbott ~ Mark Werner
Mary Werner ~
and Amanda Pettis ~
Michael Stadler ~
Mike and DeAnn
and Melinda Brown ~
Donkers ~ Mitchell
for Philanthropy ~ Molly Woehrlin ~ Noon Exchange Club of Faribault ~ Northfield Area United Way ~ Northfield Hospital ~ P.E.O. Sisterhood Chapter ~ Pam Bahe ~ Paul Swenson Photography ~ Peggy Klassen-McKinnon ~ Peter Schmitz ~ Prairieville United Methodist Church ~ Rice County Abstract and Title ~ Richard and Roxanne Simon ~ Rod and Deb Christensen ~ Rotary Club of Northfield ~ Rust Employees Club ~ Ruth Matson ~ St. Olaf SARN ~ Seneca Foods Corporation ~ Sertoma Club of Faribault ~ Sheryl Joy ~ Shirley Younger ~ So. Rice County Chapter of Thrivent Financial ~ St. John's Lutheran Church ~ St. Olaf College ~ St. Olaf Student Congregation Council ~ St. Peter's Rachel Circle ~ Steven Schmidt Construction ~ Susan Crow and Bill Metz ~ The Lamplighters from Our Savior's Lutheran Church ~ The Phone Station ~ Tom and Dorothy Goodwin ~ Tom Neuville ~ Tonya Kjerland ~ Trondhjem Lutheran Church ~ United Way of Faribault ~ U.S. Arbitration and Mediation ~ Vera Haugen ~ Vicky and Kurt Skodje ~ Wal-Mart ~ Wayne Winjum and Esther Hunt-Winjum ~ Wendy Francis ~ WINGS



CENTER

2007 Annual Report

Janet Chestnut ~ John
John Hein Family ~
June Hiza ~ KC La-
and Mary Hoffman ~
Ken and Therese
of Faribault ~ Lady
Laura Packer ~ Linda
Downs ~ Linda Hart
Mader Family ~
Mark and Diana
~ Marquita Davis ~
Matthew Eastvold
Meredith Erickson ~
Michelle Mahowald ~
Thorstenson ~ Mike
Missy and Dave
Dewar ~ MN Center

~ HOPE Center donors between 7/06—6/07

Dear HOPE Center Supporters,

We are pleased to share with you our 2007 annual report. The following pages illustrate a year at HOPE Center that saw growth in our core services and the launching of exciting, new initiatives. At the center of all our activity, we continued to offer support and comprehensive services to victims and survivors of domestic and sexual violence. The rights, concerns, self-defined needs and value systems of survivors were, and always will be, the motivation for and the cornerstone of our work.

Throughout the year, we were committed to evaluating and improving our services. On one evaluation a survivor said, "I found validation in my experience. I found empathy and patience. I found written resources to help me along my recovery as a sexual assault survivor. I found discussion that helped to clarify my responses to this assault and the offer of assistance and guidance for me to choose as help on my path."

As we move into 2008, we hope you will continue to help us create environments that foster respect, that validate victims and survivors, and that begin to change social norms. During a recent Board and staff exercise involving our mission, vision, and values, a recurrent theme presenting itself was that we must continue to have optimism that change can happen. So this year, we invite you to share in our optimism that a world can be created where women are not terrorized in their homes, children do not have to hide under beds when mom and dad are "fighting", and all women, men and children believe they have a right to respectful relationships.

One long-time supporter and volunteer expressed her optimism by making a generous donation in 2007 that will help to ensure the future stability of HOPE Center. Her gift, combined with a portion of our fund balance that we have strengthened over the years through careful fiscal management, will enable us to establish the Anne Lundstrom Victory over Violence Fund in 2008.

Finally, many of you reading this letter have contributed to HOPE Center through precious gifts of time, talents, money or other resources. We value such gifts and believe they provide the foundation that our work rests upon. We simply cannot say thank you enough.



CC Linstroth
Board Chair



Leah Lutz
Executive Director



Child Resiliency Project



Launched during the summer of 2006, the "Choose Respect — Give It and Get It" Initiative served as the focus for our Child Resiliency Project over the last twelve months. Funded in part by WINGS (Women in Northfield Giving Support) and the Northfield Area United Way, this initiative utilized materials created by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to promote communication about relationship violence among students, professionals, parents and community members. The "Choose Respect" Initiative encouraged youth to speak up, step in (when safe), talk it out, talk to an adult, and get help.

HOPE Center made 31 "Choose Respect" presentations to over 850 youth, teaching about the components of healthy relationships and the warning signs of unhealthy relationships. The presentations incorporated a variety of tools, including small group discussion, role playing, video, and a thematic version of Bingo. When asked to evaluate the presentations, one teacher was "very impressed with both the quality of the program materials and the professional presentation from HOPE Center staff members. I believe the information had an impact."

Youth were also encouraged to take action against violence as a community issue. Four students accompanied HOPE Center staff to a Youth Summit at the state capitol, where they learned how to prevent violence through education, influencing policy, and coalition building. They also created outreach materials for their peers and volunteered at community education events.

In order to increase professional awareness of such issues as healthy relationships for youth, bullying, youth harassment and sexual trauma, and the effects of domestic violence on children, HOPE Center provided information and training to more than 225 local professionals from schools, childcare settings, healthcare, the Union of Youth, and social services. The success of the "Choose Respect" campaign led to an invitation to present at the statewide MN Sexual Violence Prevention Network to an audience of more than 40 health, education, and advocacy professionals.

"No one ever talks about what a healthy relationship is. I think that if I am supposed to be in a healthy relationship, I need to know what to look for."
— middle school student



Advocacy Programs —

DV, SA, and CJI



According to the Merriam-Webster online dictionary, to advocate is “to plead in favor of,” or “to support a cause or proposal.” Through our Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, and Criminal Justice Intervention Programs, we advocate for victims of intimate violence on a daily basis. We “plead in their favor” by helping to write Orders for Protection, by accompanying them to court and to evidentiary exams, by coordinating safe housing, and by refusing to keep their stories in the dark. We “support their cause” by coordinating with other agencies to serve victims better, by assisting them to create safety plans and identify their own strengths, by maintaining a 24-hour crisis line, and by working to bring the issues of domestic and sexual violence into the light. Following are highlights of our advocacy activities during 2007.

Domestic Violence Program:

- Served a total of 387 adults and 71 children (unduplicated).
- Provided 71 nights of safe housing to 18 women and 15 children in immediate danger of abuse.
- Received a total of 1074 calls on our 24-hour Safeline.
- Launched a weekly support group for survivors in January. Attendees received emotional support, as well as transportation and childcare as needed. The group experienced a doubling in the number of average attendees.
- Provided office space two days a week for an attorney from Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services (SMRLS), so that survivors had convenient access to their services and our staff had the benefit of periodic trainings on legal issues.

Sexual Assault Program:

- Served a total of 141 adults and 41 children (unduplicated). Of that total, 66 were primary victims (the crime happened to them), and 116 were secondary victims (the crime happened to a friend or relative).
- Twice hosted a community event called “Truth about Trauma,” where approximately 30 people learned how such traumatic events as surviving sexual violence can affect the mind and body.
- Facilitated a community healing circle and “Take Back the Night” event with the assistance of St. Olaf College students on April 27.

Criminal Justice Intervention Program:

- Empowered a total of 673 people with information regarding possible options for legal recourse.
- Provided legal advocacy to a total of 479 individuals.
- Completed 18 in-service trainings on domestic violence with professionals from law enforcement, prosecution, probation, and court administration/judiciary.
- With the help of the Battered Women’s Legal Advocacy Project, facilitated a focus group with criminal justice representatives in order to guide future CJI program goals. Areas of discussion included the current systems response, identification of service gaps, trainings needs, and long-term goals.
- Continued to work in partnership with SMRLS and the Faribault Senior Center to implement and refine a Courtwatch program, where volunteers help to evaluate the application and enforcement of domestic violence laws.
- Offered a training to the general community on the rights of grandparents in custody cases involving domestic violence.
- Presented at two statewide conferences, one for County Attorneys, and the other for the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women.

“Thank you all very much for helping my son and I move forward. You have made a huge difference in our lives. We don’t have to live in fear anymore!” — HOPE Center client

Outreach:

- Utilized a pool of 94 volunteers to staff the Safeline after hours and to provide other needed services. Total volunteer hours contributed was 8,879, or an estimated \$102,108 in donated labor.
- Offered a free, 52-hour advocacy training to the community twice during the year. A total of 40 people completed the training.
- Honored survivors with a display of luminaries in Northfield’s Bridge Square on May 17.
- Reached the community with 58 presentations to service groups, corporations, schools, and churches. We also had 41 articles printed in the Northfield and Faribault newspapers, and had segments run extensively on two local cable stations.



Special Projects



Sexual Assault Multi-Disciplinary Action Response Team (SMART)

In its third year of operation, the Rice County SMART focused its energies on production of a written protocol, which, when complete, will include response steps from every discipline and will lead to a greater level of comfort for professionals responding to sexual assault. The team also hosted a training webinar on “The Undetected Rapist,” which was attended by 25 professionals, and some SMART organizations individually conducted their own activities to raise awareness of sexual assault. Overall, SMART members contributed over \$15,000 of in-kind donations (400 hours, 3,022 miles, and monthly meeting space) towards the team effort.

Minnesota Department of Health Sexual Assault Special Project

Thanks to a second year of this special funding, we were able to make great strides in improving healthcare and public health practices related to sexual violence. The following are indicators of a very successful project:

- Meetings with 64 different healthcare professionals, including representatives from 100% of all chiropractic, dental, and medical organizations in Rice County.
- 122 instances where technical assistance was provided to healthcare sites regarding the needs of sexual violence victims.
- 30 referrals from healthcare professionals to HOPE Center for client services.
- Training of 143 healthcare and public health providers on sexual violence.
- Creation and dissemination of HOPE Center brochures specifically targeted to patients at medical and dental clinics.
- Changes in health organization policies and practices.
- Inclusion of sexual violence articles in several health organization newsletters.

Teaming for Technology

HOPE Center was the grateful recipient of a technology grant administered by the Olmsted County United Way, resulting in almost \$10,000 worth of new IBM equipment for our office. The grant enabled us to focus on the use of technology in better serving our clients, and has led to an improved website, electronic presentations, better data collection, and many other innovations.



Finances



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As of June 30, 2007

ASSETS		LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	
Cash — Checking	\$ 84	Accounts Payable	\$ 574
Savings Account	45,668	Accrued Expenses	15,971
CD Savings	67,806	Temporarily Restricted Assets	19
Contributions Receivable	51,000	Unrestricted Assets	<u>207,594</u>
Accounts Receivable	48,888		
Net Furniture & Equipment	<u>10,711</u>		
	<u>\$ 224,158</u>		<u>\$ 224,158</u>

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

As of June 30, 2007

REVENUE		EXPENSES	
Government Grants	\$ 194,291	Advocacy	\$ 148,061
United Way Allocations	63,905	Special Projects	67,397
Other Grants	16,098	Child Resiliency	16,820
Contributions	61,288	Administration	53,458
Rice County Warrant Fees	5,269	Fundraising	7,320
Interest Income	3,012	Depreciation	<u>3,093</u>
In-kind	4,090	Total Expenses	\$ 296,149
Other	<u>5,381</u>		
Total Revenue	\$ 353,634	Total Revenue	\$ 353,634
		Total Expenses	<u>- 296,149</u>
		Increase in Net Assets	<u>\$ 57,485</u>

The full version of our 2007 Audited Financial Statements and IRS 990 Form are available by calling our office.