

Gifts Recieved Since Our Last Newsletter (through May 22nd)

Ellen Adler
Anonymous
Pat Avery
Duane & Marie Bauer
Cori Beskow
Jean Biggs
in memory of Nancy Schofield
Stacie Breitung & Steve Bodart
Pat & Lisa Brogan
Barb Button
Susan Calhoun
Janice Coker
Kathleen & Mike Cundiff
in memory of Ruth E. Westing
Phil Diser
Karen Donnelly
Jeanne & Norman Ellig
Harold & Rhonda Fairchild
Corita Forster
Glenn & Janice Gehring
John Graber
Kenneth or Carla Greiber
Joe & Margaret Hagaman
Rick & Mary Hasselquist
Steven or Katherine Hearth
in honor of our daughters and daughter in law
Bob & Kathy Hirsch
Debra & Daniel Hoage
Vada Husby
Brent and Sharon Husby
Doug or Deb Hyde
Richard & Rita Juhl
in honor of Kat Brogan
Don & Pat Kuether
Carolyn Kuether & Tom Aarrestad
Richard Lamers
in memory of Marilyn Lamers
Georgianna Larson
Howard & Charlotte Lee
Mr. Lauren or Mary Ellen Lidgerding
Dudley & Kathy Markham
Peggy McAloon
Keith McCarten
Amy & Aaron Mittlestadt
Ruth Morey
Lisa Murray
in honor of Dayle Mandelson
Janice Neitzel
Merlin & Patricia Nevala
Richard & Karen Olson
Don & Arlys Olson
in memory of Duane Brorson
Lisa Olson
Mary Rosolack
Mary & Thomas Richards
Mary Riordan
Jo Ann Rucker
Ron & Joan Sandfort

Ronald & Lynette Schaefer
in memory of LaRae Owens
Ken Schofield
in memory of Nancy Schofield
Jill & Lee Schwebs
Joseph Sekelsky
Dale & Carol Seppa
Jody Slocum & Kurt Beutow
Randy & Kay Sommerfeld
Leonard & Sharon Sterry
Cynthia & Lee Theorin
in memory of Marilie Romig Blanchard
Susan Thurin
David Uher & Nina Koch
Martha Wallen
Patrcia Webb
Andrew & Agnes Welsch
Charles & Patricia Wimmer
Sharon Wold
Marion Wolfe
Kathryn Zimmerman & Steven Richter

Gifts from Organizations

Andersen Corporate Foundation
Cedarbrook Church
Community Foundation of Dunn County
Elk Mound HCE Club
Elmwood United Methodist Women
First Congregational Church
Hay River Lutheran Church Women
in memory of Marilyn Score and Iris Johnston
Hoof & Paw Clinic
Jackie Hunt State Farm Insurance
La Dee Dah
Mary Nails
Mayo Foundation
Menomonie Middle School
from Student Council dance
Northwestern Bank
Otto Bremer Trust
Phi Theta Chi Sorority
Resort Report
Stanley Correctional Institution
Tainter United Methodist Church
Tri Sigma Beta Phi
Unitarian Society of Menomonie

Welcome to the team!

Josie has an academic background in anthropology and women & gender studies, focusing specifically on structural and social issues pertaining to sexual violence and domestic violence. They have several years of experience doing event planning for a non-profit and recently worked an assistantship as an event coordinator at University of Wisconsin - Stout. Josie also has professional experience in public outreach through the form of voter registration and get out the vote efforts during the 2020 election; having worked as a team lead where they supervised and trained new employees, in addition to doing the public facing fieldwork. They also have experience in advocacy from prior volunteer experience at a different domestic violence organization, and approximately seven months of working as a Crisis Advocate for The Bridge to Hope. Josie is very passionate about this work and extremely excited to be part of The Bridge to Hope as the Pepin County & Outreach Advocate.



My name is Ashley, I graduated from UW-Stout in 2022, majoring in Criminal Justice and Rehabilitation with a minor in Psychology. I took classes on women and gender studies, sexuality, addiction, childhood development, and a wide range of courses covering many different facets of psychology. Through this exploration, I found my passion for working with youth. I spent the summer

of my junior year at The Boys and Girls Club I earning a lot about how to support and nurture children. Through this internship I was able to connect with an advocate from The Bridge to Hope and learn about the organization and the role they serve within the community.

I really respect the organization and the cause, so I applied the following year as an intern. After being with the organization as an intern and then a Crisis Advocate, I was given the opportunity to become the Family and Youth Advocate. This role has been a dream come true for me, as I really enjoy working with youth and their family. I believe providing trauma-informed advocacy and support for youth and their families is extremely important, and I am so grateful I am able to work within an organization that provides that. When I am not working, I like to spend my time with my animals, playing video games, or listening to music.



My name is Lindsey Asher. I am from the Menomonie area and attended the University of Wisconsin Eau Claire, where I received a Bachelor's degree in Finance. I've worked at Dairy State Bank for 19 years, holding various roles in the company throughout my career. I've been in my current position as a Mortgage Lender for the last 10 years.

I live just outside of Menomonie with my family. I have a 6 ½ year old daughter and two cats who all do a great job of keeping me on my toes! I enjoy golf, puzzles, four-wheeling, and spending time with my family. I love the water so we take our fishing boat out as much as we can in the summer and we try to take vacations as much as daily life allows.

Over the years, I've volunteered for various committees, such as; YP for Menomonie Chamber, Knapp PTO, Women's Giving Circle for Community Foundation of Dunn County and I've also attended many banquets and gala's supporting groups in our local community.

I am very excited to be a part of the Bridge to Hope organization, as a board member. I've always admired them for the help and support they've provided victims and families while going through such traumatic experiences. I look forward to learning how I can contribute and support such a meaningful cause.



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

Non-profit Org.
U.S. Postage
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Menomonie, WI
Permit No. 313

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

Return Service Requested

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

Find us at these

Summer Events

Menomonie Pride Picnic

June 4th, Wilson Park
1-4pm

Music in the Park

Memorial Park | Durand
6-9pm

National Night Out

August 1st
Menomonie, Durand & Elk Mound

Check out our Facebook page to find us at other community events this summer!

Durand Funfest

June 9-11th
Memorial Park, Durand

Stockholm Art Fair

July 15th
Stockholm Village Park
10-5pm

Blues on the Chippewa

August 3rd-5th
Memorial Park, Durand

The Bridge to Hope Staff

Executive Director
Molly Mooridian

Assistant Director
Brittany

Director of Sexual
Assault Services
Angie

Director of Domestic
Violence Services
Jenn

Shelter Coordinator
Jennifer

Legal Advocate
Jamie

Family & Youth Advocate
Ashley

Sexual Assault Advocate/
Campus Advocate
Kat

Pepin County/ Outreach
Advocate
Josie

Crisis Advocates
Angela, Ciomara, Ellie,
Greta, Kilee, Melodi, Taya

The Bridge to Hope Board of Directors

Chair
Janice Neitzel

Vice Chair
Mickey Boyle

Treasurer
Stacie Breitung

Secretary
Marsha Harrison

Dr. Megan Bayrd
Tracy Erickson
Kaitlin Cormican
Sandi Scott
Haley Leanne
Lindsey Asher



The Bridge to Hope Working to End Abuse

Summer 2023 Newsletter

Editor: Brittany Olson

June is Pride Month!

Members of the LGBTQIA+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Queer, Intersex, Asexual, and others) community experience domestic abuse and sexual violence at higher rates and in uniquely different ways than their cisgender & heterosexual peers. Because the LGBTQIA+ umbrella encompasses many different people belonging to a variety of diverse gender and sexuality minority identities, it makes this a rather complex issue.



Progress pride flag flown at our building

While nearly every member of the LGBTQIA+ community faces issues of domestic abuse and sexual violence at higher rates than the general population, some identities experience abuse more than others. The following are factors that add to the complexity of this community issue:

- Sexual violence is experienced at alarmingly high rates for bisexual women and transgender people.
- Gay and bisexual men experience domestic abuse at much higher rates than heterosexual men.
- Abusers may use the threat of "outing" a partner to obtain extra control.
- Abusers may use negative stereotypes as a form of social and emotional abuse to gaslight victims.
- Abusers of transgender victims may interfere with their transition by destroying medication and gender affirming clothing.
- Lesbian and asexual people may experience increased rates of "corrective" assault, or a form of sexual assault meant to alter the sexual identity of an individual.

Due to anti-LGBTQIA+ bias, many members of the community personally have had or know someone who has had a negative experience with law enforcement or public officials. This may prevent them from reporting abuse. While The Bridge to Hope provides services to people of all genders and sexualities, many service providers only assist cisgender women and, in some cases, display bias against the LGBTQIA+ community.

The Bridge to Hope is committed to aiding all those in need of our services, including our LGBTQIA+ community here in Dunn & Pepin counties. We pride ourselves in the level of awareness and education we have on the specific issues faced by LGBTQIA+ people so we can provide them assistance in the specific and unique ways they require.

Josie Koenigs
Pepin County/ Outreach Advocate

Our Mission: The Bridge to Hope provides support and healing to survivors and families while engaging with the community to recognize and prevent abuse.

Andrea's Journey

Andrea and her son reached out to the TBTH all the way from California with hopes of returning to Wisconsin to be closer to their family. In California, they had been living with Andrea's abusive boyfriend who would often get drunk and become physically and mentally abusive towards her. Andrea was concerned for not only her safety but her child and their pets. Andrea stayed in this abusive relationship because they had two dogs and a bird, which she knew she would not leave behind when she decided to flee. Andrea was worried they wouldn't be able to get into a shelter because of this barrier and experienced denial from multiple shelters because she had pets. Most shelters don't allow animals unless they are certified service animals but here at The Bridge to Hope we accept everyone and their pets. She was relieved when she found out we would accept her and her pets, and left from California after she got off the phone with one of our night staff.

While staying at The Bridge to Hope, Andrea's son was enrolled in school and Andrea was able to transfer her job up here. They unfortunately were denied by many landlords due to past domestic violence situations that had negatively affected their credit. Throughout a few months, advocates were able to assist with communication between Andrea and landlords, which included helping with writing appeal letters to help explain her history and why her credit was affected. After a few more months, Andrea was finally approved for her own place. A huge weight was lifted and she was finally free from her abuser.

Our advocates were also able to help Andrea's son open up and really start expressing himself through making art. Our family and youth advocate was also helpful with navigating the trauma that he witnessed and how to work through the different emotions he was having because of that trauma. Some days were really rough for Andrea but she fought through all of these hurdles for herself, her son, and her pets.



Designer Purse Bingo Wrap Up



To wrap up Purse Bingo, we would like to say thank you to everyone involved! This includes, sponsors, volunteers, staff members, Lucette Brewing Company and all who came to play bingo! We were able to raise more than our last year's bingo event and are excited to put those funds towards helping survivors!

We are grateful to have the opportunity with Lucette's to host in their new event space, as we both learn from this experience and prepare for Purse Bingo next year. We are also grateful for all of our supporters and hope you all enjoyed our event as much as we did!

WISH LIST

We are looking for commonly used items such as:

- Towels
- New bedding
- Condiments
- Spices for cooking
- Detergent
- Hygiene products & more!




SCAN THE QR CODE TO CHECK OUT OUR AMAZON WISH LIST!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We Need Help With

- Organization
- Gardening
- Cleaning
- Yard Work
- Newsletter folding
- Childcare assistance



We need volunteers for a variety of projects. We are looking for passionate and committed people who are interested in supporting our mission.

For more information, please reach out to Jamie at jamied@thebridgetohope.org

Venue Sponsor



Purse Sponsors

- Century Fence
- ConAgra
- Dairy State Bank
- Ferrellgas
- Kwik Trip
- Synergy Retirement Planning (Jon Kroening)
- Xcel Energy

Event Sponsors








Wallet Sponsors

Cardinal Glass • Complete Investigative Services, LLC
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 Naomi Cummings • Northtown Ford • Sunshine Learning Center
 Wheatfield Hill Organics - Durand

Clutch Sponsors

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