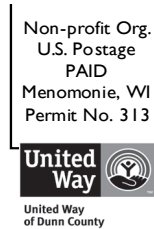





The Bridge to Hope
P.O. Box 700
Menomonie, WI 54751



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

Return Service Requested

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



**AWARENESS AND
EVENTS CALENDAR**

JAN Human Trafficking Stalking	FEB Teen Dating Violence	MAR
APR Sexual Assault Child Abuse Designer Purse Bingo	MAY Mental Health	JUN Pride Elder Abuse Day
JUL	AUG National Night Out	SEP
OCT Domestic Violence	NOV	DEC

LOOKING TO DONATE?
**WE ARE IN NEED
OF THESE ITEMS:**

SHAMPOO (12 OZ OR BIGGER)
CONDITIONER (12 OZ OR BIGGER)
DIAPERS: SIZE 4,5,6
PILLOWS
DEODORANT
HAIR BRUSHES
NAIL CLIPPERS
DISH SOAP
DISHWASHER PODS
DOOR STOP BUS TOKENS
BODY WASH
LAUNDRY DETERGENT
SNACKS
TOILET PAPER
PAPER TOWELS



*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
Alyssa

Sexual Assault Advocate/
Campus Advocate
Kat

Pepin County Advocate
Vacant

Crisis Advocates
Jules, Meg, Brittany,
Ashley, Josie, Angela,
Ciomara

*The Bridge to Hope
Board of Directors*

Chair
Janice Neitzel

Vice Chair
Vacant

Treasurer
Stacie Breitung

Secretary
Marsha Harrison

Mickey Boyle
Dr. Megan Bayrd
Tracy Erickson
Kaitlin Cormican



The Bridge to Hope
Working to End Abuse

Winter 2022 Newsletter
Editor: Brittany Olson



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

Hope, Hugs, and Healing Quilt Tour 2022

We would like to thank everyone that helped make this our 5th biennial Quilt Tour- Hope, Hugs, and Healing, a great success! Thank you to our sponsors and businesses that donated raffle items! We wouldn't be able to host this event with out your support!

SPONSORS:

3M

Dana Brunstrom CPA

WESTconsin Credit Union

ConAgra

Menomonie Market Food CO-Op

RAFFLE DONORS:

Walmart Distribution Center

Menomonie Market Food Co-Op

Big Dot of Happiness

Collective Soul Artisan's

Over the Edge Quilt Guild

Common Thread Quilters

Quilting Queens

Grain Bin Quilters

St. Joe's Quilters

The Bridge to Hope Board Members

Christ Lutheran Church Quilters

Thread Lab

We would also like to thank all of the quilt guilds, churches, and volunteers that helped make this event happen and worked the day of the event. We truly appreciate all of the hard work and dedication it takes to plan this event. We were able to have a successful fundraiser that will help us continue our work in the community. We look forward to continue this event in the future, stay tuned for more information about a potential 2024 Quilt Tour!



Kid's Coloring Corner. Below are our sticker designs, kid's can color their own design.



GIVE
YOURSELF
THE LOVE



January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month

Spilling the Tea on Trafficking - Each Friday during the month of January, our advocates will be discussing the myths and realities of human trafficking to keep our community informed.

Wear Blue Day - Help show support for survivors and raise awareness about human trafficking by wearing blue on January 11th! Post your photos with the hashtag #WearBlueDay.

Brewery Nonic - We are currently in the process of planning an event in collaboration with Brewery Nonic and the Menomonie Police Department to get community members engaged in raising awareness about human trafficking!

Keep an eye on our website and social media pages for more details to come regarding our January plans!

Gifts Recieved Since Our Last Newsletter

Anonymous
Anonymous
in memory of Hannah Bedford
Shelby Bauer
in memory of June and Almenda
K.A. Baumgardner
in honor of Margi Strauss
Georgia Blanchard
in memory of Don Blanchard
Stacie Breitung & Steve Bodart
Pat & Lisa Brogan
Eldon & Joan Burstad
Gary Buss
in memory of Sharron Buss
Jerald & Patricia Cederholm
in honor of Carol Sommerfeld's 96th birthday
Dennis & Antoinette Ciesielski
Karen Donnelly
in memory of Keith Donnelly
Dick & Pat Edwards
Jame Emmanuel
in celebration of marriage of Mary & Jerry
Stacy Erickson
Corita Forster
Chris & Erin Forster
for christmas gifts
Kenneth or Carla Greiber
Marilyn & Stuart Hagen
Renee Howarton
Brent and Sharon Husby
Neil & Marie Koch
Cornelia Larson
Howard & Charlotte Lee
John and Linda Lenz
in memory of Virginia Gierke
Cathleen McCoy
Norman & Donna Mrdutt
Fred & Ellen Ochs
Robert & Helen Redlich
Mary Riordan
Michael & Dori Ritland
Elizabeth Robinson
Ginger Rosseter
Lois Schultz
Leonard & Sharon Sterry
Doug or Chris Stratton
Peggy Terry
Michelle Webber
in memory of Hannah Bedford
Sharon & Danny Wold

Mark & Julie Wood
in honor of Lois Wood's Birthday
Amy Zimmerman & Mike Starling
Charles Zwiefelhofer

Gifts Recieved from Organizaitons

3M
Acoustic Cafe
Community Foundation of Dunn County
for survivor art therapy
ConAgra
Culvers
Culver's Share Night
Dana Brunstrom, CPA
Happy Apple Therapy Center
Jackie Hunt State Farm Insurance
J-Mac's World Tattoo LLC
Koch Companies community Fund
La Dee Dah
League of Women Voters
Mary Nails
Menomonie Food Co-Op
Menomonie Lions Club
in memory of Kay Brummeyer
Menomonie Women's Group
Resort Report
Rock Elm United Methodist Women
WESTconsin Credit Union



Happy Apple Donation



Mary Nail's and J-MAC'S World

Thank you for your partnership

As we reflect back on this year and the work we have done, we also reflect on the partnerships that we have made and continued to work with throughout the year. We would like to thank everyone that has helped in our work to end abuse in Dunn and Pepin Counties. Without the support of the community, businesses, individuals, and organizations, we wouldn't be able to continue our work. We would like to thank our most recent partners:

- Pete Herman for always being such a great handy man and helping us out with all of our maintenance needs! He's a great ally and such a wonderful person to work with!
- Brightside Cycle for hosting two free cycling classes and partnering with us for Domestic Violence Awareness Month. We enjoyed having a new business join us in bringing attention to violence in our community.
- Happy Apple for joining us in bringing attention to violence in our community by hosting events at their location and for putting together a hygiene drive for our clients for the whole month on October! We really appreciate it and can't wait to partner with them again!
- Dunn County Humane Society has always been a strong community partner. We appreciate their willingness to always help us when we have pets in our shelter that have vet needs or just need some supplies!
- The Qube at UW-Stout for partnering with us throughout the year. Our campus advocate works with them closely to make sure that college students and the LGBTQ community on campus have resources available to them.
- Stepping Stones for partnering with us for the Food Rescue Program through Walmart. With this partnership we are able to decrease food waste in our community and provide healthy options for our clients. They have always been a great partner, but we enjoy coming up with new ways to continue working together.
- Mary's Nails is a great supporter! She always helps us in the months of October and April for awareness events. She donates all her tips from her customers nail appointments to us and we truly appreciate her generosity.
- Dunn County Public Health have always been helpful to our organization. We recently partnered with them to offer emergency contraception to our clients. They also help us when we are in need of Covid tests, condoms, and other reproductive health items.
- Family Support Center is a great partner in Chippewa Falls! They are similar to our organization but they do not have a shelter to house individuals fleeing. We partner with them with a large variety of things and they reach out to us when they have someone that is in need of a safe place to stay, we work together to make sure victims are getting the best resources they can.

Coming in April 2023!

Designer Purse Bingo

Our agency benefits from advocates who are trained in all areas of trauma and abuse, but we focus our positions on a variety of specific needs to accommodate our clients the best we can. Specifically, I focus my area of knowledge into the legal field where we can serve client requests in restraining orders, divorces, child custody, etc. I am able to help the client by providing the essential forms, give assistance filling out applicable documents and accompany clients to court hearings. Although we are not able to speak on behalf of our client in the courtroom, we are able to physically give support at that time, as well as after the hearing to debrief and discuss safety planning. While supporting clients, I am always working with collaborating agencies, courthouse staff, and local law enforcement to continuously work on the safety of victims and the seriousness of abuse.

~Jamie
Legal Advocate



As the Family and Youth Advocate I meet with families and youth in the community and in our shelter to help work with them to meet their needs. I present to schools and youth community organizations about human trafficking, healthy relationships, coping skills, bullying, and other related topics. I also table during events in the community to help people become aware of our services. I lead three support groups. We have a Thursday group from 3-4pm for adults and kids. I work with the kids and provide fun activities and lessons for them to do. I provide a Self-Care Club at Menomonie High School (in room 193 from 10:12-10:55am) and a Putting Ourselves First Group at Menomonie Middle School (in the LMC Conference Room from 3:05-4pm), both are offered every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month during the school year. I also work with the Chippewa Valley Advocacy Center. I provide support and a listening ear during the interview process. I inform families about the services we provide in Dunn and Pepin County. Also, I make sure they have the support they need after the reporting process as well. We make sure to honor awareness months at The Bridge to Hope, February is Teen Dating Awareness Month and April is Child Abuse Awareness Month. I find different ways to make the community aware of these awareness months by writing articles for the newspaper or providing pinwheels for coloring contests for kids for Child Abuse Awareness Month. Lastly, I coordinate all of the Adopt a Family details for the holiday season.

~Alyssa
Family & Youth Advocate



Meet The Team



From one of our crisis advocates.

“As a crisis advocate I mainly work with our clients, providing them their needs, offering an ear for listening, or occasionally schooling them at Mario Kart. I work the hotline and textline as well as my duties with folks in shelter. I’d say my biggest thing is being here for our clients and my coworkers. I care for each and every one of them so dearly, and I love watching folks grow and learn about themselves.”



~Jules
Crisis Advocate

As the Shelter Coordinator at The Bridge to Hope, I tend to wear many hats. I assist with case management for clients staying in shelter. We plan out goals together; whether it be finding employment, getting housing, or to simply start healing. Most of my day is spent back in our shelter advocating for clients and meeting them where they are at. I assess eligibility of those calling for shelter and then either bring them into shelter or provide other resources. I oversee maintenance in our shelter and work with our facilities team to come up with solutions to problems. I work collectively with all other advocates at The Bridge to Hope to meet the needs of victim/survivors to meet their individual needs.

~Jennifer
Shelter Coordinator



As the Assistant Director my role is more “behind the scenes”. I work with our advocates to make sure that we are providing the best environment for clients. I manage our data base system, internship program, our social media platforms, website, and help with grant writing. I also work on fundraisers from the beginning stages, all the way through the day of the fundraiser. I also put together our newsletter and donor letters as well as any other marketing material that we use. Even though I’m not like the other advocates at The Bridge to Hope with meeting with clients, I still have the opportunity to help clients when they need it. I also give as much support to my fellow coworkers as I can to make sure they have what they need to help our clients; weather that is a listening ear to walk through something, a warm cup of coffee on a rough day, or someone to debrief with after a rough meeting.

~Brittany
Assistant Director



As the Executive Director, I am privileged to support our team in the impactful work that is executed every day. Along with the team, I advocate on behalf of survivors on a local, regional, state, and national level. Every day at The Bridge to Hope is different and we all wear many hats. From soothing a crying baby, to stocking the pantry with critical nutritional items, to writing federal grants, to speaking with community and national leaders, to holding the honored space of sitting with survivors during some of the most critical times in their healing journeys; our days are not only varied in duties but also varied in emotion. Staff at The Bridge to Hope have the privilege of celebrating personal “wins” of survivors- securing safe and stable housing, starting a new job, a child’s first steps, earning a GED and many more. We also hold the space of witnessing some of the hardest days in the lives of survivors. We also hold the space of advocating for necessary funding to execute the critical services needed. The space we hold is heavy but the impact is great. Each advocate has taken time to give a glimpse into the day-to-day functions of their positions. This isn’t only to celebrate the service of advocates, but also to create a deeper societal understanding of the critical work that is executed each day 24-7 at The Bridge to Hope.

~Molly
Executive Director

I’m the Director of Domestic Violence Victim Services, and like many of our advocates, it’s a role with a wide range of duties. Along with Angie, I facilitate our weekly Healing from Trauma Support Group that meets every Thursday. Meeting with victim-survivors to offer support and resources, providing supportive case management of survivors in our shelter, and responding to crisis as it arises are a few of my day to day happenings. Domestic Violence Awareness Month is the focus of my late summer and fall, with many events and collaborations occurring in October. Overall, I assist in working toward betterment of our agency in order to better serve victim-survivors, as they are the reason for it all.

~Jenn
Director of Domestic Violence Services



I am Kat Brogan, the Sexual Assault Victim Advocate and Campus Advocate. I split my time between our main office and an office at the UW-Stout campus. I meet with survivors one-on-one in a confidential space and offer support, options, and resources to navigate the healing process. I work with students to explore their feelings, wants, and needs, and develop a safety plan based on their individual circumstances. This can include coordinating and/or accompanying students to meetings with the Dean of Students Office, Title IX team, law enforcement, counseling center, student health, and other helpful resources.

~Kat
Sexual Assault Advocate/ Campus Advocate



As the Director of Sexual Assault Victim Services, I work to provide immediate and ongoing support to a victim/ survivor as they cope with an experience of sexual violence, whether the assault happened an hour ago or 25 years ago. After a sexual assault, I can go with the survivor to the hospital, courtroom or to report to law enforcement. Reporting can be a re-traumatizing experience, so being there as support is really important. As an advocate, I have had to learn how to be in more than one place at a time, offer snacks, and a comforting word, know when to make a joke and when to be silent, and always act with respect, empathy, and dignity. We are a comforting presence in times of crisis, fierce guardians for people’s rights, guides through the healing process after violence, and agents of change in our communities.

~Angie
Director of Sexual Assault Services

