

Gifts Recieved Since Our Last Newsletter (through February 9th.)

Anonymous
Liddy & John Achter
Karen & Greg Alexander
Barb Anderson
Jennifer Anderson
Robert & Tammy Archambault
on behalf of Kristen Reinke
Carol Bakke
Patsy & Michael Barthen
Megan Bayrd
Christopher & Julie Bendel
Kevin & Lauren Berg
Dave & Joy Bergstrand
Patricia Bilse
Richard L. Biondich
Fred & Margaret Breisch
Stacie Breitung
Sue Brenner
Pat & Lisa Brogan
Joann Carlin
Ellen Carlson
Linda & Lucas Chase
Jacq & Lyn Collins
Dale & Linda Dahlke
Phil Diser
Dick & Pat Edwards
Leonard & Marian Ellison
Dawn Fetter
in memory of Kay Huffman
Bob Fitzwilliam
Corita Forster
Chris & Erin Forster
Leonard or Merna Frank
in memory of RoseAnn Husby
Ronald & Judy Fry
Judy Gaier
Jackie Gerth
Robert & Laura Giede
William & June Grambo
Joanne or John Gust
Tom & Joan Harris
Barb & Donald Hauck
Mary & Dennis Hayden
in honor of Astrid Hayden
Joyce and Ronald Hoffman
Ruth and Darryl Hofland
Richard and Debra Homa
Thomas & Peggy Hoppenjan
in honor of Christmas
Bob Horan
in memory of Nancy Schofield
John & Martha Hove
Cheryl Huenink
Brent and Sharon Husby
Becky Iverson
Donald & Jodi Johnson

Ron & Jan Jordan
Richard & Rita Juhl
*in honor of Kat Brogan, our
grand daughter*
Ron & Mary Kallio
in memory of Sandi Borgmeyer
Neil & Marie Koch
Barbara Laatsch
in honor of John Laatsch
Lanna & Larry Laird
Warren & Marion Lang
in honor of Mary Riordan
Douglas & Ann Larson
Georgianna Larson
in memory of Eugene Larson
Howard & Charlotte Lee
Gerry & Jeanne Leff
John and Linda Lenz
*in memory of Michael
Casper, Betty Olson, Scott
Kistner, Mary Buckley*
James Ley
Roger and Mary Marin
Dudley & Kathy Markham
Timothy & Logan Mather
Christina Mayer
Kelly & Laura McCullough
Amy & Aaron Middlestadt
Ruth Morey
Yvonne Nelson
Merlin & Patricia Nevala
Barbara E Niemi-Arntzen
Fred & Ellen Ochs
Don & Arlys Olson
Mildred Packer
Joe Plouff
*in honor of Rob McDougall's
Retirement*
Mary Beth Preston-Simon
Randy & Patricia Radle
Julee Reckin-Thierer
Jane Redig
John Register
Jeff Richter
Mary Riordan
Elizabeth Robinson
Jo Ann Rucker
in honor of The Bride to Hope Staff
Ron & Joan Sandfort
Ronald & Lynette Schaefer
Jeanette Scheuermann
Paul & Lynn Schwartz
Jill & Lee Schwebs
Bruce & Terry Siebold
Ryan & Wendy Slaback
James & Beverly Spagnoletti

Margaret & Ken Stauss
*in honor of staff, who help
people in crisis every day.*
Bill & Rose Mary Stoll
Cynthia & Lee Theorin
Susan Thurin
Hans Timper
Jim & Laura Wahl
Patrcia Webb
Jesse & Tamara Welsch
John & Debbie Wesolek
in memory of Wendy MacDougall
Dave & Amy Whelan
Judy Wier
Steve & Barb Wood
Lois Wood
Scott & Sherri Yukel

Gifts from Organizations

Benevity Giving
Century Fence
Clarence Talen Charitable Trust
Coldwell Banker Brenizer Realtors
Community Foundation of Dunn County
Complete Investifative Services
Dairy State Bank
Darcy Brown- Thrivent
Ferrellgas
Hay River Lutheran Church
Hearst Marketing Resources
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
Jackie Hunt State Farm Insurance
Keyes Chevytown USA
La Dee Dah
Little Elk Creek Lutheran Church Women
Menomonie Food Co-Op
Menomonie Women's Group
Monarch Paving Company
New Hope Lutheran Church
Our Savior's Lutheran Women
Peace Lutheran Church Women
Phi Theta Chi Sorority
Red Cedar Dentistry
Resort Report
Rock Elm United Methodist Women
The Goosenest
The Skate Ranch
Trinity Women WELCA
Unitarian Society of Menomonie
Waznik Moseler Group, LLC
Women of the Moose

Welcome to Our New Board of Members!

My name is Haley Leanna. I currently work for Pepin County Human Services as a Family Preservation worker on the Child Welfare Team. I recently moved to Wisconsin in the summer of 2022 after graduating from the University of Illinois Chicago where I received a bachelor's degree in both Criminal Justice and Law and Psychology. Given my background, I have always been very compelled to support and advocate for individuals who have experienced various traumatic experiences. I have a passion for promoting Social Justice through educating individuals and communities and have previous experience with several Non-Profit Organizations. I was drawn to The Bridge to Hope as I deeply support its mission to create a more compassionate and just society through empowering individuals, as well as advocating and educating to end abuse within our community. I look forward to furthering the goals and vision of The Bridge to Hope!



Hello, I'm Kaitlin Cormican and I am an Engineering & Quality supervisor for Andersen Windows Distribution Center in Menomonie. I am excited to be a part of this board and keep Andersen tied with the Bridge. The Bridge does amazing work and I feel honored to support them.



Sandi Scott has over 30 years of experience in higher education in the state of Wisconsin and for the past ten years has worked at UW-Stout where she is currently the Senior Student Affairs Officer/Dean of Students and Title IX Coordinator. In her role she oversees the implementation of Title IX on campus including education, prevention, and adjudication of sexual misconduct cases. Throughout her career she has been an advocate for students and for creating environments free of sexual harassment, discrimination and violence. The amazing partnership with the Bridge to Hope and UW-Stout led Sandi to her interest in giving back to the community advocacy agency that has provided exemplary support to UW-Stout students, Menomonie and the surrounding community.



Would you like to give back?

Board of Directors - Operations

- New board members are elected by the current board for a 2-year term. Board members can be reelected and may serve up to 3 consecutive terms.
- The board selects, supports, evaluates, and ensures the ED has the moral and professional support they need to further the goals of TBTH.
- The board monitors the financial security and programs to ensure the vision and mission of TBTH are being fulfilled.

Board of Directors – Expectations

- Board members are expected to attend orientation prior to becoming a voting member.
- Attend all regular meetings the 2nd Thursday of each month 4:00pm - 5:30pm and read/study materials sent in advance.
- Participate as an active member in at least one workgroup as well as fundraising planning and events.
- Stay informed about TBTH's mission, services, policies, and programs.
- Educate others about TBTH.

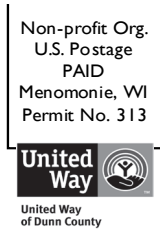
We are looking for individuals to join our board!

If you are interested in more information or joining our Board of Directors please reach out to manager@thebridgetohope.org.





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

Scan for Ticket Info



Designer Purse BINGO

Featuring Designer Purses From
COACH - KATE SPADE - MICHAEL KORS
14 ROUNDS OF BINGO - RAFFLES

APRIL 22, 2023
Doors open at 11:30 a.m.
Bingo starts at 1:00 p.m.

TICKET PRICE: \$40
(plus additional \$5 Eventbrite fee)
Tickets go on sale February 1st through Eventbrite (Scan QR Code)
www.eventbrite.com/e/designer-purse-bingo-tickets-519133591347
Pizza Buffet Optional for Additional Fee

Lucette Brewing Company Event Pavilion
910 Hudson Rd, Menomonie, WI 54751




WWW.THEBRIDGETOHOPE.ORG

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Here are some important dates for the month of April:

- April 4th-**
Day of Action (wear teal)
Sex in the Dark @ UW-Stout
- April 11th-**
Sexual Health Carnival @ UW-Stout
(4-6pm)
- April 22nd-**
Designer Purse Bingo @ Lucette Brewing Project
- April 26th-**
Denim Day

Stay tuned for more events, check our Facebook page for updates!



- 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, Ashley, Josie, Angela, Ciomara

- 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



The Bridge to Hope
Working to End Abuse

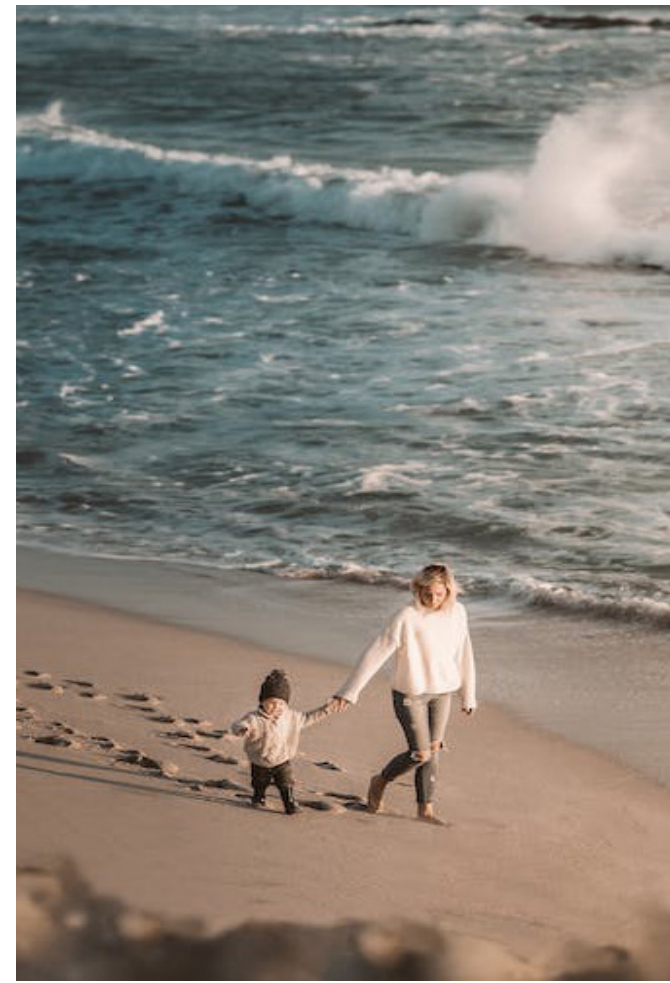
Spring 2023 Newsletter

Editor: Brittany Olson

Client Story

On a late Monday in July, we received a call through our crisis hotline from a woman seeking shelter, named Susie. She expressed that she was being verbally and physically abused by her husband of 3 years and that he would yell at their 1 year old daughter, Evelyn as well. When Susie would go to work, her husband would leave Evelyn in a dirty diaper until Susie would get home.

Susie could no longer take the abuse and child neglect that Evelyn and herself experienced and she was ready to leave her life in Florida behind and travel all the way to Menomonie.



When Susie and Evelyn arrived at our shelter, she settled in and was provided with everything they needed (diapers, clothes, food, etc.). Susie spent her time here attending support groups, applying for housing, found a job, and a daycare for Evelyn. Evelyn enjoyed playing with staff which always put a smile on our faces. After staying with us for three months, Susie decided to move back to Florida because she couldn't find housing, due to lack of affordable housing options in Menomonie. She only had The Bridge to Hope staff as support people and no family nearby, which created mental health challenges for Susie.

It takes a survivor an average of **7 times** to leave the person that is abusive to them, which we see often with the challenges that victims face when leaving their abuser. We occasionally will hear from Susie on our crisis hotline, where we offer her support and resources until she is ready to break the cycle of abuse she has endured. We will always be here to talk and support any victim whether they choose to stay or return to their abuser.

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

April is Child Abuse Awareness Month

- **Physical abuse** is the intentional use of physical force that can result in physical injury. Examples include hitting, kicking, shaking, burning, or other shows of force against a child.



- **Sexual abuse** involves pressuring or forcing a child to engage in sexual acts. It includes behaviors such as fondling, penetration, and exposing a child to other sexual activities. Please see CDC's Preventing Child Sexual Abuse webpage for more information.
- **Emotional abuse** refers to behaviors that harm a child's self-worth or emotional well-being. Examples include: name-calling, shaming, rejecting, withholding love, and threatening.
- **Neglect** is the failure to meet a child's basic physical and emotional needs. These needs include housing, food, clothing, education, access to medical care, having feelings validated and appropriately responded to.

Child abuse and neglect are common. At least 1 in 7 children have experienced child abuse or neglect in the past year in the United States. This is likely an underestimate because many cases are unreported. In 2020, 1,750 children died of abuse and neglect in the United States.

Children living in poverty experience more abuse and neglect. Experiencing poverty can place a lot of stress on families, which may increase the risk for child abuse and neglect. Rates of child abuse and neglect are 5 times higher for children in families with low socioeconomic status.

Child maltreatment is costly. In the United States, the total lifetime economic burden associated with child abuse and neglect was about \$592 billion in 2018. This economic burden rivals the cost of other high-profile public health problems, such as heart disease and diabetes.

Children who are abused and neglected may suffer immediate physical injuries such as cuts, bruises, or broken bones. They may also have emotional and psychological problems, such as anxiety or posttraumatic stress.

Over the long term, children who are abused or neglected are also at increased risk for experiencing future violence victimization and perpetration, substance abuse, sexually transmitted infections, delayed brain development, lower educational attainment, and limited employment opportunities.

Chronic abuse may result in toxic stress, which can change brain development and increase the risk for problems like posttraumatic stress disorder and learning, attention, and memory difficulties.

Information received from: Fast Facts: Preventing Child Abuse & Neglect | Violence Prevention | Injury Center | CDC

Client Story



Henry has been receiving services from The Bridge to Hope since Fall of 2021. He is a survivor of childhood sexual abuse perpetrated by a family member. Henry's perpetrator lives in the same city, making it a taxing chore for him to navigate public spaces. The anxiety that his abuser may spot him has taken a serious toll on his mental health and social behaviors. The flashbacks and nightmares he has been dealing with since the abuse began have been particularly difficult for him to manage. Henry has been working with a sexual assault advocate, to process the trauma he has experienced.

When Henry began receiving services, he disclosed belonging to the LGBTQIA+ community. Henry has been working with an advocate who openly belongs to the LGBTQIA+ community and has been able to provide a safe space for him to discuss and explore his identity. Not only has she been part of his healing journey, she has also assisted in coordinating meetings with our local Victim/Witness office, provided guidance for writing a victim impact statement, and accompanied him throughout the court process.

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month: Myths vs. Reality

Media influences the knowledge, beliefs, attitudes and behaviors of the public about sexual violence, which can directly impact victims and how they are perceived by the community, family, friends, coworkers and suspected offenders. It can be hard to know where to look to find accurate information. We want to help you know how to identify reliable sources that benefit survivors. Here are a few tips.

Look for resources and organizations that are survivor-led.

- We want to put survivor voices at the forefront of these conversations. People with lived experiences are the experts of their own stories. The knowledge they hold is valuable and should be put at the center of the anti-violence movement. The only way to truly know how to be an ally to survivors is to listen to them and not make assumptions about what they need.

Find sources that use empowering and trauma-informed messaging.

- Steer clear of sources that rely on shock value by using stereotypical imagery such as scared, crying women and perpetrators with masks and weapons. We want to use imagery that portrays victims in an inclusive way. We also want to move away from using words like "rescue" or "save" and instead encourage individual autonomy, rights, and dignity!

Make sure the resources you are using are backed by research.

- Reliable sources have citations available so you can see where the information they are presenting is coming from. Ideally, we want recent information that is peer-reviewed and comes from reputable sources. Be careful of sources that aren't transparent about how the data they use is collected. Some sources might seem ok at first glance, but it's never a bad idea to double-check for any biases that might impact the relevance of the sources you're looking at.

Victims, their families and friends will read, see, or hear what is reported, including reader or viewer comments. Victim blaming can be prevalent in reader comments or social media which can retraumatize the victim or influence a victim to either recant their disclosure or prevent them from coming forward.

LOOKING TO DONATE?

WE ARE IN NEED OF THESE ITEMS:

SHAMPOO (12 OZ OR BIGGER)

CONDITIONER (12 OZ OR BIGGER)

PULL UPS: SIZE 2-3T, 3-4T

PILLOWS

DEODORANT

HAIR BRUSHES

NAIL CLIPPERS

DISH SOAP

DISHWASHER PODS

BODY WASH

LAUNDRY DETERGENT

SNACKS

TOILET PAPER

PAPER TOWELS

BATTERIES- AA & AAA

WALMART GIFT CARDS

