

Summer 2008



Summer is the time when families are usually on vacation, playing outside, getting together with extended family, and enjoying a more “laid back” life. Yet, for at least 15 people, the number of women and children in shelter at this writing, it is a time of turmoil and transition. It’s mid-July and the shelter is full and counseling sessions for clients who are not in shelter are at capacity.

The transition has gotten increasingly difficult for many families as they come up against a number of obstacles in their quest to live a life free of violence. Once someone makes the decision to leave it is time to start thinking about how to begin again. It is a daunting task. Advocates is here to provide a safe place to begin to heal, opportunities to learn about the options available, offer referral and support with other agencies, and encourage them to continue to strive to meet their goals.

With each person who becomes a client this journey is unique. Advocates is privileged to have a multi-talented staff, a strong relationship with other local organizations, and solid support from the community. With these resources, we are able to work with families as they search for ways to overcome obstacles.

For many victims, legal help is their obstacle and while we cannot assist in every case, we do have staff trained in legal advocacy to help file restraining orders. We have an attorney on staff part time to help with other legal issues ranging from child visitation to immigration matters.

Often victims flee without vital medications, driver’s licenses, legal papers, banking information, or other financial documents. Many times they have to leave in a hurry and their abuser may control these items. Advocates’ staff works with them to obtain replacements which they need to begin to build new lives.

Victims of sexual violence are often uncomfortable seeking medical or legal assistance on their own. It is a trying and stressful time and Advocates works to provide support and advocacy by accompanying victims to hospital, clinic, or legal appointments when requested. For many, just having someone by their side allows them the comfort to be more open and provide better information to assist medical and legal professionals.

Advocates’ role in domestic and sexual violence is to provide a safe, judgment-free space, whether in shelter, support group, or counseling for victims to help them begin to understand the violence and its base in power and control. Advocates’ role continues in working with clients to assist them with financial, employment, housing, parenting, budgeting, life skills, transportation, and any other issues they encounter. We certainly do not do any of this alone. We collaborate with other agencies, churches, law enforcement, schools, medical facilities, mechanics, vets (who shelter family’s animals while they are in shelter), and many individuals who volunteer their time and talents. Foundations, corporations, government sources, and individuals provide necessary funding to support these efforts.

We all have obstacles in our lives but for many of our clients the resources to overcome them are not available without an agency like Advocates to support them. As you go through your summer with family and friends surrounding you, remember to be thankful for the healthy relationships in your life and remember those who are not in good situations. Make a promise to yourself to be there as a friend, a referral, or a support system when someone you know asks for your help.



JOIN A SUPPORT GROUP

Groups are open to all women and their children experiencing domestic and/or sexual violence. *Please call for more information.*

Domestic Violence

Tuesdays
6:30—8:00 p.m.

Children's Domestic Violence Support Group meets at the same time. It is open to children of all ages.

Sexual Violence

Thursdays
6:30—8:00 p.m.

Children's Life Skills Group meets at the same time. It is open to children of all ages.

Teen Girls Sexual Assault

and Secondary Survivors

Call for more information.

262.284.6902 or
1.877.375.4034

CELL PHONE COLLECTION

We want to thank everyone who kept their old cell phones out of the landfills by recycling them through our agency. The employees and customers of Harris Bank, Doral Dental, and lots of other individuals helped us collect 318 phones - exceeding our goal of 300 phones in less than 2 months. You helped us earn almost \$600 through Shelter Alliance.

Shelter Alliance had a special program in which all the agencies that collected 300 or more phones were entered into a drawing. Five agencies received \$1,000 each. Unfortunately, we were not one of the lucky agencies to receive this additional funding, but we continue to recycle phones with them and look forward to another drawing in the future.



Some of the donated phones are used for 911 emergency phones by our clients or are used to replace a client's broken phone. The majority are either refurbished through a "Reuse" program in which Shelter Alliance distributes recovered cell phones to those in need of inexpensive refurbished cell phones. The phones that do not have resale value and are processed through their environmentally responsible "Refining" program.

If you or someone you know have cell phones you are no longer using, please continue sending them our way!

*Here are some ways YOU can help
earn extra funds for Advocates' clients!*

For those of you who shop at Pick 'n Save Stores with an Advantage Card, please register for the 'We Care' Program at the service desk and name Advocates of Ozaukee as the recipient of funds to be distributed.

Our number is
014750



**Sentry
Community
Dollar Program**

Sanfillippo's
Sentry
PORT WASHINGTON

Collect your receipts from Sanfillippo's Sentry in Port Washington and send them to us quarterly. We will receive a check back for a percentage of the total amount collected. Please mail them to us by October 10th for the third quarter of 2008 rebate.

Thanks to the
Roundy's Foundation

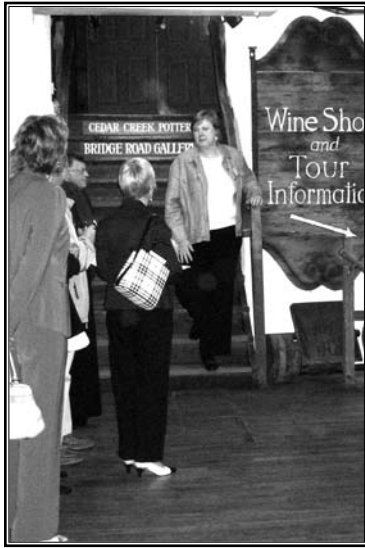
for \$4,500 grant
for food for clients

in shelter

and to help others

in their homes.

Volunteer & Donor Recognition



As Volunteer Manager, I am sincerely impressed by the dedication, faithfulness, and generosity of our volunteers and donors. In my recent interview for the position of Volunteer Manager, Barb Fischer expressed the level of commitment and bigheartedness of the volunteers and donors that really made an impression on me. It was one of many reasons I accepted this position. What could have easily been an exaggeration quickly revealed itself to be an understatement as I began to meet and work with our volunteers and all those in the community who support us.

It was a privilege to assist in putting together our annual Recognition Night on May 28 at the Cedar Creek Winery. The local winery provided a wonderful backdrop for over 50 of our board members, donors, volunteers, and staff to meet each other and be recognized for their outstanding service. We were glad to see so many people attend this year. I hope in the future many more volunteers and donors will participate in order to see how a community coming together can make a difference in our county. By no means can the staff at Advocates do what we do everyday without all the

other people who join us with compassion and desire to serve victims of domestic and sexual violence. We truly need you and we are grateful for your support. This event is one of the bigger ways we get to say "Thank You" though not the only way.



Cheryl Legel - Volunteer Manager/ Advocate



Pictured above are long-time donors and volunteer Nancy and Craig Byers.

Below - Our smiling Hope Room ladies (from left) - Evelyn Beuscher, Alma Peters, & Ruth Maze.



Working to end domestic and sexual violence

Advocates welcomes 3 new Board Members to its fold. Shown here at the Volunteer & Donor Recognition gathering.

- Kate Bechan (left) is an attorney at Michael Best & Friedrich, LLP and is a newcomer to the area and has experience working with domestic violence victims during her law school days.
- Dr. Michael Townsend (seated) is V.P. of Milwaukee Area Technical College North campus has a BA in Psychology, an MA in Human Services Counseling, and a Doctorate in Leadership in Higher Education.
- Patty Eubanks (right) is a Grafton resident and a realtor with Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage and is very involved in the community through her work with her church and the Ozaukee Realtor Association.

Each of these new members brings a unique perspective to the work of Advocates and we look forward to working with them.



SUMMER STRESSES SHELTER RESOURCES

Barb Fischer, Executive Director

Advocates is in the enviable position of receiving many inquiries about what types of things we need to assist clients. It seems that every summer our number of clients increases and with that comes increasing needs for many basic items but also for fun items for kids as well as back-to-school supplies.

This summer is no exception as we currently have five children in shelter and eight more who come to support groups in the evenings. In August we will be holding our back-to-school social where we try to have at least the basic school supplies and backpacks available for families who are on very tight budgets.

If you or a group you belong to are thinking of organizing a service project or making a donation, here is a list of items we are most in need of:

- Gas cards
- Gift Cards for local stores for tennis shoes and back to school items
- Hair cut gift cards
- Movie passes
- Healthy snacks and juice for kids in shelter and group

BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLIES NEEDED

- Backpacks for young boys, girls, and teens
- 3-ring Binders
- Tab Dividers
- Basic calculators
- Rulers
- Scissors- all sizes
- Protractors
- Compasses
- Pencil Boxes and Pouches
- Pens- Black, blue, & red
- No. 2 Pencils
- Big erasers
- Small pencil sharpeners
- Markers - Fine and broad tip
- Highlighters
- Watercolor paints & paint brushes
- Colored Pencils
- Wide ruled spiral notebooks- 1 & 3 subject- assorted colors
- Loose leaf paper- wide ruled
- Graph Paper
- Assignment notebooks
- Post It Notes
- Index Cards
- 2 pocket folders- assorted colors
- Book covers
- White out
- Glue Bottles & Sticks
- Scotch tape
- Boxes of tissues
- Antibacterial Wipes
- Ziploc bags

HARRIS BANK VOLUNTEERS



Left to right - Jim Rothenbach, Harris North Region President, Tom Bolger, President Harris Wisconsin, & Cheryl Legel, Volunteer Manager/Advocate

Advocates would like to recognize all of the volunteers from Harris Bank who participated in a United Way of Greater Milwaukee Day of Caring on June 25.

These hardworking volunteers tackled projects of painting, landscaping, and sorting donations.



We are grateful to all those who volunteered and gave of their time to give back to their community through their service to Advocates.



Voices for Survival

Each year in April, Advocates of Ozaukee hosts an event to observe Sexual Assault Awareness Month in order to create awareness and support victims of sexual assault.



This year, our agency along with the Concordia Student Social Work Organization, hosted an event called *Voices for Survival*. This was an opportunity for survivors of abuse to share their stories and celebrate their survival after abuse. You may ask how someone who has experienced

trauma could celebrate such an event. It is very clear that no one asks to or wants to be assaulted; however, it is important for those affected by trauma to accept that they cannot change what has happened to them but not allow it to define them. The sheer fact that they have survived is reason to celebrate.

The healing journey after sexual assault can be extensive and complicated. This event allowed survivors to share their stories through artwork, words, and music. Our clients have found ways to express their healing journeys with different art forms. Advocates' staff was truly honored to be able to share some of their creations with those who attended.



We would like to thank Jim Bohn who provided live music for this event, additional board members who attended to offer their support, and Concordia University for the use of their facility and assistance with the event. Most of all, we would like to thank the many courageous survivors who shared their stories and artwork and all who were there to offer support.

For more information on how to support survivors of abuse, please contact Advocates – (262) 284-3577.

Visit our website: www.advocates-oz.org

ADVOCATES' WISH LIST

Digital camera for events and activities.
A new or used current game system for the kids to play while staying in shelter.





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www.advocates-oz.org

Thank you for using the enclosed envelope to make a donation.



2008 Board of Directors

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- Kate Bechen**
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- Michael Townsend, Sr.**
VP - MATC Mequon Campus
- Jill Zoromski**
Sr. Vice-President, Pinstripe, Inc.

Advocates Receives State Shelter and Housing Grant

Advocates recently received approval of a State of Wisconsin Bureau of Housing Grant totaling **\$35,080**. The funding originates with the Department of Housing and Urban Development at the federal level and is granted to states for support of emergency shelters, transitional housing, and homelessness prevention. Funding will directly benefit victims and survivors of domestic violence by assisting them with transportation needs, first month rents or security deposits, housing and budgeting counseling, and mental health counseling. In addition, a portion of the funding is designated to underwrite the cost of shelter utilities and some minor repairs in the shelter.

Thanks to the Iowa Sewing Circle for making the beautiful quilts for our clients. They are fun, colorful, warm, and very much appreciated.

