On May 13, close to 700 guests gathered at our Anniversary Luncheon to hear keynote speaker Tanya Brown, sister of Nicole Brown Simpson, and former client Teri Jendusa Nicolai discuss the reality of domestic violence.

In her moving remarks, Teri stated that the support and sense of purpose she found at The Women’s Center strengthened her resolve to build a safe future for herself and her children and gave her the inner will to fight for her life.

We were so grateful to have Teri join us to share her powerful story. We are inspired by her advocacy for victims and her dedication to raising awareness and removing the stigma from domestic violence!

Tanya discussed “The Seven Characters of Abuse: Domestic Violence, Where it Starts, and Where it Can End”. She explained that the cycle of domestic violence often begins with emotional abuse, rather than physical violence, which can make the abuse harder to identify. Tanya stressed the importance of recognizing the early signs of emotional abuse so that a victim can take actions to address the situation.

Tanya noted that when accounts of domestic and sexual violence are downplayed, misunderstood, or dismissed, those who are suffering become less likely to reach out for help because they don’t think they will be believed. This furthers the abuser’s goal of exerting power and control over the victim. She stressed that if you know or suspect that someone is being abused —

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Ken Genin, development director of The Women’s Center since 2005, is retiring this summer. Prior to joining The Women’s Center, Ken spent 33 years as an executive in the Agri-food industry, focused on marketing probiotics for animals and humans.

Ken and his wife Linda (pictured) were introduced to The Women’s Center by current board member Ann Dee Allen. Starting as donors, their involvement grew when Linda joined The Women’s Center board in 1994 and became Board President in 2000. When considering a career change, Ken was inspired by the work that Linda did on the board. Incoming Board President Lana Wiese suggested he talk with then Executive Director Marie Kingsbury about the development director position. He found the position to be a good fit, and took great satisfaction in helping to increase funding for the vital work of The Women’s Center.

With a new facility having just being completed and government support waning, Ken’s focus was on private funding, which grew from $643,000 to $1,183,000 during his tenure.

Ken feels particularly rewarded by the friendships he has enjoyed with so many wonderful donors, board and committee members, staff, volunteers, and former clients, and is thankful to all for their friendship and support.

Ken remains actively involved in the community as a board member of the Waukesha Noon Rotary and Good Friend, Inc., dedicated to improving autism awareness. He is looking forward to spending more time with his grandchildren, exploring volunteer opportunities, travelling, and finding new adventures.

The Women’s Center would like to thank Ken for his years of service and his dedication to our mission and wish him the best in retirement!
{thank you}
The following sponsors helped to make our Anniversary Luncheon possible!

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Call to Action continued

it’s critical to act on that information in a safe manner. Tanya shared that some of Nicole’s friends knew or suspected that she was experiencing abuse, but did nothing to help her.

Too often, conversations around domestic violence focus on the question, “why does she stay?” Tanya reminded audiences that those who are experiencing abuse often love their partners, and want the abuse to end, rather than the relationship. The focus should be placed on the abuser, asking, “why does he hit?”

Tanya’s call to action to those in attendance was to take what they learned at the event and share it with others, because we as a community are responsible for preventing and responding to domestic violence. She explained, “We’re the only medication. There is no pill for it. It is us… Domestic violence does not just affect the victim; it affects the community.”

As a community, it’s our responsibility to ensure that all who are suffering have access to a safe place to stay, supportive services to help navigate their situation, and the sense of self-worth that abuse can take away.

We are the only agency in the Waukesha County community providing shelter and healing services for those affected by domestic violence, sexual assault, and abuse. The demand for our services is on the rise, and we work tirelessly to meet the needs of our clients.

{lend a hand}
We are looking for dedicated volunteers to assist with a variety of roles.

Gardening
Help maintain our beautiful grounds. This volunteer position is great for a family, a group of friends, or a team of co-workers.

Handyperson
Assist in the maintenance of our buildings and grounds, perform minor repairs and refurbishing, and perform tasks such as cleaning, painting, wallpapering, etc.

Front Desk
Welcome visitors, answer phones, assist with donations, and direct requests for information.

To learn more, call 262-547-4600 or visit twcwaukesha.org.

We can’t fulfill our mission without the support of our community. Through the generosity of our neighbors, we can provide round-the-clock services to those seeking a better life for themselves and their families. With your partnership and support, we can save lives. Help us meet the need. Consider a gift to The Women’s Center today.

Unique Ways to Donate
Donations to The Women’s Center in honor or memory of a loved one are a thoughtful way to show support and celebrate a legacy.

If your employer offers matching gifts, your contribution could go twice as far! Check with your employer to learn about their policies.

Thank you for supporting our mission and becoming involved!
24 Hour Hotline
262.542.3828

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{Save the Dates!}

Futures Free From Violence Team Trivia Night!
Thursday, October 13, 5:30 pm - 8:00 pm at the Milwaukee Public Market
$25/ticket with team sponsorship opportunities available
Hosted by our Advancing Advocates Council, this event is designed for young professionals to show off their trivia skills and connect with The Women's Center.

A Noteworthy Evening Featuring Dueling Pianos from Lucille’s Piano Bar
Saturday, November 12, 6:00 pm - 10:30 pm at The Legend at Brandybrook in Wales
$150/ticket with event sponsorship opportunities available
Join us for a relaxing evening filled with delicious hors d’oeuvres, a live auction, and entertainment provided by Lucille’s!

For more information, contact danad@twcwaukesha.org or 262-522-3805.