On April 26, we welcome Elizabeth Smart to Milwaukee for the first time as the keynote speaker at our Anniversary Luncheon. Her story of perseverance and triumph over unspeakable tragedy will be an inspiration to us all. Here is a preview of her story, originally published in an article written by Margaret Talbot in *The New Yorker*, October 2013.

In 2002, Elizabeth Smart shared a bedroom with her nine-year-old sister, Mary Katherine. The Smarts—Ed and Lois and their six children, of whom Elizabeth is the second oldest—ate dinner together every night at six. On the day of the kidnapping, they rushed through the meal in an attempt to get Elizabeth to a school event where she was to play the harp. The house still smelled of the potatoes that Lois had burned in her haste. That night, before turning out the light, Elizabeth put on her red silk pajamas—her mom had a matching pair—and read “Ella Enchanted” to Mary Katherine.

She woke up to a male voice hissing in her ear and the sensation of something cold at her throat—the knife. “Don’t make a sound,” the man said. “Get out of bed, or I’ll kill you and your family.”

Smart had no idea how the man had got into her bedroom. As far as she could tell, Mary Katherine was still asleep. The man told her to grab shoes and, pressing the knife -

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Elizabeth Smart, continued

against her, prodded her out of the house.

Federal Heights, the Salt Lake City neighborhood where the Smarts lived, is tucked into the base of the Wasatch Mountains. Mitchell led Smart through steep, rugged terrain: heavy underbrush, big boulders, a dry streambed walled in by thickets of scrub oak. After a while, Smart realized that her captor, who had dark hair and a scraggily gray beard, was a local beggar. Her mother had once given him money on the street, and her father had hired him to do work on their roof. She didn’t know him as Brian David Mitchell; he had told the Smarts that his name was Immanuel. At the Salt Lake Temple, he had once been chosen to portray Satan in Biblical reënactments. But the church had recently excommunicated him for issuing his own prophecies and revelations.

“Why are you doing this?” Elizabeth asked Mitchell.

“You are my hostage,” he said. “You’ll learn.”

We are proud to receive the 4-star rating from Charity Navigator, the highest ranking available for financial health, accountability, and transparency.

We hope you will join us in celebrating our 40th Anniversary at the 40th Anniversary Luncheon: featuring Elizabeth Smart held April 26 from 11:00am – 1:30pm at the Italian Community Center. This year’s luncheon is on Denim Day, an international day of awareness and support for sexual assault survivors, and we encourage all guests to join us in wearing denim in solidarity with survivors world-wide.

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{upcoming}

March:  

Pathway to Peace  
Enroll before March 1 to receive an engraved brick in our front Pathway to Peace walkway.

Soup & Soul  
An annual charity event featuring samples of homemade soups and stews named The Women’s Center as their beneficiary this year! The event will be held on March 1 at the Sugar Maple in Bay View.

Waukesha County Provides  
Join us on March 9 for this one day online giving event hosted by the Waukesha County Community Foundation, which supports Waukesha County’s basic needs organizations as they work together toward a vibrant healthy community for all. www.waukeshafoundation.org

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{Founding Mothers: In their own words}  

Five of us get credit for being the founding mothers: Kathy Bemmann, Anne Beyers, Kathie Kueht, Jeri Phillips, and Gerry Pas. But there were many people involved in the whole process from the very beginning.

Each of us had a circle of friends and acquaintances that we reached out to for support, which created amazing energy at fundraising events. Our husbands became what we called the “Men’s Auxiliary.” It was an exciting and exhilarating time to see a dream materialize in the community.

We “founding mothers” are so very proud of the work that continues: the shelter, the counseling, the advocacy, the support, the active engagement in the community, and the leadership in the realm of services for women and children. We are deeply aware of the dedication it takes to lead and staff this organization. And we are grateful and honored that so many people share our vision, and put their energy and resources on the line to continue the mission and work of the Center.

Our dear friends and founders Dr. Kathryn Bemann, Jeri Phillips and Anne Beyers would also be very proud and grateful. Their legacy is The Women’s Center. It would never have become what it is today without them.

Hear the rest of her powerful story about overcoming adversity on April 26.  
Tickets now available at www.twcwaukesha.org.
The Women’s Center: In the Community

Throughout our 40 year history, we have continued to be the only agency in Waukesha County to work with adult and child survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. In more recent years, we also serve the community as the backbone organization for several consortiums, including the Housing Action Coalition of Waukesha County and the Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Coordinated Community Response team.

The Housing Action Coalition of Waukesha County (HAC) is a collaborative network of local government offices, businesses, and social service providers throughout Waukesha County working together to end homelessness. Angela Mancuso, our Executive Director, serves as the Board President in addition to leading The Women’s Center, guiding our community’s efforts to address the issue of homelessness.

We also serve as the convening member of Waukesha County’s Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Coordinated Community Response (CCR) team, who bring together multidisciplinary community partners to provide interagency, coordinated responses to domestic violence and sexual assault in order to better meet the needs of survivors. We are proud to lead our community in these collaborative efforts.

Thank you to Zilli Hospitality Group for generously donating a meal for each CCR meeting!

At the start of 2017, our Executive Director, Angela Mancuso, was appointed to the Governor’s Council on Offender Re-entry, representing crime victims’ rights and service organizations and bringing the voice of The Women’s Center to the state level.

In his letter, Governor Walker said, “Your experience, knowledge, and dedication will be a true asset to my administration and a great benefit to the people of Wisconsin.”

1. Celebrate 40 with us!
Are you celebrating a milestone birthday or anniversary this year? In lieu of gifts, request donations in your honor to The Women’s Center.

2. Help us make new friends.
Invite others to follow our social media pages, volunteer with you, or attend one of our events to hear firsthand about our work.

3. Volunteer.
Volunteers are critical in the work we do to serve survivors. Volunteer by yourself or with a group of people - we have opportunities year round! Call our Volunteer Coordinator at 262-547-4600.

4. Hold your own fundraiser.
Collect funds at work, school or church, or host a drive for non-perishable food items, paper products, cell phones, or any of our Wish List items to help provide for the clients we serve.

Call us for details or other ideas.

Waukesha County
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Waukesha County Community Foundation

ONE DAY • ONE GIFT • ONE HEALTHY COMMUNITY
MARCH 9, 2017
SHELTER • FOOD • SAFETY • HOPE

This ONE DAY ONLINE GIVING EVENT supports Waukesha County’s basic needs organizations as they work together toward a vibrant healthy community for all!

www.waukeshafoundation.org
To celebrate our 40th Anniversary, we are introducing a monthly giving program, PATHWAY TO PEACE

Support the healing journey of the thousands of domestic and sexual violence survivors by joining Pathway to Peace with a monthly donation.

Membership requirements:
- A monthly contribution of $5 or more

Membership benefits:
- Special monthly email updates
- An invitation to an exclusive annual breakfast with agency leadership for a unique, in-person report

Exclusive for our anniversary: Enroll at any level before March 1st and receive an engraved brick in our front Pathway to Peace walkway leading to our main entrance.

Sign up at twcwaukesha.org/PathwaytoPeace.