Get Involved
Contact Maria our Volunteer Coordinator at marias@twcwaukesha.org

Donate
www.twcwaukesha.org/donate

Connect with us
@TWCWaukesha

The Women’s Center’s free programs and services include:
• Emergency Shelter
• Domestic Abuse and Sexual Assault Advocacy and Support Groups
• Transitional Living
• Employment and Life Skills
• Legal Advocacy
• Violence Prevention
• Children’s Programming
• 24-Hour Hotline
• Rape Crisis Response

Free onsite childcare is available during support groups, classes, and appointments.

A Letter from our Executive Director

Dear friends,

After a relentless 2020, we are thrilled that this summer has begun to feel like a return to normal for us all at The Women’s Center. While we continued to provide our life saving services continuously last year without closing our doors once, we know there is no replacement for in person, face to face services. We are thankful to be able to gather again to celebrate the successes of our clients and staff, like graduations, work anniversaries, and looking out of my window to once again see groups of volunteers tending to our gardens and working on other projects around our campus.

Having said that, we know that 2020 has cast a long shadow for victims and survivors. The Safer at Home Order trapped thousands of victims with their abuser for weeks on end without the reprieve of work, school, or friends to offer help or support. It also prevented many of our would-be clients from being able to access our services safely. Being able to resume our normal service model will allow us to increase the number of clients we serve and ensure that they are receiving our full range of support programs.

One of the best parts of this summer has been seeing you all again! We are having more and more volunteers return on site – both groups and individuals. Inside you’ll learn more about what these volunteers have been up to and how you can get involved. We are also looking forward to hosting our first in person event in two years! Save the date for A Noteworthy Evening on November 3rd – we’ll be sending out more information soon!

We’ve also been able to resume projects that were stalled in 2020 and also begin new ones. This month, we are embarking on our first ever Empower Campaign around Women’s Equality Day. Our goal is to mobilize our community to raise funds for our programming and raise awareness of our services. (Learn how to get involved inside!)

Personally, I am so incredibly grateful for all of our volunteers, donors, and partners in our work for sticking with us through an extraordinarily challenging period for our clients, and our organization. We wouldn’t have been able to keep our doors open without your commitment to our mission. Thank you!!!

Peacefully,

Angela Mancuso
Executive Director

In this Issue
• Noteworthy Announcement
• Volunteer Updates
• Shelter Updates
• And More!!!
When we launched our Wednesday Workshop Podcast, we had no idea we would reach survivors around the country and world! Since last April, listeners have joined us from 32 states and 24 countries.

Our Wednesday Workshop Podcast is led by our Advocates, and each episode shares strategies to heal and move beyond the trauma inflicted by domestic and sexual violence. While initially geared towards survivors, these sessions share helpful insights for service providers and community members, and all are invited to listen.

You can catch up on all of our past episodes on Spotify, Google Podcasts, or on our website: www.twcwaoukesha.org/podcasts

Season 4 out now!

---

TWC HISTORY

DID YOU KNOW? Our first ever counseling session was held in a bathroom.

Just before May 15, 1977, as our five Founding Mothers and their friends were putting the finishing touches on their first office space, a woman arrived at their front door, asking if she could talk to someone. She was in obvious distress, so one of our founders led her indoors, looked around for a quiet, clean space in the midst of the painting and other chaos, and found that the bathroom would give them the most privacy. This is one illustration of our continued philosophy to support clients whenever they need us and to always be available to those in crisis... Even if it’s in a bathroom.

---

Shelter Bathroom Renovations

Our goal is to ensure all of our programs and services are accessible to all. We are thrilled that our shelter bathroom renovations are complete with ADA upgrades!

A huge thank you to the Emory T. Clark Family- Foundation for their generous support that made this happen. Kudos to Mike Hogan, our Operations Director, for all of his work in overseeing the project.
The Elmbrook Rotary Club and Foundation has partnered with The Women’s Center for over 30 years. Rotary members have volunteered to take on projects of all sizes, such as painting, landscaping, installing a sidewalk, rebuilding porches for transitional living units, and helping install our purple silhouette display for Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October.

The Elmbrook Rotary Foundation has also provided generous, financial support for various programs at The Women’s Center helping them serve thousands of survivors every year. Most recently, when COVID-19 hit all aspects of our programing, their foundation provided support to help keep our doors open and provide safe programming for the victims and survivors who rely on us every day.

Long standing partnerships like this that provide hands-on volunteerism and financial support have made it possible for The Women’s Center to continue our life saving work for over forty-four years, cementing our place in the community. Like The Elmbrook Rotary Club, The Women’s Center strives to be a leader within our community when it comes to serving the people who live and work here.

“I’ve had many experiences that have shown that even a few hours a week with the children can impact them in a positive way. When I drive home at night after serving, I am thankful that I was able to help, and I feel that I benefitted more from that time than the children.”

Kit is part of our Gentle Man program, which facilitates play time with children engaged in our programs who have been traumatized by domestic and sexual violence to provide positive interactions and experiences with men. Kit began volunteering with The Women’s Center in 2002 and is one of our longest serving volunteers. He began volunteering because he knew the impact our services can have on survivors, and he wanted to be part of the team that not only helps adults and children who are in crisis but provide long term support and a path to healing. He’s also helps with donation sorting, grounds maintenance, and various projects. Thank you for your dedication to standing with survivors Kit!

Our volunteers have played a critical role in our organization since our founding! We have missed each and every one of you and are excited to announce that we are accepting new volunteer applications, and we have a new three-tiered volunteer program. It is designed to help you get comfortable working on-site, offers more insight into our day-to-day operations, and provides additional training and opportunities if you would like to get more involved in direct services. To learn more and apply, please visit our website: twcwaukesha.org/volunteer

If you would like to learn more about volunteering, please reach out to our Volunteer Coordinator at marias@twcwaukesha.org or call 262.522.3845
Honor Women’s Equality Day with The Women’s Center and join us in remembering those who fought for gender equality and empowerment. August 26th honors the passage of the 19th Amendment that granted women the right to vote in 1920. Help us raise awareness about the work The Women’s Center has and continues to do around empowering all survivors, of all gender identities, and backgrounds to help ensure more futures free from vio-

HOW YOU HELP: Help us bring awareness to our community about the life-saving services The Women’s Center provides by-

BECOMING AN EMPOWER PARTNER
Create a fundraiser in honor of a woman that has empowered you.
• Use this link to sign up to become an Empower Partner
  www.justgiving.com/campaign/womensequalityday
• Share your story about a woman or women who have empowered or inspired you with friends, family, and colleges and encourage them to support The Women’s Center.
• If you have any questions reach out to emilyo@twcwaukesha.org

SUPPORT
Purchase a limited-edition Women’s Center t-shirt. All proceeds will go towards helping victims and survivors.
www.bonfire.com/womens-equality-day-1977

DONATE
We encounter our clients on one of the worst days of their lives, whether they are fleeing an abusive home, have been sexually assaulted, or have just been told their child has been victimized. We have made it our mission to ensure that through our advocacy and care, no one has to navigate that time alone. Your gift ensures that our doors continue to stay open 24/7, that our staff is trained to deal with whatever situation a client brings to them, and that our agency is always a safe and inviting place to be.
• Link to donate: twcwaukesha.org/events/womens-equality-day/

LEARN MORE:
Domestic violence is the leading cause of homelessness for women and children. One of our core services is providing housing support and advocacy to help victims successfully leave an abusive home environment through emergency shelter, transitional living, eviction prevention and housing stability.

Financial setbacks or barriers often make it difficult for an individual to leave their abuser. If shelter is inaccessible or unavailable, victims often end up in unsafe housing situations where their abuser might be able to locate them, or they stay with their abuser. If they have school age children, many feel they cannot leave home because they are tied to a school district and do not want to disrupt their children’s lives further. We provide housing assistance to all victims regardless of their current living arrangements. Often, clients may have had prior evictions, lack positive references from landlords due to damages left by an abuser, or poor credit scores due to un/underemployment and/or financial abuse. This is why our Transitional Living program is so crucial at helping survivors get back on their feet and on the path to permanent safe housing. Ensuring survivors have access to safe and affordable housing truly can be the difference between starting a new life free from violence and self-sufficiency or returning to an abusive home.

As a result of the increased financial hardships and assistance requests from clients at the beginning of the Safer at Home order in Spring 2020, and the delayed unemployment benefits, we created our own eviction prevention programming and secured funding to help clients with rent/mortgage and utility bills.

This is an important addition to our housing services because evictions can severely hinder a survivor’s ability to obtain safe housing in the future. For clients who have obtained safe, independent housing, we provide ongoing advocacy, case management, employment coaching, and life skills training, including helping clients learn to budget and save. We work directly with landlords to advocate for clients, ensuring they receive fair treatment and the smoothest possible transition to their new home.

With millions of Americans behind on their rent and potentially facing eviction now that the eviction moratorium expired in July, it is crucial that we continue this level of support for survivors in our community.