The Women’s Center’s mission is to provide safety, shelter and support to empower all impacted by domestic abuse, sexual violence, child abuse, and trafficking.

CLIENT TESTIMONIAL

“I was scared and had no support system when I came to The Women’s Center. You guys helped me through so much. You reminded me how empowered I was, and how I was more than my ex made me out to be. Thank you for being a safe place for women and children and a great place in the community.”
A Letter from our Executive Director

Dear Friends,

As always, I am thrilled to update you all with what has been going on at The Women’s Center (TWC) over the last few months and, as always, there has been a lot! Firstly, I want to thank everyone who donated food, gifts, or made a financial contribution at the end of 2022. The generosity shown by our community around the holidays never ceases to amaze me! Know that these generous gifts truly make a huge difference in the lives of our clients, making the holidays (which can be a stressful time for many) a little bit easier and memorable.

Secondly, we are just a few weeks away from our annual EmPower Luncheon! This year we will be holding the event in downtown Milwaukee at the Wisconsin Center and hearing from two incredibly passionate and fascinating academics who work in the sexual assault field. Scan the QR code in the next article to read more about the event details and to BUY YOUR TICKETS! This year’s event promises to leave you more educated, emboldened and empowered to continue advocating for all survivors of sexual violence and trafficking.

Finally, as always, it has been incredibly busy at 505 N. East Ave! We have welcomed several new team members, including Jackie Smith, our new housing expert. We are especially excited about this role as securing safe, long-term housing for our clients continues to be one of the biggest challenges we face. You can read more on her background and what unique skills she will bring to TWC in this issue.

Earlier this year, The Milwaukee Bucks, Kohler Company, and Jrue and Lauren Holiday approached us about a partnership whereby they would renovate our shelter bathrooms. The renovations took place in January, and we invited them all to “officially unveil” the updated space in February. It was a great evening in which our clients got to meet Olympic Gold medalist Lauren Holiday, and our kiddos got to hang out with Bango! We are so grateful for these partnerships that bring broader awareness to our work.

Thank you as always for your continued support and advocacy!

Angela Mancuso
Executive Director
We can't wait to see you at this year’s EmPower Luncheon!

We are pleased to welcome our 2023 keynote speakers Rachel Lovell, PhD, and Sara McKinnon, PhD, who will speak on two of the most contentious issues within the sexual assault field today. Their combined knowledge and expertise will give attendees a unique chance to learn and engage with two experts in the field of sexual assault and gain insight into some of the many struggles faced by survivors and how the work we do at The Women’s Center intersects daily with the issues they will discuss.

At this year’s Empower Luncheon, we are thrilled to honor Jrue and Lauren Holiday, the Milwaukee Bucks, and Kohler Co. for their support and involvement in our shelter bathroom renovation project.

All proceeds directly benefit survivors of domestic abuse, sexual violence, child abuse, and trafficking through life-saving and life-changing programs and services provided by The Women’s Center. Tickets and sponsorships are still available, visit TWCwaukesha.org or scan the QR code to learn more!

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR 2023 EMPOWER LUNCHEON SPONSORS

ABOUT DENIM DAY:
Join us in wearing denim on April 26th to show solidarity with survivors and as a symbol of protest against flawed and destructive attitudes about sexual assault. To learn more visit www.denimdayinfo.org/why-denim.

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Contact Hannah Harris at HannahH@twcwaukesha.org or 262.522.3803 for information.
Pathway to Peace is the perfect way to give a sustaining gift and make a large impact. Your automatic monthly donation builds into a substantial annual impact and supports our ability to provide free programming to all those who need us. Monthly donors provide The Women’s Center with consistent and reliable financial support that fuels our work each day.

Your generosity powers our programs and services, helping ensure that thousands of survivors each year are able to access comprehensive, customized care, at no cost, any time of night or day. Your consistent support will see to it that more families find safety and healing, something needed now more than ever.

Pathway to Peace

Thank you for all you do to build safer and stronger communities and for supporting The Women’s Center.
In 2022, the Milwaukee Bucks Foundation, Kohler Co., and Jrue and Lauren Holiday announced their partnership to bring more than $200,000 of bathroom renovation upgrades and additional help to domestic violence shelters across Wisconsin – including The Women’s Center! And in early February we were thrilled to host them for our bathroom unveiling.

We are so excited about our upgraded shelter bathrooms and know they will make such a huge difference in the day-to-day lives of our shelter residents. The partnership marks the start of a 12-month campaign alongside End Domestic Abuse WI – the Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence – where the Bucks will work closely with the coalition to uplift their legislative efforts and advocate for domestic violence funding within the state budget. The increased spotlight and attention this partnership will bring to the issues surrounding domestic and sexual violence and the work we do every day at The Women’s Center is invaluable.

Lauren Holiday, two-time Olympic gold medalist and FIFA Women’s World Cup champion and Jrue’s wife shared her excitement about the project, “The Bucks and I are extremely excited about the opportunity to help a cause so important within our community. Being able to step in and make a difference to help these amazing organizations, and what they stand for, means the world to us.”

Throughout the 12-month commitment, the Bucks will host groups and families at games and coordinate supply drives for each shelter. Alongside this effort, the Holidays, other Bucks families and staff, and Kohler Co. representatives will visit the shelters to volunteer on various projects.

The Women’s Center provides virtual information and education geared towards teens through our Wednesday Workshop podcast. Led by our trained Advocates, each podcast episode contains powerful information on the complex issues survivors face and addresses their unique experiences, needs and challenges.

While initially geared towards survivors, these sessions share helpful insights for allies, friends, family members, service providers and the community-at-large – and all are invited to listen. Our podcast is listened to in 43 countries and 48 states right now! Check out our most recent episodes and entire back catalogue by scanning the QR code on the right.
At The Women’s Center, we strive to ensure that the needs of survivors are met, and we would not be able to do this without your generous support. Each holiday season, we ask our community of donors and friends to help support our clients and bring some much-needed holiday cheer into their lives. Because of your generosity, we were able to provide holiday food boxes to 59 families and holiday gifts to 68 families within our programs.

We are incredibly grateful for the dedication of each of our volunteers. Throughout 2022 and beyond, our work could not be possible without the care and time you’ve gifted to spreading the heart of our mission through action. Thank you for all your help and support for our Holiday Giving program.

We are honored to welcome back Jackie Smith as our new Director of Housing and Life Skills. This pivotal new role provides our clients with the support they need to secure safe and affordable housing once they leave our Transitional Living program.

“It felt like coming home,” said Jackie. In the months leading up to her return to The Women’s Center, her mother’s health began to rapidly decline. Within the first two weeks of Jackie’s new position, her mother sadly passed away. Although this was a deeply painful time for her, Jackie felt supported by her colleagues at The Women’s Center with whom she was already close.

Jackie has previously worked with The Women’s Center as a housing liaison/advocate before she was promoted to the Executive Director of the Housing Action Coalition of Waukesha County (HAC), a coalition of agencies and stakeholders dedicated to collaborating, advocating, and raising awareness around homelessness and the root causes of housing instability in our community.

"I am looking forward to bringing my expertise in housing, homeless services, shelter, and grant management to the team and contributing to the continual growth of The Women’s Center."