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.

Pictured above: the Peace Garden at The Women’s Center.

The Women’s Center’s free programs & services include:

- Emergency Shelter
- Domestic Abuse & Sexual Assault Advocacy
- Support Groups
- Transitional Living
- Employment & Life Skills
- Legal Advocacy
- Community Education
- Children’s Programming
- 24-Hour Hotline

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

A Letter from our Executive Director

I want to start by saying a massive thank you to everyone who participated in this year’s Luncheon. Whether you sponsored a table, bought tickets, donated an auction item, bought an auction item or raffle ticket – you all helped contribute to the success of this event, our largest fundraiser of the year. The 2023 EmPower Luncheon raised over $100,000, which will go directly towards our life-saving programs and services (one such program is our Shelter, which you can read more about inside)! We had over 500 people attend, including community members, elected officials, partner organizations, and members of the survivor community. If you couldn’t make it this year, we hope to see you next year on April 24, 2024!

During the pandemic, we launched our first-ever TWC podcast to provide workshop-style support to survivors and their friends and family. The topics covered range from dealing with different types of traumas to catching red flags in unhealthy relationships and are intended to provide information and guidance in an unintimidating way. Three years on, we are blown away by the success and feedback we receive about it – it is currently listened to in 43 countries worldwide! If you haven’t already listened, please check out its archive of episodes on our website and share it with your community.

As mentioned above, you will find a deep dive into our Emergency Shelter programming in this edition of Centerpoint. We wanted to highlight our shelter and provide a deeper insight into what it is all about. It is a lifeline, a safe space, and a supportive space for those fleeing violence and abuse. As always – if you or someone you know needs to access any of our programs or simply wants to learn more about what we do and who we serve, please call our 24-Hour Hotline at 262.542.3828.

Angela Mancuso
Executive Director
Creating Opportunity for Non-Violent Outcomes

For the past three years, The Women’s Center has been proud to host our Wednesday Workshop podcast sharing strategies for healing and moving beyond the trauma inflicted by domestic and sexual violence. While initially geared towards survivors, these sessions share helpful insights for friends and family members of survivors, service providers, and community members, and all are invited to listen.

We are excited to share with you that our Wednesday Workshop podcast has undergone a rebrand with a new name – CONVO. With this change, we aim to highlight our commitment to fostering discussions in the community that promote healing and resilience in the face of domestic and sexual violence.

Each episode delves into topics covered in our support groups, equipping listeners with current and relevant information to help them process the trauma they’ve endured. Through CONVO, The Women's Center seeks to bridge the gap between survivors, service providers, and the wider community, creating a platform for shared learning, understanding, and collective action.

Follow along on Instagram at @CONVO_TWC for behind-the-scenes moments and additional resources that promote violence prevention.

Missed our 2023 EmPower Luncheon keynote speakers?
Check out our podcast episode with exclusive interviews with Dr. Rachel Lovell and Dr. Sara McKinnon.

Knowledge EmPowers: An Interview with
Dr. Sara McKinnon & Dr. Rachel Lovell

Sign up now! Email us at barbf@twcwaukesha.org
Meet one of The Women’s Center’s superstar volunteers, Bruce, who has been helping us for a year now. For over a decade, Bruce worked as a service technician until he retired in 2021. The Women’s Center is near Bruce’s home, and he often drove past our building with little thought of what we do.

“Admittedly, I wasn’t aware of what the shelter did,” said Bruce. It wasn’t until he and his wife watched a TV series depicting the deeply troubling barriers many survivors face when leaving an abusive partner – and how much of an uphill battle they face on their own – that he became aware of what we do at The Women’s Center.

The next time Bruce drove past The Women’s Center, he did so as one of our volunteers. We are so grateful to have another set of hands around our campus to help our Director of Operations, Mike, maintain and take care of The Women’s Center property.

“Not everyone has a supportive family or access to money to provide themselves with housing or transportation or safety. It seems to me that the shelter provides a safe place for women to catch their breath and think about what’s next.”

- Bruce, TWC Volunteer

Happy Anniversary and THANK YOU, Bruce! We appreciate all that you do!

Volunteer Spotlight

Volunteers are an important part of our team and help us in many ways! We are always looking for dedicated volunteers to assist with a variety of direct service and indirect service roles. Work directly with clients in roles like childcare, front desk reception, Hotline support, or help behind the scenes with donation sorting, organizing, and special events.

- Building & Grounds Maintenance
- Donation pick-up / drop-off
- Childcare
- Administration
- Hotline / Shelter Support
- On-Call Advocate

Contact our Volunteer Coordinator Alex at alexandral@twcwaukesha.org or 262.522.3845.
Women’s Equality Day
August 26th

Join The Women’s Center as we honor Women’s Equality Day on August 26 as a tribute to the legacy of our Founding Mothers and to recognize that there is still much work to be done to achieve equality for all. We know that inequality and social injustices are at the core of domestic abuse and sexual violence, and promoting equal rights of all people will always play a key role in ensuring more futures free from violence.

Honor Women's Equality Day and show your commitment to equal rights and putting an end to violence by making a donation to The Women's Center today! Your gift ensures that our doors continue to stay open 24/7, equips our Advocates with the resources and training they need to provide for our clients, and allows our agency to always be a safe and welcoming place for all.

Stay Connected with TWC:

Follow us:
@TWCwaukesha
@CONVO_twc

#TWCwaukesha

Planned Giving

Volunteers are an important part of our team and help us in many ways! We are always looking for dedicated volunteers to assist with a variety of direct service and indirect service roles. Work directly with clients in roles like childcare, front desk reception, Hotline support, or help behind the scenes with donation sorting, organizing, and special events.

There are many ways to make a planned gift:
- Retirement fund
- Life insurance
- Charitable gift in your will (bequest)
- Gifts of cash

We kindly request notification of your gift, which allows us to properly acknowledge, honor, and thank you in your lifetime. Please contact Hannah Harris at 262.522.3803 or email hannahh@twcwaukesha.org to discuss how we can help you accomplish your estate planning goals.

Our social media platforms allow us to engage with the community and share important information about The Women’s Center. Follow us to learn more about our programs and services, stay up to date on each new episode of our podcast, and find new ways to get involved!
The Women’s Center would like to take a moment to thank everyone who attended and supported the 2023 EmPower Luncheon. It is through the tireless enthusiasm and support from people like you in our community that we were able to raise over $100,000 to support our mission!

This Luncheon marks a pivotal moment in our annual fundraising campaign to reach our goal of $1.3 million – the essential funds needed to keep our doors open 24/7, 365 days a year. These funds will directly benefit survivors of domestic and sexual violence, trafficking, and child abuse through The Women’s Center’s lifesaving programs and services.

Today and tomorrow, remember that YOUR VOICE HAS POWER. Use your voice to take action: believe survivors, end victim blaming, and continue to empower yourself with knowledge to spread awareness to our communities.

Thank you for helping us make the 2023 EmPower Luncheon a memorable and inspiring event – and we look forward to seeing you next year on Wednesday, April 24th, 2024!

Special Thanks to our EmPower Luncheon Sponsors!

Presenting Sponsor
Nancy Lindenberg

Platinum Sponsors

ProHealth Care

Gold Sponsors
GE Healthcare

Silver Sponsors
Drs. Ann & Steve Merkow
CTI
At The Women’s Center, we are passionate about providing survivors with the safety and support they need to rebuild their lives after fleeing violence. For the last 46 years, we have worked to carve out a safe place in the community for survivors of all backgrounds to feel welcome and safe. We believe everyone deserves to be treated with dignity and respect – especially when most vulnerable.

Our Shelter is your first stop towards safety.

Our shelter provides safe, short-term housing and support to anyone who has been a victim of domestic abuse, sexual violence, or human trafficking 24/7, 365 days a year. Much more than a safe roof over your head, The Women’s Center is where our advocates specialize in providing residents with the building blocks they need to begin a new life free from violence and abuse.

Who can access our shelter?

Anyone who has been a victim of domestic abuse, sexual violence, or human trafficking and their children may call our Hotline, complete a short screening, and be granted access to our shelter if we have the room. If we do not have a bed free for immediate use, we will develop a safety plan with the individual and provide them with resources to help them find immediate safety.

What can The Women’s Center’s Shelter Advocates help with?

When a survivor enters our shelter, we provide them with everything they may need so their basic needs are always met. This includes food, clothing, vouchers, transportation, translation, interpretation in any language and other necessities. We problem-solve with clients to keep them safe from their abuser by finding ways their abuser cannot track their car, purchasing and setting up a new cell phone and number, and connecting parents with school staff and advocating for them when their children need to be enrolled in a new school district.

The Women’s Center provides guidance and financial aid for clients who need to file restraining orders and other court documents, and we provide the emotional support they need when in court and potentially face-to-face with their abuser. Advocates help clients with job readiness training and other life skills development. We offer on-site childcare and respite care for shelter residents as well so they can attend support groups and workshops offered onsite.

Advocates also provide clients with emotional support in the form of trauma-informed advocacy. They understand what the victims have been through and will help make sense of what is happening. They will not judge or victim-blame. Our Advocates give survivors time and space to make their own decisions.

How long do people stay in your Shelter?

Our shelter is intended for short-term emergency accommodation. Our goal is always to help find our clients safe and stable long-term housing as quickly as possible. That being said, we understand how hard that can be and how long it can take, which is why we have no “termination day” when people must leave. Some individuals will be with us for a few nights, others for multiple weeks. It all depends on the individual’s safety concerns and circumstances.
Our shelter feels like home, where individuals and their children who have experienced violence and abuse can live in safety and peace. Other survivors in the Shelter understand what you have been through, and Advocates are always on hand to help you settle in and give you the support you need to start thinking about your future.

There is no typical day in Shelter – some days will be loud and filled with children playing, while others may be quieter and more subdued. You may have group workshops or one-on-one meetings with your Advocate to help safety plan, build your resume, or help you prepare for upcoming legal hearings, for example. We have a large communal kitchen, living, and dining area where you can cook, eat and relax with your children and other residents. Our outdoor play space is securely fenced and monitored on camera so your children can play safely. Our garden is a peaceful area where residents can walk in or sit and have some quiet time.

Parents and children will always be housed in the same room together, and when we can, we will try to make accommodations for lower bunk preferences. We have newly renovated Kohler bathrooms, including a fully ADA-compliant bathroom for those who need additional assistance.

Who will help me when I am in Shelter?

One Advocate will be your key contact. They will meet with you at least weekly to ensure you receive the emotional and practical support you need. You can discuss any concerns or worries you may have with them. It is up to you to choose how much support we give you. We are there to guide and empower, but the process is directed by you. All of our Advocates are trained to help you settle in, apply for assistance programs, and support you with a range of other practical assistance like registering with a local doctor or school, or dealing with legal issues.

If you have any questions, are worried about someone you know, or you are the victim of domestic or sexual violence, please call our 24-Hour Hotline at 262.542.3828 to speak with someone now.

The person who answers your call will listen to you, support you as you share your experience, and find the options that best suit your needs. Our Advocates will help you find additional support you may need and will provide you with any necessary referrals. All calls are strictly confidential, and we offer translation services to anyone who may need them.

We believe you and we want to support you. We know it isn’t easy, but The Women’s Center is here for you. Always.
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 have been in about six different shelters and The Women's Center in Waukesha far exceeds any of the others. The staff is incredibly kind and caring. They also have actual good food in the shelter! The Women's Center has made me feel safe and allows me to concentrate on what I need to get done. Thank you!"