

SURVIVOR STORY

Changing Lives, Reigniting Hope

Julie's abuser had taken out loans in her name and defaulted. She was suffering from many mental health challenges and caring for her special needs child who was also sexually abused. But she found hope, thanks to your support!

(See page 3)



OCTOBER IS DVAM

Jaw-Dropping State Statistics

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM). End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin has released some staggering statistics from the past 20 years.

(See page 5)

FREE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Helping Victims and Survivors

We have several opportunities for members of the community to learn how to help those impacted by abuse. The best part? All trainings are absolutely FREE!

(See page 6)



ONLINE
TRAINING

Executive Heart-to-Heart



Dear Friends,

To many the month of October marks the coming of colored leaves falling from the trees, pumpkins on doorsteps and combines in the fields. Here at New Horizons it is all that plus a whole lot of purple!

Why purple? Because October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month or **DVAM** for short.

DVAM is an entire month where we as advocates mourn those who have died because of domestic violence; celebrate those who have survived; and connect with those who work with us to end the violence.

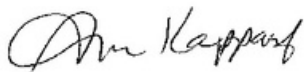
In 2019 (information obtained from the 2019 Wisconsin Domestic Violence Homicide Report) 72 Wisconsin deaths occurred in relation to domestic violence. **Fifty-two** were victims who were killed by their abuser, the youngest was two just months old. We mourn these 52 lives that were taken by the hands of someone they once loved.

During **DVAM** 2020, we celebrate the **1,416** survivors of violence that we worked with in 2019. We applaud their bravery and continue to be honored to advocate for and with them as they travel the journey of their choice.

DVAM events look very different this year and we need your help in promoting awareness of domestic violence. Join us in coloring our towns and cities with a whole lot of purple! Pin a purple ribbon on your shirt or coat collar, don a purple scarf, tie or sweater, post a picture of yourself in purple on your Facebook page, etc. Tell the world why you are wearing purple.

DVAM 2020!

In Empowerment,



Ann Kappauf
Executive Director

Changing Lives

If you recently made a contribution to New Horizons, THANK YOU! You are making a difference in the lives of victims of abuse in our community!

Let me put a face on your impact.

Julie's abuser used her identity to take out loans and defaulted on them. Creditors hounded her as she struggled to regain control of her finances.

Add into the mix that Julie had been facing multiple barriers for accessing help for severe depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder, suicidal thoughts, and schizophrenia.



A traditional job was difficult to maintain for Julie, and she was working hard to help her special needs child, who was also a survivor of sexual abuse. The weight of it all was overwhelming.

Helping others feeds the light inside each of us. That's why we do the work we do here at New Horizons. **That's likely why you choose to support our work with survivors of abuse.**

Julie also came to realize that this was how she would reignite her light and hope--by helping others. Despite all of the challenges that she has faced, Julie is taking major strides to overcome them and standing strong as a survivor.

She has applied for and has been accepted to a program where she will earn her associates degree. Julie's goal is to become a Peer Specialist, so she can provide support and assistance to others who are struggling with mental health challenges.

Her advocate here at New Horizons helped her navigate and find opportunities to access funding to pay for the schooling. The Survivors' Fund at New Horizons helped Julie to replace her old, crashed laptop too. Julie is now attending school virtually this Fall and onto a path for a brighter future!

YOU made this possible. You are changing lives! Because of your support, the momentum was able to shift into a positive direction for Julie. You are a difference-maker by supporting the lives of survivors of abuse!

ALL SERVICES ARE FREE & CONFIDENTIAL

www.nhagainstabuse.org

La Crosse

24/7: (608)791-2600

PO Box 2031

La Crosse, WI 54602

Whitehall

24/7: (800)706-8586

PO Box 518

Whitehall, WI 54773



Will Santa Find our Shelter?



While it's only October, the signs of the approaching holidays are visible at nearly every store. At New Horizons, we're getting prepared as well with our Holiday Program that helps to ensure we keep the magic of the season alive for the kids who have been through so much already in their young lives.

Our Sexual Assault Advocate, Kim Jones wrote an incredible account of her experience working as a Crisis Advocate at shelter one year with a little boy named, Sam--who was experiencing some anxiety over being at shelter during that time of year.

Here's an excerpt from the story. You can read in it's entirety at:

<http://www.nhagainstabuse.org/through-a-childs-eyes/>

When kids are living in shelter, there are many things they can get this upset about- trauma and fear they have experienced, losing their homes, family members, friends, most of their possessions. Children don't have the tools to process things like adults do, and they don't understand why they had to leave their whole world behind. As Sam found his voice, and the courage to tell me what was wrong, I learned why he was so upset.

Children in homes where abuse happens have to grow up fast, and Sam knew that his mom didn't have very much money. At all of 7 years old, Sam was grownup enough to know about a budget and how necessities came first, but he was still young enough to believe in Santa. He hoped that his mom was able to get him the one toy he asked for, that would more than make up for not getting a visit from Santa this year.

As he was telling me this his eyes started to well up again, with residual upset, disappointment and guilt. He was little but knew his mom was under a lot of pressure already, and tonight he felt he was adding to it. I asked Sam why he thought his family wasn't going to be visited by Santa. "This house is secret," he told me. "Santa doesn't know where I am."

In a job where I cannot make promises to anybody; waitlists are full, funding is cut, getting resources takes time, we have no guarantees you'll be selected, I was able to make a promise to that little boy.

Mom already had presents for him, and we also had a special arrangement with Santa. Not only did he already know Sam's family was staying in shelter, but our shelter is Santa's first stop when he comes to La Crosse.



***"This house is secret,"
he told me.***

***"Santa doesn't know
where I am."***



**If you'd like to help
with our Holiday Program, see page 6!**



October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month



In 2019, domestic violence claimed 72 lives in Wisconsin.

End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin provides the statistics each year on domestic abuse in the state.

Below are some of the facts from their latest report--and a 20-year look back at the figures.

**Over the past 20 years,
there were 811 victims
killed in domestic
violence homicides in
Wisconsin.**

**Of those victims killed
over the past 20 years,
55% were female
34% were male
12% were children.**

**Of the 730 perpetrators
of domestic violence
homicide over the past
20 years,
83% were male
17% were female**

**Of the victims killed
over the past 20 years,
42% were leaving an
intimate partner
relationship.**

**Firearms have killed
more people in
domestic violence
homicides in WI than
all other methods of
killing combined.**

**Many of the
perpetrators had been
prohibited from firearm
possession, yet
maintained access to
their weapons or
obtained a firearm to
commit the homicide.**

If you are in an abusive relationship, remember:
It's not your fault. You are not alone. Help is available.



La Crosse Area: (888)231-0066 | Whitehall Area: (800)706-8586
nhagainstabuse.org



facebook.com/NewHorizonsShelterAndOutreachCentersInc



[@more_than_a_shelter](https://www.instagram.com/more_than_a_shelter)

NH News Nuggets



Stewards of Children Training Going Virtual

One in 10 children are sexually abused before they turn 18. Learn how to recognize, prevent, and react responsibly to child sexual abuse through this important training from Darkness to Light--offered at no charge through New Horizons

Due to COVID-19, this **FREE** training will be virtual this year.

Thursday, October 8th from 1pm - 4pm (English)

Thursday, October 22nd from 5:30pm - 8:30pm (Spanish)

Thursday, November 5th from 10am - 1pm (English)

Friday, November 20th from 1pm - 4pm (Spanish)

Monday, December 7th from 5:30pm - 8:30pm (English)

**REGISTER TODAY
TO SECURE YOUR DATE**

Contact Jen Scaccio:
youth@nhagainstabuse.org
or
(608)791-2610, ext. 1203



Special Thanks to Al Louis' Rotary Musky Challenge for Support!

Holiday Program

If you'd like to help make the magic of the season happen for our clients who are children--please contact our Youth & Family Advocate, Jen Scaccio: **youth@nhagainstabuse.org** or **(608)791-2610, ext. 1203**

We are also in need of these items for shelter:

- ✿ Mailbox for Santa
- ✿ Winter-themed window clings
- ✿ Board games
- ✿ A Tree Skirt



Online Advocacy Training

New Horizons is offering this **FREE** online training

Monday, October 19th - 6:00pm-9:00pm

Tuesday, October 20th - 6:00pm-9:00pm

Monday, October 26th - 6:00pm-9:00pm

Tuesday, October 27th - 6:00pm-9:00pm

Volunteers/Interns must attend all 4 sessions. Any other community members interested are encouraged to attend all four sessions in order to receive the full training.

You'll meet the advocates of New Horizons, learn the dynamics of sexual and domestic abuse, as well as human trafficking, and the best practices for working with survivors.

To register, contact Erica Borde:

volunteer@nhagainstabuse.org or (608)791-2610, ext. 1301

Al Louis' Rotary Musky Challenge

A huge thank you to Al Louis and all Rotarians and community members who supported his 2020 Musky Challenge fundraiser. It was successful beyond our wildest dreams! You are all incredible difference-makers!

Al reeled in a total of seven monster musky and his fishing partner, AJ brought in two himself! A total of over \$40,000 was raised to support several non-profit organizations in the community, including New Horizons! This generous donation will help offset the negative impact of COVID-19 to our organization and our clients! **THANK YOU!!!**



Top 50 Donors: July - Sept 2020

Al Louis
Steven Mathy
Emily Bowe
Jon Levendoski
First Presbyterian Church of La Crosse
Stephen and Susan Heuslein
Festival Foods
Jean Loftus
Peace Lutheran Church in Pigeon Falls
Sue Anne Gelatt Foundation
Arcadia Community Chest
William Poellinger
Ellen Bowes
Jackie Ripp
Chart Energy & Chemicals, Inc.
Coulee Bank
English Lutheran Church of La Crosse

Dave Skogen
Frank Greenberg
Henderson Construction
Marie Miller
St. Pat's Knights of Columbus
United Healthcare Services
Richard and Marilyn Foss
Jay Jaehnke
DigiCopy
Frederick Bart
Frank and Ruth Vierling
A1 Scranton Gold & Silver Buyers, Inc.
Craig and Pamela Ubbelohde
Front Range Coin
Hancock & Robinson CPAs
JG Numismatics
Lori Ayres

Srs. Lorraine Forster & Karen Neuser
Theresa Urbanek
Ashton Norris
Theresa Rudy
Alice Benson
James Lee Rasch
Jayne Stokke
Margaret and Daryl Wood
Mark and Minda Chamberlain
Roz Schnick
Sue Lassig
William Banasik
Jeremy and Vanessa Southworth
Sandra Schultz
Dean Dickinson
La Crosse County District Attorneys Office
Amy McKnight



Great Rivers United Way continues to support our programs with grants from funds through their annual campaign.

New Horizons also received generous grants from the following funds: **The Women's Fund of Greater La Crosse, La Crosse Community Foundation, ALM Charities**, and many more.

Above are just a few of the multitude of gifts from companies, churches, organizations, and individuals.

Thank you!



advocating against domestic & sexual abuse

PO Box 2031 | 1223 Main Street
La Crosse, WI 54602

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New Horizons - Current Needs

Due to very limited space, our donation protocol has recently changed.

We no longer accept any clothing or small appliance items unless it is something that we have specifically put out a request for on our Facebook page. ***We recommend calling ahead before coming with donations to help make it a seamless experience. That number is (608)791-2610, ext. 1300.***

We encourage you to donate items we are not currently accepting to other non-profit organizations. Please consider donating furniture to The Exchange. You can reach them at 608-301-5345.

We work closely with other non-profit organizations to ensure that those we provide services to have their clothing and furniture needs met, this allows us to remain focused on our mission.

We always accept donations of new and full-sized personal care items.



- NEW Toys for holiday program
- Cellphones, chargers, and phone plans
- Winter outer-wear
- Winter boots (all sizes)
- Women's plus-size clothing (winter only)
- Adult pajamas, robes, & sweatpants (XL-4X)
- Disinfecting wipes
- Diverse hair care products
- Hairbrushes/ Picks
- Teen clothing
- Paper Towels
- Toilet Paper