

the Empowerment press

2025 September Mini Issue

WHAT'S
INSIDE



SUPPORTER SHOUT-OUTS



SAVE THE DATES



NEW HOUSING GRANT



Fall into Action Against Domestic Violence

As the leaves change, we're reminded of the power of transformation. This fall, we invite you to stand with survivors, raise awareness, and continue building a safer community together.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH IS NOW JUST WEEKS AWAY.



Domestic violence is both widespread and deadly. In Wisconsin, **85 people lost their lives to domestic violence in 2023**, one of the highest annually recorded figures, with firearms involved in 78% of those deaths and an average of 1 fatality every **4.3 days**. Meanwhile, across the Coulee Coalition region, homelessness due to domestic violence remains a critical concern.

Behind each number is a neighbor, coworker, classmate, family member, or friend. These statistics remind us that domestic violence is not a distant issue - it's happening here in our own communities.



Throughout October, New Horizons will host events, campaigns, and community displays to shine a light on the issue and provide opportunities for action. Together, we can raise awareness, support survivors, and create lasting change. Continue reading to learn more about how you can get involved.

THANK YOU!

We are deeply grateful for the ongoing generosity of our community, which enables us to provide a vital safety net of support for survivors. Your contributions make all the difference, and we couldn't continue our work without your steadfast support. Thank you for standing with us!

GRATITUDE CORNER SUPPORTER SHOUT OUTS!



LA CROSSE COUNTY TAVERN LEAGUE

Thank you to the La Crosse County Tavern League for their generous \$10,000 donation! Your support helps New Horizons provide safety, support, and hope for survivors in our community.

THE WOMEN'S FUND OF GREATER LA CROSSE

Thank you to the Women's Fund of Greater La Crosse for their \$10,000 gift to our Survivors' Fund, which provides emergency financial assistance to clients in crisis, offering stability and hope when it's needed most.



RIVER PLACE APARTMENTS

Thank you to River Place Apartments for hosting a school supply drive to ensure the children we serve headed back to school prepared and confident.

ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Thank you to English Lutheran Church for donating \$500 in gift cards for family fun activities to support our Summer Fun Program, giving survivors and their children the chance to make special memories together.



To make a donation, visit our website: nhagainstabuse.org or scan the QR code to the right. → You can also mail a check made out to New Horizons Shelter and Outreach Centers to: PO Box 2031, La Crosse, WI 54602.

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!



Your support means the world to us, and we want to make sure you feel it! Scan the QR code to the left to take our brief donor feedback survey - it only takes a few minutes and helps us better recognize, engage, and thank you for the difference you make.

← You are changing lives!

**FOLLOW US ON
SOCIAL MEDIA**



@more_than_a_shelter



facebook.com/NewHorizonsShelterAndOutreachCentersInc



MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE UPCOMING AWARENESS EVENTS



Saturday, October 4, 2025



Noon - 4pm



2100 Dawson Ave La Crosse, WI 54603

Join us at Celebrations on the River for an afternoon of healing, connection, and community. This free event is open to all and features vendors offering unique wellness and self-care products, plus hands on activities to help you relax and recharge. Don't forget to enter for your chance to win one of many fabulous prizes! For more details and to read about our vendors, scan the QR code.



CLOTHESLINE PROJECT & PROCLAMATION READING



Friday, October 3, 2025



2:15 - 4:30pm

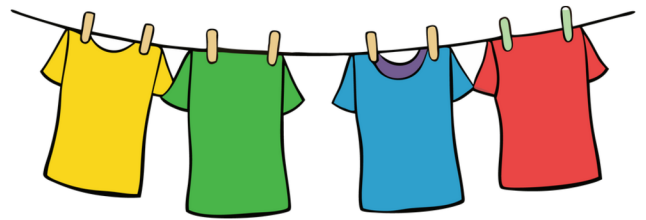


La Crosse County Health Department
300 4th St North / Basement Auditorium

Guests are invited to walk through the display at their own pace, gaining insight into the effects of abuse and the experiences of survivors. This free public event is a chance to stand together in honoring survivors and raising awareness in our community.

Content Disclaimer: The Clothesline Project display contains representations of real experiences of abuse and violence. Some content may be upsetting or triggering for viewers.

Throughout the month of October, Pearl Street Books and the La Crosse Public Library will also host mini Clothesline Project displays along with useful information on available resources.



#1 THING CAMPAIGN

Change happens one action at a time. The **#1Thing Campaign** reminds us that if each of us commits to just one small action - whether it's learning more about domestic violence, speaking up, or supporting someone in need - we can build safer, healthier communities.

Throughout October, local businesses in La Crosse and Trempealeau Counties will join us in raising awareness by selling purple ribbons as part of the campaign. When you purchase a ribbon, you're not only showing your support for survivors, but also helping spark conversations and inspire action across our community. **All the money raised through this campaign goes directly to supporting New Horizons' services.**

**Awareness Events Continued on Page 4*

PRIVATE FILM SCREENING & DISCUSSION

Join us for a free screening of the award-winning documentary *Private Violence*, a powerful film that sheds light on the realities of domestic abuse and the courage of survivors. Following the film, team members will lead a Q&A and discussion panel, offering space for reflection and conversation.



Tuesday, October 22, 2025



5 - 7pm



la Crosse Public Library - 800 Main St.

This event is free and open to the public, but seating is limited. **Registration is strongly encouraged.** The first 25 people to register will receive a free swag bag the night of the event.

Scan the QR code to register today!



Content Disclaimer: This film includes disturbing, graphic content and emotional material that may be difficult to watch for some viewers.



OTHER WAYS TO SUPPORT SURVIVORS DURING DVAM

Looking for other ways to get involved this October? Here are a few simple actions that make a big difference.

- Wear purple on **Purple Thursday** (October 16th) to show your support
- Start conversations with friends, family, or coworkers about healthy relationships
- Donate items from our needs list or funds to support survivors and their families
- Share our posts on social media to spread awareness and resources



Together, these small actions help create a community where survivors are seen, supported, and believed.

SAVE THE DATE: GALENTINE'S DAY BRUNCH 2026

Get ready to celebrate friendship, love, and community at our 5th Annual Galentine's Day Brunch on Saturday, February 7, 2026 from 9:30am - 12:30pm at the La Crescent Area Event Center. Bring your best gals (or guys!) for a morning filled with a hearty breakfast buffet, coffee social hour, photo booth fun, raffles, door prizes, and lively auctions.

Your attendance makes a difference. Every ticket purchased helps sustain our lifesaving services and provides survivors with the safety and support they deserve. Tickets will be available soon, so keep an eye out!

We're also proud to thank Pischke Motors, our Presenting Sponsor for the 5th year in a row. Their continued generosity makes it possible for us to raise essential funds and reminds us what can be achieved when a community comes together.

Visit <https://bit.ly/galentines26> or scan the QR code for more details.



New Horizons Expands Housing Support for Survivors

\$250,000 Grant Will Provide Critical Housing Assistance

New Horizons is expanding our housing assistance for survivors of domestic violence and related crimes, thanks to a **\$250,000 HOME-ARP Supportive Services grant** awarded by the Wisconsin Department of Administration's Division of Energy, Housing and Community Resources (DEHCR).

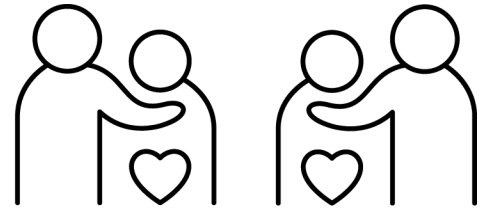
This funding, which began on July 1, 2025, strengthens our existing **DV SAFE (Survivor-Affordable-Flexible-Empowering) Rapid Rehousing Program**, launched in 2022. The program currently provides housing assistance and supportive services to 12 households. With the new grant, an additional six households will receive help with rent, utilities, case management, and other essential services.

Survivors fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual violence, stalking, or human trafficking who live in or are relocating to Bangor, Holmen, Onalaska, and West Salem may qualify for support.

Services Include:



- Short- and medium-term rental assistance
- Help with security deposits and utility payments
- Ongoing case management and wraparound supportive services



The need is urgent. In the **Coulee Coalition region** (La Crosse, Monroe, Vernon, and Crawford Counties), 26 families and 34 individuals have recently identified as homeless due to fleeing domestic violence. Without programs like DV SAFE, many survivors face the impossible choice of returning to their abuser or facing homelessness.

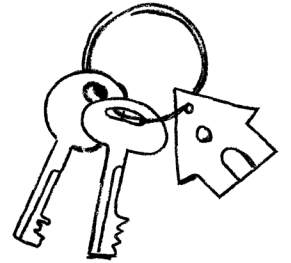
Housing: A Foundation for Healing

"Safe and secure housing is one of the most critical needs for victims of domestic violence," said **Heidi Svee, Director of Programming and Personnel at New Horizons.**



"Victims and survivors consistently tell us that having stable housing - and the means to maintain it - is essential to their safety and healing."

The DV SAFE Program follows a Housing First, survivor-centered model. While emergency shelters provide immediate safety, DV SAFE offers up to 12 months of long-term housing solutions with wraparound services like counseling, childcare, transportation, life skills development, education, and job training. The goal: to help survivors achieve stability and independence.



Community members and landlords interested in learning more are encouraged to contact Heidi Svee at:



608-791-2610, ext. 1306



programcoord@nhagainstabuse.org



ALL SERVICES ARE FREE & CONFIDENTIAL



La Crosse & Trempealeau Counties & Surrounding Area:
TOLL-FREE: (888)231-0066 | LOCAL: (608)791-2600
TEXT ONLY: (608)667-9944 | nhagainstabuse.org