

FALL NEWSLETTER



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www.wiseagainstviolence.org

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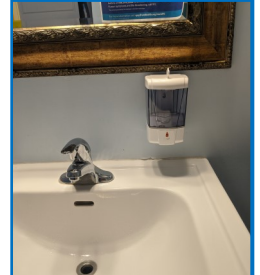
November, 2020

SHELTER UPDATES.....The impact by COVID-19 has affected so many and adjusting safety protocols for communal living within a shelter has brought its challenges too. During these last several months our amazing staff continues to provide advocacy and safety to our clients, just in new, safe, and different ways.

Shelter living is stressful under normal conditions. To meet the needs, we had to adjust our service due to requirements of social distancing and safety protocols. Thanks to the help of area businesses, community supporters and COVID-19 grant assistance, we were able to make necessary improvements to our shelter.



New mattresses and beds were already in the works, but we have upgraded all our sleeping areas. Thank you to **Cargill Salt of Hersey Michigan**. We have created a **first-floor laundry area** for client use. This allows our clients to stay in a safe location and helps all by meeting this need in house. Our **dining area** has also seen some changes so we can accommodate social distancing. A **designated space** has been created if someone does come down with COVID. An updated **air quality filtering system** has been installed. **Sanitizing stations** have been installed throughout the shelter to help us maintain safety measures. **PPE masks & shields** have been purchased for our staff, clients and for everyone's protection and safety. **Sneeze guards** are installed on staff desks. We created a **telecommunications room** for our clients to use and **upgraded with chrome books**. This will allow clients to meet remotely with WISE staff and other agencies. We are purchasing **activity kits for kids**, so they won't need to share art supplies and toys. All the children will have individual kits.



Our space is utilized in new ways to protect everyone yet provide a safe and secure shelter. We are also offering virtual support groups. This not only keeps people distant but has been a successful outreach to those in need. If you or someone you know is in danger of domestic violence, you may reach us at:

24-hour crises line at 231-796-6600 or toll-free at 1-800-374-WISE (9473).



THANK YOU FOR COMMUNITY SUPPORT..... During the last several months we, like everyone, had to make modifications due to COVID-19. We would like to thank the community and our local organizations that supported our needs to meet the additional requirements. Thank you to **our donors and the following agencies: Mecosta Osceola United Way, Mecosta County Community Foundation, Osceola County Community Foundation, Fremont Area Community Foundation, County of Mecosta, Broomfield Trust Foundation, Cargill Salt of Hersey, and Big Rapids Lions Club.** Your support makes our work possible!

NEW ADMINISTRATION OFFICE LOCATION..... We will be located downtown Big Rapids in the previous Fabulous Finds location (103 S. Michigan Ave.). This office will serve as an information center for Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and provide service to those in need of Mecosta, Osceola, and Newaygo counties. Due to COVID restrictions, we currently are not open to the public and will meet by virtual appointment only.

How Does Your Financial Support Help? Our services are available to all the clients we serve in **Newaygo, Osceola, and Mecosta** counties. We aid clients from the time we receive a call, to working with them through the trauma. We offer consistent programming to help empower our clients and to help them move forward and escape from the harm they are facing.

Each year we offer support through **outreach programs, legal advocacy, sexual assault advocacy, transitional housing, shelter for victims, and alternative to violence classes.** These services are available due to the combination of Federal, State and Local grants, private donor contributions and fundraising. It is with the continued support from our donors, local agencies, and local law enforcements that we can help serve those affected by domestic violence and sexual assault.

Thank you to our Community Sponsors



FREMONT AREA
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION



Women's Information Service, Inc.
PO Box 1249
Big Rapids, MI 49307



 Women's Information Service, Inc. (WISE)

WISE FALL NEWSLETTER

Volume 8

WISE FALL NEWSLETTER

Page 2

Mission : *Women's Information Service, Inc. (WISE) provides advocacy, safety options and support services to survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and sex trafficking. WISE empowers individuals and families through respect and equality, and works toward strengthening our communities through awareness, prevention and education. WISE is a non-profit organization. All of our services for victims are free and confidential.*

Vision *Empowering people to create violence free communities*

SUPPORT SERVICES AVAILABLE TO OUR CLIENTS...

- A safe place to stay at our 24-hour emergency shelter for women and children who are fleeing domestic violence or sexual abuse.
- Staff who are willing to listen and make referrals to intersecting agencies as requested.
- Guidance and support through legal and medical processes.
- Referrals to services that can assist with emergency assistance, employment options, food, and clothing.
- Assist with housing.

All of our services for victims are free and confidential.

Executive Director, Jane Currie Program Director, Brittany Dudley Finance Director, Jessica Wilson

Board Members: *Chair: Carol Schroeder-Semeyn, Vice-Chair: Nancy Baldwin, Treasurer: Linda Kuk, Secretary: Mary Loesch, Angela Thomas, Dawn Holowecki, Wendy Nystrom, April Decator, Carla Erlewine, Connie Hopkins*

WISE IS A 501(C)(3) REGISTERED NON-PROFIT AGENCY & YOUR DONATION MAY BE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

***Wishing all of you a Happy Holiday Season
From All of us at WISE***

