

# WINTER NEWSLETTER



P.O. Box 1249  
Big Rapids, MI 49307  
231-796- 6600  
www.wiseagainstviolence.org

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***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.*

# Thank you

Support from our community donors, business', volunteers, organizations allows us to continue our work in serving those in need of help. We wouldn't be able to provide the services we do without your help. Here are some of the recent highlights from the last few months...

**ADOPT A FAMILY.....** Over the holiday season with your generosity, 19 moms and children were granted presents to make their Holidays a little brighter! We also received a supply of restaurant gift cards for our clients to use. Thank you to all who participated in this event.

**FSU HOCKEY TEAM....** Over a two-game series FSU Hockey raised awareness of WISE by collecting canned goods and donations. Thanks to your generosity, over \$600 in donations along with hundreds of canned goods were raised for the WISE shelter.

**2021 GIVING DAY.....** Thank you for your generous support to Giving Day. In November, we held our virtual event along with participating in the Community Day sponsored by the Big Rapids Lions and Big Rapids Rotary. Our thanks to these organizations for organizing this event in support of local nonprofit agencies. This allows a chance to net work together and bring awareness of the important work and resources available in our communities.

During our mailing campaign and along with the Big Rapids local event \$47, 930 was raised by our donors! Funds that are raised during our events are used for financial assistance to clients, safety & security improvements at the shelter and operational costs at the shelter to cover utility needs. A percentage of the funds raised during our events will be designated for ongoing needs at our facility. Funds will be designated for facility upgrades or replacement, security needs and appliance replacement funds.

**MEIJER FOUNDATION.....** This year WISE was fortunate to be a recipient of the Meijer Foundation Award. The Meijer Foundation began as a means to facilitate the development of the Frederik Meijer Gardens project and has grown to support all of the charitable efforts of Frederik and Lena Meijer and the Meijer family. The Big Rapids store was selected this year to make this award and after nominations our agency was selected. We are grateful to the Meijer Foundation and the Big Rapids Meijer store for their acknowledgment of the need in our communities and recognition to our agency.

**WISE & Ferris State University** continue to join efforts and work on programming to reduce Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault and Stalking on campus. As of summer 2021, WISE has a regular presence on campus and offers assistance and support to students. This is result of a partnership grant received by Ferris State University. This partnership grant was awarded from the US Department of Justice for the FY2020 Office on Violence against Women (OVW) Grant Program. This grant and work with WISE will support programs to educate campus and law enforcement on violence and assault. WISE will continue to provide 24 -hour confidential victim services and advocacy to our local communities along with the campus community.

**MARSHALL'S of BIG RAPIDS**, this past fall, TJ Max/ Marshall's selected WISE as recipient of their Grand Opening Charity of Choice. We are grateful to the Marshall's Store of Big Rapids for their recognition and acknowledgment of the service provided to victims of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.

***Your continued support allows us to serve victims of Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault, to help them live a violence free life. Your support is what makes our work possible to continue and we are grateful for each and every donor and supporter.***

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

**Board Members:** Chair, Nancy Baldwin    Vice-Chair, Angela Thomas,    Treasurer, Linda Kuk,    Secretary, Mary Loesch,  
Wendy Nystrom,    Carla Erlewine,    Connie Hopkins,    Lisa Woods.    William Sell

**5K Virtual Fun Walk/ Run** This past June, WISE offered our 2<sup>nd</sup> 5K Fun Run/ Walk. The event this time was held virtually, and we had a successful fun walk / run and raised **\$2,825!** Our participants joined us from not only our local areas but throughout Michigan along with participants from: Iowa, Indiana, and Wisconsin!

In addition to our racers and walkers we would like to thank our sponsors: **Meijers of Big Rapids, Sam's Club of Mt. Pleasant, author Wendy Nystrom from Wendys Bookcase, Spring Valley Golf Course of Evart, Susan H. Grant, and Isabella Bank of Big Rapids.** Our work couldn't happen without continued support of the sponsors and participants. Join us in June 2022 for the next run!

**How Did We Get Here? ...** Over 38 years ago, a group of concerned community members began meeting to discuss the issues surrounding domestic violence and the lack of support services in our area. Out of these meetings, Women's Information Services, INC. (WISE) was created.

Planning began in 1984, and in 1987 our agency was able to develop and provide a safe shelter facility to offer security to victims fleeing their abusive partners. This opportunity became reality due to a generous donor who included WISE in their will.

Here we are 38 years later and the need of support to victims of sexual assault and domestic violence in our communities is still prevalent. One of the prominent goals of the agency during our foundation was to establish a safe and secure shelter. Over the years our support to victims offers much more than a safe shelter. WISE has continuously provided secure shelter, but also expanded our services to meet multiple needs. Our mission is to help clients as they work on empowering their lives and move to a life violence free.

### 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.

Serving the communities of Mecosta, Newaygo, and Osceola with assistances from: Federal, State and Local Grants, generous donations of donors, supporters, and fundraising efforts. Covering three counties with one agency has its challenges but with your support and support of law enforcement, medical and legal personal our work continues.

If you or someone you know needs of services, **call WISE today at (231) 796-6600**, press "0" to speak to an advocate. The crisis line is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and advocates are here to listen and help.

***All of our services for victims are free and confidential.***

**UPCOMING EVENTS— WATCH FOR DETAILS & UPDATES ON OUR WEBPAGE.....**

**2022 5K Fun Walk / Run... Save the date! Saturday, June 5 th**

**2022 Annual Golf Outing... Save the date! Wednesday July 13 th**

For the annual WISE golf outing. Golfers will again enjoy the 18 holes at **Spring Valley Golf Course in Evart**, on U.S. 10 just east of Reed City while they also enjoy the company of others who are golfing. **Save the date!** Don't miss this golf event for a meaningful cause.

**Thank you to our Community Sponsors**



FREMONT AREA  
COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION

