Summer Newsletter

WISE Women's Information Service, Inc.

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

Volume 2, Issue 2

July 2018

Highlights:

Staff Highlight

Client Comments

Upcoming Events

Administration Staff:

Jane Currie
Executive Director

Brittany Dudley
Program Director

Jessica Wilson
Finance Director

Outreach Advocates

Senaida Hudson, Newaygo

Teresa Mora, Osceola

Haeli Johnson, Mecosta

Board Members:

Jenice Winowiecki, Chair
Karen Weber, Vice-Chair
Linda Lamontagne, Treasurer
Mary Loesch, Secretary
Mark Schuelke
Pete Hector
Jim Eddinger
Ashely King
Linda Kuk,
Angela Thomas
Melanie Moffitt
Carol Schroeder -Semeyn

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



The WISE Golf Outing will be held at Spring Valley Golf Course in Reed City, Wednesday July 18, 2018

Registration begins at 8:30 am - Golfing will begin at 9:30 am

The golf outing is an annual fundraiser benefitting WISE.

It's not to late! TO REGISTER please call 231-796-6600, ext 144 or email (jwilson@wiseagainstviolence.org)

THANK YOU sponsors, we couldn't do this without your continued support :

A& W Root Beer, ACE Hardware (Canadian Lakes), Antler's Fireside Grill, Arbonne– Stephanie McNeal, Babb Ford, Becki Lentz: Physical Therapy & Fitness Center, Nancy Baldwin, Beth & John Martz, Betten Baker Chevy Buick GMC, Big Lots, Biggby Coffee, Blue Cow, Blue Lake Tavern, Hon. Kimberly Booher, Buffalo Wild Wings, Bruce Fredrick, Dee Van Horn, Lenny Fredrick, Century 21-White House Realty, Chase Creek Smokehouse, Clear Lake Golf Club, Conley's Bakery, Des Noyers Agency LLC, Doxco Service Company– Chris Doxsee, Sharon & Doug Doxsee, Dr. Steven Durst, Merrilee & Scott Hill – Kennedy, Hon. Peter Jaklevic, Edward Jones—Steve Miller, Falcon Head Golf Club, Family Chiropractic Health Ctr—Tracy Williamson DC, PC, Law Office of Stacy Flanery, FSU Alumni Association, Fates Foods, Fifth Third Bank, Gingrich Tire, Great Lakes Caring, Grunst Brothers Sport Center & Party Store, Hansul Marine, Inc., Dr. Kristi Haik, Hinkle Witbeck Agency, Inc., Hixson's Family Market (Canadian Lakes), Holton's LP Gas, Huntington National Bank, Ice Mountain, Isabella Bank—Canadian Lakes, Jane Currie, JoJo's Pizza & Grinders, Jordan Balkema Elder Law Center, Katke Golf Course, KJ's Family Restaurant, Ken & Linda Kuk, Lakes Rentals-Riverside Rentals, LeBaron Financial Group, Lake & Lodge Realty LLC, Lake Osceola State Bank, Lakeside Motor Sports/ Nelsons Speed Shop, Lerner, Csernai & Fath Financial Group, Mancino's Lakeside Pizza of Canadian Lakes, McDonald Dodge/ Jeep/ Chrysler, Meijers, Pere Marquette Bistro & Catering, Pilgrims Run Golf Club, Pizza Hut (Big Rapids), Planet Fitness, Pohl Cat Golf Course, Preference Dental/ Hosking & Killian Dentistry, Raven Brewing & BBQ, Roger's Jewelry, Royal Golf Course—Canadian Lakes, Sackett Potatoes, Schuberg Agency, Inc., Scott's Body Shop, Service Master, Shell Gas Station– Canadian Lakes, Spectrum Health Big Rapids/ Reed City Hospitals, Spectrum Health– Foundation, Spring Valley Golf Course, Sue Bean– Big Rapids Realty, Susan & Donald Grant, Susan Haut, Szot's Bar & Grill, Hon. Tyler Thompson, Tai Chi of Big Rapids– Mary Loesch, The Meadows at Grand Valley State University, The Pioneer Group, Three Girls Bakery & Catering, Tullymore Golf Resort, Total Performance Nutrition & Fitness, Walmart—Vision Center, Walmart—Cadillac, Walmart– Greenville, Walmart– Big Rapids, Wild Rose Café.

Clients Comments.....

Below are or comments that our clients have shared with us and have given us permission to pass on and how WISE has served them in this very personal struggle. Your support helps our organization make a difference for our clients...

"The staff I worked with are all amazing ladies and go above and beyond for their clients."

"This helped me to identify patterns in relationship to help me know the red flags and address them in a manner of safety."

"I didn't realize how serious my abuse was, I almost didn't call. Now I know I am lucky to be alive."

"This has been very supportive, I know they will be there if I need help."

"You can get a lot of stuff out of the classes, I did."

"I love you guys, 2 jobs 1 week!"

Volunteer Opportunities.....

Crisis Hotline Volunteer—With our 24 hours crisis hotline we are always in the need of dedicated volunteers to help with this important need. Training is available for this service.

Other Opportunities: Helping at Fabulous Finds with sorting, Shelter activities with organizing children's activities, assisting with yard and shelter maintenance.

All volunteers must complete a 60 minute orientation and background check. For a Volunteer

SENIOR ENRICHMENT DAY....

On June 20, 2018 at the 30th Annual Enrichment Day, presentations were may by our **Executive Director, Jane Currie.** Jane presented to the participants the signs and symptoms of verbal, exploitive and physical abuse. Her presentation covered nursing care facilities, domestic and sexual assault. What to do and who to call, protecting vulnerable older adults.

Also, **board member, Mary Loesch,** held a session on Tai Chi for Arthritis, to teach students gentle exercises to help alleviate the pain of arthritis and other ailments.

MISSION—*WISE*

provides crisis intervention and support services to survivors of domestic and sexual violence by empowering individuals, children and families along with our community partners to reclaim their sense of self. WISE is a non-profit organization. All of our services for victims are free and confidential.

Thank you to our Community Sponsors

United Way

Fremont Area Community Foundation

Mecosta County Community Foundation
An affiliate of Fremont Area Community Foundation

Osceola County Community Foundation
An affiliate of Fremont Area Community Foundation

Meet **Teresa Mora**, WISE Outreach Director for Osceola County ……

This profile is the first of many designed so you may learn about our staff and what they do every day to make life a bit saner and safer for WISE clients and our community.

We all saw her, the young woman coming down the wide concrete steps with an infant in a stroller. She was struggling a bit but assured the three of us at the bottom with a quick smile and a breezy "I've got this!" greeting that she could make the way down on her own without any upset. We all saw her and were preparing to help, but Teresa was the first to sprint up the steps and grab hold of the front of that stroller with its' precious cargo, bringing it safely to the base of the steps. Being first to respond is what Teresa Mora does; it is who she is.

Having sent the 5 week old infant and her young mother on their way without mishap, Teresa led us on an energetic tour of the Osceola County offices. In addition to the impromptu help she offered that morning, Teresa's Monday morning to-do list included conducting an orientation tour for a newly hired employee whose work would involve supporting victims of sexual assault. Through the maze of corridors and bureaucracies we went. Receiving introductions complete with brief job descriptions of the people the new SA person would be working with, we watched as Teresa distributed small gifts of acknowledgment: glass containers of Life Saver Candy. Everybody likes candy, right, and lifesaving is what is happening here. She also received many congratulations from the people we met. What was this about? Not to worry——I will explain later.

After serving for three years as a WISE legal advocate in Mecosta County, Teresa took on the challenge of Outreach Coordinator in Osceola County. She has met this challenge with passion and expertise since 2015. Outreach is an umbrella term that covers much of the business of life. It includes finding and securing safe housing, support during court proceedings (which inevitably requires finding appropriate legal assistance), serving as an emotional ally during the upheaval of a contentious divorce, serving as a sounding board with parenting issues, and helping clients with the daunting task of moving out of an abusive relationship while learning a new way to live. An educational series Teresa facilitates, Pattern Changing, is an important part of the process. Using a variety of texts, clients are introduced to a tool box of ideas. The sessions just starting are about self-care, and Teresa's synopsis provided a glimpse of how beneficial this will be for participants.

Born and educated in Illinois, Teresa immigrated from Chicago to the wilds of Northern Michigan when her husband took a position north of Reed City. Adjusting to rural life, she observed how isolating it can be. As she points out, when you live in a city the resources are close at hand. Ease of transportation alone makes it convenient to access assistance. Living in the woods, without nearby neighbors or reliable transportation, presents special difficulties for women who need to escape a dangerous situation.

Oh….about all those warm congratulations? In April, Teresa was awarded the **Liberty Bell** award and was honored during the Law Day ceremony with local county commissioners, active and retired judges and community officials. Those in the legal community who know her so well and areas which she navigates with such seeming ease. (Pictured are: Teresa & Reed City Lawyer, Erin Barnhart).



This award recognizes the person who has been most effective in connecting with and helping people as they work their way through the system that can be both intimidating and life-saving. It is rare that a person not immediately attached to the legal profession receives this honor, but Teresa's dedication and skill is obvious to all. Combining extraordinary organizational skills with humor, compassion, and the courage of a first responder. Teresa's work has a profound and positive impact on the lives of WISE clients and their children.

Congratulations Theresa! …….(*submitted by Board Member: Nancy Baldwin*)

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20th Annual Celebrity Harness Race—Mecosta County Agricultural Free Fair.....

This year one of the brave competitors, **Jessica Wallace** has chosen WISE to be her charity represented during this fun fair event.. Please join the other brave celebrity riders for this fun event! Thank you Jessica!

Tuesday, July 10th—race begins 6:30pm

Mecosta County Fairgrounds

SUPPORT SERVICES AVIALABLE 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 referrals for therapists if necessary.
- Guidance and support through legal and medical processes.
- Referrals to services that can assist with emergency assistance, employment options, food, and clothing.

Fabulous Finds Resale Shop—

Your dollars and your donations go a little farther at Fabulous Finds. Donations of clothing and small home goods always accepted. Proceeds & donations from the store help support WISE clients of Mecosta, Osceola & Newaygo counties.

Donations always accepted



Please stop by
103 S. Michigan , Big Rapids