Fall Newsletter

WISE Women's Information Service, Inc.

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

Volume 3, Issue 3

October 2018

Highlights:

Staff Highlight

Upcoming Events

Overview of Support Help

Administration Staff:

Jane Currie
Executive Director

Brittany Dudley
Program Director

Jessica Wilson
Finance Director

Outreach Staff

Teresa Mora, Osceola

Haeli Johnson, Mecosta

Katie Cox, Newaygo
Outreach &
Legal Coordinator

Kathleen Cook, Mecosta/Osceola
Legal Advocate

Shelter Staff

Nycole Shepherd,

Client Advocate

Alissa Langan,

Child Advocate

Sexual Assault Coordinator,
Danae Langan,

Volunteer Coordinator,

Bianca Butler

Board Members:

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

October is Domestic Awareness Month....



Domestic violence is an increasingly visible social and legal problem that includes physical abuse, verbal abuse and stalking. Domestic violence does not discriminate. Anyone of any race, age, sexual orientation, religion or gender can be a victim- or perpetrator- of domestic violence.

By definition, domestic violence is a habitual, patterned behavior used by one member of a household or relationship to gain power and control over their partner or other members of the household.

Domestic violence can occur between family members — for example, between a father and son, or between siblings. Domestic violence between dating or married people is also referred to as intimate partner violence, and this is the type of abuse WISE addresses.

Services WISE provides in our three counties .....

24 Hour Emergency Shelter open to women and children.
24/7 Hotline available for survivors to speak to an advocate.
Advocacy Services: Outreach Advocates to assist with individual support needs; Legal Advocates to accompany clients; Sexual Assault Advocates available for support and medical advocacy.
Classes are offered on pattern changing, parenting and general group support.

2016/17 CLIENT NEEDS & CALLS RECEIVED

SHELTER SERVICES .....
ADULTS: 58 **CHILDREN**: 66
SHELTER NIGHTS PROVIDED .....
ADULTS: 1519 **CHILDREN:** 1265
OUTREACH SERVICES .....
DOMESTIC OUTREACH CLIENT TOTALS - 201
SEXUAL ASSAULT OUTREACH CLIENT TOTALS— 22
HOTLINE CALLS .....
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE 350
SEXUAL ASSAULT 48
LEGAL ADVOCACY 113
OTHER 173
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE/ SEXUAL ASSAULT RESPONSE TEAM CALLS.....

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.*

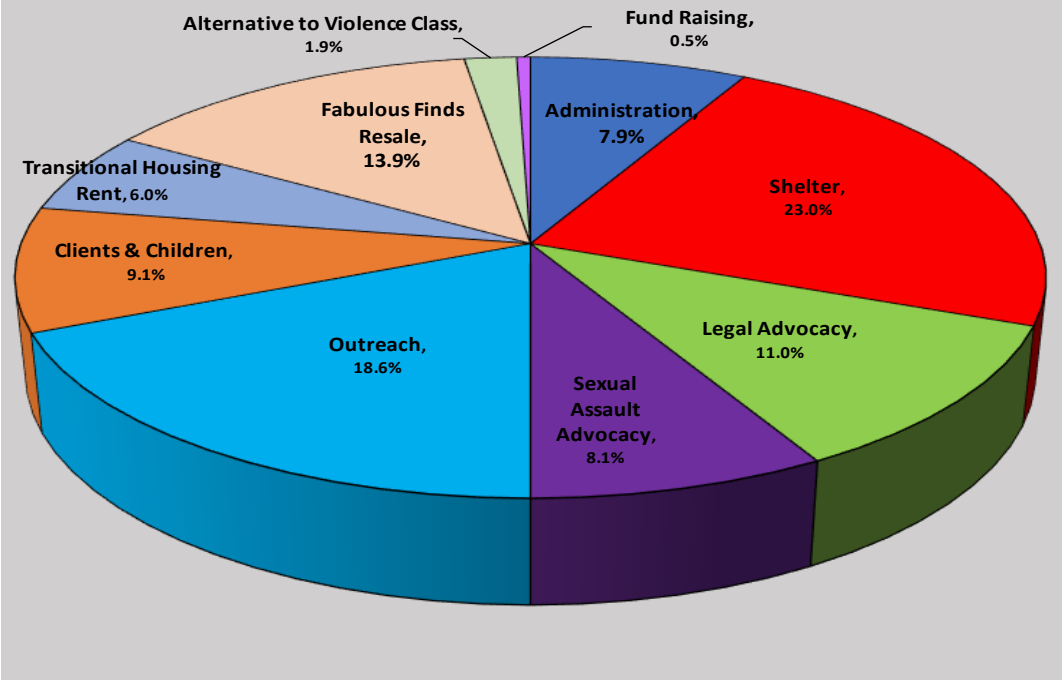
How Does Your Financial Support Help?.....

Below are the expense areas our operation covered over the 2016/17 year. All of these functions are a necessity to keep our services provided to all the clients in our areas. These services are provided from the time we receive a call to working with the clients in the trauma, legal advocacy or transition to different housing. We offer programing to help empower clients and help them move forward to escape from the harm they are facing.

Our highest needs are in the shelter, outreach programs and legal advocacy. The services noted below are able to be provided due to the combination of Federal, State and Local grants; private donor contributions, fundraising, and Fabulous Finds Resale Store .

These services are provided to the clients we serve in **Newaygo, Osceola, and Mecosta** counties. It is with continued support of our donors, local agencies and local law enforcements that we can help serve our clients. We wanted to give you an overview of the areas your support helps our agency serve it's clients from the initial call to the continued support services needed.

2016/ 2017 OPERATION EXPENSES



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. Volunteer Application forms are available at our website or email us.

2018 ANNUAL GOLF OUTING.....

The Golf Outing Fundraiser for WISE was held on July 18, 2018 at Spring Valley Golf Course in Reed City. The WISE Golf Outing is an annual fundraiser benefiting Women's Information Service, Inc. (WISE). Benefits from this event help provide advocacy and support services for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. This year we raised over $13,180 for support to WISE programs. Thank you to our sponsors, golfers, committee members and many volunteers, all who helped make this day a success!

Meet our Finance Director…..

Each newsletter we like to highlight one of our staff members. Today we want to introduce, Jessica Wilson, Finance Director. Jessica joined WISE in September 2015 as a part time Finance Administrator. She received Bachelor of Science degrees in Applied Mathematics and Accounting from Ferris State University. In December 2016, after earning her accounting degree Jessica was promoted to our Finance Director. In this position she is responsible for all the accounting, payroll, audit preparation, budget preparation, budget management and federal grant reporting. She also oversees the funds related to our federal, state, local grants and our donor support.

Jessica's role may not require her to work directly with the clients, but she monitors our daily operations to insure funding is there to meet the needs for advocacy support, shelter and client needs.

The Finance Director works closely with the Program Director and Executive Director on the reporting for our grants. She tracks the number of services provided, and the types of services provided as well as shelter statistics required for our grant applications and reporting. WISE is dependent on grants and also donations to continue operations; 40% of total funds are required from donations and local grants to qualify for federal funds. There is always an ongoing need to research opportunities to help serve our clients, which is another responsibility.

Jessica works along with the Shelter Manager in meeting our client's needs and with the advocates to assist in the advocacy support. WISE also utilizes interns from the Social Work, Criminal Justice and Health Care System Administration programs at Ferris State University. These interns assist with work in the shelter, advocacy, and office areas.

Jessica has been employed with WISE for three years. She lives in Paris, with her husband Josh, their son Parker and a new child on the way. She may be behind the scenes but is a valuable member of our very dedicated team in helping the lives of those affected by domestic violence.

WISE depends on many volunteers and the office area is no exception. If you have computer skills, office desire

Thank You ! …… We depend daily on help from our very valued volunteers. Recently we had some work done on our shelter ramps by **Eagle Scout Troop #114: Casey, Jeff, Dan, Matthew, Joe, Joel, Joseph, Nico, & Christine.** We now have a solid and more secure ramp for our front and back entrances to the shelter!





Thank you also to **Jessica Wallace,** for being a brave competitor this July at this year's Annual Celebrity Harness Race at the Mecosta County Agricultural Free Fair, and choosing WISE as your charity! We appreciate you taking on this challenge to help support the mission of WISE, and bringing awareness to our work.

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

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

Women's Information Service, Inc.
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Join Us for Upcoming Events ....

November 1st - COMMUNITY GIVING DAY, 11AM—6PM Holiday Inn Big Rapids.

November 3rd— GLAMOUR & GIVING, Tullymore, Golf Course, Stanwood, 12– 2pm (tickets required)

December 5th - HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE, Wednesday, @ WISE Shelter 4:00 pm—7:00 pm, Big Rapids

Fabulous Finds Resale Shop—

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

Rachel Wilkinson, storemanager@wiseagainstviolence.org .

Donations are accepted during regular business hours at

103 S. Michigan, 231-796-5840

Tue.11am—4pm / Wed. 11 am—7 pm

Thur. 11am—6pm / Friday 11 am - 6 pm

Saturday - 11am—5pm / Sun. & Mon. (closed)

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