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Anne, Cindy, and Marian Gregory



Virtual Success Power of the Purse 2020

To some, a purse may simply be a bag carried around to hold cash, miscellaneous lip gloss or even an emergency snack. We at the Bay Area Women's Center, however, view a purse as something much more than that. To us, a purse holds the power we need to influence change within our community.

Power of the Purse is one of BAWC's largest fundraising events of the year which usually supplies the agency with \$40,000 to support programs for survivors. Due to COVID-19, we had to adapt Power of the Purse into a virtual event that was safe for our participants, staff and volunteers all while continuing to raise sufficient funds to support our programs. In total, our supporters banded together to raise a total of just over \$31,000 via our online silent auction, virtual live auction and donations.

The money brought in from Power of the Purse helps us to provide counseling services to over 770 men, women, and children who have experienced domestic and sexual violence each year. On top of that, the funds are also used to feed, shelter and provide services to 300 survivors or more annually. Also, our trained forensic nurses examine over 50 adults and children who survive sexual violence every year.

Needless to say, Power of the Purse harnesses the influence of the community coming together to ensure that survivors have access to the services they need. If you were not able to participate in this year's Power of the Purse fundraising event and would still like to donate, you can do so by visiting www.bawc-mi.org or texting POWERBAWC to 44-321.



The Journey
FALL 2020 EDITION



Proud to be a United Way
Impact Partner



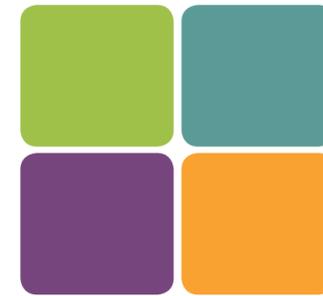
Not sure how to discuss domestic violence or other touchy subjects? We have you covered.

Check out the Touchy Subjects Podcast at <http://TouchySubjectsPodcast.buzzsprout.com/> or search "Touchy Subjects Podcast" on your favorite podcast listening app.

Keep up to date with Touchy Subjects Podcast on social media by searching @TouchySubsPod on both Facebook and Twitter.

For any questions, comments, or requests for resources please email TouchySubjectsPodcast@gmail.com to reach our team.

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Upcoming Events

October 2020
Domestic Violence
Awareness Month

October 22, 2020:
Wear Purple Thursday

March 2021:
Wildly Gourmet Dinner

Keep In Touch

WEB:
www.bawc-mi.org

PHONE:
989.686.4551

CRISIS HOTLINE:
800.834.2098



Where families move forward

Fall 2020

The Journey

The Newsletter of the Bay Area Women's Center

Adaptability: A Necessary Trait Amidst COVID-19

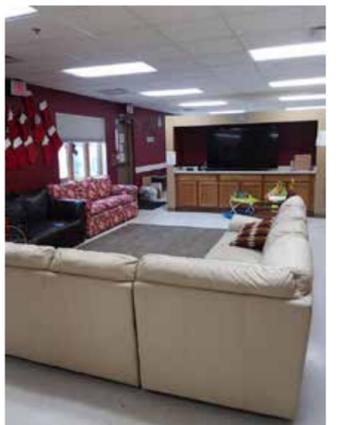
As an essential service, the Bay Area Women's Center certainly has felt the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Since early March, we transitioned most of our staff to working remotely and continue to do so for the safety of our staff and clients. Changes within our shelter have been instituted to follow safety guidelines and encourage safe distancing practices.

This pandemic has surely changed the ways in which many of us work; however, our commitment to providing high quality services to those in need has not changed. We exist to provide safety to survivors of violence and nothing will change that mission.

Regardless of what is going on in the world, we recognize we have an important role to play in the lives of survivors. Violence does not stop for anything including a pandemic. Many survivors have found themselves trapped inside with their abusers who are likely to be spending more time at home than ever before. Abusers thrive on power and control. Because of the pandemic, abusers feel the urge to make up for the control they've lost in their lives by taking it out on survivors. Now, we are seeing a rise in domestic and sexual violence.

With all of this being said, we will not stop providing free and confidential services to those in need. We encourage you all to join us in creating a future that is free from violence.

If you or someone you now is a victim of domestic or sexual violence, please call BAWC at 989-686-4551 for free and confidential help.



"It's important to ensure that clients understand that, while there might not be as strong of a physical presence in the shelter, I am just a phone call away to help, support, and guide them while walking through this journey."

Sophia Bauer, LLMSW,
Residential Program
Manager



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Newsletter design donated by Lisa Bourdon-Krause, Design Science

In Times of Uncertainty Executive Director's Corner

Our characters have all been tested with the challenges and obstacles 2020 has presented. Adaptability has not only become just a desirable skill, but a moral and practical imperative.



As the coronavirus pandemic began, we quickly made modifications to our operational model to protect our staff and the vulnerable population of people we serve. No matter what difficult decision we tackle, our priority remains unfettered to ensure the safety of the survivors we serve. No challenge we face will compromise our commitment to providing the most comprehensive and high quality programs and services to the survivors of domestic and sexual violence in our community and around the region.

During times like these, we are grateful for every single person who supports BAWC. Whether you are a regular financial supporter, share our services with someone in need, discuss our programs with a friend or follow us on social media, it all matters. We know that success cannot happen without you.

Please, keep donating, volunteering, talking and advocating. Survivors need you and we need you now more than ever.

Truly,

Jeremy J. Rick, Executive Director



Current Shelter Needs

COVID-19 Needs:

- Disinfectant wipes
- Paper towels
- Disinfectant sprays
- Masks

Misc Shelter Needs:

- Cough/cold medicine
- Benadryl (tabs and liquid)
- Fever reducers
- Size 3 diapers

Donations of new items to meet these immediate needs can be dropped off at our office at 3411 E Midland Rd, Bay City. Please call 989-686-4551 when you arrive.

We are beyond appreciative of the community for continuing to donate items to the Women's Center to ensure survivors are equipped with the items they need to be successful on their journeys to recovery. If you are interested in helping in other ways, please visit our website to make a monetary donation, view our other high needs items or check out our Amazon wishlist.

COMMUNITY AWARENESS



October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

In the United States, it is estimated that 10 million people are victims of domestic abuse annually - which breaks down to 20 people per minute experiencing intimate partner physical violence. Recognizing the need for awareness on this topic, the first Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM) was observed in 1987. Since its beginning, DVAM has upheld three main themes. First, mourning those we've lost due to domestic violence. Second, celebrating those who have survived domestic violence. And third, connecting survivors with advocates and others who work towards ending domestic violence.



Now, what exactly is domestic violence? Domestic violence is a violent and pervasive crime that impacts millions of people regardless of age, race, religion, economic status, sexual orientation, or any other social determinant. Abusers thrive on asserting power and control over their victims to make themselves feel as though they are in charge. Domestic violence is often thought of as a crime that consists of physical abuse. While this is true, domestic violence is not only physical. This crime can take the form of emotional abuse, monetary control, isolation from friends and family, threats and so much more.

It is important to know that nobody is "asking for it," and it is not so simple as to tell a survivor that they should "just leave." In fact, the most dangerous time in an abusive relationship is when attempting to leave the abusive partner. Research shows that 75% of domestic violence homicides occur when trying to leave the abusive relationship.

This is unacceptable.

We believe a future that is free from violence is attainable; however, we need all hands on deck. Domestic Violence Awareness Month is critical in bringing attention to the problem that is domestic violence. Here are some facts to consider:

- According to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, domestic violence is the third leading cause of homelessness among families.
- More than 60% of domestic violence incidents happen at home and is most likely to take place between the hours of 6 P.M. and 6 A.M.
- Children are also impacted by domestic violence. Annually, more than 3 million children will witness violence in their homes. Children who are exposed to domestic violence are also more likely to suffer from adverse health impacts.
- **Most incidents of domestic violence are never reported.**

Genuinely, we hope that you do not take these facts lightly. We ask that you please join us in supporting survivors in whatever ways you can. Whether it be scheduling a presentation with us, referring those in need to our services, making a monetary donation or donating any of our needed items. This Domestic Violence Awareness Month, please make a commitment to survivors and help us to create a future that is free from domestic violence and sexual assault.



DID YOU KNOW?



Domestic Violence: Why don't they leave?

Barriers to Leaving:

- **Fear:**
A person may be fearful of what could happen if they try to leave the relationship.
- **Normalization of Abuse:**
Some survivors may not realize that their relationship is unhealthy as many people don't know what a healthy relationship should look like. Or, they may have grown up in a situation that causes them to mask abuse as a normal behavior or something to deal with and move on.
- **Shame or Embarrassment:**
It can be difficult for someone to admit they have been abused. They may fear judgement from family and friends for being with an abusive partner.
- **Love:**
Relationships don't start out abusive. In fact, abusive people can be charming - especially in the beginning of a relationship. This can cause the survivor to stay in the relationship because they have seen the partner treat them right and they sit and hope that if they stay in the relationship long enough their partner might revert back to their old ways.
- **Money or Resources:**
Financial abuse is extremely common in abusive relationships. A survivor may be financially dependent on their abuser. Without access to money, it can seem impossible to leave that relationship. This feeling of helplessness may cause someone to stay in an unhealthy relationship.



| The most dangerous time for a survivor is when they try and leave their abusive relationship. |