



Each year we invite Santa to a party with our shelter residents. Santa reads stories, sings carols, and gives gifts to the children during his visit.

## Holiday Adopt-a-Family

MAKE SPIRITS BRIGHT WITH US THIS HOLIDAY SEASON. The clients we serve deserve a happy holiday season, and we help provide that through various avenues - but only with your support! You can choose to participate on your own or gather your family, a group of friends, or coworkers and help fill holiday needs this giving season.

Adopt a family - All clients of BAWC can request holiday assistance to ensure a happy season for their family. You will be matched with a family and receive their general information as well as a list of specific needs and wants. This is a great opportunity for your family, business, book club, or friend group to spread cheer this holiday season.

Support the Shelter - Help stock our shelter! You will receive a list of items currently needed in our shelter. Go shopping on your own or host a donation drive to collect items on the list.

Host a Giving Tree - Work together with your friends, family, church, or colleagues to host a giving tree. You will be given gift tags that display one holiday need or request for a BAWC client of any age and gender. Place tags on a tree and encourage your group to participate.



Virtual Giving Tree - Our virtual giving tree makes it easy to participate in holiday gift giving. Select the gift you would like to purchase, shop at your favorite store, and either drop it off or ship it directly to our office. Scan the QR code to the left to visit the giving tree.

If you would like to participate in any of our holiday giving programs, please contact Amanda Courier at 989-686-4551 or [acourier@bawc-mi.org](mailto:acourier@bawc-mi.org).

## Your Year-End Contribution

YOUR YEAR-END GIFT CAN MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE in the lives of survivors. You can give via cash, check, or credit, but did you know there are other ways to give?

You can opt to give via:

1. Stocks, Bonds or Mutual Funds
2. Qualified Charitable Distribution from an IRA
3. Monthly donations that you can establish online
4. Employee Matching Gifts - Check with your employer to learn more



To donate, visit:  
[www.bawc-mi.org/donate](http://www.bawc-mi.org/donate)



Bay Area Women's Center  
P.O. Box 1458  
Bay City, MI 48706  
Address Service Requested

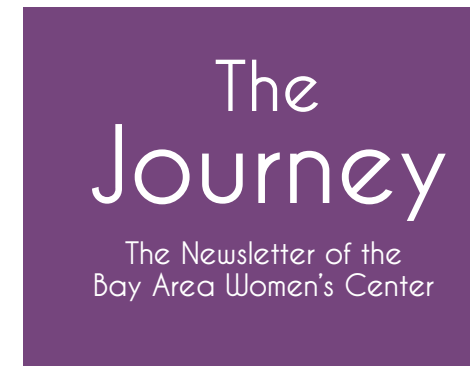
## The Journey

FALL 2024 EDITION

Proud to be a United Way  
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Generous community members and businesses "adopt" our clients to fulfill their holiday wishes and needs. Details inside.



## Art Can Heal - Survivor Art Exhibit

ART HAS LONG BEEN A TOOL FOR HEALING and communication. For survivors of sexual assault, creating art may be an empowering and therapeutic process. Through art, survivors can find their voice and share their story that words alone could not express.

Art can also serve as an opportunity to generate community awareness. For those who have never experienced trauma, it can be hard to understand what a survivor of sexual assault has endured and must work to overcome. No one can share the experience of a sexual assault survivor quite like the survivor themselves.

BAWC is partnering with local survivor service agencies Underground Railroad, Shelterhouse, and Sexual Assault Center of Child and Family Services of Saginaw as well as local art and therapy agencies Studio23 and McDowell Healing Arts Center to create a survivor art exhibition. This project is supported by a grant from Women in Leadership of the Great Lakes Bay Region. The exhibit will be installed at Studio23 from March 21st to May 17th in recognition of April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

Survivors can request supplies from any of the partnering agencies. There will be opportunities to gather to create art together throughout the region. Please stay tuned to BAWC's social media to learn about upcoming dates and locations. Survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, and human trafficking are invited to include their artwork in the exhibit. Artists can remain anonymous and will have the opportunity to share a paragraph or two about their work. If you or someone you know might be interested in participating, please contact Shawn Schutt at [sschutt@urrinc.org](mailto:sschutt@urrinc.org).

These works of art in an exhibit will collectively showcase the resilience of survivors. It serves as a call to action, urging our communities to address the realities of sexual assault. The first step is believing and supporting survivors. We cannot wait to share this exhibit with you.



Join us...  
in making a difference!



Scan to donate

Learn more about how to  
donate at: [bawc-mi.org/donate](http://bawc-mi.org/donate)

Did we use the wrong name or address? Please contact us with updates.

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

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Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to Bay Area Women's Center

Cut out form and mail to: Bay Area Women's Center  
P.O. Box 1458  
Bay City, MI 48706

Your Kindness Changes Lives!

FA24



## From the Executive Director

AT BAWC, WE NEVER FORGET TO COUNT OUR blessings. We have the honor of providing life-saving services to survivors of domestic and sexual violence, and we are fortunate to do that in the Great Lakes Bay Region. The faith this community has placed in us by investing in programs and services is nothing short of humbling and awe-inspiring.

BAWC is funded 60% through government funding. We have to fight for every dollar we receive through competitive applications and must follow stringent quality assurance and grant requirements; however, that also means each year we must raise the remaining 40% or \$520,000 through community support. It does not happen often, but sometimes we receive a surprise gift that creates impact beyond measure.



Two years ago, we were notified that BAWC was named as a recipient of funds in the estate of William G VanWert. Recently, we had the honor of meeting two of his sisters to receive the estate check and thank them for their brother's generosity. We never had the opportunity to know William, and we mourn the loss his family is facing. Through his gift, William has created a legacy, supporting survivors for years to come. We cannot accurately capture our sentiments through words, but we hope that our continued work to eliminate domestic and sexual violence will honor William.

Our most gracious thanks,

*Jeremy J. Rick*

Jeremy J. Rick, Executive Director



## Survivor Art Exhibition Call for Submissions!

In recognition of April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month, your regional survivor service agencies have partnered together to bring you a community art exhibit. Through this exhibit, survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking can share their stories and raise their voices through art.

If you or someone you know wants more info or to have their art included in this exhibit, please contact Shawn Schutt at [sschutt@urinc.org](mailto:sschutt@urinc.org) or contact your local agency.

All art submissions are due by March 11th, 2025. Submissions may be turned into any of the organizing agencies. Artists may choose to remain anonymous.

The exhibit will be on display at Studio 23 from March 21st to May 17th, 2025.

This exhibit was organized by the following agencies:



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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The Thumb Print



White Christmas - Stay Tuned!

JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL HOLIDAY VIEWING OF White Christmas during the 75th anniversary year of the film. All proceeds support the free of charge services available to survivors of domestic and sexual violence at the Bay Area Women's Center. Mark your calendar for December 15 - stay tuned for further details!

Wildly Gourmet  
Dinner & Wine Tasting

Save the Date!

APRIL 8, 2025

ENJOY A FIVE-COURSE GOURMET MEAL PREPARED BY THE area's best chefs paired with a variety of wines from our featured winery. Celebrate the announcement of our Alice & Jack Wirt Embodiment of Hope award winners.

There are plenty of sponsorship opportunities available with great perks at every level! Download the sponsorship form at the below web address or contact Lindsay at [lrichardson@bawc-mi.org](mailto:lrichardson@bawc-mi.org) or 989-686-2251 to learn more.

To learn more and stay up-to-date on all things "wild," visit:  
[www.bawc-mi.org/dinner](http://www.bawc-mi.org/dinner)



## Domestic Violence Awareness Month

IN THE UNITED STATES, ONE IN FOUR WOMEN and one in seven men 18 and older have experienced severe physical violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime. A staggering amount of people have experienced domestic violence, yet our communities continue to avoid conversations about it and perpetuate harmful stereotypes.

October has been recognized as Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM) in the US since 1987. Domestic violence 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. Domestic violence is not only physical can can take the form of emotional abuse, monetary control, isolation from friends and family, threats, and so much more.

The experience of a domestic violence survivor is often more complex than it looks from the outside of that relationship. Nobody is ever "asking for it," and it is not so simple as to tell a survivor to "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.

Join us during Domestic Violence Awareness Month by supporting survivors. You can schedule a presentation with us, refer those impacted by domestic violence to our services, make a monetary donation, or spread awareness. This Domestic Violence Awareness Month, make a commitment to survivors and help us to create a future that is free from domestic violence and sexual assault.



## Request for Donations

FOR SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE UTILIZING our emergency shelter, safety is their number one priority. The last thing a person wants to worry about when facing violence is how they will afford to meet the basic hygiene needs of their family. While engaged in our shelter program, we ensure all the basic needs of our residents are covered so they can eliminate that worry from their lives and truly focus on healing.

Every survivor that enters our shelter receives a welcome bag of full-size hygiene items to meet their immediate needs. We rely on donations from the community to provide these items to our clients. Recently, our store room has become bare. The picture below is of one of our storage shelves that is now nearly empty.

We are asking the community to help us meet the needs of our clients. Whether you have the means to purchase items and donate them personally or you are able to coordinate a supply drive within a group you belong to, every little bit helps.

Our current highest need items include:

- Body wash
- Shampoo and conditioner sets
- Conditioner
- Deodorant
- Toothpaste



WHERE TO DONATE:  
Bay Area Women's Center  
3411 E. Midland Road  
Bay City, MI 48706

WHEN TO DONATE:  
Monday - Friday  
9AM to 5PM  
Questions? Call 989-686-2251