

Mission Statement

The Family Center,
guided by survivor voices,
works through education
and community involvement to eliminate violence and
provide safety for all
people victimized by abuse.



500 25th St. N.

Wisconsin Rapids

715-421-1511 24/7 Crisis Line

715-421-1559 Business Line

Follow The Family Center on Facebook

www.familyctr.org

Read more about the End Domestic Abuse WI Homicide Report

<https://bit.ly/3UYk9qL>

To host a presentation and learn more about

The Family Center,

call 715-421-1559

EVERY1 KNOWS SOME1

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

SHINE A LIGHT ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



Thursday, Oct. 13
Wisconsin Rapids Family Center

The fifth annual
Domestic Violence Awareness Month
Vigil

Welcome

"Everyone Knows Someone"
Sue Sippel, executive director
Wisconsin Rapids Family Center

Community Recognition

Congratulations to the honorees
Remembering Eldean Walling

Guest Speaker

Alesha Meyers
Survivor of domestic violence

Shine A Light on Domestic Violence

When you arrived this evening, you received a tag with a victim's information.

Following the reading of the poem, "Remember My Name," we ask that you proceed outside and stand by a luminary. When your victim's initials are read, please turn off the votive light in the luminary, to recognize the life lost to domestic violence.

Vocal presentation

Count The Stars by Andy Beck performed by
Lincoln High School's Bel Canto choir
directed by Julie Stoffel

Please enjoy light refreshments inside before you go.

How You Can Help

- **Lend a listening ear.** Tell your friend you care and are willing to listen. Don't force the issue, but allow them to confide at their own pace. Never blame them for what's happening or underestimate their fear of potential danger. Focus on supporting them to make their own decisions.
- **Guide them to community services.** Review and share the services of The Family Center. These programs offer safety, advocacy, support legal information and other needed services. If the victim asks for advice on what to do, share the information you've gathered PRIVATELY. Let them know they are not alone and people are available to help. Let them services are cost-free and confidential. While many victims may first seek advice of marriage counselors, psychiatrists or members of the clergy, not all professionals are fully aware of the special circumstances of victims of domestic violence. If the first person a victim contacts is not helpful, encourage them to look elsewhere.
- **Focus on their strengths.** Victims live with emotional as well as physical abuse. Your friend is probably continually told by the abuser that they are a bad person, spouse, or parent. They may believe they can't do anything right and they truly are damaged. Give them emotional support to help them believe they are a good person. Help them see their strengths and skills. Emphasize they deserve a life free from violence.
- **Help them make a safety plan.** Your friend may decide to remain in the violent relationship or return to the abuser after a temporary separation. Let them know you are afraid for them, and help them consider how lethal the violence may be. Help them make a safety plan by thinking about steps to take if the abuser becomes abusive again. Make a list of people to call in an emergency. Suggest hiding a suitcase of clothing, money, social security cards, bank books, birth certificates and school records for future emergencies.
- **Help find a safe place.** Help your friend contact The Family Center. Advocates can help examine options and find a safe place to go. The Family Center can provide/help find safe shelter options. Be careful if you offer safety in your home. A victim frequently faces the most danger when they try to flee and you could face threats and harm from the abuser.



The Family Center
24/7 crisis line
715-421-1511



Previous Award Winners



2016

Community Champion

Jeff Sargent,
North Central Community Action Program
Lincoln High School

Community Treasure

Opportunity Development Center's
Community Connect Program

Law Enforcement Officer of the Year

Eric Marten,
Wood County Sheriff's Department
Melvin Pedersen,
Grand Rapids Police Department

Above & Beyond for Business

Mark Motors
WFHR Radio

Board Member of the Year (present)

RaeAnn Thomas

Member of the Year (past)

Tammi Jepson

2018

Community Champion

Kayla McLean,
Washington Elementary School

Community Treasure

Christ Corps of Assumption High School

Law Enforcement Officer of the Year

Ermin Blevins,
Wisconsin Rapids Police Department

Above & Beyond for Business

Ed Moreno,
ZAXX Technologies

Board Member of the Year (present)

David TerMatt

Board Member of the Year (past)

Eldean Walling

2017

Community Champion

South Wood Emerging Pantry Shelf
Wood County Victim Witness Coordinator

Community Treasure

Coffee with the Clergy

Law Enforcement Officer of the Year

Thomas Reichert,
Wood County Sheriff

Above & Beyond for Business

Pelner-Williams Plumbing & Heating, LLC
Wisconsin Rapids City-Times

Board Member of the Year (present)

Lonnie Reetz

Board Member of the Year (past)

Joseph Bilgrien

2019

Community Champion

Ron Rasmussen,
Lincoln High School Principal
Boys & Girls Club of the Wisconsin Rapids Area

Community Treasure

First Congregational Church-UCC

Law Enforcement Officer of the Year

Quentin Ellis,
Wood County Sheriff's Department

Above & Beyond for Business

Pelner-Williams Plumbing & Heating, LLC


Board Member of the Year (present)

Rev. Cheryl Davis

Board Member of the Year (past)

Brian Ruesch

Congratulations to this year's honorees



Community Treasure

*Heart of Wisconsin Chamber of Commerce
Leadership Classes*

Above & Beyond for Business

*Ho-Chunk Gaming-Nekoosa
Rapids Sheet Metal Works, Inc.*

Board Member of the Year (present)


Nicholas Abts

Law Enforcement Officer of the Year

*Sheriff Shawn Becker and the
Wood County Sheriff's Department*

Community Champion

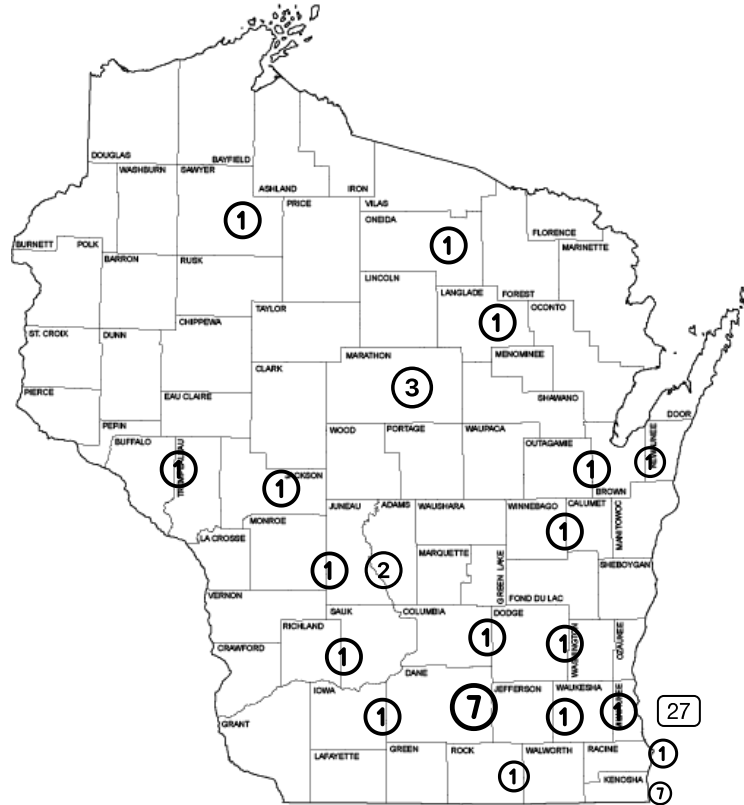
*Kelly Zywicki,
Lincoln High School Associate Principal
David Knaapen,
Wood County Assistant District Attorney*



Remembering those who lost their lives due to domestic violence in 2021

Out of respect for the privacy rights of homicide victims and their surviving family members, we have not used names of the homicide victims.

Jan. 6	JM Jr	49	male	Kenosha
Jan. 6	LMM	36	female	Kenosha
Jan. 9	JB	41	male	Milwaukee
Jan. 14	RDL III	3 months	male	Wausau
Jan. 16	TJJ	26	male	Milwaukee
Jan. 22	TV	65	male	Town of Rochester
Jan. 22	DM	62	female	Town of Rochester
Jan. 24	JM	38	female	Village of Nelson
Jan. 25	CM	39	female	Kenosha
Jan. 31	JF	19	male	Appleton
Feb. 14	KE	41	female	Wisconsin Dells
March 1	KC	24	male	Milwaukee
March 1	AL	41	male	Milwaukee
March 8	CB	26	female	Kenosha
March 13	TD	42	female	Lyndon Township
March 13	DM	33	male	Lyndon Township
March 21	MV	30	female	Wausau
March 31	DM	35	male	Milwaukee
April 2	CE	42	female	Town of Sand Lake
April 15	VT-M	28	male	Milwaukee
April 16	HT	16	male	Waterton
April 23	RCH	52	female	Village of Weston
May 6	JH	37	female	Sun Prairie
May 10	SP	54	female	Avoca
May 18	EJ	22	male	Milwaukee
May 19	Unknown	29	female	Menomonee Falls
May 20	CCP	27	male	Janesville
June 7	CD	72	female	Fort Atkinson
June 13	BM	23	female	Milwaukee
June 21	TH	34	male	Milwaukee
June 21	CW	49	male	Milwaukee
June 30	HM	26	female	Town of Pelican



July 1	BH	60	male	Village of Windsor
July 1	KH	53	female	Village of Windsor
July 4	KF	31	female	Madison
July 4	NS	18	female	Milwaukee
July 22	PM	55	female	Madison
July 25	LM	30	female	Village of Fox Crossing
July 30	LS	23	male	Milwaukee
July 31	BB	33	male	Forest Township
Aug. 26	MH	19	female	Milwaukee
Sept. 5	CC	21	female	Milwaukee
Sept. 7	JS	35	female	Kenosha
Sept. 8	TB	53	male	Town of Brockway
Oct. 8	VA	31	female	Racine **
Oct. 9	MM	24	female	Milwaukee
Oct. 9	MH	3	male	Milwaukee
Oct. 17	MD	18	male	Milwaukee
Oct. 19	SP-A	17	male	Kenosha
Oct. 19	MP	18	female	Kenosha **
Oct. 20	DZ	37	male	Village of Brown Deer
Oct. 21	KP	27	female	Ashwaubenon
Oct. 31	SR	63	female	Antigo
Nov. 6	NB	37	male	Milwaukee
Nov. 18	AC	43	male	Milwaukee
Nov. 21	AVV	37	male	Oak Creek
Dec. 2	SW	77	female	Middleton
Dec. 6	JS	28	male	Milwaukee
Dec. 8	JW	54	female	Milwaukee
Dec. 8	JW	42	male	Milwaukee
Dec. 8	KBW	7	male	Milwaukee
Dec. 23	LS	27	female	West Allis
Dec. 27	AD	43	female	Milwaukee

** Victims were pregnant at the time of their homicide.

