



NORTHWOODS WOMEN, INC./NEW DAY SHELTER 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

Northwoods Women, Inc., d.b.a. New Day Shelter, established in 1983, is a private, nonprofit organization which provides intervention services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault and community prevention education services. New Day Shelter serves Ashland and Bayfield Counties – including Bad River and Red Cliff Native American Reservations. Services are based on the philosophy that intervention and support to victims of family violence and sexual assault, as well as community awareness, will help break the cycle of violence. During 2015, New Day Shelter provided temporary housing and food, 24-hour crisis line, emergency transportation, advocacy, individual and group counseling, and information and referrals—to 198 unduplicated victims of domestic violence and/or sexual assault (155 women, 5 men, 38 children). Of the 198 victims, 63 victims (40 women, 23 children) received temporary housing for a total of 1,326 shelter nights.

In addition, New Day Shelter staff responded to 2,683 crisis/information-referral calls. Twenty-four (24) school presentations were provided to 428 students in grades one through college level, and 25 presentations were made to 1,379 adults. Community awareness education was provided through active collaboration with agencies/organizations that provide complementary services, newspaper stories, newspaper ads, posters, agency Facebook and website, brochures and business cards.

New Day Shelter's Board of Directors and staff are dedicated to the development of services in which we confront the norms that make violence acceptable in our society. In 2015, New Day Shelter continued to be heavily involved in the collaborative efforts of the Tri-County CCR (Coordinated Community Response of Ashland, Bayfield and Iron Counties for domestic violence and sexual assault, which includes the participation of the area's Disabilities and Abuse Safety Collaboration), Criminal Justice Council, Children of Incarcerated Parents group, the Ashland-Bayfield County Homelessness Task Force, and the group efforts to utilize the AWARE Grant funds that have been granted to the Ashland School District. Two of New Day Shelter's staff members are involved in the leadership of the Tri-County CCR. These community based agencies and organizations work together to provide seamless services to victims, and to help families become aware of services available to them in the community.

In 2015, New Day Shelter's Children's Program served 38 children who experienced or witnessed domestic violence. The Self-Sufficiency Program assists in reducing the internal and external barriers faced by victims of domestic violence who attempt to establish healthy, non-violent environments apart from their abusive partners. Also during 2015, New Day Shelter's Sexual Assault Intervention Program provided services to 49 sexual assault/abuse victims, including emergency transportation to the hospital and support in the emergency room. VOCA funding serves victims of crime and assists them with applying for crime victim compensation assistance. In total, 885 contacts of individual and group supportive counseling for domestic violence and sexual assault were provided.

New Day Shelter programming through VAWA includes a culturally sensitive Native American component, which addresses the cultural and spiritual needs of Native American clients (33% of New Day Shelter's clientele in 2015 (49 women, and 16 children), and outreach services to rural and elderly women, those with disabilities and those who identify as LGBTQ.

These accomplishments were made possible with financial support from government sources: State of WI Department of Children and Families, State of WI Department of Justice (providing funding through Violence Against Women Act-VAWA, Sexual Assault Victim Services-SAVS and Victims of Crime Act-VOCA), HUD (Dept. of Housing & Urban Development), Ashland and Bayfield County FEMA, Bayfield County Human Services, Ashland County, City of Ashland and Department of Workforce Development.

Additional financial support was received from the Mary Kay Foundation, MAHADH Fund of the HRK Foundation; Essentia Health Foundation; Mary Rice Foundation; United Way; Xcel Energy Foundation. Cash and in-kind donations were received from business and community members, churches, clubs, and civic groups in Ashland and Bayfield Counties. New Day Shelter was the grateful recipient of funds raised by the Razzle Dazzle Elves of Ashland and the Bad River Casino Annual Fashion Show and Luncheon. In addition, New Day Shelter held its annual fundraising events-March Madness Raffle, "New Day Limited" dinner and raffle, and Souper Cook-off.

