



NORTHWOODS WOMEN, INC./NEW DAY SHELTER 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Northwoods Women, Inc., d.b.a. New Day Shelter, established in 1983, is a private, nonprofit organization which provides crisis 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 2016, New Day Shelter provided temporary housing and food, 24-hour crisis line, emergency transportation, advocacy, individual and group counseling, and information and referrals—to 241 unduplicated victims of domestic violence and/or sexual assault (205 women, 8 men, 28 children). Of the 241 victims, 70 victims (44 women, 1 man, 25 children) received temporary housing for a total of 1,867 shelter nights. Our total 2016 client count is an approximately 23% increase over last year.

In addition, New Day Shelter staff responded to 1,311 crisis/information/referral calls. Fifty-seven (57) community and school presentations were provided to 1,787 people, including students in the area public school systems, students of Northland College and Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College, and 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 2016, 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 law enforcement, judicial system, hospitals and medical clinics, Probation & Parole, 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 2016, New Day Shelter's Children's Program served 28 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 2016, New Day Shelter's Sexual Assault Intervention Program provided services to 62 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, 1,408 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, who are approximately 36% of New Day Shelter's clientele in 2016, 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, City of Ashland and Department of Workforce Development.

Additional financial support was received from the Otto Bremer Foundation, MAHADH Fund of the HRK Foundation; Essentia Health Foundation; Women's Foundation of Minnesota ; Xcel Energy Foundation; Green Bay Packers. 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 Bad River Casino Women's Expo, and about 4,000 items of new children's outdoor winter wear and boots. In addition, New Day Shelter held its annual fundraising events-March Madness Raffle, "New Day Limited" dinner and raffle, and Souper Cook-off.

