



## **NORTHWOODS WOMEN, INC./NEW DAY SHELTER 2017 ANNUAL REPORT**

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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 2017, New Day Shelter provided temporary housing and food, 24-hour crisis line, emergency transportation, advocacy, individual and group counseling, and information and referrals—to 251 unduplicated victims of domestic violence and/or sexual assault (197 women, 9 men, 45 children). Of the 251 victims, 70 victims (38 women, 1 man, 31 children) received temporary housing for a total of 2,078 shelter nights. Our total 2017 client count is an approximately 25% increase over the last two years.

In addition, New Day Shelter staff responded to 1,387 crisis/information/referral calls. Seventeen (17) community and school presentations were provided to 473 people, including students and adults in Drummond, Bayfield and Ashland High School. 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 2017, New Day Shelter continued to be heavily involved in the collaborative efforts of the Ashland and Bayfield County Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault CCR (Coordinated Community Response), 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 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 2017, New Day Shelter’s Children’s Program served 45 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 2017, New Day Shelter’s Sexual Assault Intervention Program provided services to 93 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, 2,161 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 35% of New Day Shelter’s clientele in 2017, 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, Office of Victim Services (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.

Additional financial support was received from the Otto Bremer Foundation, MAHADH Fund of the HRK Foundation; Essentia Health Foundation; 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 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—“New Day Limited” dinner and raffle, and Holidazzle Tree Raffle.

After several months of looking at building options to relocate our services for the benefit of clients, New Day Shelter purchased an existing building at 301 Ellis, Ashland, WI, on September 15, 2017.

