

From the Board Chair and Executive Director, CC Linstroth and Leah Lutz:

It is with pride that we share our annual report with you. We are proud of all that it encapsulates – both the new initiatives and the continuation of core services. We wish to recognize and thank the individuals, businesses, groups and organizations, whose names appear on the front cover, for their generous support during the past fiscal year. Such support makes our services possible and reinforces the belief that Victory over Violence is an achievable goal. We hope that as you read this report you will join us in not only reflecting on accomplishments but also recommitting ourselves to the work that must continue. Such work entails providing the highest standard of advocacy services while also pushing for social change. Beliefs, biases, stereotypes and other systems of oppression that contribute to domestic and sexual violence must be challenged continually. We must continue to cast light on the devastating personal and community toll wrought by domestic and sexual violence. Chances are that each and every one of us knows someone whose life has been affected by one of these intimate crimes. Last year, we served nearly 1,000 individuals. Imagine how these 1,000 lives have been affected. Imagine how many more individuals are living in silence through the pain of abuse, their stories untold. According to the National Violence against Women Survey, 1 in 6 women and 1 in 33 men has been the victim of attempted or completed rape. That means that in Rice County alone, approximately 4,680 women and 866 men have been victimized. When also accounting for domestic violence statistics, the numbers become even more mind-boggling. If so many of our neighbors have experienced such trauma, why don't we hear about it more? Help us start the conversation and as you are doing so, know that we applaud your efforts – as a valued advocate of HOPE.

Our Mission

To create zero tolerance for sexual and domestic violence through healing, outreach, prevention and education. Through innovative programming, we offer direct support to victims of domestic and sexual violence in Rice County, collaborative support to other organizations, and educational support to the entire community.

HOPE Center 2006 Annual Report VICTORY OVER VIOLENCE

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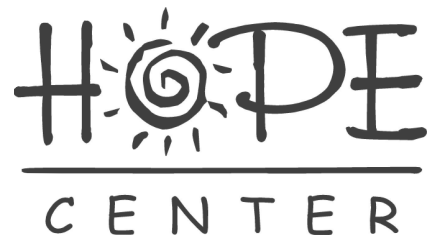
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HOPE Center would like to thank the United Way of Faribault, the Northfield Area United Way, WINGS and the Minnesota Office of Justice Programs for their generous support of our work and mission.

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2006 Highlights

Advocacy

Free and confidential victim support services include crisis intervention, 24-hour Safeline, information and referral, safety planning, emergency safe housing, support groups, rape counseling, and accompaniment to medical exams. We also provide legal services to victims including assistance with the criminal justice system, information about legal remedies and processes, help with orders for protection and harassment restraining orders, and accompaniment to court proceedings.

Community Education

Free specialized trainings are provided to employers, professionals, educators, and criminal justice professionals. Two times each year, 52-hours of training are provided for people interested in becoming HOPE Center volunteers. General presentations about our services and/or the prevalence of sexual and domestic violence are made to church groups, service organizations, and any other interested forums.

Systems Change

With the goal of going beyond individual assistance toward community-wide solutions, HOPE Center regularly networks with such systems as social services, criminal justice agencies, and the medical community, and provides them with screening and assessment tools. A volunteer Courtwatch project monitors the judicial system, and meets with judges, law enforcement and prosecuting attorneys.

Financial Statement of Activities

As of June 30, 2006

REVENUE

Grants	\$ 198,230
United Way Allocations	49,647
Contributions	32,205
Rice County Warrant Fees	19,717
Interest, In-kind and Other	<u>5,366</u>
Total Revenue	\$ 305,165

EXPENSE

Personnel	\$ 215,111
Contract Services	10,047
Travel & Training	4,478
Client Expenses	3,253
Office & Program Expenses	22,489
Rent & Building Expenses	16,651
In-kind, Depreciation, and Other	<u>4,685</u>
Total Expense	\$ 276,714
Net Revenue over Expense	\$ 28,451

Healing

Our mission is to promote survivor's self-identified needs through supportive listening, emotional support, identifying strengths, and offering resources and expertise to victims and their families. In the past year, HOPE Center has facilitated individual and community healing in the following ways:

- Served a total of 462 unduplicated clients in the Domestic Violence Program, and 131 unduplicated clients in the Sexual Assault Program.
- Provided 58 nights of safe housing to women and their children in immediate danger of abuse.
- Convened a 10-week support group for survivors of sexual violence, which led one participant to say, "Thanks for leading this group. It provided a great start to my healing process."
- Honored survivors with a display of 500+ luminaries in Faribault's Central Park and Northfield's Bridge Square on the evening of April 27th.
- Utilized a pool of 47 volunteers to staff the 24-hour Safeline. Volunteer hours contributed to this line and other services totaled 6,681, or an estimated \$76,830 in donated labor.
- Provided legal advocacy to 536 individuals through the Criminal Justice Intervention Program.
- Worked one-on-one to build resiliency in 47 children who had witnessed family violence in order to break the generational cycle of abuse.

Outreach

Before people can make use of our services, they need to be aware of who we are and what we do. The following events and activities are examples of how we spread the word of HOPE Center's mission throughout Rice County:

- In partnership with South Central College, 300 original, full-color posters about domestic violence were designed and distributed by students from the Lighthouse Six.
- Five HOPE Center editorials appeared in the Faribault Daily and Northfield News, plus ten other articles about our services and events.
- April 27th was designated as "Wear Blue Day." Over 10,000 fliers, ribbons, and grocery bags decorated by local school-aged children were distributed to the community to promote awareness of child abuse and HOPE Center's anti-violence programming.
- Also in April, a narrative describing our services and "Wear Blue Day" was inserted in the City of Faribault's water utility bill.
- Staff from our Child Resiliency Project collaborated regularly with such groups as Communities Together for Kids, Children's Mental Health Resource Team, Youth Plus, and the Par-

Prevention

HOPE Center is working hard to reduce and eliminate sexual and domestic violence. During the past year, we made the following strides toward creating zero tolerance for violence:

- The Child Resiliency Project gave a total of 54 presentations to 1390 youth on such topics as healthy relationships, family violence and safety planning, and bullying. "If everyone would be themselves the school would be bully free," stated a middle school student in attendance.
- The "Hands are not for Hitting" Campaign was initiated with local schools; students created posters that were displayed at the Faribault Mall during October.
- Courtwatch Program volunteers logged a total of 178 hours of monthly trainings and monitoring of court proceedings related to our mission.
- Thanks to a grant from the MN Dept. of Health, we launched a program designed to enhance and improve health care and public health practices related to sexual violence. Steps taken included monthly in-service trainings, individual consultations, and the creation of a video about sexual violence screening.
- In May, Rice County SMART released its Community Needs Assessment Report – the culmination of two years' work – and celebrated the recommitment of twelve agency partners to the SMART process as it moves ahead with developing sexual assault protocols.
- The CJI program coordinator helped conduct trainings throughout the state in order to shed light on the impact of abuse in later life.

Education

We believe that knowledge leads to empowerment, and empowerment leads to change. Accordingly, HOPE Center made the following efforts to educate the Rice County community about the prevalence and dynamics of relationship violence:

- On April 4th, we made a joint presentation with a member of Faribault law enforcement to 200+ attendees at Women's Health Night, held at South Central College. The taped presentation aired for a month on FTV.
- With the cooperation of the Northfield and Faribault Area Chambers of Commerce, we presented the "None of Our Business" curriculum to 49 employees of 21 different companies, which evoked the following opinion from one attendee, "It gave me a better understanding of how DV affects many people in the workplace and can make it so unproductive."
- We offered our 52-hour advocacy training program twice during the year; 26 community members completed the training.
- We made a total of 141 presentations to professionals and the general public on the issues of domestic and sexual violence.