

The Friendship Center



SUMMER 2016

Your support matters...

*Notes from Melinda Reed, Executive Director
and Diane McKeever-Langenfus, TFC Supporter*

I never cease to be amazed at the level of community support for The Friendship Center. Domestic and sexual violence can be hard topics to talk about, and in many places shelters are hidden from sight and the issue is overlooked. Here in Helena, we are fortunate to have supporters who make sure that survivors are not hidden and not forgotten. Support from the community, from the incredible turnout at Empty Bowls to generous donations from individuals and businesses who support our mission, means that our survivors have a safe beautiful place to come, and that we can be there for those in need 24 hours a day. Recently, we met the amazing Diane McKeever-Langenfus, who embodies this type of support. Please enjoy her story:

I decided to do a fundraiser in conjunction with my retirement party to raise awareness about The Friendship Center, what they do and how they are funded. In the 49 years I have stood behind the chair as a Hair Designer and Salon owner, I have heard just about every possible story imaginable from women in situations they felt trapped in. In the early years so many stayed in these relationships because there were so few services available. I have also had personal experience with family members caught in abusive marriages. It is vital to this community to have The Friendship Center funded and functioning.

OFFICER OF THE YEAR

The Helena Domestic and Sexual Violence Working Group, along with The Friendship Center, is excited to begin accepting nominations for the **2016 Officer of the Year** award. The purpose of the award is to recognize the critical role law enforcement plays in serving victims of domestic and sexual violence in our community, and to highlight the role of uniformed officers in particular. If you know a uniformed officer that has done an outstanding job assisting a victim of domestic or sexual violence, please take a moment and nominate that officer for this award. Contact TFC with any questions and visit thefriendshipcenter.org for a nomination form.



*From January 1 through
March 31, 2016,
The Friendship Center has:*

Received

630

Crisis Line Calls

Provided

106

Children's Services

Provided

136

Nights of Off-site Shelter

Assisted with

197

Safety Plans

Thank you

for your continued support
of victims of
Domestic Violence
& Sexual Assault
in our community!

CONTACT THE FRIENDSHIP CENTER

On Facebook • On Twitter @TFC_Helena • On YouTube • www.thefriendshipcenter.org
Phone: (406) 442-6800 • Fax: (406) 442-6809 • E-mail: officem@thefriendshipcenter.org
1430 Sanders Street • Helena, Montana 59601

Meet our Residential Care Manager, Gina Boesdorfer!

Recently, we hired a new Residential Care Manager, Gina Boesdorfer. We are so excited to have her as part of our team and knew you would love learning more about her!

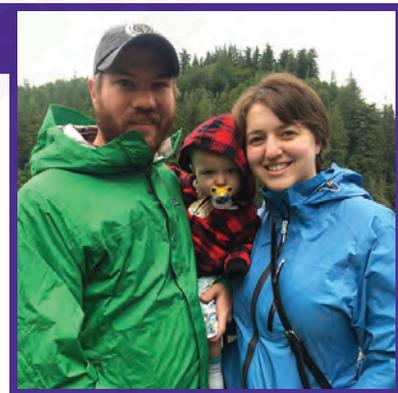
You relocated from Colorado for this position. Could you tell us more about your background and why you decided to join us?

Growing up, I knew a lot of people who had been impacted by domestic and/or sexual violence. I wanted to be able to do something that would help those going through that type of experience. In college I decided to volunteer for a domestic violence/sexual assault program. I fell in love with the field. I became an intern and later a staff member. I decided to go back to school and get my masters in psychology, emphasizing in trauma, so that I could better serve clients that I work with. I'm from Colorado and have always loved the mountains. I went to college in Wyoming and fell in love with living in a small town. Helena seems to be a good combination of the two, so my husband and I were very excited to move here.

What has been the most rewarding part of your position so far?

My favorite part of working in this field is seeing women, who have been put through so much, go on to live a life free from violence; a life where they accomplish their goals and do things they may have thought would never be possible. We work with men too, of course, but the majority of my

clients are women. I really enjoy that the shelter here operates under an empowerment model as well. It has been fun being able to work in an environment where our clients get to make decisions that fit what they want/need.



Now that you've settled in, what do you hope to accomplish in this position?

I hope to have a variety of services and programs that we can offer our clients (e.g. cooking class, communication skills, parenting class, financial empowerment, etc.). The key to offering these services is to partner with other community agencies and provide referrals that are seamless and useful to clients.

Is there anything else you would like the supporters of The Friendship Center to know about you?

I think it is always fun to know a little bit about the person in a new position. My husband and I have an almost 1 year old daughter and two very high energy dogs. We recently purchased a home in Clancy. We love the outdoors and are so excited to explore this part of the country!

DID YOU KNOW?

TFC offers numerous support groups and therapist-facilitated classes for the people we serve. Here are some testimonials from our Changing Patterns class participants...

"Overall, I enjoyed this class very much and I learned a lot of good skills. Knowledge is power. I really enjoy the connections I have made."

"[The group leaders] did a wonderful job and I really

appreciated their knowledge and patience."

"Our group leaders made this class a life changing experience for me - Thank you! I am a new, whole person now!"

WE'VE UPGRADED!



THE MARY KAY
FOUNDATION

We built a bathroom! In September 2015, The Friendship Center was awarded a \$20,000 Mary Kay Foundation grant to make some much needed changes in our Child Care room. Many of our clients have children and being able to offer a child-friendly bathroom within the child care room goes far in our continued commitment to delivering services with dignity and respect. In May, the child care room bathroom construction was completed thanks to the dedicated work by Bjerke Construction. The addition of the bathroom led to an entire remodel of our

child care room, a remodel that was supported by many in our community. We are so grateful to Toys for Tots, Lasso the Moon and the Robert Mischke Family that donated new toys and child-sized furniture for our room. The children love it!

We've made security enhancements for the added safety of our clients! The Friendship Center was awarded a grant from the Treacy Foundation this past winter. With this award, we were able to upgrade our security system and install more cameras around the exterior of our building. Safety is a primary concern for our clients and residents. Thank you Treacy Foundation for helping us provide more complete and improved safety to our clients.

VOLUNTEER CRISIS LINE ADVOCACY TRAINING

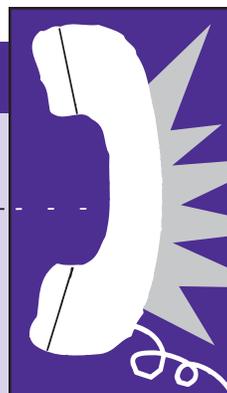
We're looking for volunteers! This September we will be hosting a volunteer advocate training. One of our most vital services we offer is a 24/7 crisis line and that service needs you! If you have always thought about doing more, become an advocate and provide crisis intervention and support to survivors of domestic and sexual violence.

TRAINING DATES:

September 20, 22, 24, 26

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Contact Abbie at 442-6800 or
abbie.c@thefriendshipcenter.org



SPECIAL THANKS

Thank you to everyone who supported TFC during the Give Local Helena event, May 3rd. The generosity of the Helena community always amazes us!



Congratulations Kay Johnson on your marriage! We are so thankful to you and your partner asking guests to donate to TFC in lieu of gifts. You are another amazing example of community support.



Thank you Carroll College Grounds crew for helping to beautify our green spaces. Your generosity and help ensure that TFC is a place where victims will be met with dignity and respect.



Donate TODAY to support ending Domestic and Sexual Violence in our community:

- Use the **ENVELOPE** enclosed in this newsletter.
- Visit thefriendshipcenter.org and click on **DONATE NOW** in the upper right corner.
- Make a **RECURRING GIFT** from your credit or bank account
 - Make a **PLANNED GIFT** to take advantage of the Montana Endowment Tax Credit.
- Give through **SECGC** if you're a state employee.

WISH LIST ITEMS

- New Bed Pillows
- Full-size Comforters
- *Visit our website for more ideas!*



The Friendship Center
1430 Sanders
Helena, MT 59601

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Stay informed while helping us out financially!
Sign up for our E-newsletter on our website. And remember to Like us on Facebook.

The Friendship Center

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UPCOMING EVENTS

LEARN WITH US!

September 20, 22, 24, 26: Crisis Line Volunteer Advocate Training

COME SUPPORT US!

September 26 – SECGC Non-Profit Fair:
State Employees Charitable Giving Campaign Kickoff event at the Capitol

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

October 3 – Blackfoot River Brewery Community Monday:
TFC will receive \$1 for every beer sold between 2:00-8:00 pm

October 19 – Wine with Friends:
An event at Island Liquor Store to benefit The Friendship Center

Proud Partner Agency of



Thank You All!

EMPTY BOWLS 2016 SUCCESS!

THANK YOU HELENA! *Empty Bowls 2016 was a truly remarkable event. We collected over 1,300 tickets - 300 more than last year! We are truly sorry that we did not have enough soup to last until 7:00, and hope you will allow us to make up for it next year. Thanks to everyone who came out, volunteered, served soup, made bowls, played music, donated soup and bread, cleaned up, and contributed to a roaring success!*



The Board of Directors and Staff of The Friendship Center would like to thank everyone that makes this event possible:

Platinum Sponsor

Blue Cross Blue Shield of MT

Bronze Level Sponsors

First Interstate Bank

St. Peter's Hospital

Helena Community Credit Union

Friends of The Friendship Center Sponsor

Wipfli

Bowl Artists

The Artists of Archie Bray Foundation
for the Ceramic Arts

The Artists of Helena Clay Arts Guild
Victor Daniel, Coby Furlong, and the
Helena High Art Students

Carrie Darrah

Eric Van Eimeren

Lisa Ernst

Ralph Esposito and the Carroll College
Art Students

Emily Free Wilson

Jim Gilman

George McCauley

Page Kelly Piccolo

The Pottery at Muddy Creek

Soup Providers

Aster Restaurant

Benny's Bistro

Bert & Ernie's

Brewhouse

Captain Jack's

Chili O'Brien's Catering

El Vaquero Taqueria

Event Thyme Catering

Governor's Residence

Great Ape Crepes

Helena Sunrise Rotary Club

Hunter's Pointe

Jorgenson's Restaurant

Lucca's Italian Restaurant

Mediterranean Grill

Miller's Crossing

Murry's

No Sweat Café

Radisson Colonial Hotel

Real Food Market & Deli

Silver Star Steak Co.

St. Peter's Hospital

Staggering Ox

Steffano's Pizza

Steve's Café #1

Steve's Café #2

The Bagel Company

The Creperie

The Montana Club

The Parrot Confectionery

Van's Thriftway

Vanilla Bean Bakery & Café

Bread Providers

Costco

Dive Bakery Café

Great Harvest Bread Co.

Park Avenue Bakery

Wheat Montana Farms

Van's Thriftway

Drink Provider

Harrington Pepsi of Helena

Soup Servers

Governor Steve Bullock

First Lady Lisa Bullock

Caroline Bullock

Alexandria Bullock

Cameron Bullock

Lt. Governor Mike Cooney

Attorney General Tim Fox

Mayor Jim Smith

Chief Troy McGee

Sheriff Leo Dutton

Judge Robert Wood

Judge James Reynolds

Judge DeeAnn Cooney

Detective Kent Anderson

Jenny Eck

Robert Farris-Olsen

Moffie Funk

Susan Good Geise

Andres Haladay

Andy Hunthausen

Steve Lee

Sue Noem

Nate Olson

Ole Olson

Katrina Schweitzer

Ann Waickman



Thank You All!

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and Event Thyme Catering and Staff
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The St. Peter's Hospital Foundation
Valley Bank of Helena and Staff
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Steve Vincelli



Entertainment

The Wilbur Rehmann Quintet

All the Silent Auction Contributors

A special thanks to all the individual and business donors, volunteers, and attendees. Your help for victims of domestic and sexual violence is so valuable. We couldn't do this without you!