

25<sup>th</sup>

Twenty-five years ago, Advocates started a journey to help victims of domestic violence because of the increase in domestic violence incidents in Ozaukee County. Today we mark that anniversary and celebrate the people who recognized this community problem and decided to help by giving Advocates its beginning. We celebrate the volunteers, staff, board and donors - all who have lovingly reached out to make a difference in the lives of others in need over the years. You and we know who you are and we thank you.

National surveys are finding domestic violence has increased dramatically since 1980 when we began. We wish we could report that locally the number of incidents is going down, but sadly report the opposite. Last year alone, Advocates noted an increase in almost every program area. We're still here because we are needed now more than ever. The statistics and numbers tell us only one side of Advocates' story.

It takes a great deal of courage for someone to make that call, to take that step inside the shelter door. Each phase of a client's stay is a step in their journey to independence. While Advocates' staff plays a vital role as counselors, guides, and advocates for clients; it is the clients themselves who set goals and do the work to achieve them. Let's take a look at someone, we'll call Jennifer, behind those numbers.

"I never felt like anyone cared about me until I came here." These were Jennifer's last words before she left shelter after staying for 7 weeks. Jennifer was on her way to her new apartment and new city to start her new life; a new journey that began for Jennifer one day last summer when Advocates received her phone call. She wanted to come into shelter. We arranged to meet her at a pick-up point and transported her to shelter. She came with nothing. "I had to get out quick," says Jennifer, "I had the opportunity to leave and I took it."

Jennifer came to Advocates broken and depressed after living too long in a violent home. For weeks Jennifer cried daily and appeared to "walk on egg shells" startled by the slightest noise or by someone coming through the door. "I'm afraid he's looking for me. What if he hurts me again?" Though on an emotional rollercoaster filled with fear and uncertainty, Jennifer had started her journey to healing.

Jennifer came with the clothes on her back and five dollars in her pocket. An Advocates staff member took Jennifer to the Hope Room, our on-site clothing closet, and assisted Jennifer in finding clothing in her size. Then she chose personal care and hygiene items from the donations Advocates receives. Jennifer was shown her room and was given a tour of the shelter. Following the tour, Jennifer and an advocate sat down and discussed shelter rules and policies.

Initially, Jennifer didn't talk much about her situation and told staff that she just needed to rest to get her thoughts together. For a while Jennifer rested in her room and withdrew from staff and other residents. Staff would check on her on occasion, offering support and encouraging her to eat a meal, talk, or watch TV. After a few days of respite, an advocate connected with Jennifer to have a discussion about her needs, goals and planning for her future. Jennifer was able to set several goals pertaining to her safety, housing, finances, and emotional and physical health. Jennifer met with a counselor weekly to discuss her progress and possible steps needed in order to achieve each goal.

Slowly, Jennifer began to emerge from her room more and more. She met with a counselor for an hour each day and began interacting with the other residents. She began participating in weekly house meetings with the other residents planning meals and volunteering for shelter chores. Soon, staff began to notice that Jennifer was regaining control and structure in her life. Jennifer began waking up by eight each morning to take a shower and make breakfast. She often accomplished all of her chores and her laundry before lunch, leaving time for her to talk and play with some of the children in shelter. The afternoon made way for an advocate to transport and accompany her to counseling sessions and appointments in the community.



## Sexual Assault Awareness Month

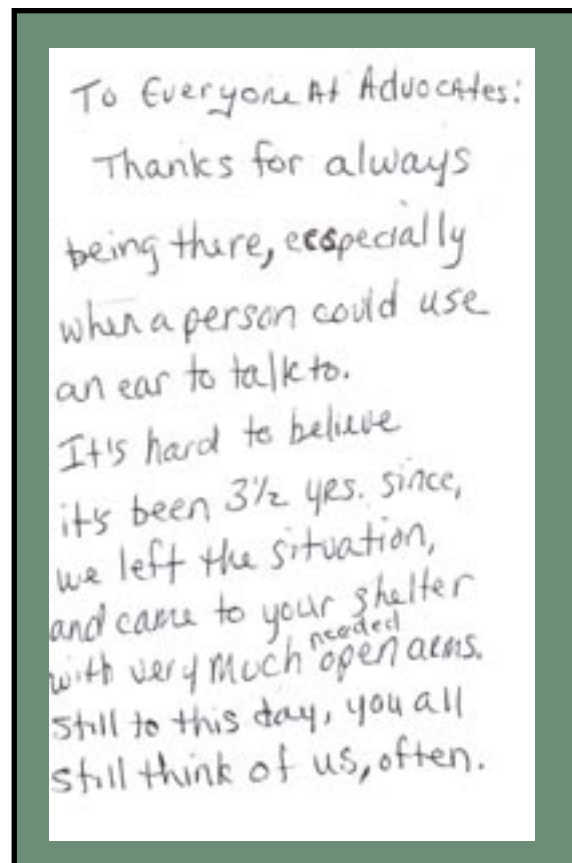
April is also Sexual Assault Awareness Month. There are many ways you can help create awareness: wear a teal ribbon to show support, donate money to local sexual assault agencies, and/or participate in the "Take Back the Night" rally. This is the third year Advocates of Ozaukee has hosted a rally in support of victims of sexual assault. This year's rally will be held on Thursday, April 28<sup>th</sup> starting at 6:30 at Rotary Park in Port Washington. For more details, please contact Advocates of Ozaukee.

## From the Executive Director...

During my first few months with Advocates of Ozaukee I have learned several things. First, people are generous beyond my wildest dream. During this holiday season, Advocates was the grateful recipient of many donations. We received gifts for children and mothers, which helped to make a happy holiday season for many families. We received gifts of household supplies and food, which help to keep our shelter running. We received untold hours of the gift of time by so many volunteers I felt like I was always meeting someone new. We received the gift of cash donations from many friends who each year remember us during the busiest time of the year. We are so grateful for all of these gifts because they are our lifeline to helping families as they search for a new life free of violence.

I was saddened to learn that not everyone in Ozaukee County is aware of Advocates and the work we do or the need for the services we provide to families. Although I realize that having everyone know who we are is a rather ambitious goal, I will be working hard this year to be sure that many more people know who Advocates is and the vital services we have the privilege of providing for families in need.

Finally, I learned that the many civic, church, school, and other community organizations in Ozaukee County work very hard to make their community safe for everyone. Advocates has been blessed to be long time partners with many of these groups. We work with them in a variety of ways, referring families for assistance, raising funds or in-kind donations for the shelter, and working with youth groups to provide information on prevention that we hope will help to break the cycle of family violence.



As we enter our 25<sup>th</sup> year in Ozaukee County we look forward to continuing these important relationships, creating new ones, and being part of a community that is so generous in caring for its citizens.

*Barbara Fischer*

*Thank you to everyone who thought of us at the end of 2004. This is a note received from a client over the holidays.*

*Continued from page 1...*

Jennifer attended 2 support groups every week. Once a quiet withdrawn group member, Jennifer became a vocal and supportive participant in both the domestic violence and sexual assault support groups. Jennifer began to share more and more in her individual counseling sessions.

Accompanied by an advocate, Jennifer obtained a restraining order and felt confident enough to testify against her abuser in court. It became evident that she was regaining control of her life. She no longer was startled when she heard a noise and she began to smile and laugh again. Jennifer even gave new residents a tour of the shelter and offered her support stating, "I know how scared you are. You're safe now."

When emotionally ready, Jennifer began searching for employment. Staff went over interview questions and assisted her in finding appropriate clothing for job hunting. When the big interview was scheduled, Jennifer was ready!

Jennifer has been working and living in her new apartment for three months and has entered therapy in a new city. She still calls on occasion to say hello and update us on new happenings in her life.

Obviously, not every person has the same experience when they enter shelter but their days are similar and they are filled with counseling, goal-setting, caring for their children, working to obtain skills they need to live independent of their abuser, searching for housing, and sharing what they've lived and learned with others in the shelter.

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## *Mark your calendar—June 22, 2005*

### **4TH ANNUAL OZAUKEE CHARITY GOLF GATHERING**

This annual event has grown for 2005 to include morning and afternoon golf sessions. This year's event will benefit Advocates of Ozaukee, Big Brothers Big Sisters, COPE Services, Kathy's House, Logemann Community Center, North Shore Academy of the Arts, Ozaukee County Court House Restoration, Port Washington Historical Society, and the Volunteer Center of Ozaukee County.

This is a perfect way to support many organizations while enjoying the great outdoors and maybe doing a little networking.

Golf Package includes 18 holes of golf, shared cart, event holes, range balls, foursome photo, player gift, locker room, and 2 meals all for just \$125

Morning Golf will start at 7:30am and Afternoon Golf will start at 1:30pm.

Held at Squires Country Club in Port Washington

How to get involved: Join us for golf and/or purchase raffle tickets

#### SPONSORSHIP POSSIBILITIES:

Hole, Tee, Green, Beverage Cart Sponsorship, Event Sponsorship, or donate a Raffle Item

Contact The Volunteer Center of Ozaukee County at  
262-377-1616 for more information or to sign up.



## *Child Abuse Prevention Month*

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. Currently, two of Advocates of Ozaukee staff are members of the Ozaukee County Child Abuse Prevention Committee. For the third straight year, Ozaukee and Washington County Child Abuse Prevention Committee members are collaborating efforts to create awareness for child abuse and neglect. Help support our efforts by joining us for the 2005 Child Abuse Luncheon on April 7 at 11:15 a.m. for more information, please call Advocates and ask for Mary or Erica.

# Grand Friends

\$1,000 and over

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Cedarburg Junior Woman's Club  
Christ Church  
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Crossroads Presbyterian Church  
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St James Parish  
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Zaun Memorial Foundation, Ltd.

## Dear Friend...

Twenty-five years; a quarter of a century! Advocates is celebrating its Silver Anniversary in 2005, our 25th year in operation thanks to the courage and commitment of Barb Schaezner and Elaine Wadle, who were determined to make a difference in 1980 by founding "Advocates Helping Battered Women and Families Inc" (later renamed Advocates of Ozaukee). We are so deeply grateful for their selfless efforts, and yet at the very same time, fervently wish that the need for these types of services was nonexistent.



Nadine Guirl  
Board President

The truth is, however, that the services provided by Advocates continue to be needed as much if not more than ever before. Our nights in shelter increased in 2004 to 1,816 nights, up 25% from 1,455 nights in 2003. The number of new adult clients served in 2004 was up 14% to 96 - that averages 8 new adult clients per month, approximately 2 per week. On the hopeful side, nearly 4,000 people attended 134 presentations given by Advocates' staff members during 2004. These statistics prove that the talented and dedicated staff and volunteers that are the heart and soul of Advocates are touching many people, and helping to change lives day in and day out.

Our Silver Anniversary wish is to end domestic and sexual violence. Today. Now. But, wishing alone won't make it happen. It takes work -- lots of focused work and effort by many people, including you. Please do what you can to help us: volunteer your time, or spread the word to friends and family who either want to help Advocates or need the help of Advocates, or send a donation. We humbly and gratefully accept it all as part of fulfilling our mission.

And, please accept my heartfelt THANK YOU for helping put an end to the cycle of violence.

*Nadine Guirl*

## Shelter/Client Needs Explained

Often people think that survivors of domestic and sexual violence come into shelter with nothing. At times this is true. And, while we can tell you that we and they are always grateful for every item donated, there are some donations that provide for the EXACT items needed. Gift cards for stores allow us to provide clothes that fit and are appropriate for the season. So many of our families have been deprived of so much already: a peaceful safe home, surroundings they know, and near-by friends. We believe the least we can do is give them underwear that fits and more than one set of clothes for the kids to wear to school. Since we never know what a person will need or what they will run out of in the house, gift cards are extremely useful donations.

Advocates always needs the basics. Think of what you use each day, from your toothbrush first thing in the morning to your slippers at bedtime. Survivors of domestic and sexual violence are just like you and use the same items and since a shelter is a house, we need most of the same things you use in your home.

Items Advocates is currently in need of are: in-season children's clothing ESPECIALLY BOYS size 6-16; regular and sensitive skin laundry detergent; heavy duty disposable plates, cups & silverware; AAA/AA/C/D/9V batteries; NEW pillows; gift cards -phone, gas, Wal-Mart, Target, Kohl's or Shopko etc; contact lens cleaning solution; facial care products; NEW adult underwear/bras/socks/slippers in ALL sizes; postage stamps; and cleaning supplies.

Thank you again for your generosity and please feel free to contact us with questions or further suggestions.

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*Visit our website: [www.advocates-oz.com](http://www.advocates-oz.com)*

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## Support Groups

### DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Tuesdays

6:30—8:00 p.m.

Children's' domestic violence support group meets at the same time.



### SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Thursdays

7:00—8:30 p.m.

Children's life skills group meets at the same time.



### GIRLS CLUB

For high school girls.

Call for more info.



### SUMMER LUNCH BUNCH

Middle school aged girls.

Call for more info.



## Interview with a Donor...

Joan and Bob\* are Grand Friend donors. Recently we asked Joan what motivated them to provide support and what their hopes are for Advocates' future.

*I grew up in an abusive home with an alcoholic father in the 50's and 60's. There wasn't much help available at the time. People didn't talk about such things and women often stayed in the situation. Later as an adult with a family of my own, my father's behavior spilled over into the lives of our children. I had to continue dealing with the situation and also give support to my mother. She eventually divorced my father. I learned that this kind of abuse crosses all socioeconomic lines and that emotional abuse can often be worse than physical abuse. When I see violent or unhappy situations I think there but for the grace of God go I. It seems like a trite phrase, but I found a good relationship in life with my husband and I wanted to find ways to be able to help someone else.*

*I became involved in some of the service agencies in our county such as the Alcohol Council and worked on an uphill battle to get important information into the schools so we could reach young people. I also worked with the Cope organization. It is so important to reach out in the community and help educate young people to make good choices. I applaud the education that Advocates provides to their clients, in schools and the community, support groups, and positive parenting classes.*

*Sometimes friends or family members might be going through difficult times and we don't even know it. It is still a stigma and we don't like to air our problems. But, we need to be aware of some of the signs and make ourselves available to help. We give because it is important to support those around us.*

*Our hope for Advocates' future is that they continue to reach out aggressively in the community to help educate our young people to make good choices. This may sound like another trite phrase, but, it is better to light one little candle than to curse the darkness. We feel our contribution is helping Advocates help others in the community.*

\* not their real names as they wish to remain anonymous

## Windfall for Advocates



*The Cedarburg Junior Woman's Club raised \$40,101 at its Toast for Charity auction last October. The money was donated for the Transitional Living Program. Accepting the check on behalf of Advocates is Barbara Fischer (left). Presenting the check (from left to right) are Amy McConeghy, auction co-chair; Tammy Redman, auction co-chair; and Paula Parker, CJWC president. We are extremely grateful for the continued generosity of this vital community group.*

## How We Began...

Over the years we have seen much denial in Ozaukee County about domestic and sexual violence. "We don't have that problem here," has been the prevailing wisdom. Twenty-five years ago, when we began, domestic violence was on the increase all across the country and Ozaukee County was and is no exception. Domestic violence crosses all socioeconomic lines. We recently talked with Barbara Schaezner, who was instrumental in founding Advocates, and she recalled the events that led to our beginning.

"In 1978 and 1979, just prior to our incorporation in 1980, I became aware of the issue of violence against women while working with women as a group facilitator at the Milwaukee Area Technical College and through a Women's Studies class where violence against women was addressed. Milwaukee had an agency and a shelter for women, but the issue was not talked about publicly in Ozaukee County." Barbara began talking to people around Ozaukee County about the lack of services.

"Several incidences of domestic violence occurred in the county. It was then that the Sheriff's Department and Police Chiefs also recognized that services for victims were needed and that there was also a need for education for law enforcement to provide support and referrals for the victims."

After conferring with the directors of agencies in Milwaukee as to how to proceed to establish an agency in Ozaukee County, Barbara contacted Christ Church in Mequon and they became our fiscal agent. Attorney John Mudroch donated his services to file for our incorporation.

We received our first grant, which Barbara wrote, from the State of Wisconsin during the State's first year of funding domestic violence programs. A board was formed, a director was hired, and many people saw the need and came forth as volunteers. Some volunteers provided shelter in their homes, some answered phones and responded to calls from police departments and some carried pagers evenings and weekends. "Our budget was limited and we struggled financially as we sought low cost office space, donated office furniture, and supplies."

And, you know the rest. A shelter facility was donated to the County and we moved into our current location in 1988. Just as the need for helping victims of domestic and sexual violence has grown, Advocates has grown in response to that need. Thank you, Barbara and Elaine Wadle, and all the volunteers and benefactors during those early years.



## Easy Fundraising Opportunities

### 'WE CARE' PROGRAM

For all our friends who shop at any Pick 'n Save Stores with an Advantage Card, please register for the 'We Care' Program at the service desk and name Advocates as the recipient of funds to be distributed.

**OUR NUMBER IS  
14750**

### CELL PHONE COLLECTION LOCATIONS

We have the opportunity to raise much-needed funds through the donation of your used cellular phones. The proceeds will benefit essential programs. Some phones are distributed to Advocates' clients to use to call 911 as needed. You can drop off your phones at any area Ozaukee Bank and Grafton State Bank.

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## Crisis Lines...

**(877) 375-4034 & (262) 284-6902**

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*Advocates of Ozaukee*

P.O. Box 80166  
Saukville, WI 53080

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25<sup>th</sup>

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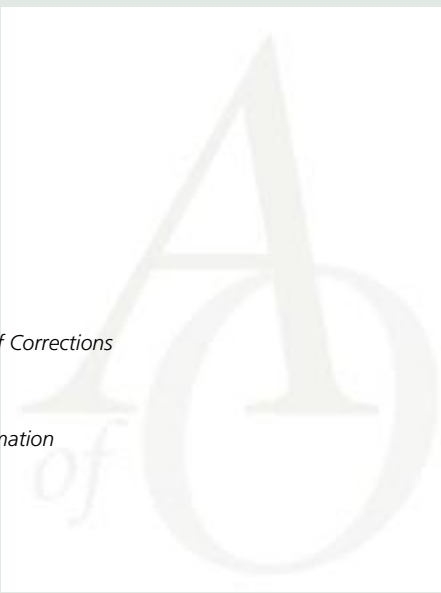
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*Thank you!!!*

Assurant Health  
*for publishing the newsletter*

Thiensville/Mequon Rotary  
*for newsletter postage*

Mequon/Thiensville  
Chamber of Commerce  
*for designating Advocates as  
beneficiary for their  
"Blowing Out the Blues"  
event.*

The many other generous  
donors through the year and  
especially over the holidays.

*Advocates of Ozaukee*

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