



2020 Annual Report

Family Safety Network has provided services to victims of domestic violence and their families throughout Cass, Hubbard, and Clearwater Counties since 1993. Our mission is to interrupt the cycle of domestic violence in Cass, Clearwater and Hubbard Counties and to advocate for social change.

FSN provides safety, support, and advocacy for all victims of domestic and family violence. Creating awareness about issues of violence and providing education to our communities is an integral part of the work we do. We act as a resource to community agencies and provide opportunity for victims to affirm their own strengths so that they may realize their full potential and dignity.

As a service-based nonprofit our truest measurement of success is the impact and opportunity that our programs provide to others. We know our program is successful when we can show that we reduced the number of recidivisms. If we are providing the tools to victims to stop the cycle of violence and build healthy family relationships and establish secure housing, then we have achieved the highest form of success.

Board of Directors

Lori Duchesneau—Board Chair

Roxy Moon—Board Treasurer

Patty Nadeau—Board Secretary

Jean Bloome Cory Aukes

Kathy Henry Ronda Hopen

Joel Vorhes

Our Staff

Annette White—Executive Director

Heidi Hayford—Office Administrator

Misty Bjerklie—Lead Advocate

Amber Gamache—Advocate

Geri Sargent—Advocate

Heather Rogosheske—Advocate

A Year of Change



Our Park Rapids office opened its doors to the residents of Hubbard County, providing full time advocacy services, peer support groups, and Salvation Army assistance.



Park Rapids advocate Amber Gamache brings hand print art to the BYOK event at the Park Rapids High School.

Videos



TTT Time Together Tuesday

As we navigated the changing world of Covid, we created two Facebook video series to continue to reach our clients. Every Tuesday, advocate Geri Sargent presented a story time for children. TTT, Time Together Tuesday became an anticipated Tuesday event in many households. We also created online learning videos covering topics like Safety Planning, writing Victim Impact Statements, and Domestic Violence Coping and Recovery.



A donation was given in honor of Dawn Anderson by St. John's Lutheran Church. We are grateful for the outpouring support we have received from the Park Rapids Community!

Legal Kiosks have been installed in all of our locations to provide clients with secure, private connections to legal aid and virtual court hearings.



Festive Christmas elf Geri, delivering gifts to those in need



What we do takes a village. We collaborate with different agencies throughout our counties to provide a full spectrum of services. We work directly with our local law enforcement everyday to ensure the safety of our clients. Executive Director Annette White stops in for a quick meeting with Lt. Bryan Welk.

2020 was a year for the record books for everyone. At FSN we had to adapt quickly to continue to help those in need and remain on the front line of domestic abuse. To do this, it meant creating online education opportunities and forums addressing domestic violence, being safe, preparing to leave and accessing the emotional and mental health needs that accompany victims of domestic violence. It meant creating programs online like TTT or Time Together Tuesday an online reading hour for children of survivors, so that parents could attend virtual group sessions that provide them with the tools to keep moving through their challenges and provide them with the where, when, and how of breaking free from abuse and staying safe. We provided peer support groups, attended court hearings, and collaborated with other agencies via Zoom. We learned how to prepare OFPs and HROs using DocHub and other online formats. We passed paperwork through the door, dropped off essential needs for clients on their doorsteps, and anything else necessary to continue to provide for those we serve. We continued to remain available to victims 24 hours a day because the pandemic did not stop domestic violence. We are forever grateful to all of our collaborating partners, our amazing supportive communities, law enforcement, and the court systems for adapting with us to continue to help those in need!

Making a Difference Together



Every year we have amazing supporters that take time at their family get togethers to provide for the victims that we assist. With the help of Thrivent Action Teams, items are purchased and donated to FSN. This past year we received 15 laundry baskets filled with laundry supplies to distribute to our clients. We have been the recipients of food drives, emergency to go bags, and healing bags for our peer support members. We are so grateful for the continued support of these amazing families and individuals.



The Clothesline Project is a visual display of violence statistics that often go ignored. The purpose of the project is to increase awareness of the impact of violence and abuse, to honor a survivor's strength to continue, and to provide another avenue for them to courageously break the silence that often surrounds their experience. Annually, Violence Free Minnesota releases a new edition of the Clothesline Project, a visual memorial to the past year's victims of intimate partner homicide. The project consists of a unique shirt for each victim designed by a volunteer artist. This year our talented advocate Amber, donated her time to create these beautiful memorials to four victims that lost their lives to violence.

Making the Holiday's Brighter

Every year during the holiday season we are blessed with different groups and families in our communities that donate their time and money to provide a family in need with some "Christmas Joy". They purchase and wrap gifts that we deliver to these families. This act of kindness is one of our favorite times of the year as it brings unmeasurable joy to these families that would otherwise be unable to have gifts under their tree. We are so thankful to the many incredible donors that continue to participate in this event year after year.



Meeting Community Needs in 2020

	Jan - Dec 2020
Number of Victims Served	639
Domestic and Family Violence Victims	522
Number of Homeless Victims	72
Number of Victims Assisted with OFP/HRO	400
Number of Emergency Crisis Calls Received	386
Number of Times We Provided Advocacy	3643
Number of Clients Receiving Financial Assistance	250

*About 70% of the victims we serve are female and 56% between the ages of 18-59. Around 56% are Caucasian and 30% Native American.

With all the unrest in our world we can say with 100% confidence that Domestic Violence does not discriminate, it knows no boundaries, it does not operate within certain economic conditions and it does not have gender bias. Domestic Violence can and does happen in all factions of life, it happens in all our communities, to all genders and in all ethnic backgrounds. It happens in small towns and big towns, cities, and rural settings like ours. We are not unique, but we are blessed with communities that address the needs of their residence.

Finances in 2020

Statement of Activities Year End December 31, 2020

Revenue and Support	
State Grants	288,400
Local Govt and Township Grants and Aids	26,538
Contributions and Donations	35,779
Foundation and Trust Grants	37,500
Total	\$388,217
Expenses	
Program Services	305,117
Management and Administration	25,316
Total	\$330,433

2020 Grant Funders

Office of Justice Victims of Crime Act Grant
Violence Against Women STOP Grant
CARES Funding
Enbridge Inc.
Initiative Foundation
3M Grant
MN Women's Foundation
Crow Wing Power Community Trust
Otto Bremer
United Way
Walker Rotary

2020 Donors

Jean Jensen	Gail Deboer	Sacred Heart Church
Kingo Women ELCA	Paula Bryan	Community Church Women's Fellowship
Pat Negaard	Hubbard Methodist Women	12 Ordinary Women
Hugos	Wilkening Fireplace	Deb Miller
Our Saviors ELCA	American Legion	St Johns Lutheran Church Park Rapids
Julie Nelson	Bethany BLCW	Riverside Methodist UMW Park Rapids
Larry & Melanie Wolfe	Longville Legion Aux Post 772	DW Jones Management Team
Matt and Jane Mattick	St Pauls Lutheran Women	Roxanne Nash
Sandra Tauber	Marjorie Eckhardt	MN Alpha Delta Kappa
Woman Lake Book & Thimble Club	Richard Lorenz	Loralee Torkelson
Mary Webster	St Vincent De Paul	Beth Anderson
Kathy Henry	Mark Thomason	Richard and Joan Downham
The First National Bank of Bagley	Hubbard United Methodist Church	Kimberly Corson
Hedeen Charitable Fund	Laura Gingerich	Dorothy Opheim
Marlys Olson	American Legion Pull Tabs	Helen Lusk
Women of Hope Lutheran	Peg James	St. Vincent De Paul
Women's Council of St. Edwards Church	Don & Lynn Smith	Zona Rosa
Faith Lutheran Church Bagley	North Lakes Marine	American National Bank
Thomas Cox	Sherry Kiisa	Tanis Beadle
Ann Noland	Cynthia Jones	First National Bank
Mary Cyr	Northview Bank	Arvig
Todd and Kimberly Schoeck	Lori and Skip Duchesneau	Michael Small
Jeanne Bloome	Joanne Pels	Phyllis Matthews
Grant Oppegaard	Judy Mechura	Anthony & Carol Szymczak
Laura Ristow	Anthony Tassoni	Fairview Township
3M Foundation	Crookston Bishops	Turtle Lake Township
Pine Tree Quilters	Eastside Church	Sylvan Township
Terese Bervig	St. Paul Lutheran Church	Henrietta Township
Kris Fjelstal/Crosslake Community School	Misty Hoopman	Leech Lake Township
Hope Lutheran Church	Gonvick Quilters	Pine Lake Township
Microsoft	Hiram Township	Heldo Township
Chris Burling	McKinley Township	Kego Township
Shingobee Township	Powers Township	Lakeport Township
Simon and Lynn Whitehead	Sodfathers Lawn Service	Dave Hein

*** We are especially grateful to these funders that have provided continued support which gives us the ability to continue to serve those in need.**

Your kindness is greatly appreciated more than I can every put into words. Only twice in my life has anyone been so genuinely kind and caring to me. I was scared, lost and lonely until the day I called you pleading for help. You did not turn me down and instead, actually saved my life!

Amber is absolutely awesome! She is an angel in disguise and truly a Godsend. I actually view her as a "life saver", because she did just that for me. I'm eternally grateful for her.

Without you I would be just another number out there on the streets. Thank you!

Feedback from our clients....

I want to thank everyone that help my children and I get our lives back. We would not be here if it were not for the donations and help, we received from Family Safety Network. I have not seen my babies this relaxed and happy in a very long time and I have finally slept through the night for the first time in five years. We can finally grow and rebuild our lives.

I've done this before on my own, and I can't express enough how grateful I am to have someone in my corner this time.

Hands down Misty is an excellent advocate. She heard me and gave me the best fit options for my situation. She even gave me the cons for the options she advised me of. Her peer also made me feel very safe and took the time to explain the next steps to me as well as what other resources are out there to help my situation.

Amber is ABSOLUTELY WONDERFUL!!! She has greatly impacted my life, and changed it for the better. I don't think I would be here without her.

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Please rate your overall advocacy experience with FSN.



It takes a village....An entire community has come together to help these survivors and their children and now these people are viable and contributing members of the community that so generously helped them in their time of need. We do not know how many lives these survivors and their children will touch but we do know that the impact of our teamwork will reach many.