

COURAGE, RESILIENCE,
AND THE POWER OF

hope



ANNUAL
REPORT
2022-23



WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER
OF NORTHERN MICHIGAN, INC.



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COURAGE, RESILIENCE, AND THE POWER OF **hope**

Dear Friends,

This past year, Women's Resource Center of Northern Michigan (WRCNM) has remained a steadfast source of support, healing, and empowerment for adults and children impacted by abuse and assault. In 46 years of service, we have supported tens of thousands of individuals, continually inspired by their resilience and aspirations for the future.

We understand that seeking help, disclosing personal trauma, and expressing complex emotions like confusion, anger, grief, and shame can be intimidating, especially when one feels scared and alone. Yet, it's the courage and hope in these moments that enable individuals to overcome trauma and strive for a more positive future.

Hope is the powerful force that ignites our dreams, drives our actions, and helps us persevere in the face of adversity.

Last year, WRCNM helped individuals and families:

- Heal from trauma and rebuild self-agency, empowering themselves.
- Develop resilience to adapt and thrive in adversity.
- Make informed safety and future choices with deeper situational understanding.
- Achieve autonomy via education, credit-building, and securing safe housing.
- Prepare children for kindergarten and life with early learning and playgroups.

"WRCNM helped me find my value and worth and to trust in people again and to be free to be myself and that means the world to me." ~ Survivor

Every day we are reminded of the enduring power of hope and its ability to inspire, uplift, and guide us through the challenges and uncertainties of life.

In appreciation,

Gail Kloss
Executive Director



Gail Kloss at Women Can/Women Do-Emmet

Advocate Jamie Weaver and Safe Home Assistant Amy Shumway inspire positivity at the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Assault Program office.



"My hands literally shook while making that first call to the 24-hour help line. Walking through the front door of your offices was one of the hardest things I ever did."
~Survivor

Domestic Abuse & Sexual Assault Services

Program highlights:

This past year, the Safe Home completed improvements that include enhancing the storage capabilities of the basement with new shelving and cabinetry, crucial for organizing non-perishables and essential items. Refurbishing a bedroom with contributions from Zonta of Petoskey Area, Contractor's Supply of Petoskey, and Complete Paint and Supplies. Additionally, a new kitchen stove provides nourishing meals and sense of home.

Domestic Abuse and Sexual Assault Program Director Chris Krajewski was honored with a Lifetime Achievement award by DomesticShelters.org for her work; she retired in July after 36 years of dedicated service.

"On my last day with WRCNM, one word kept coming to me, "Courage!" I witnessed courageous survivors reach out, courageous volunteers and staff lean in and speak up, partners in unlikely spaces become allies, and change in oppressive systems. I witnessed pain, struggles, trauma, and I witnessed folks come together! I see hope, I feel healing, and I am grateful for WRCNM and all the families that touched my life. They made me stronger and they helped me grow and learn." ~ Chris Krajewski

Staff participated in initiatives to enhance their skills and knowledge:

- Multiple program staff attended the annual conference held by the Michigan Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence and underwent a comprehensive two-day Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training.
- Several Residential Advocates and other team members completed the Suicide Alertness for Everyone (safeTALK) training.
- Two Advocates earned certification as Address Confidentiality Program advocates from the Michigan Department of Attorney General.
- The Housing and Advocacy Program Director completed Leadership Little Traverse, a nine-month professional leadership program.

Meeting at the Safe Home are Housing and Advocacy Program Director Haley Schneider and Violence Prevention Coordinator Megan King.



"Having a place to call home for me and my child and being treated like I have purpose and worth have been life-changing for me."
~Survivor

1,016
callers supported
via the 24/7 help-line
and 160 individuals
were provided safe
housing

2,418
nights of refuge
provided to
individuals and their
family members at
the Safe Home

671
individuals
impacted by abuse
or assault provided
counseling and
advocacy
services

Counseling Services

Program highlights:

A therapist achieved full certification in Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT), becoming the sole credentialed therapist in the agency's five-county area. TF-CBT effectively helps individuals process traumatic memories and build coping mechanisms.

Another therapist completed Licensed Professional Counselor Supervision training, now providing mentoring for Limited Licensed Professional Counselors working toward full licensure, a service offered at no cost to agency employees.

This past year, sexual assault survivor groups provided an additional healing pathway.

A teenage survivor of sexual abuse, empowered through therapy, courageously attended court for the abuser's sentencing. In a powerful moment, they read their victim impact statement in the courtroom—an accomplishment they previously thought impossible due to their fear of confronting the abuser who had harmed them.

A family impacted by sexual assault received a fully-funded trip to Cedar Point, a gesture made possible by a donors generous gift to WRCNM. This provided them a valuable respite and quality time together.

100%
of Counseling
Services participants
felt believed and
supported by
WRCNM

100%
of Counseling
Services participants
would recommend
WRCNM services

Therapist and Counseling
and Advocacy Program
Director Becca Byron
achieved Trauma-Focused
Cognitive Behavioral Therapy
certification in 2023.

150
individuals were
provided a healing
pathway through
counseling with
Master's-level
therapists

*"My therapists have
both been amazing,
super helpful, and
encouraging.
You guys rock!"
~Survivor*

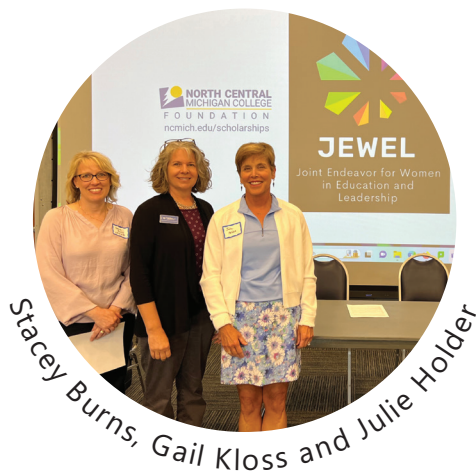


Educational & Employment Services

Program highlights:

Amid the ever-growing need for educational scholarship funding, WRCNM is fortunate to have received generous, ongoing support. The Joint Endeavor for Women in Education and Leadership (JEWEL) program is designed to promote education as a resource for empowerment and leadership by providing improved access to resources that address barriers disproportionately faced by women.

Julie Fasone Holder, a tireless advocate for women throughout her corporate career, translated her unwavering support into tangible action upon retirement. Julie is not only a passionate supporter of WRCNM, but also a community member impressed by NCMC as a valuable and much-needed educational resource. Her vision involves both organizations to provide women with support through mentoring and financial scholarships. Through these efforts, we will build an even stronger community of women; like jewels, their potential will shine through.



Last year, the JEWEL program made a meaningful impact by awarding scholarships totaling \$10,000 to seven women.

These funds were utilized for various critical needs, including transportation expenses such as car repairs and gas, childcare support, tuition, textbooks, and supplies. This tangible assistance reflects the program's commitment to breaking down barriers and fostering educational success for women in our community.

Educational and Employment Services (EES) Coordinator Stacey Burns celebrated her 25-year work anniversary with the agency in August 2023.

20
Educational and Employment Services participants graduated from college in May 2023

\$84,361
In educational scholarships facilitated on behalf of EES participants

177
Individuals were supported with college, job training, advising, and career search assistance

"This scholarship has enabled me to continue school to be a nurse. Now I can focus on school and pursue my dream."
~EES Participant

Children's Advocacy Center

Program highlights:

The Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) is a place of hope and compassion for children and families impacted by abuse and violence, offering quality care to reduce further trauma and provide an opportunity to heal. To create a framework for a coordinated multidisciplinary response to child abuse, formalized partnerships have been established in Cheboygan, Charlevoix, and Emmet counties. The agreements involve collaboration with various entities, including the prosecutor's office, law enforcement, children's protective services, medical care, schools, and advocacy/support services.

This past year, CAC staff and Alcona Health Center and Petoskey Child Health Associates began a collaborative effort to provide non-acute medical exams for children impacted by abuse, funded through WRCNM.

Additionally, as an Associate/Developing member of the National Children's Alliance, the CAC has submitted its first data collection as a required step for accreditation, demonstrating its commitment to enhancing services for the local community.

Professional development initiatives undertaken by the CAC staff include:

- *Advanced Interview Mapping for Forensic Interviewers and Considerations for Multi-session Interviews*
- One-on-one consultations with the Children's Advocacy Centers of Michigan to improve interview techniques and a full-day peer review
- Ongoing *Accreditation Bootcamp Training and Preparedness* with the National Children's Alliance
- Applied suicide intervention skills, mental health first aid, and identifying non-accidental injuries in children
- *Advocate's Role in the Multidisciplinary Response to Child Abuse*, as well as certifications and training on safety and confidentiality

CAC Forensic Coordinator Sarah Holzschu works together with the Family Advocate to minimize trauma and coordinate a response that best meets the needs of the child and family.



"I felt nervous, but now I feel better. It's different than I thought it would be, a good different, I like the attitude you two have."
~13-year-old survivor of sexual assault about their experience at the CAC

51
children accessed advocacy and underwent forensic interviews, pivotal in their healing journey

9
the average age of children interviewed at the Children's Advocacy Center

9
disclosures of physical/sexual abuse resulted in charges; 5 criminal investigations are pending

Violence Prevention Program

Program highlights:

Quarterly men's Community Connections events have become a vital platform for fostering dialogue on gender-based violence among men in the community. Participants actively engage in conversations addressing issues such as negative behavior or language toward women. Some individuals express challenges in forming connections with other men because of an increasingly disconnected society. Led by the attendees themselves, these discussions have garnered repeat participation, underscoring the value of the space for connection, learning, and personal growth.

The *Askable Adult* series revealed concerns among participants regarding the limited or inaccurate information they received in their youth about consent, relationships, sex, and sexuality. Discussions centered on locating reliable resources and the importance of acknowledging gaps in knowledge, emphasizing that seeking information together with your child fosters trust in relationships. This series will continue with virtual and in-person sessions, addressing additional topics based on participants' expressed needs.



In addition, *Respect is Everything* classes were conducted at Petoskey High School (PHS), accompanied by the distribution of *Respect 101* tool kits at PHS, Lakeview Academy, and Char-Em ISD. These initiatives contribute to a comprehensive approach to violence prevention programming, promoting education and awareness at various levels within the community.

"I like doing hands-on activities like this. Thank you for coming in and making it fun while educating people on this serious topic."
~Student who attended Respect is Everything



Being an Askable Adult

Practice enhancing your relationships + conversations with the young people in your life during this interactive educational experience!

Parents/family members, legal guardians, community members and professionals working with youth are welcome.

Session 1 Relationships + Consent
Wed., August 2 ~ 4:30-6:30pm

Session 2 Sex + Sexuality
Wed., August 9 ~ 4:30 -6:30pm

Petoskey District Library
500 East Mitchell Street, Petoskey, MI 49770

Register by scanning the code
When registering, reserve your spot for both sessions!



Light refreshments provided

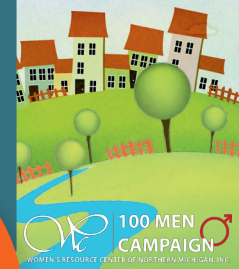


COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Tues., June 6
6pm to 8pm
East Park Pavilion
Quarry Drive, Petoskey

A meeting for male allies to continue the conversation on creating safe and thriving communities.

We're grilling, so bring your



Attendees felt open, prepared, ready to listen, and confident after the Askable Adult Series

"I'll speak to others about the importance of domestic violence prevention and awareness."
~Community Connections participant

94%
of students said *Respect is Everything* was presented clearly; 83% would recommend it

Children's Learning Center

Since WRCNM was established in 1977, the Children's Learning Center (CLC) has aligned with the agency's mission and values of supporting women, children, and families. The program focuses on developmentally-appropriate learning experiences and enhancing social skills. Additionally, it provides a balanced child care service, ensuring a well-rounded approach to early education and care.

Moreover, the program grants parents of enrolled children the ability to pursue employment outside the home, confident in the knowledge that their children are nurtured in a caring, empathetic, and structured educational setting.

Program highlights:

Professional development initiatives undertaken by the CLC staff:

- CLC maintained a 5-star Great Start to Quality rating for licensed programs in Michigan, demonstrating quality across several categories.
- CLC and WRCNM Preschool programs were awarded a \$43,270 Child Care Sustainability Grant through the Michigan Department of Education. The funds help programs like ours keep the doors open and focus on what matters most – supporting children and families.
- A new Lead Teacher joined WRCNM Preschool, a Great Start to Readiness Program. With more than a decade of experience, she is adept at delivering a high-quality, research-based, educational curriculum and is committed to early childhood education at the preschool level.

Playgroups:

Playgroups for children up to age five were held in Boyne City, East Jordan, and Central Lake through Spring 2023. The weekly groups provided a place for children and their caregivers to take part in activities together, develop social skills, expand their creativity, and for parents to make meaningful connections and learn about local resources.

Children's Program Director
Nicole Dixon inspires imagination
and creativity through reading.

*"We value
the CLC's structured
daily schedule, great
reinforcement of manners,
kindness, and so much outdoor
time! The staff are ALL
wonderful!"
~Parent*

314
children
and caregivers
enjoyed interacting
and learning at
Playgroups

5-star
Great Start to
Quality rating was
maintained, ensuring
a quality learning
environment and
care

66
students began
a foundation for
learning at the
Children's Learning
Center and
Preschool



Together We Endeavor

Gold Mine Resale Shops: Heartfelt and Purposeful

The income generated by our bustling resale shops accounts for a significant portion of the agency's annual budget, helping fund crucial programs and services. Committed staff and dedicated volunteers ensure the stores look great with merchandise that is constantly changing thanks to generous donations of antiques, collectibles, household goods, furniture, clothing, and unique finds, including brand-new items with tags.

Fundraising Events: Powered by Community Spirit

We are deeply moved by the recognition and support from donors and community members for our work in offering support, healing, and empowerment to women, children, and families utilizing WRCNM services. Over the past year, our fundraising events, including Women Can/Women Do luncheons and the Tribute Awards, received remarkable support through volunteer efforts, donations from businesses and individuals for silent auctions, event sponsorships, and community participation.

Ongoing Support: Beyond Expectations

This year, we continued to receive invaluable support through initiatives like the 100 Men Campaign, the Harvest Food and Supply Drive, and the Holiday Families program, each contributing significantly to our mission.

Volunteers: The Heart of Our Mission

Volunteers are indispensable to WRCNM, making a profound impact across various facets of our work. This past year, they were instrumental in the smooth operation of the Gold Mine Resale Shops, answering the 24-hour help and information line, sharing kindness and support with families at the Safe Home, providing maintenance and building upkeep, and playing key roles on fundraising committees and on the Board of Directors.

Dedicated Gold Mine Resale Shop volunteers Penny Van Dam (left) and Christy Kneese.

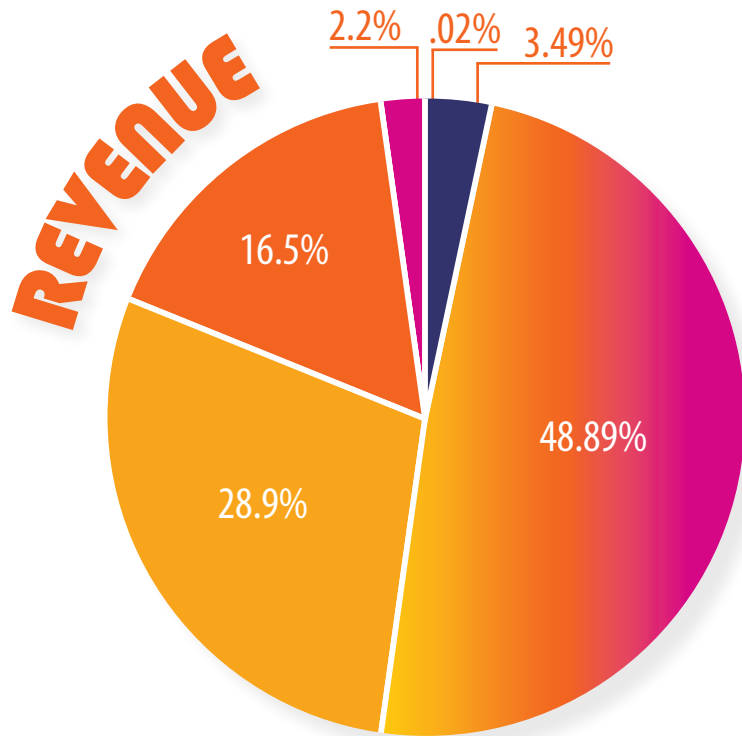


2,125
hours made
a positive impact
across the
agency

\$5,544
in Gold Mine store
vouchers provided
to survivors
and community
members

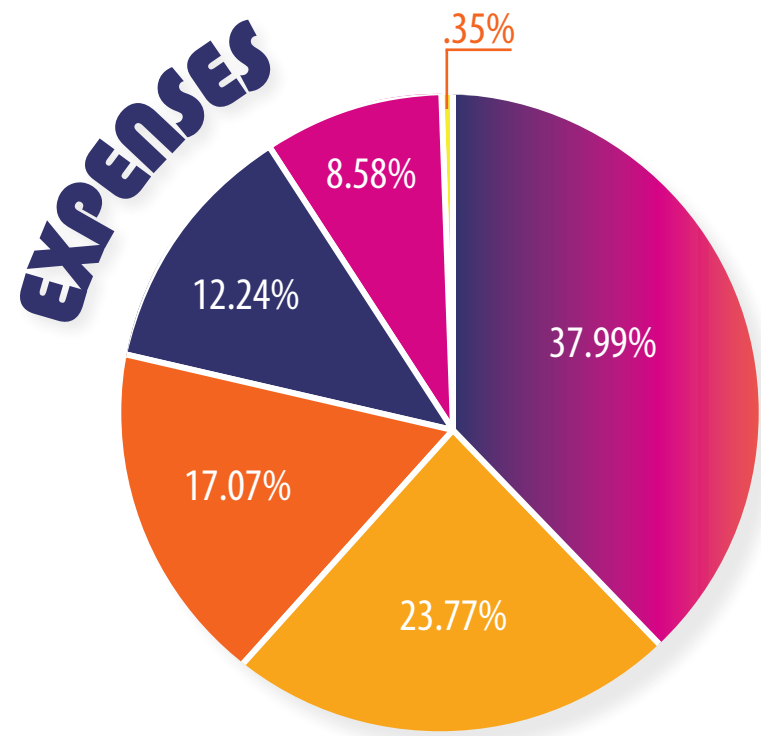
*"Gold Mine Resale
Shops have such a nice
variety of items.
It's so much fun looking,
as well as buying."
~Google Review*

121
men supported
the 100 Men
Campaign, funding
vital services and
prevention
initiatives



Revenue 2023

Grants and Contracts (48.89%)	2,033,428
Sales, Gold Mine Resale Shops (28.9%)	1,202,249
Contributions and Fundraising (16.5%)	686,206
Children's Learning Center Tuition (3.49%)	145,125
Other Revenues (2.2%)	91,382
Investment Income (.02%)	906
Total Support and Revenues	\$4,159,296



Expenses 2023

Domestic Violence Services (37.99%)	1,730,339
Gold Mine Resale Shops (23.77%)	1,082,534
Sexual Assault Services and Prevention (17.07%)	777,616
Children's Educational and Care Services (12.24%)	557,585
Management and General Operations (8.58%)	390,936
Fundraising (.35%)	16040
Total Expenses	\$4,555,047

MISSION

Women's Resource Center of Northern Michigan is committed to equality, justice, and the well-being of women. To that end, we will engage our community and encourage all to work with us toward those goals.

VISION

To be recognized as leaders for social change and respected as a strong voice for women, children, and families. Our community will see us as an inclusive organization known for excellent services, effective programs, and a dedicated staff. We will be responsible stewards and operate a fiscally-sound organization, encouraging others to see us as a worthy investment and valuable community asset.

VALUES

Eliminating the culture of violence
Quality programs and services
Understanding and respecting our diversity
Advocacy for those in need
Leadership in our community
Integrity in all we do
Taking action for social change
Yielding positive results



**WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER
OF NORTHERN MICHIGAN, INC.**



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