



Women's Resource Center

To protect, shelter, and empower people impacted by domestic and sexual violence.



Gentlemen Standing Together in Solidarity Against Violence

In June 2017, fathers, sons, grandfathers and friends gathered at Fox Motors to take a stand against domestic and sexual violence in our community. The purpose was to begin a new dialogue about the meaning of healthy masculinity in our community. Keynote speaker and best-selling

author John U. Bacon coached the group about integrity, respect, and relationships. It was an amazing evening offering, for the first time, the opportunity for the WRC to address the issue of non-violence from this perspective. While enjoying appetizers and refreshments, men of all ages joined together to demonstrate their care about the work and mission of the WRC. One WRC Board Member shared, "The event delivered a very honest and direct message to the men of this community. Many young men and fathers **reflected about** who they are and what their responsibilities are in

relation to respect and healthy masculinity." At the end of the evening, guests were given the book *Season of Life*, by Jeffrey Marx and encouraged to pass it along to another man in the community – to invite him to join the conversation.

The event raised over \$20,000 to support the WRC Mission.

To continue this very important conversation on October 26th at 7 p.m., the community is invited to a free screening of *The Mask You Live In* at Milliken Auditorium.

Healthy Masculinity Benefits Our Entire Community



Matt Williford, WRC Board Member

As neighbors, we should be asking each other a question that is too rarely raised, in even our families.

What do we value in the traits of healthy manhood?

Healthy Masculinity demands a focus on behaviors, as well as actions. I began my journey in that direction while coaching high school boys' soccer. Like most, I tended to coach as I was coached. That cycle applies to

other relationships, such as being a spouse or a parent.

But as I read on this subject and considered the actions of men I respect, I realized that in order to prepare young people for success in life, the ability to have healthy and respectful relationships must come first, above what some experts call "false masculinity" which are the culturally accepted norms of what it means to "be a man"- athletic ability, sexual conquest and financial acquisition.

"True masculinity" is based on two factors unrelated to wins, sex and money and must be an intentional choice. One is healthy relationships. How are you as a husband, father, brother, friend or any other important role in your life? Second, is having a commitment to a cause other than yourself. Is the world a better place because of your actions and participation?

It's about holding a mirror up to yourself and asking "What's it like to be my wife? My child? Or a young person I'm supposed to be helping?" Consider "What cause in the community, bigger than myself, is most important to me or my family or just feels like it's the right thing to do?"

All you need is a spirit of respect and generosity to make a difference.

Our community, together, must remember that our children are watching us – how we behave, how we interact with others, how we interact with them. If we are screamers, if we don't show compassion and respect, if we don't express in loving ways that we want them to succeed, then they are going to fall into a trap and simply mimic what they see in us, as they grow older.

In order for the men of this area to be successful in Healthy Masculinity, we need the support of the women in our lives, along with leaders of all types. The conversations that lead to the best levels of healthy and respectful manhood must happen in the open.

For me, I have chosen the Women's Resource Center as one of my causes. I feel an obligation to help be proactive in preventing violence against women and children.

I invite you to join the WRC on October 26 at 7:00 p.m. at the Milliken Auditorium at Northwestern Michigan College for a screening of the documentary *The Mask You Live In*, which brings to life what it's like for a boy to grow up and transition to manhood in today's society. It's open to the public and a way to challenge us to build Healthy Masculinity, here in our community. Contact Wynn Jones for more information about the movie at: wjones@wrcgt.com.

Women's Resource Center 2017 Board of Directors and Officers

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2017-18 Operating Budget (July 1-June 30)

Thrift Shop	\$700,000
Grants	\$600,000
Program Fees	\$100,000
Private Contributions	\$500,000
Total Revenue	\$1,900,000

The past few years have been a time of both change and opportunity for the WRC. We continue to work hard to evolve and grow to meet the needs of the people we serve. We are proud of the effort and the great strides we have made to strengthen the WRC's advocacy, programs and financial stability.

In an effort to protect the WRC from prevailing political trends at any given time, we must work to decrease our

reliance on governmental grants and move to a self-sustaining financial position in order to continue fulfilling our Mission. A strong WRC means a healthier and more loving community. This fiscal year, our goal is to raise \$500,000 for general operations, and another \$150,000 to expand the Thrift Shop operations in order to become self-sustaining. This is a very exciting place to be!

Board of Directors Approves Opening a Second Thrift Shop

The WRC has operated a successful Thrift Shop for nearly 30 years and during that time, it has become a very important part of the WRC's financial sustainability.

Recognizing the importance of the Thrift Shop in helping make the WRC self-sustaining, the Thrift Shop Subcommittee presented a plan for expansion to the Board of Directors in August of this year which was approved with 100% consensus.

Expanding the Thrift Shop will pave the way for the WRC to reduce dependency on grant funding, reduce financial risk and become more self-sufficient.

Timeline:

- Aug 24 Board approved expansion plan
- Sept 7 Thrift Shop Capital Campaign announced
- Oct 1 Received an \$40,000 challenge grant from an anonymous donor

Financial Goals:

Once \$150,000 has been raised to devote to the expansion, a search for a suitable location will begin. Overall goal: to raise \$300,000 to cover expenses for the first year and start-up of the new store.

News and Thank You's

Stories We Are Celebrating

- One of our WRC Clients received a \$500 grant from the mAIDens of Michigan to help cover childcare costs.
- Our heartfelt thanks to the sponsors of the June event where men took a stand against domestic violence. Thanks go to:

Fox Motors, The Hagerty-Simao Family, Traverse City State Bank, William & Susanne M. Janis Foundation, FIM Group, Yen Yoga & Fitness, Jolly Pumpkin, Catering by Kelly, Brengman Brothers Estate Wines, Floral Underground, Bayside Market and H. Cox & Sons. Your generosity gave men in our community the opportunity to become part of a very important movement.

- Madeline's House has a new deck and beautiful new siding. Many thanks to our Building Hope

Campaign donors for supporting us in so many generous ways.

- The WRC is the proud recipient of a \$5,000 grant from the SpartanNash Foundation. SpartanNash stores have a history of serving their communities and we're thankful for their generous support.
- The Women Lawyers Association of Traverse City spent an entire Saturday morning cleaning up the front yard of the WRC main office. Thank you so much for all of your hard work. It looks beautiful!

Women's Resource Center Announces 2017 Holiday Needs Program

Celebrate the holiday season and the spirit of giving this year by helping a family in need. WRC is hosting their annual Holiday Needs Program beginning November 1. We provide toys, clothing and food to clients who are in need during the holiday season. Donors have the opportunity to "adopt" a family or families. WRC Client Advocates work with families to fill out holiday wish lists so donors are

able to purchase gifts specifically for their adopted family or families.

"The Women's Resource Center Holiday Needs Program is a way for community members to have a more personalized giving experience by adopting a family and fulfilling their specific needs and wishes," says Heather Budnik, WRC Volunteer Coordinator. "It is humbling to see both the needs within our community and the enormous generosity of our neighbors during the holiday season." In addition to adopting a family, donations of cash and gift cards are alternative giving options that are greatly appreciated. Local businesses and residents who are interested in adopting a family in need this holiday season can contact Heather Budnik at 231-941-1210 or hbudnik@wrcgt.com.



Carol Rose, Store Manager started as a volunteer with the WRC in 1986; more than 30 years later she is the driving force behind our very successful Thrift Shop!



Contact

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720 South Elmwood, Suite 2
Traverse City, MI 49684

Phone 231-941-1210

Web www.womensresourcecenter.org

24-hour Helpline 1-800-554-4972

WRC Thrift Shop
3030 N. US-31
Traverse City, MI 49684
(Just south of Pizza Hut)

