

What the world would look like without the WRC?

Many of us can't remember a time before the Women's Resource Center. The WRC serves the community by providing essential supports in several key areas, through fulfillment of its mission to protect, shelter, and empower survivors of domestic and sexual violence. But what would our community look like if the WRC were to disappear?

Through the loss of advocacy:

- Other area agencies would be overwhelmed with people seeking DV services, which may not be provided.
- Survivors would not have anyone in their corner to help develop a relevant, personalized safety plan to keep themselves & their children protected.
- The community would lose a source of timely information and referrals, causing survivors to be less connected with needed resources.
- Survivors would lose a safe, strictly confidential, and empowering place to tell their stories and receive emotional support.
- People experiencing immediate threats of intimate partner violence would lose the guidance and support often required to successfully petition the courts for a personal protection order.
- The community would lose a locally relevant, 24-hour crisis hotline for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault.

Without our emergency shelter:

- Survivors and children would be at risk of having no alternative but to stay in an abusive environment, without a safe and healing shelter home.
- Individualized goal setting, consistent supports, and empowerment skills uniquely suited to survivors would be lacking.
- Other area shelters would be tasked with providing emergency housing, food, clothing, and essentials in an area already overwhelmed by community needs.
- Survivor families would lose the opportunity to connect with others who have similar stories, missing out on developing a valuable peer-support system.

If WRC sexual assault services ended:

- A survivor at the emergency room may have to undergo a forensic exam alone, without emotional support or understanding her rights for reporting an assault to law enforcement.
- Survivors without a safe, supportive place to go following rape would need to find their own immediate shelter.
- Survivors who may struggle with confusing emotions, flashbacks, and anxiety will lose the opportunity to immediately meet with a safe, non-judgmental support person.
- Crime victims could lose important advocacy and help navigating the legal system during an assailant's arrest, prosecution, possible trial, and sentence.

If our thrift stores disappeared:

- A relative unexpectedly caring for a child may struggle to find needed baby items, clothing or furniture in a timely way.
- Survivors of a fire or other personal tragedy would have one fewer place to turn for replacement of personal or household items.
- Working families whose children's needs grow faster than the family income may be without school clothing, winter gear, or books & toys.
- Survivors moving into their own home would lose a resource to shop for free furniture, kitchen essentials, and bedding.
- Community members who encounter the face of the WRC through our thrift stores would lose a direct referral opportunity, to connect with emergency shelter or advocacy services.

We know these services are essential and help create opportunities for survivors to heal & become empowered, despite the violence they have endured. We see and hear the results of the WRC's impact on our community every day, through the stories of survivors who have built a new future of security and hope. We invite you to join us in helping the WRC thrive as an active community resource for many years to come.