

help heal



Changing the Course of a Life

Dr. Jerry Evans, Chair of the EWP Board

EWP is so grateful for the support of this community over the past 45 years. So many of you have given financially, others have volunteered, and others have supported us with your prayers. We need all of that. We look forward to the future as we move ahead with plans to solidify our current services, increase the number of people we can reach, and give our staff and clients the facilities that meet their needs. Your continuing contribution to Every Woman's Place makes it possible for us to help victims and survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and sex trafficking.

CHANGING LIVES

MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS

STORIES OF SUCCESS

YEAR IN REVIEW

DONOR HIGHLIGHT

Here for Survivors, Today and Tomorrow

Kim Dimmett, Executive Director



Twenty-twenty has been a year.

It is unlike any most of us have ever faced. It has been challenging, individually, organizationally and community-wide. Plans that were devised to protect our citizenry became the worst possible scenario for many of the individuals we serve. Isolation tactics employed by perpetrators were now, in some ways, sanctioned.

COVID-19 challenged Every Woman's Place to react and respond quickly. We rose to the challenge and exceeded our own expectations for those that need us most. We immediately developed and implemented further safe communication choices, established safe space for Covid-positive clients and created a telework plan for staff who continued to work from afar, with the common goal of helping every person reaching out. Today, we are moving ahead with client support that extends beyond pre-COVID. We are preparing clients for financial empowerment and supporting them with barrier removal to a greater extent than previously available.

As we head toward 2021, we are optimistic. We are optimistic about the future of Every Woman's Place and the future of our clients.

The support and generosity we receive from the community we serve is strong and only getting more robust with every occasion. We encourage you to stay engaged during the coming weeks, months and years. Together, we will overcome.





Breaking Barriers for Survivors

Anje Banks, Director of Programs

Meeting victims where they are at.

That has been and continues to be the philosophy with which we provide services. For us this has meant allowing the survivors to navigate their own healing journey as we walk alongside them empowering them to make decisions that are best for them as an individual and educating them on their options at each stage of their journey.

As we entered 2020, this took on a more literal meaning as we focused more on a community-based approach to providing services. This resulted in us establishing satellite locations in Muskegon Heights and further north in the White Lake area. We increased our on-scene crisis response efforts and strengthened our relationships with our community partners to provide onsite services when they identified a client in need of our services. Our ultimate goal is to reach victims who may not be able to reach us and to eliminate the many barriers they may face in escaping abuse.

One of the biggest barriers many of our clients face when trying to establish independence and be self-sufficient is having the financial means to secure safe and affordable housing. In October 2020, we were awarded additional funding that will allow us to assist our clients with the financial burden that often hinders them from securing safe housing of their own.

In the midst of a pandemic and so many unknowns, our efforts to reach victims have only intensified. As people were forced to quarantine for months, for victims this would mean being stuck in one place with the very person who threatened their safety. We knew that the instances of domestic and sexual violence would increase. We also knew that victims' ability to reach out for services would be significantly restricted. Through the use of chat, text and other technology, we were still able to be available to victims seeking help.

As we look forward to 2021, we will continue our efforts to make our services accessible to all victims who need them and to remain a constant source of support for victims.



Choosing Courage

Janice, survivor

Janice greets everyone with a smile and simply bubbles with energy. Two years ago, she found the courage to seek shelter with EWP following years of physical and psychological abuse. With counseling to heal the emotional trauma and housing support to transition to independence, she is now on her own, safe and growing in confidence each day. "I can choose where I go and what I do and not be afraid anymore," she says.

She is determined to support survivors as a volunteer with EWP, guiding others on their journey to a new life free from violence.



visit everywomansplace.org/eventvideo for our full conversation with Beverly Geyer

BEGINNINGS

In 1975, women's issues nationwide were coming to the forefront, and here in Muskegon, a group of nine women gathered to discuss the unmet needs of women. Beverly Geyer, the first Executive Director of Every Woman's Place, talked in July with us about starting the agency. "There were five of us first hired as staff, among them three women of

color, and we were considered a women's resource center at the beginning. The women who walked in that door decided what we would be, and EWP adapted to meet the needs of those who were in the middle of divorce, had been in the home and maybe had no marketable skills; some had been victims of sexual assault, others were in a domestic violence relationship. About anything that could happen to a woman, they came to us."

Guiding Toward Empowerment

EWP walks beside all survivors in their healing journey

Victim Advocacy Services (non-residential)

Crisis Line and Crisis Intervention
Group and Individual Counseling
Legal Advocacy
Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)

Residential Services

Residential Crisis Center
Group and Individual Counseling
Legal Advocacy
Case Management
Transitional Supportive Housing (TSH)
Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)



"it isn't just women who face abuse...it was a relief to realize I wasn't crazy, and I wasn't the only one to experience this"

Stopping the Silence

Brandon, survivor

Brandon left a long-time relationship when the abuse in the relationship reached a crisis point. "I finally decided I needed to get out." He is like many survivors--no matter their gender--who hesitate leaving because they have been subjected to tactics of psychological abuse, making them mistrust their own instinct, leaving them suffering in silence and struggling against emotional trauma, physical threats or injury, and societal judgement.

A recent population study* conducted shows 20-50% of partner violence victims are men. Today, Brandon is in a new relationship that is safe and healthy. "If I had known that EWP's services did include men, I would have reached out--and I want to tell others to do the same."

*Male Survivors of Partner Violence: Abuse Experiences, Mental Health, and Help Seeking, Denise A. Hines, Ph.D. and Emily M. Douglas, Ph.D.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tracey M. Bankhead, JD Family Counselor/PASS Program Coordinator
Jill Bonthuis Executive Director, Pioneer Resources
Visishta Boeringa Assistant Prosecutor, Muskegon County Prosecutor's Office
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Danielle McMiller VP Sales, Structural Concepts
Quintina Pittman Wellness Coach, 3ZCrew Instructor
Gina Ramirez, MD Shoreline Pediatrics
Nancy Westgate-Sytsema Co-President, Wesco Inc.

Staying the Path

by Sarah de la Rosa, Non-Residential Program Manager/SART Coordinator

EWP staff began 2020 with big plans and an ignited passion to bring our community education and awareness. We formed new teams to plan upcoming events and outreach efforts.

No amount of planning could have prepared us for the Covid-19 pandemic. Numerous activities that were planned for April's Sexual Assault Awareness Month were cancelled or postponed to April 2021.

The ever-popular Denim Day initiative was held virtually while the majority of our community was under a "Stay at Home" order. Events we typically hold to promote survivor healing and strength, such as the Clothesline Project, were cancelled.



SMALL TEAMS FOR SURVIVORS

Small Teams for Survivors brings our community together in support of all survivors of domestic or sexual violence. Each Small Team makes an impact by teaming with their coworkers, family, friends, and neighbors to help raise funds that go to heal lives after trauma.

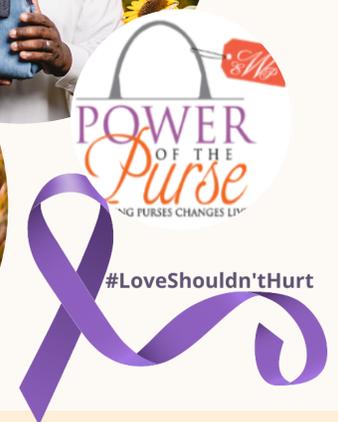
Small Teams will start a new season in March 2021. Learn more at everywomansplace.org/smallteamsforsurvivors, and follow our [#waveofsupport](https://www.facebook.com/everywomansplace) on [facebook.com/everywomansplace](https://www.facebook.com/everywomansplace)

visit everywomansplace.org/sponsor21 to sponsor for 2021 events

continued, by Sarah de la Rosa

Our outreach efforts became targeted to those who needed EWP or to our community partners that need to refer survivors to us. We implemented a web chat and text feature to provide survivors a safe way to contact us if they were at home with their assailant. Statistics showed that the Covid-19 pandemic only amplified the rates of domestic violence and sexual assault and EWP staff were available and ready to provide the needed services when survivors of violence were able to safely reach out to us.

"2020 has taught us that, like the survivors we serve, we are resilient."



45TH ANNIVERSARY

On July 23, EWP celebrated survivors with a virtual event with the theme 'Strengthen'. We highlighted not only the impact of EWP in the community, but also put the focus on the survivors that EWP has served for the last 45 years.

The event featured a panel discussion and a celebration video with survivor success stories. Ms. Beverly Geyer, EWP's first Executive Director, revisited the beginnings of the agency, and community members created a collaborative art piece.

Community and EWP staff paint parking lines to celebrate PRIDE in June, *below*



Community members hand-sew masks for EWP in August, *right*



Clients enjoyed a painting workshop with artist Christi Drees in September, *left*



DTE Engery donated COVID-19 PPE Kits in July, *left*

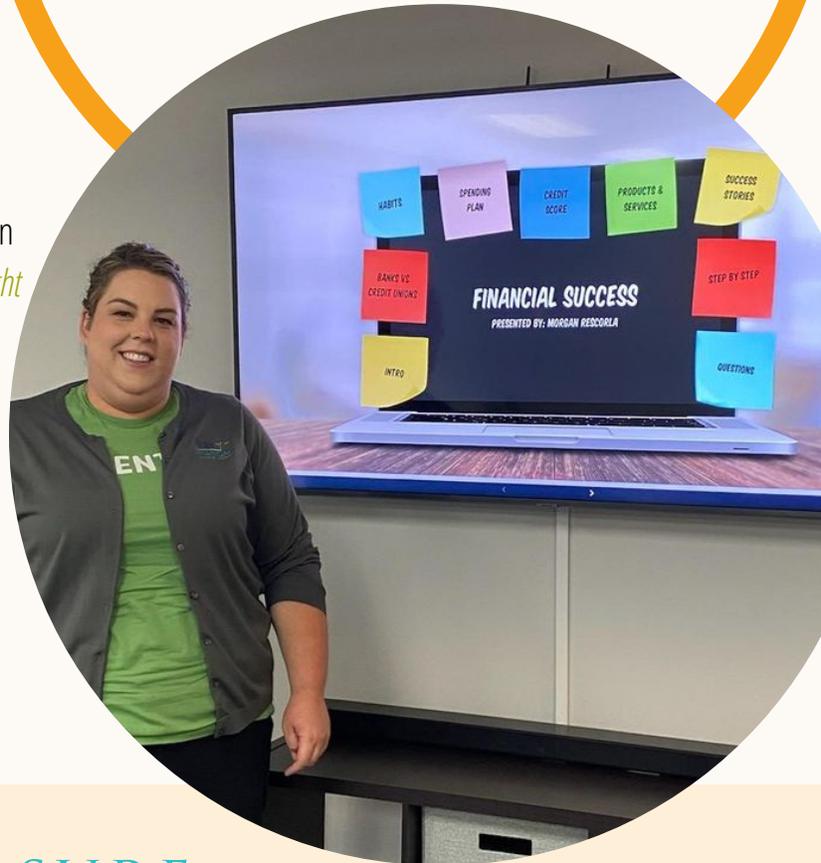


DENIM DAY
EST. 1999

Community members celebrated a virtual Denim Day in April, *above*

12
new members joined The 500 as EWP's stewards of the next 45 years

Morgan Rescorla of Best Financial Credit Union presented at EWP's Matched Savings Program class in July, *right*



1,895
volunteer hours

TIME, TALENT, TREASURE

"EWP can be a heartwarming place to volunteer, though the work can sometimes be heartbreaking when you see what our clients have been through. The rewarding part is when a survivor tells me that I

soothed their anxiety or helped it them find a stable job. It reminds me of why I keep volunteering...to be part of growing that strength." --Sandra Rodrigues, EWP Volunteer

visit everywomansplace.org/fundraising to download a fundraiser kit

Volunteers helped clean up at United Way's *Day of Caring* in September, *below*



Ladies of the Lake hand-quilted warm blankets for our clients in April, *left*

42

community health, medical, and law enforcement agencies in partnership with EWP



EWP delivered cookies to law enforcement in October, *right*



EWP staff participated in third-party fundraising at Revive Nutrition in October, *above*

third-party fundraisers

13

Family Financial Credit Union delivered school backpacks in August, *right*



CARING COMMUNITY

When there is a need, this community responds. It's how EWP has continued to be here for the last 45 years through changing programs, changing economic situations, and growing awareness of the barriers

so many survivors of abuse face. "We chose EWP as our annual charity in 2020 because we know that what they do is so valuable to the community," says Maria Zaverl of Family Financial Credit Union.

HELPING HEAL

GIVE A GIFT

SHARE OUR CONTENT

SPONSOR

VOLUNTEER

MAKE A BEQUEST

FUNDRAISE

Giving the Gift of a Violence-Free Life

Donor Highlight: Roger and Paula Hoffman

For Paula, EWP holds a special place in her heart as a survivor of abuse. She is a retired RN, and dedicated many years to teaching and advocating for teen girls. She says that she is so grateful that she had resources and a network to count on following her abuse, and has committed her time and talents to EWP to ensure that others who may not have the same access still have avenues to healing.

Roger feels called to engage in the community due to his experience advocating for young people as a Big Brother in the BBBS program. He recognizes the passion that EWP staff have for their work, yet realizes that the needs far outweigh the resources. Roger says, "the haves must give."



Roger and Paula both have served on EWP's Board, and make a tradition of donating purses for and sponsoring the *Power of the Purse* as well as supporting the EWP capital campaign.

451
counseling clients

448
crisis interventions

610
crisis line calls



MAKE A BEQUEST TO EWP

Anyone can make a bequest to Every Woman's Place through their will or estate plan. All it takes is a quick phone call to your lawyer to add a charitable gift to your will. If you have already designated Every Woman's Place as a beneficiary in your will, please let us know! helpheal@everywomansplace.org

Every Woman's Place is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization
1221 W Laketon Ave
Muskegon MI 49441
Tax ID 382072675



3,868 bed nights for women

bed nights for children 1,779

5,569 counseling hours

men receiving advocacy services 3

100 counseling hours for children affected by violence

35 children receiving advocacy services

422 women receiving advocacy services

45 years helping heal



MISSION

Every Woman's Place strengthens lives in the community by providing shelter, counseling, and advocacy for those affected by domestic violence, sexual assault and sex trafficking.

    everywomansplace.org



"When we help them see that they have the right to choose the path their lives will take, that's how we make a difference." — B.B., EWP supporter



VALUES

Every Woman's Place has been a place of hope, safety and healing for 45 years. Our services are comprehensive, culturally sensitive and are for any survivor of domestic or sexual violence, whether from yesterday or years ago.



VISION

EWP will be an agency that offers a safe, welcoming, modernized location for staff and clients, where all survivors will can begin their healing journey.

"despite uncertainty for all of us —and more so the survivors we serve—the vision of EWP remains clear and strong...we will continue to be here and heal." — Paetyn, EWP staff

I finally asked one friend if there was a program. I was in a bad situation, and I needed help. EWP was there. —Deena, survivor

