

Every Woman's Place strengthens the community with crisis response services that deliver critical care and ongoing support for all victims and survivors of domestic and sexual violence.

SERVING SURVIVORS WITH A SANE UNIT AT EWP

After a sexual assault, the victim's own body and lived experience become a crime scene. Sexual assault is dehumanizing, perpetrated as an act of power over another human being. Follow-up care should be a process of rehumanizing and empowering, restoring the survivor's sense of self as an inviolate being.

Cayden*, a gay 19-year old with learning disabilities, came to EWP for a walk-in after a sexual assault. Though on a date, he didn't consent to sexual contact. Following his assault, he underwent a physically and emotionally draining SAFE (Sexual Assault Forensic Exam) in the emergency room accompanied by our EWP advocate.

Nationally, one in six women and one in 33 men have experienced an attempted or completed rape.

The majority of sexual assault victims are cis female, but gay, lesbian, and transgender individuals bear a higher burden of sexual violence when compared to cisgendered individuals. EWP is here for all individuals in what can be one of the darkest moments of their lives. We help every survivor heal.

Statistics indicate that three out of four sexual assaults go unreported--pointing to nearly 1,000 estimated sexual assaults in our community where victims have not accessed services to heal physically and emotionally afterward, or prosecuted the perpetrator of the crime against them.

EWP is here because of survivors like Cayden. With a SANE Unit on site where our advocates are available 24/7, more survivors like him will feel safe and seen, and more likely to report. We'll be here to help them take their first steps toward healing.



I chose to complete the exam because I knew my EWP advocate would help me get through it. I was angry and ashamed after the assault, but I'm still glad I did the exam.



everywomansplace.org/stories



**Cayden is not his real name, but his story is...and so is his journey toward healing.*

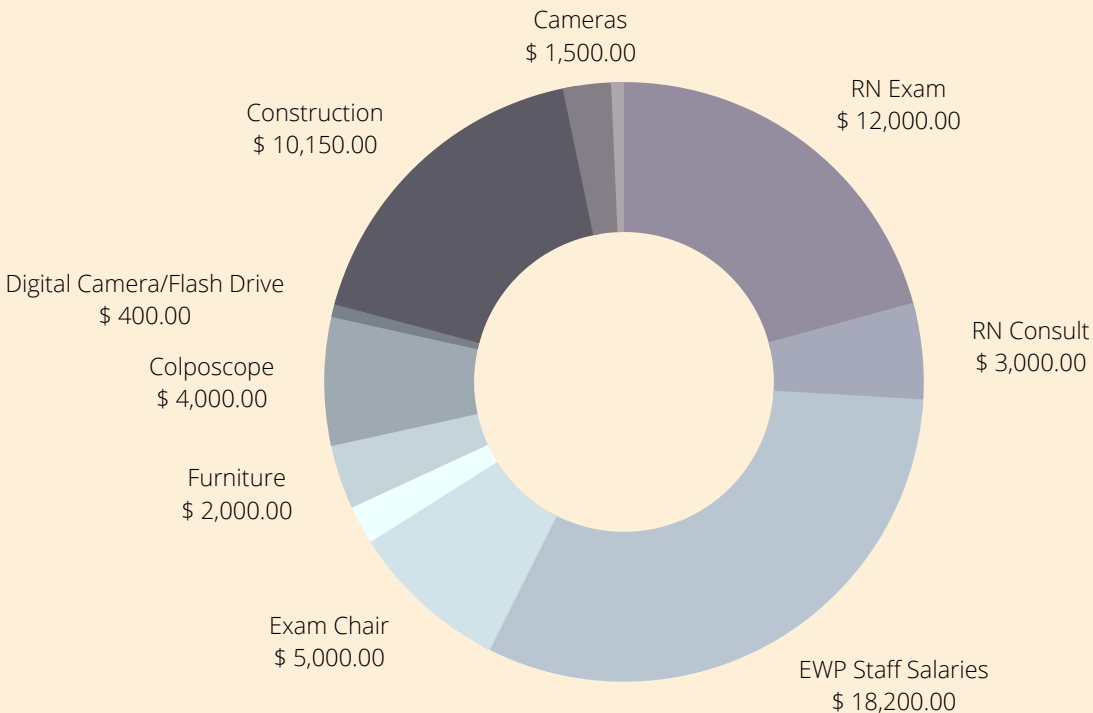
WE JOURNEY WITH SURVIVORS FROM ASSAULT TO PROSECUTION

A SANE (Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner) is the medical professional who completes a SAFE (Sexual Assault Forensic Exam) following a sexual assault. These exams and the evidence collected are commonly referred to as rape kits, but use of that term can be triggering for a survivor. The SAFE procedure is completed by a certified SANE Registered Nurse (RN), and can take anywhere from two hours to four hours to complete. In Muskegon County currently, SAFE procedures are completed at Trinity Health's ER, an environment which can be overwhelming, stressful, and further triggering for the survivor.

With a SANE Unit in our building, EWP will provide survivors post-assault medications, post-exam care packages, resource literature and advocate support. We intend to be the single source of care and support for all survivors of sexual or domestic violence. Our promise to them and to this community is to respond to trauma and to restore a life after violence. Any service that gives comforting care and helps restore a victim's sense of self belongs with EWP.



YEAR 1 BUDGET



50 gifts to give the chance for justice

Every gift toward the SANE Unit helps us restore lives.

With 50 gifts of \$1,000, the SANE Unit at EWP will be fully funded for a year...for every survivor in our community.

