



OCTOBER IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

If you don't own anything purple in your wardrobe, time to start shopping before October rolls around! The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence first started Domestic Violence Awareness Month in 1981. Back then, it was a Day Of Unity. The color purple was selected as the color to promote awareness for the first Domestic Violence Day of Unity in October 1981. The color is meant to be a symbol of peace, courage, survival, honor, and dedication to ending violence. The first Domestic Violence Awareness Month took place in 1987. That same year marked the start of the first national domestic violence toll-free hotline. On a typical day, there are more than 20,000 phone calls placed to domestic violence hotlines nationwide. In 1989 the U.S. Congress passed a Public Law designating October of that year as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The third Thursday of October has now become nationally recognized as Purple Thursday where people nationwide are encouraged to wear purple to increase awareness of domestic violence. It is also an easy way for people to show their commitment to promoting healthy relationships.

The month of October has been a time to acknowledge domestic violence survivors and be a voice for its victims. Domestic Violence Awareness Month is designed to unify women and men, all across the world, who have been victims of domestic violence. It is important to recognize that domestic violence impacts millions of people, and it's not only women who are victims; many men suffer domestic violence as well. Domestic violence is a problem across every status, culture, religion, and race.

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OCTOBER IS DOMESTIC ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH CONTINUED

There are many different forms of domestic violence as well, which is why raising awareness is so critical. Domestic violence can result in physical injury, psychological trauma, and even death. The devastating consequences of domestic violence can cross generations and last a lifetime.

Although there has been substantial progress in reducing domestic violence, an average of 20 people are physically abused by intimate partners every minute. This equates to more than 10 million abuse victims annually.

- 1 in 4 women and 1 in 9 men experience severe intimate partner physical violence, intimate partner sexual violence, and/or intimate partner stalking.
- 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men have experienced some form of physical violence by an intimate partner.
- 1 in 7 women and 1 in 25 men have been injured by an intimate partner.
- 1 in 10 women have been raped by an intimate partner. Data is unavailable on male victims.
- 1 in 4 women and 1 in 7 men have been victims of severe physical violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime.

It is important to note that 50%-70% of domestic violence goes unreported.

Millions of Americans live in daily, silent fear within their own homes. In addition, every year millions of children are exposed to domestic violence. Domestic violence incidents affect every person within a home and can have long-lasting negative effects on children's emotional well-being, and social and academic functioning.



In order to raise awareness of domestic violence and its impacts on our local communities WRAP has many activities throughout the month of October. WRAP will be hanging memorial ribbons in local towns. These ribbons will have the names of those who lost their lives due to intimate partner homicide in Minnesota in 2022. WRAP will be hosting our annual auction and live event. The online auction will run from October 12th, 2023 - October 19th, 2023. On October 19th, 2023 (Purple Thursday) WRAP will host our live event to end our auction. The live event will take place at The Rock in Granite Falls, MN.



WRAP is going to be serving sexual assault victims in Yellow Medicine County! As of October 1st, 2023, WRAP will be the designated program to serve sexual assault victims in Yellow Medicine County.

Historically, the service providers have been funded through the State of Minnesota to provide sexual assault services in Yellow Medicine County were:

Pathways of West Central MN Inc.
1997 to 2017

Safe Avenues of Willmar
2018 to 2023

If you have questions about this change, please reach out to any of the WRAP staff.

Big News!

New Advocates

MEET EMMALEE: THE NEW REGIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ADVOCATE



My name is Emmalee I started working with WoMen's Rural Advocacy Programs in May of 2023.

I grew up on a farm outside of Tracy, MN. I graduated high school in 2013 and graduated from LATI in Agriculture Livestock Production and Management. Though I still continue to farm with my family my true passion is helping people.

I have two dogs and love being around my family! I enjoy camping, fishing, 4-wheeling, and helping out with the sheep and cows.

I have had my own personal experiences with domestic violence and sexual assault that has given me the passion for helping people in similar situations. No one should have to go through it alone and I love being a part of the WRAP team.



MEET TAYLOR: THE NEWEST YELLOW MEDICINE COUNTY ADVOCATE

My name is Taylor and I began volunteering with WoMen's Rural Advocacy Program in October of 2022. In August of 2023, I was hired as the second Domestic Violence Advocate in Yellow Medicine County.

I grew up in Clarkfield, MN, and graduated from Montevideo Sr. High School in 2011. I attended college for Psychology in Liberal Arts, obtained numerous certifications and diploma's in trauma, as well as therapy, and continue to be an avid learner in all areas.

I have a beautifully blended family, consumed with diverse personalities, lessons, and all the fun.

With my personal experience having survived domestic violence and embracing the journey of trauma recovery, I want survivors to know that life does not need to be defined by what happened to you.



#Crisis4Victims and #VOCA



What is VOCA?

The Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Crime Victims Fund (CVF) is a non-taxpayer source of funding that supports thousands of victim services providers serving millions of victims annually throughout the United States. VOCA is funded by monetary penalties associated with federal crime convictions. Deposits into VOCA have been low for several years, which has impacted the balance of these funds. Every year, it is decided how much of these funds will be released for VOCA Grants. This money funds many different programs, but also funds state victim assistance grants. Victim assistance grants are grants that are given to agencies, such as WRAP, to be able to provide free services for crime victims. In past years, when these funds are low there has been a cushion of funds. Due to the number of low years in a row, there is not a cushion. Because there is no longer a cushion and the available funds are low, the amount being released for grants is also low.



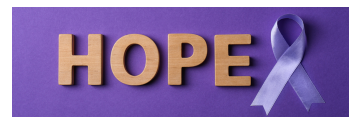
What Is happening with VOCA?

In FY2023 VOCA funding was \$1.9 billion dollars. It is proposed that in FY2024 the amount will be \$1.2 billion dollars. This is about a 40% cut from FY2023 to FY2024. It is important to note that this money is split between many different federal, state, and nonprofit programs across the United States. States have already begun to implement significant cuts, with some cutting more than 60% in the current year alone. At this proposed funding level, thousands of victim service providers across the nation will be forced to lay off staff, cut programs, and/or shut their doors. The impact will be hardest on the smallest programs, particularly programs in rural communities, low-income communities, and Communities of Color. Potentially millions of victims nationwide will lose access to lifesaving and life-sustaining child abuse, domestic violence, sexual assault, and other victim services. Without access to these critical services, the real-time impact will not only be felt by individuals and families, but also in communities nationwide. It is important to note that, after being kept in isolation due to the pandemic, many survivors are just now coming forward seeking services, and losing access now will further set back their healing and safety.

Why do VOCA cuts affect WRAP?



VOCA cuts will significantly affect WRAP. In FY 2022 WRAP was funded 34% by VOCA funding and 16% by other state funding. After the cuts implemented in FY 2023, WRAP will be funded 8% by VOCA and 39% by other state funding. State funding was only increased to backfill funding due to previous VOCA cuts. If VOCA gets cut by an additional 40% the state will have less money to distribute and will not have the funds to backfill all of the VOCA funds. This means that WRAP may not receive the funds needed to provide victim services at the level we are now. In addition to that, WRAP has seen client numbers steadily increasing. If WRAP does not receive the needed funds and client numbers increase WRAP will not be able to provide the same level of service that we currently can.



How does this affect our community?

WRAP losing funding from VOCA would also affect our local communities. We are located in a rural area with limited resources for victims already. If funding is cut our resources will become even more limited in our area. Some services that would be impacted by this funding include a safe place for victims and their children to stay, transportation, and an advocate's time. WRAP may be unable to help secure somewhere for a victim and their children to stay short-term. This is much needed in our rural area as the nearest shelter is over an hour away. WRAP may have to cut staff positions which would require advocates to take on higher caseloads and have less time to dedicate to each client. WRAP may be unable to assist with transportation needs for clients. Transportation is also very needed in our rural area, especially since smaller surrounding towns do not often have access to public transportation.



What can you do?

There are many ways to get involved!

1: Contact your federal legislatures and tell them that a 40% cut to VOCA will be devastating and that they need to act now.

Senator Amy Klobuchar

Email: Use the link:

<https://www.klobuchar.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/email-amy>

Call: 507-288-5321

Representative Michelle Fischbach

Email: Use the link: <https://fischbach.house.gov/contact>

Call: 320-403-6100

2: Share this information with family & friends

3: Donate funds or your time to WRAP to help victims

“Given the dire potential consequences, on behalf of the victims and survivors we all serve, we ask that Congress invest adequate funding for VOCA in the final FY24 Appropriations budget.” - VFMN




WRAP IS HAPPY TO ANNOUNCE THAT THE SUPPORT GROUP IS BACK!

JOIN US SEPTEMBER 21ST FROM 6PM TO 7 PM

THOUGH IT IS NOT NECESSARY, WE WOULD APPRECIATE IF YOU RSVP SO WE CAN BE PREPARED! CANT WAIT TO SEE YOU THERE!

IT WILL BE HELD IN PERSON IN LYON AND YELOW MEDICINE COUNTY. ANYONE WANTING TO JOIN FROM REDWOOD COUNTY, LINCOLN COUNTY, OR IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND IN PERSON, IT WILL ALSO BE HELD VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM.



IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE REACH OUT TO
MISSI (507-828-8876) OR EMMALEE (507-828-2799)

WRAP Support Group

A few reasons to join us:

You'll have a better understanding of what you are going through, you won't feel alone, your social skills will improve, you can express your feelings, you'll become hopeful, your stress level is reduced, you'll understand yourself better, and you are given the opportunity to help others.

Join us every third Thursday of the month!



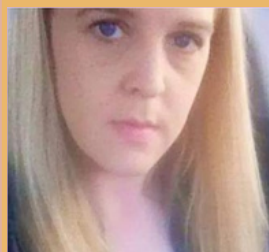
Latiffa Tasha Brown
Age 31
St. Paul
January 22, 2022



Linda Marie Johnson
Age 66
St. Paul
January 24, 2022



Lisa Kathleen Peterson
Age 41
Plymouth
February 7, 2022



Christeen Jo Massey (Farleigh)
Age 40
Mora
February 11, 2022



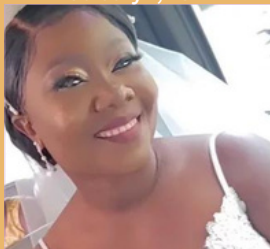
Christine Kaja Nygard
Age 66
March 6, 2022



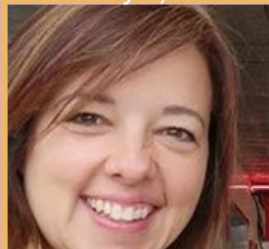
Kelli Ranning Goodermont
Age 44
St. Paul
March 15, 2022



Issavc Jon Hoff
Age 13
Oliva
March 24, 2022



Peachu Yates
Age 35
Champlin
March 28, 2022



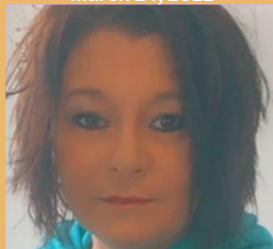
Lynnie Ann Loucks
Age 43
Crow Wing County
April 28, 2022



Ariel Christine Sakry
Age 25
Compton Township
April 29, 2022



Chandra Lanae Pelch
Age 18
Medford
June 3, 2022

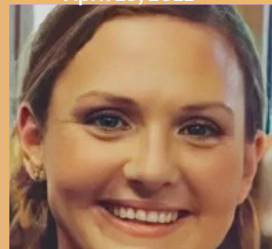


Kari Jo Petrich
Age 43
Hibbing
June 28, 2022

2022 Minnesota Domestic Homicide Victims



Donald T. Davis
Age 39
Minneapolis
July 9, 2022



Katie Ann Fredrickson
Age 34
Brooklyn Center
July 30, 2022



Ka Lor
Age 30
St. Paul
August 17, 2022



Carissa Odegaard
Age 31
Warren
August 23, 2022



Shanna Renae Daniels
Age 43
North St. Paul
August 25, 2022



Alberta Sue Nelson
Age 65
Rochester
September 5, 2022



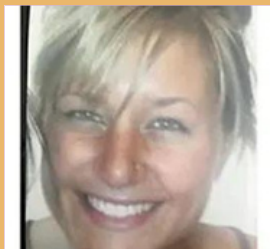
Nicole Michelle Hammond
Age 28
St. Cloud
October 24, 2022



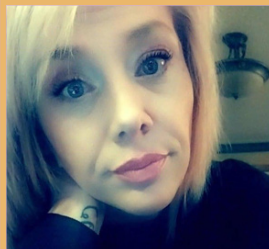
Zaria Rashun Mckeever
Age 23
Brooklyn Park
November 8, 2022



Tu Amh Phan
Age 49
Bloomington
November 23, 2022



Alexandria L. Pennig
Age 32
St. Paul
December 16, 2022



Kimberly Ann Robinson
Age 41
Rochester
December 26, 2022



Jasmine Marie Nelson
Age 27
Medina
December 29, 2022

REMEMBERING ARIEL



Ariel Christine Sakry was born and raised in Clarkfield, MN. On April 29, 2022, Ariel Sakry, 25, was shot and killed by her husband, Isaac Malone, 25, in their rural Wadena home. Isaac then shot and killed himself. Ariel was shot by her husband 11 times including her chest and head all from the front. She also suffered trauma. She died from multiple gunshot wounds. Her husband, Isaac Malone had a prior charge of domestic violence by strangulation to Ariel in 2020. They leave behind two young children.

On June 10th of 2023, WRAP attended a Memorial Beanbag tournament held by the Sakry family and a total of \$9,322.51 was raised for WRAP to support victims of domestic violence.

Ariel's mom gave a moving speech and we would like to share a few words from her. "Our family is living the tragic nightmare of the ripple effect of domestic violence. Our hope is that no one has to experience what Ariel and our family have had to go through. Our continued mission is in hopes to save and help people who are in similar situations. There's a taboo when it comes to talking about domestic violence nobody wants to talk about, it our hope is that this changes, that people will talk about it, and people will know that there are options for them to get help." - Nichole Sakry

BIDS AGAINST ABUSE SILENT AUCTION & LIVE EVENT

This year, WRAP is hosting our 2nd Annual Event on October 19th from 5-8 p.m. at the Rock in Granite Falls. This event will include a social hour, a short program, and a dinner including a 2 meat buffet. It will give bidders of the silent auction an opportunity to see items in person as well as pick up the items when the bidding is done.

Last year WRAP held its event at Brau Brothers in Marshall, MN and over 100 guests attended the event. A goal of \$5000 was set and \$6616 was raised. That is 132.3% of the goal that was reached!

This year, we have set our goal at \$10,000! The funds raised from this event will go towards helping offset the cost of providing services to victims. Funds will cover things such as hotel/motel stays for clients, food/meals, gas/gas cards, other needs that may arise for the clients, etc. to ensure their safety and security.

WRAP is currently seeking companies, groups, and/or individuals interested in sponsoring and creating baskets to be auctioned during the online event. If interested, please email Brooklyn@letswrap.com or call 507-532-2350 option 7.

If you are interested in attending the event, you can purchase tickets online by clicking the link below or you can find out more information on our social media pages. <https://forms.gle/RbPKva5X8u7pq1tF7>

When donating to this event you are supporting victims of domestic violence and human trafficking in Southwestern Minnesota. Many people believe that these types of things don't happen here. So far in 2023, 24 people have lost their lives in Minnesota due to intimate partner homicide. When you support WRAP, you are supporting victims and helping break the cycle of abuse.

**WANT TO GET INVOLVED IN
MAKING OUR EVENT A SUCCESS?
WRAP WOULD LOVE YOUR HELP!**

WAYS YOU CAN HELP!

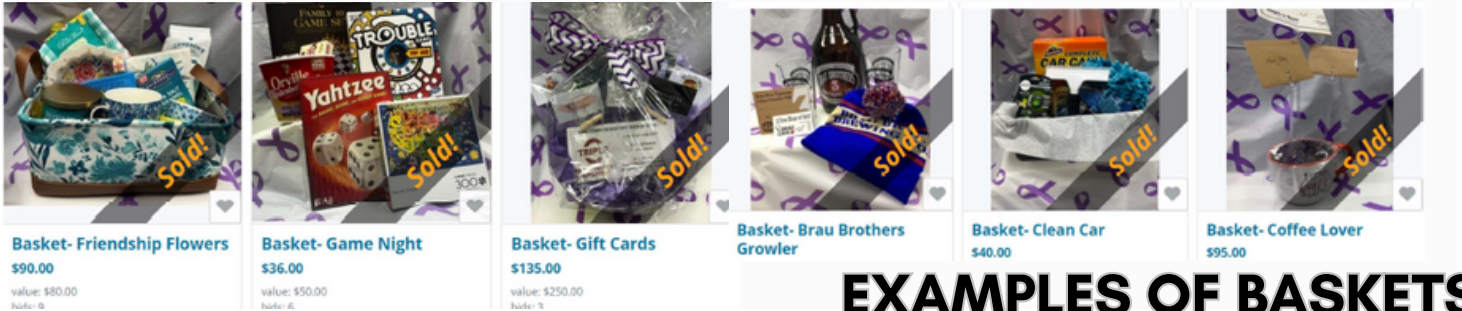
- * HELP SET UP AND TAKE DOWN FOR THE LIVE EVENT
- * HELP ORGANIZE DONATION BASKETS AND PREP THEM FOR THE AUCTION
- * TALK TO COMMUNITY MEMBERS, GROUPS & BUSINESSES COMMUNITY ABOUT WAYS THEY CAN DONATE AND COLLECT DONATIONS.

INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?

REACH OUT TO BROOKLYN TODAY AT
BROOKLYN@LETSWRAP.COM
OR 507- 532- 2350 OPTION 7 WITH
QUESTIONS OR REGISTER ONLINE AT THE
FOLLOWING LINK
[HTTPS://FORMS.GLE/ER2WRNGUME2EFLCE6](https://forms.gle/ER2WRNGUME2EFLCE6)
THE LINK CAN ALSO BE FOUND ON OUR
SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES!



4th Annual **BIDS AGAINST ABUSE**



EXAMPLES OF BASKETS

BE PART OF THE SOLUTION

WRAP is seeking companies, groups, and individuals interested in donating items to be auctioned during our online event.

Donation deadline is September 29, 2023

Items can include Prize Baskets, Gift Certificates. You can also donate funds directly to WoMen's Rural Advocacy Programs, Inc.



WHY YOU SHOULD GET INVOLVED

Some people think that domestic violence is a private, family matter and choose not to get involved. However, domestic violence impacts our communities in surprising ways. Victims could be your family members, friends, co-workers, and/or neighbors.

ALL FUNDS COLLECTED WILL BE USED TO SUPPORT VICTIM SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & SEX TRAFFICKING/EXPLOITATION IN YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITIES

If you have questions please contact Brooklyn at brooklyn@letswrap.com or 507-532-2350 ext. 7

Meet a few of our WRAP Board Members

WHO THEY ARE AND WHY THEY WANTED TO BE A PART OF IT



Tony Rolling (Board Chair) - "I asked to join the board in part, because I wanted Law Enforcement to have a voice. When I joined the board, I saw that WRAP was not the agency that it had once been, and seen that they were a group of people who were passionate about wanting to help all those who were in need, something that is still very true today. Over the past number of years that I have been a part of this organization, I have seen first-hand, personally, and professionally, the good work that WRAP has done, and I'm proud to have had a part in that. WRAP is able to provide victims of domestic abuse and human trafficking, avenues of safety, support, and protection, at a time when those things may seem unattainable. To know where WRAP once was, and to see what the organization has grown into, has been truly remarkable."

Christina Janiszkeski - "I am Licensed Professional Counselor & Licensed Alcohol & Drug Counselor. I wanted to join the board because I have been working with those impacted by Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault for many years. I have seen firsthand how much damage it causes not only the victim but also the families & communities around us. I heard great things about WRAP when I first moved to Marshall & have seen firsthand how dedicated they are to helping others. I am so glad to be a part of the WRAP organization!"

Emilie Potter - "I first wanted to join the board in honor of my mom. My mom's first marriage was incredibly abusive to the point that she was almost killed on more than one occasion. My mom passed away in 2018 from cancer and this was a way that I could do something to honor her and her life. I also have also felt very passionate about domestic violence knowing that it is so likely that either we ourselves are impacted by it directly or indirectly either personally or professionally or both! Working in child protection I really wanted to build this relationship and a way to work together for our families in our community. WRAP is an amazing organization with amazing and dedicated staff members supporting people every day in their darkest moments. Our communities are so lucky to have such an organization with such passionate people. I am so happy to be able to be a part of it as a board member!"

Michele A. Leininger - "When I became the director of the Marshall Lyon County Library, I wanted to find an additional way to be engaged with the community. The opportunity to serve on the WRAP Board instantly felt like the best way to do that. Having worked mainly in urban libraries for most of my career, I have witnessed domestic abuse and violence many times in library settings. As a librarian, I've also had the chance to help those who have made the difficult decision to change their circumstances and their lives. Belonging to the WRAP Board gives me another way to help and make a difference. I have been honored to be a small part of such a wonderful and meaningful organization."

Jenna Peterson - "I joined the WRAP Board because WRAP is an integral part of keeping our communities safe. In our rural area, we have limited resources available to our staggering number of victims and without WRAP we would be unable to provide services to victims, to raise awareness about domestic violence, and to support victims and their families through the process of this often life changing, traumatic event."

WRAP Stats

Most people think that domestic violence is a private, family matter and don't want to get involved. However, domestic violence impacts YOUR community in surprising ways. The following statistics represent **YOUR family members, YOUR friends, YOUR co-workers, YOUR community members.**

	October 1 - December 31 2022	January 1 - March 31 2023	April 1 - July 30 2023	
All Individuals Served by WRAP in Lincoln, Lyon, Redwood & Yellow Medicine Counties	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	Totals
TOTAL number of individuals who received services during reporting period	192	172	202	566
Number of NEW individuals who received services during reporting period	192	97	119	408

Emotional Support or Safety Services	Totals
Number of individuals who received emotional support services	516
Crisis intervention	735
Hotline/crisis line counseling	1746
On-scene crisis response	63
Individual counseling	4449
Support groups	8
Other therapy	52
Emergency financial assistance	1264

Information & Referral	Totals
Number of individuals who received information & referral services	495
Information about the criminal justice process	822
Information about victim rights, how to obtain notifications, etc.	479
Referral to other victim service programs	511
Referral to other services, supports, and resources	722

Shelter/Housing Services	Totals
Number of individuals who received shelter/housing services	190
Emergency shelter or safe house	1373
Relocation assistance	1603

****NOTE:** When comparing the first 3 quarters of fiscal year 2022 (October 2021-June 2022) to the first 3 quarters of fiscal year 2023 (October 2022-June 2023), WRAP has seen an increase of 28%.

Voices of those we serve...



"Great support system and always there when I need them, night or day and even weekends!" -Former Client

"Your organization has helped me so much through a horrible time in my life." - Former Client

"I would say that this allowed me to feel a sense of safety...Having this support was really necessary and allowed me and my daughter to have a roof over our heads, legal security, and support. I would not have been able to get this far, or able to survive, without these funds".
-Former Client

"Without WRAP I would have been lost with my experience. I remember telling myself that if this didn't work I was going to kill myself, but they helped so much that I felt like I could talk about anything." -Former Client

DONORS

Pizza Hut

First English Lutheran Church (WELCA) - Tyler

Hope Luthern Church

Daktronics Employee Club

Runnings Wearhouse Employees

Gloria Dei Women's Organizations

Lakeview FCCLA

Modern Woodman Ch. 18030 & 3788 Glenda Vizecky

Karen Pederson

Paula Jordan

Margie Dahl

Anne Veldhuisen

Rietz Hannermann

Carolyn Lindsay

Kristi Matzner

Kathy Brandt

Sharon Root

Mike Felcyn

Jeffery D. Knolnick

many
thanks

Patty Chistensen

Alba Dixon

Teri Smith

Brianna Johnson

Linda Johnson

Vicki Flugum

Jeff and Sherri Ellefson

Ron Steffen

Judy Curwick

Jane Wahl

Erin Vanderveen

Lisa Meyer

Rita Wieneke

Bernie and Sharon Kretsch

Mana Rae Hughes

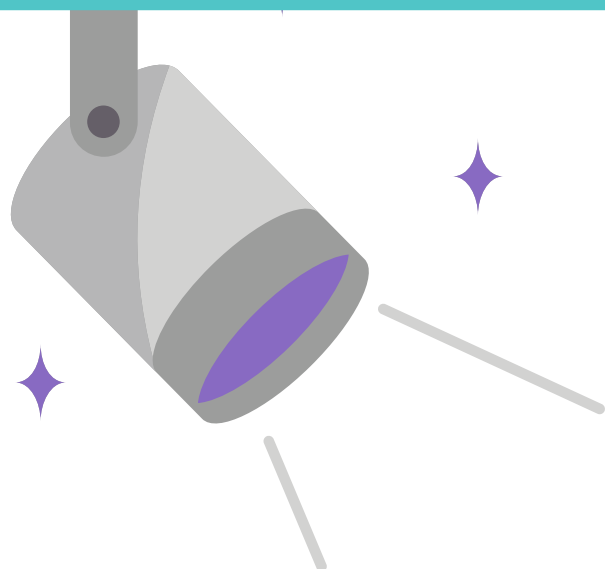
Jana Reily

Seth Swan

Ron Kassel



Volunteer Spotlight!



Rachael is a volunteer for WoMen's Rural Advocacy Programs, Inc. Rachael started volunteering with WRAP in August of 2023. She is scheduled for three days per week but comes in whenever is needed.

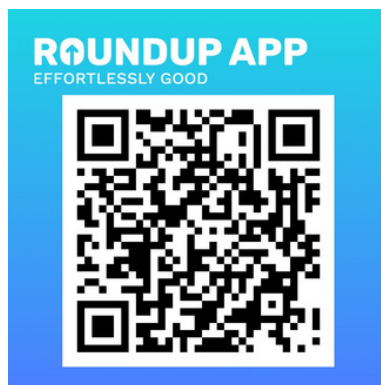
She is willing to help the agency or victims in whatever way is possible or needed. Whenever Rachael sees a task that needs to be completed, she takes the initiative on completing this task. Rachael has been working on training and organizing the resource rooms to make it more accessible for clients to find what they need!

4

WAYS YOU CAN DONATE TO WRAP

- Donate through your PayPal account
- Donate through Venmo
- RoundUp your purchases and donate the change to WRAP
- Mail a check to WRAP, PO Box 1193, Marshall, MN 56258

SCAN THE QR CODES BELOW TO GET CONNECTED!



Please Consider WRAP During Your END OF THE YEAR Giving!



WoMen's Rural Advocacy Programs, Inc.
PO Box 1193
Marshall, MN 56258

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED