

2018 NEWSLETTER

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FROM THE DIRECTOR:

Dear NHCC Supporters,

It has been a busy year! During the fiscal year (July 2017-June 2018) we served 593 individuals through our direct services programs—providing 5,605 services to these individuals. We also provided 97 community education and awareness activities reaching 2,627 participants and 16 professional trainings/presentations reaching 420 professionals through our prevention and professional education efforts.

As I reflect on our challenges and successes this past year, I am reminded how much we have achieved; yet there is still much to do. As a victim advocacy movement, and an agency, we have made strides in better understanding and responding to crime and victimization. Though we have also recently been reminded by sexual assault victims, through things like #MeToo and media reports (e.g. *the Star Tribune's* "Denied Justice: When Rape is Reported and Nothing Happens," etc.) that we, as a community, have let victims down. NHCC does not believe that this inadequate and unjust response is only relevant to sexual assault victims—we know that there are gaps in effective responses to all types of crime.

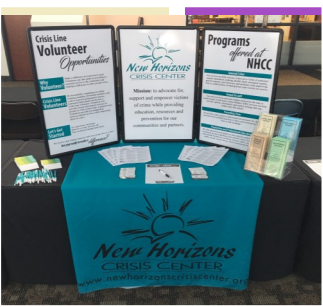
NHCC believes that there is great value in negative feedback, as it provides insight on needs and gives guidance to the path for growth and opportunity for positive change. We consider this a call to action—and we will step up to meet the needs of victims in our communities!! We will review our protocols, responses, and accountability measures—and make necessary adaptations. We will encourage our criminal justice partners to do the same. We will work together—to ensure a comprehensive, effective response to all crimes!

We appreciate your continued support as we stand with victims! Together—we will make meaningful change!

In Peace,
Carrie Buddy
Executive Director



LEND YOUR HAND & VOLUNTEER!



96 % of people say that by volunteering for an organization enriches their sense of purpose in life

Everyone who lives and breathes faces a crisis at one point or another. Sometimes, the burden is too great to bear alone. New Horizons Crisis Center (NHCC) is here to help victims/survivors of crime in any way we possibly can. Crisis is personally defined; no problem is too great or too small for us to take your call. We will listen, judgement free. We can help find the resources and individual needs to move forward. 24 hours a day– 7 days a week– 365 days a year, we are here for anyone and everyone.

When someone is a victim/survivor of crime and they are not sure where to turn; New Horizons Crisis Center's 24-hour crisis line is an available resource. The crisis line is a vital link to agency services as well as community resources and referrals. Staffed by volunteers, the crisis line is answered when the agency offices

are closed. New Horizons Crisis Center's crisis line volunteers come from all walks of life; college students and community members alike. Volunteers can come from the NHCC service area of Lincoln, Lyon, Murray, and Redwood counties.

We have recently updated our training to be flexible with computer-based components. This is a less intensive training schedule as much of the training can be done on your own time and at your own pace. If you or someone you know are interested in learning more about the types of calls our crisis line receives or to sign up to join our volunteer team, contact Kendra to request more information!

—Kendra Wies

Regional Advocate & Volunteer Program Coordinator

HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT S.M.A.R.T? Sexual –Assault Multidisciplinary Action Response Team

Earlier this summer, the Minneapolis Star Tribune released the first in a series of articles, "Denied Justice: When Rape is Reported and Nothing Happens" in which some of Minnesota's victims/survivors of sexual assault courageously shared their experiences. This has started a state-wide public conversation about sexual assault and our justice system. While the stories being told are from victims/survivors that live in another part of the state, we know that experiences like these happen in every county across the state of Minnesota. The Lyon County SMART has taken this opportunity to open up dialogue within the Team about looking at our system's response and ways to make meaningful change.

Lyon County SMART was formed in 2009 with the mission of creating and implementing a multiagency response to meet the specific needs of individuals who experience sexual assault and to better achieve justice and healing. A protocol was created to be followed by each respond-

ing agency to provide a more victim-centered approach toward sexual assault crimes. Our team works together to continually assess, improve, and evaluate the overall response. Lyon County SMART recognizes the responsibility we have in playing an active role in responding to experiences like those relayed in the Denied Justice series. We want to be intentional about ensuring that our response is informed by the real life experiences and feedback of victims.

We acknowledge that this is a systematic criminal justice issue and that accountability at every level is necessary. We are not going to shy away from hearing these stories. We will use our collaborative and multidisciplinary approach to highlight these challenges and use them as a catalyst for improvements that might need to be made. Our goal is to ensure the criminal justice system is helpful, effective resource for survivors of sexual assault. Listed below are some of the starting points that will be guiding our conversation and

work over the course of upcoming months.

- We will honor the survivor's perspective
- We will acknowledge reactions
- We will recognize the existing realities
- We will recognize that relationships are essential in addressing gaps
- We will recognize responses that are being done well in Lyon County
- We will be accountable

Lyon County SMART welcomes participation or comments from anyone affected by sexual violence, either as a victim/survivor or family and friends of victims/survivors. We want all feedback, whether positive or negative. We know that you have unique experiences of the system, and because of this have critical perspectives for the team to take into account. There are a couple of ways to go about this:

- 1) Support Systems Survey (anonymous survey). This can be found at newhorizonscrisis-center.org.

Click on the SMART tab, click on Support Systems Survey

- 2) Email smart@iw.net

Thank you to the following team members who partner together toward addressing gaps and creating positive change.

Angela Deadrick, Sanford Tracy; Angie Hess, Avera; Brad Odegard, MN Dept. of Corrections; Bri Anderson, Avera; Carrie Buddy, New Horizons Crisis Center; Denae Winter, Avera; Jess Bentley, SMSU; Julie Walker, SMSU—NHCC, Karen Maher, Avera; Kathy Pearson, Marshall Area Schools; Katie Keuhl, SMOC FP; Liz Bunjer, SMOC FP; Melissa Scotting, Avera; Michelle Freitas, WRAP; Mike Munford, SMSU; Nicole Longtin, SWHHS; Nikki Traen, SWHHS; Rick Maes, Lyon County Attorney's Office; Roberta Wyatt, PFLAG; Sharalyn Hanson, Sanford Tracy; Tim Tomasek, Marshall Police Department; Tina Quinones, Marshall Schools; Tony Rolling, Lyon County Sheriff's Office; Val Dallenbach, SMSU; **Open Position—Marshall Ministerial Association**

—Trista Link,
Lyon County Program Coordinator/
SMART Site Coordinator



Ad · vo · ca · cy

The legal definition of advocacy: the action of advocating, pleading for, or supporting a cause or proposal.

The goal of advocacy is to support and empower victims/survivors to make their own decisions within their own time-line.

For our Crime Victim Services (CVS) Staff, this year has been full of embracing new approaches. We have adopted written advocacy procedures and intake forms to better assist victims/survivors. CVS Staff have also worked hard to set aside time to attend trainings, webinars, and grow as advocates. When we stay grounded within our roots of advocacy, we continue to learn and grow ourselves but also give our victims/survivors the tools, support, and resources they need AND deserve.

Keep an eye on our agency Facebook page to stay current with what our CVS Staff have been up to lately!

—Holly Johnson

Crime Victim Services Program Director



FY18 FUNDING SOURCE & DONATIONS

Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault
Community— Primary Prevention Partner-
ships Grants
Otto Bremer Trust
Office of Justice Programs
Redwood County United Way
Southwest Minnesota State University
Southwest Health and Human Services
United Way of Southwest Minnesota
US Bancorp
Schwan's Sales Enterprises
Gloria Dei Lutheran WELCA (Redwood
Falls, MN)
US Bancorp (Employees Donation)
Slayton Community Chest
Bremer Bank
Combined Sharing (2017 Drive)
St. Mathias CCW (Pro-Life Fund)
MN Correctional Facility—Stillwater
Thrivent Choice Dollars (Pam Russell)

US Bank (Anonymous)
First English WELCA (Tyler, MN)
Christ Lutheran Women (Slayton,
MN)
Good Shepherd Lutheran WELCA (Lake
Wilson, MN)
Lamberton United Methodist Women
(Lamberton, MN)
Fall Festival Folks (Currie, MN)
The K Foundation
Davita
Redwood Westside Center
Redwood Co. Employees Local 3611 Union
Ken & Janice Noyes
Patricia Buboltz





Outreach

This past year has been a busy one for me. I have been working my way through Murray and Lincoln Counties meeting with Law Enforcement, County Attorneys, and schools promoting services, Law Enforcement Victim Information Cards, and education opportunities. I have also gotten a lot of interest from members of the communities to present some of the education opportunities.

I am overjoyed at the amount of people that have reached out. Three of my upcoming education opportunities are presenting FLASH Curriculum (published by Seattle & King County Public Health) to high school students, a Safe Body presentation for one of the local churches, and also a Sexual Assault Exam Training that will be presented by Linda Walther and Jude Foster from Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault (MNCASA). The Sexual Assault Exam Training is free and open to all medical professionals and also students that are working to become medical professionals. The training is on September 26th and will include many topics such as:

- Overview of sexual assault
- Working effectively with advocates
- Role of the healthcare professional
- Interview techniques
- Evidence collection
- Injury identification
- Review of anatomy
- Documentation
- STI Prophylaxis and Emergency Contraception
- Case studies with an opportunity to practice evidence collection

If you are interested in attending this event, contact me at murray-nhcc@iw.net or (507) 836-6272.

—Megan Schmidt

Murray/Lincoln County Program Coordinator

PARENTING TIME



New Horizons Crisis Center continues to provide a much needed service through our Parenting Time Program. Through supervised visits and safe exchanges, children are able to visit their non-custodial parents in a safe setting, as well as experience exchanges between parents without conflict.

The Parenting Time (PT) Program has continued to see a lot of growth over the past few years. During the 2017-2018 fiscal year, there were a total of 1,821 supervised visits scheduled, which included a total of 162 children visiting at our locations.

Through an Otto Bremer Trust grant the PT Program was able to create and hire for a new Parenting Time Program Coordinator position. The PT Coordinator will help with the various day to day operations of the program which will help to speed up the intake process for new families entering the program as well as the daily scheduling needs. We are happy to welcome Sarah to this position!

Throughout the past year the PT Program

received various games, toys, books, and activities from local businesses, organizations, and individuals. These donations were greatly appreciated as the daily wear and tear, as well as the need to provide new and exciting items in the rooms for visiting children is consistent. If you have gently used toys, games, or books that you would like to donate,

please contact the PT Program at (507) 706-0162. Thank you for your donations!

Thanks to the Get Connect-

ed Webpage through United Way of Southwest MN, we are happy to welcome 5 community members, as well as the Forensic Club at SMSU, as volunteers for the PT Program. These wonderful volunteers spent several hours throughout the fiscal year cleaning and sanitizing the toys in the visitation room. A huge thank you to these volunteers for their help and service!

—Kristi Stevenson

Parenting Time Program Director



NEW FACES IN THE RIGHT PLACES

Julie Walker

Hello! My name is Julie. I joined the New Horizons Crisis Center (NHCC) staff as the Southwest Minnesota State University (SMSU) Advocate in August, and I'm LOVING working with this incredible team. I've never had a job where I felt more empowered and more supported by my supervisor and coworkers.

Initially, I was training to become a crisis line volunteer, but when the call

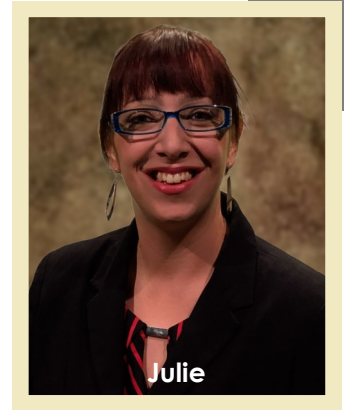
came out for the SMSU Advocate position, I jumped at the chance to make a difference in the community. In other realms of my life, I have worked with so many people who have been the victims of traumatic experience. When someone experiences trauma, it impacts them for so long after the incident (or in many cases incidents).

By all accounts, it seems like so many people ignore traumatic events

when they are not the victims themselves. I can't live in that world, and no one should have to be alone dealing with trauma.

I enjoy an incredible supportive partner in this journey, and I couldn't do what I do without the strength of my relationship. My kids are incredible and show me beauty every day. We enjoy playing video games and going to the farmers market. When I'm not busy (which isn't

very often) I enjoy bingeing Netflix, crocheting, and going on adventures. Unpredictable adventures are my favorite!



"I am thrilled to be able to continue to work with the families in our communities"- Sarah S.

Sarah Sullivan

Please allow me to introduce myself! My name is Sarah and I have been part of the New Horizons Crisis Center team for just over two years now.

I started with NHCC as a Parenting Time Monitor and recently began my new position as the Parenting Time Coordinator. I will be working primarily out of the Redwood Falls office but I will be making my way to the Marshall office as needed.

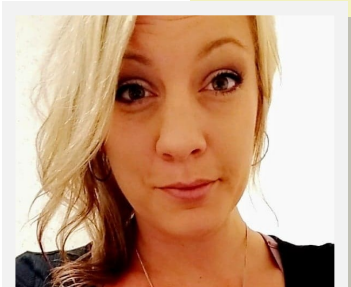
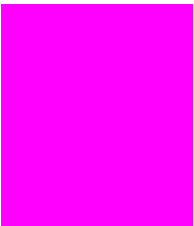
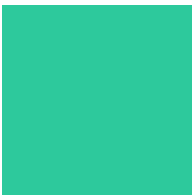


A little about myself: I was born and raised in Minneapolis with three brothers, two of which are my fraternal triplet brothers. We were involved with many different sports and events growing up which grew into a love for our Minnesota teams such as the Vikings, Gophers, and Twins. I made my

way to the southwest area just over 6 years ago with my husband who grew up in the area. As I transitioned into my new home life, I finished up my Medical Administrative Assistant degree at Minnesota West Community and Technical College. My husband and I stay busy with raising three children, a puppy, and two kitties together along with military duties, school/events, kid's sports, and work. When we do get a little free time we enjoy time with family and friends, camping, volunteering, crafts, concerts, and of course sporting events!

Although I cherished working in the medical field, New Horizons Crisis Center has given me the opportunity in helping people in a whole new way I never thought possible. I am thrilled to be able to continue to work with the families in our communities and assisting them with their journey from the start.

REDWOOD COUNTY NEWS



Desiree

Hello! My name is Desiree and October will mark 1 year since I began my journey as the Redwood County Program Coordinator and Community Primary Prevention Partnerships (CPPP) Coordinator with New Horizons Crisis Center (NHCC). What a year it's been! When I decided to take a step back from a 17 year career in the health care field and come on board with NHCC, I had no idea that this new position would create an even bigger investment in my community and passion for serving others.

My advocacy work in Redwood County has taught me so much about the strength and resiliency that victims/survivors have. It is our wish that nobody finds themselves a victim of a crime,

however, knowing that I can be there to advocate and support them when they are is fulfilling and gives hope that someday our world will be a better place.

NHCC's mission to provide counties we serve with education and prevention does not only align with my personal goals but has helped me discover that I am not as

shy as I thought I was. In March, I was invited to present Body Safety education to Cedar Mountain Elementary students. Students K-5 eagerly took part in this fun presentation! It is important that our children are given the tools and education to understand their right to be respected and to be safe from harm. The 2018-2019 school year at Redwood Valley Middle School will be the 3rd year that NHCC is able to present 8th graders with the Safe Dates curriculum provided through a CPPP grant from Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault (MNCASA). Even more exciting is that this year I will also be presenting Safe Dates to the 8th graders at Red Rock Central School for the first time! Safe Dates equips students with the skills needed to take part of healthy relationships and to be able to identify un-

healthy relationship signs. It also teaches them to communicate effectively and develop healthy habits. This is knowledge that they can expand on to carry them through some of their toughest years and help them become healthy adults.

A major role at NHCC is to protect and advocate for victim's rights. I was excited to work with Kris Garman at Redwood Area Hospital (RAH) to create a policy within the ER department that would allow a victim to receive treatment for a sexual assault without having to report to law enforcement before they were ready. This is an important right that a victim has after an assault and allows the victim to choose when and how to share their victimization while still protecting important evidence for when/if they do report. Once the policy was developed, I was invited to a staff meeting to educate the medical staff about restricted/unreported sexual assault exams. The nurses at RAH proved to be compassionate and eager to learn as much as possible so they can provide the best care to the patients.

My community is important and it is with that investment that I have been dedicated to strengthening my community partnerships. I am truly honored to serve Redwood county alongside the dedicated Law Enforcement agencies, County Attorney's Office, Restorative Justice Department, medical professionals at RAH, and the amazing advocates at Minnesota Indigenous Women's Society and WoMen's Rural Advocacy Program (WRAP). It is because of these people and organizations that contribute to making Redwood County a great community, that I am grateful to live, work, and raise my children in.

—Desiree Otto

Redwood County Program Coordinator & CPPP Coordinator

