

FRIENDS, INC.

Advocacy • Empowerment • Prevention

Mission Statement: To empower those affected by domestic violence and sexual assault by offering safety, support, and community awareness.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: MORE THAN JUST PHYSICAL ABUSE

A common misconception about domestic violence is that it is always physical, or must include physical violence, when in reality it is when one partner uses their power to exert control over the other. Examples of how one partner can have more power than the other include race, socioeconomic status, gender, and any other means to gain the upper hand in the relationship. The partner with the power can use a variety of tactics to control the other. Tactics can be both physical or mental. The power and control wheel (right) is a common tool used to describe these tactics.



SEXUAL VIOLENCE: MORE THAN JUST A STRANGER IN THE DARK

A common misconception about sexual assault is that it is perpetrated by a stranger in a dark alley outside a bar; however, around 73% of survivors know their perpetrators. Sexual assault is much broader than just rape, and affects people of all genders, races, sexual identities, and ages. 1 in 6 women in the United States have experienced sexual assault or an attempted sexual assault at some point in their lives, and 1 in 10 survivors of rape identify as male. Young people are disproportionately affected, with transgender students being at an even higher risk. FRIENDS is dedicated to serving all survivors of any form of sexual assault.

FRIENDS AT A GLANCE

2019 was a successful year for services in our community. FRIENDS provided 7,071 safe nights of shelter and transitional living for 96 clients. Staff answered 1,034 crisis calls and served 279 new clients. 365 clients were provided services overall, with 1,827 sessions.

Client demographics were the following:
82% female, 18% male; median age of 34; 70% white, 15% African-American, and 9% Latino. 76% of clients initially identified themselves as victims of domestic violence, and 24% initially identifying as victims of sexual assault.



OUR RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

When the country was suddenly thrown into a major health crisis, FRIENDS acted quickly to adjust and create policies to ensure the safety of clients, residents, and staff.

We temporarily reduced the number of staff working on site (coordinating 70% of work time at home) as well as established tele-health services for advocacy sessions and hotel options for shelter residents. We completed cleaning and sanitation of our facility and just this month are beginning to increase staff time in the office and bring clients back to the facility. Shelter clients will again be on-site and advocacy services will be offered both virtually and on-site.

The implementation of on-site services is a turn of the dial and not a flip of the switch. We will ask everyone to wear a mask when they enter the building and sanitize their hands. Additionally, shelter residents will be asked to wear masks in common areas, and we will continue to increase cleaning and sanitation efforts. Our hotline was maintained throughout the health crisis and continues to be answered by trained advocates 24/7. Staff are ready to offer support, create safety plans, and discuss next steps of both internal programs and community resources.

We recognize the pandemic may have amplified fears in relationships and households, and presented increased dangers including the risk of violence. We anticipate an increased demand for our services and are prepared to offer all our programs as survivors are able to access services. Please watch our Facebook and Instagram pages for more frequent communication and updates.

DONATIONS NEEDED

COVID-19 has FRIENDS facing costs we never expected. Updating PC's to laptops so that staff could work remotely and temporarily housing residents in a hotel were two of our major expenses.

Any amount helps!

We are also in need of paper towels, toilet paper, hand sanitizer and toiletries. For a full list of needs, please head to the "Get Involved" tab on our website.



THANK YOU

Over the last few months, staff at FRIENDS has found support in the best places.

Eaton's pizza and Pizza Ranch in West Bend donated a total of 10 pizzas over four separate days to staff and shelter residents.

Board members gave candy, cards, chocolates, flowers, and more to staff to brighten their days as they worked through more crisis than usual.

Supporters donated new or extra funds in light of COVID-19.

We truly have the best supporters. Thank you!



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

262-334-7298 | PO BOX 117 WEST BEND, WI 53095 | WWW.FRIENDSWI.ORG

DENIM DAY



For the last 20 years, the Denim Day campaign has taken place in late April in honor of Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Every year, the campaign asks community members and officials to wear denim to show their solidarity with survivors of sexual assault. The purpose is to dispel damaging misconceptions surrounding sexual violence.

FRIENDS, Inc. participates in this movement every year to show our dedication to ending sexual violence. For the past two years, FRIENDS has displayed jeans throughout downtown West Bend to bring awareness to our community. Thank you to the City of West Bend for showing solidarity and allowing us to showcase this important message.

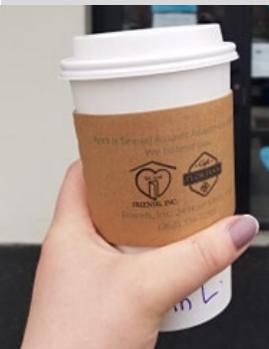
Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) looked a little different this year. In addition to Denim Day Activities, we partnered with other organizations throughout our county to help us get our message out. Community projects included the Sidewalk Chalk Project, SAAM Rocks, and Teal Awareness Ribbon Decorating.

FRIENDS relies on community partners to help extend our reach and raise awareness of resources .

Thank you to our community partners!



COFFEE & YOGA



Finally, as a part of SAAM, 2020 marked our second year uniting with local coffee shops and yoga studios. We distributed sleeves to Cafe Floriana, Dunn Brothers, and Coffeeville Company. We are thankful that all three shops donated the cost of the custom coffee sleeves.

In addition, 15 individuals attended the virtual Teal Yoga sessions hosted by Mosaic Wellness and Blue Luna Yoga. Both studios were very generous in donating 100% of the proceeds back to FRIENDS, Inc.



FRIENDS, Inc.
P.O. Box 117
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www.facebook.com/friendsincorporated



www.instagram/friendsinc_1978



www.friendswi.org



How to sign up for our e-newsletter:

GO GREEN!

Do you enjoy staying up to date on everything we're doing here at FRIENDS? We're transitioning to an electronic newsletter! If you don't want to miss anything, sign up for our e-newsletter now. After 2020, we will no longer mail newsletters out.

Online: www.friendswi.org

Head to our "About Us" page and sign up there.

Email: officemanager@friendswi.org

Send your email and name to our Office Manager; subject line "E-Newsletter"

Mail: *PO Box 117 West Bend, WI 53095*

Send your email and name to our PO Box.

Fax: 262-334-7725

Fax your information; ATTN: Office Manager

Call: 262-334-7298

Call and ask for the Office Manager, and say it's about the newsletter