



McLeod County Community Gives Back

McLeod County residents, groups, churches, and businesses gave back in a big way this past fall and winter. Each of these individual supply drives and monetary donations not only eased the burden of the holidays for our clients but also for our organization as we strived to meet clients' needs throughout this busy time of the year! As always, we are astonished and so grateful for the support and trust our community places in our organization to invest so much time, money, and effort in the Alliance!

donor photos continued on page 2 & page 6...



Ofelia & Glynis at the 5th Annual Glencoe Holiday Craft & Vendor Festival 2023.

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The Broll Team – Keller Williams Integrity Northwest collected items during a supply drive for Alliance clients.



Masonic Temple Lodge #59 held their annual Breakfast Buffet on behalf of the Alliance. Pictured above, McLeod Alliance Director accepts a check of funds raised from the breakfast.



Bethlehem United Methodist Church Comfort Quilters donated handcrafted quilts for clients.



Jamie Broll and her group of women hikers, "She Ascends," donated needed supplies and gift cards for our clients.



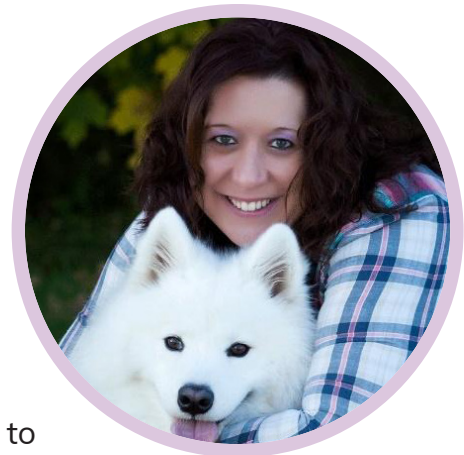
The Hutchinson Ambassadors raised money, gift cards, and essential supplies for our clients during Business After Hours at River House.

From the Board Chair

Happy Spring! I hope this season brings you plenty of positive energy, sunshine, and time to engage with the world around you.

We are fortunate to have had another successful Bowlathon, raising funds to allow us to keep helping clients. Thank you to all the donors; it doesn't go unnoticed what a small business sacrifices to donate. Thank you to all the bowlers, our announcers, photographers, and our WONDERFUL STAFF! There are so many hours that go into planning this event, and without EACH person, it wouldn't happen. We are lucky to be in such a great community.

Our work would not be possible without you, our valued donors and partners. Thank you!!!



Sandi Sportelli
Board Chair

From the Director's Desk

At the close of 2023, Minnesota saw a devastating record-setting year of 39 known homicides related to intimate partner violence. 39 mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, friends, sons, and daughters. Each with a name, a story, loved ones, and a community that mourns their loss deeply.

So why, in 2023, after 35 years of tracking intimate partner homicide, has this occurred? That's a hard question to answer for advocacy programs across the state like the Alliance. The harsh truth is that domestic violence affects every community, gender, race, and socio-economic class, making its impact in horrifying ways, as seen this past year.

So, what can we do as a community?

Connect with your local domestic violence advocacy agency like the Alliance for resources, know and visit the national domestic violence hotline at www.thehotline.org, educate yourself and others, speak up about abuse, and be an example of healthy relationships in your community and home.

Lastly, if you don't know where to start or what to do if you're a victim of abuse or know someone who may be a victim, please contact your local DV agency. The McLeod Alliance and DV agencies across the state are here to help, listen, and advocate for you!

Amanda Raisanen
Executive Director

Introducing a new way to donate!

The McLeod Alliance is now accepting vehicle donations. This is a great opportunity to give back and easily donate your vehicle without any of the hassle! This donation opportunity was made possible by Clear Choice Transportation and Paige Weber! We are thankful for your partnership and work to make this a possibility!

To learn more or to donate, visit:

mcleodalliance.org/donate/ or scan the QR code.



Paige Weber (left) donates check from Clear Choice Transportation to the Alliance.



Domestic Violence Awareness Month Brings Outreach Across McLeod County

Each year, October is nationally recognized as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. With this comes a strong push to raise awareness from advocacy organizations all over, like the Alliance. Once again, this year's campaign theme from the National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV) was #Every1KnowsSome1, highlighting the prevalence of domestic violence. The numbers remain staggering, with 1 in 4 women and 1 in 7 men experiencing domestic violence within their lifetimes. Locally, the number of victim/survivors McLeod Alliance served was quite comparable to the preceding fiscal year, with 374 individuals served. This number includes victim/survivors themselves, as well as community members impacted by domestic violence wanting to know how to help someone they care about—a friend, family member, coworker, or neighbor. The unfortunate reality is that you may know someone experiencing domestic violence, whether you can see it or not. As domestic violence is pervasive in our nation, state, and community, we must all be a part of the solution. Violence thrives in silence, so we must start the conversation to end the stigma.



To start the conversation, McLeod Alliance participated in various outreach efforts throughout October. We promoted NNEDV's #Every1KnowsSome1 social media campaign on our Facebook and Instagram platforms. In addition to this virtual campaign, McLeod Alliance staff



and volunteers distributed educational materials and resources to various local businesses. We held informational booths throughout the

community and would like to thank the following businesses for accommodating us: Rhema Coffee Shop, Glenn's Supervalu – Winsted, Coborn's – Glencoe, Dollar Fresh Market – Glencoe, Marshalls – Hutchinson, Walmart – Hutchinson, Dunn Brothers Coffee, and Cashwise – Hutchinson. We would like to extend our thanks to all of the local businesses that helped us spread awareness this October by allowing us to have our materials available at their place of business. Twenty beauty salons throughout McLeod County participated in our annual Salon Project this year, allowing us to distribute 390 brochures, pens, and chap sticks to those in need of services. You can get involved in the conversation by following us on social media, sharing our content, stopping by & saying hi when you see us out in the community—not just in October, but all year round!

Staff Spotlight

Ofelia, Bilingual Advocate

My name is Ofelia, and I am the Bilingual Advocate and Volunteer Coordinator at McLeod Alliance. I will soon be celebrating 5 years with this wonderful organization. I work with Limited English Proficient (LEP) clients, interpreting as well as translating documents. I also assist with Orders for Protection (OFP) and Harassment Restraining Orders (HRO).

I am very excited to announce that, due to additional funding this year, I will be hosting two “Knowledge Is Power” events instead of only one in October for Domestic Violence Awareness Month. I will be hosting the first event of 2024 on May 11th. These events are intended to raise awareness of domestic violence among Hispanic women and to provide resources and support to those who have been affected. I enjoy doing events and outreach because I meet new people, and it’s an opportunity for them to learn about our services and the rights of victims/survivors.



**I love to travel, dance,
and host parties**

Alliance Wish List

Gas Cards

Shampoo &
Conditioner Sets

Grocery Cards

4t-6t Pullups



The St. John's Mountville-Gaylord Sunday School children held a supply drive for our organization, led by Andrea Harbarth.



Lynn Artibee and the Women's Bible Study from the Hutchinson Evangelical Free Church held a supply drive for hygiene and essential items for clients.



Mother-daughter duo Jessica Tuter & Lily Smith (pictured) visited our office on behalf of their family to donate much-needed supplies for our clients.



Calendar of Events

Spring

National Child Abuse Prevention Month (April)

National Crime Victims' Rights Week (April 21-27, 2024)

Knowledge is Power Event (May 11, 2024)

Office Closed for Memorial Day (May 27, 2024)

Summer

Social Host for Music in the Park (June 17, 2024)

Office Closed for Independence Day (July 4, 2024)

Fall

Office Closed for Labor Day (September 2, 2024)

Domestic Violence Awareness Month (October)

Knowledge is Power Event (Date TBD)

McLeod Alliance DVAM Outreach Activities (Dates TBD)

Keep an eye on our social media for date announcements for events that are "Dates TBD"



McLeod Alliance Celebrates 26th Annual Bowlathon! A message from Glynis:

Our 26th annual 'Strike Out the Violence' Bowlathon was a huge success once again. The community support was amazing, and we at McLeod Alliance are so very grateful for all of you! Our staff and board of directors work tirelessly to create an event that is fun and exciting for those who attend, and this year was no exception. Roman and Jill Bloemke, our emcees, kept everyone on their toes and even convinced a few bowlers to come center stage for a dance contest! Bowling, music, dancing, some good pizza provided by Hutch Bowl, and lots (and lots) of prizes made for a really fun afternoon. Incognito Photography was new to our event and took photos this year for us. Head over to our Facebook page to have a look!

It was an exciting day, and the Bowlathon raised almost \$11,000 this year. There were many returning teams and some new faces, too. We have several teams that have bowled at this event for more than 10 years, and one group told me this was their 14th year bowling at our fundraiser.

Bowlers win prizes, and business teams can vie for our traveling trophy by bringing in the highest group dollar amount in pledges. Winning the top team dollar amount earns the right to display our traveling trophy in their place of business until our next Bowlathon. HP Insurance from Brownton took home the trophy for the fourth year in a row! Individuals that raise the highest amount of pledges win some of our larger items, but we also have drawings throughout the afternoon so all our bowlers have a chance to win.

I have been a part of the Alliance team since 2001, and we just held our 26th Bowlathon. It has evolved over the years, just a bit, but there are some things that remain unchanged. This is an event that brings us all together for one afternoon. We have fun, we honor survivors and create awareness, and there is always unwavering support for the critical work that we do. From the bottom of my heart, I thank our sponsors and everyone who bowled, pledged, and donated to make this such a great event!

Glynis Vacek
Bowlathon Chair



HP Insurance wins again!



Meet the Board of Directors: Erin Hoppe

Family

My family includes my husband, Matt, and my two sons (Tristan, age 21, and Logan, age 18), as well as our Golden Doodle puppy, Lola.

Employment

The last ten years, I have enjoyed working as a kindergarten teacher and supporting both students and families. This year, I changed directions in my career and am becoming certified as a parenting coach through the Jai Institute for Parenting. I will be opening my own parent coaching/support business where I will teach a “Peaceful Parenting” curriculum that gives parents tools to help their kids become emotionally healthy and turn parenting conflict into cooperation with their kids.

Hobbies

I enjoy hiking, kayaking, trying new foods, and hanging out with family and friends. I am also getting back into running! I enjoy traveling to see family in Oregon, where I grew up and went to college. My husband and I also enjoy traveling to watch our son, Tristan, play football for the University of Sioux Falls. We also like to go flying with our son Logan, who is working on becoming a commercial airline pilot while he attends the University of St. Thomas.

Why Serve on the Board

I see serving on the board for McLeod Alliance as a unique opportunity to contribute to a cause that’s critically important in our community. Empowering



and supporting families is a passion of mine. I’m looking forward to making a positive impact on the lives of domestic violence victims and their families. I am also excited to volunteer alongside caring individuals working towards positive change.

Hopes for the Alliance

I hope we can support and lift up domestic violence victims to give them hope for their futures. I also hope we can offer peaceful parenting tools to victims who are parents and empower them both as a survivor and as a parent.

Thoughts for the Public

Together, as a community, let’s embrace the fact that everyone deserves to live free from violence and abuse. Together, we can spread awareness and promote empathetic support for victims of domestic violence.

Christmas Project Brings Joy to Families

We had a successful Christmas Project 2023, thanks in large part to the community members and businesses who sponsored this year, some of whom are pictured here. This year, we were able to match our sponsors with 11 families to spread holiday cheer. We are very fortunate to have such a great, supportive community. We and our clients thank you for all your support and generosity, and we appreciate your kindness.





The General Federation of Women's Club (GFWC) of Silver Lake made a generous donation to the McLeod Alliance Page it Forward Book Drive Fundraiser.



Community 'Pages It Forward' for Alliance Book Drive Fundraiser

This fall, we asked you to 'Page it Forward' and you delivered! We began campaigning for our Page It Forward Book Drive Fundraiser in the months leading up to October for Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM). We immediately saw an outpouring of community support and started receiving book deliveries from our Amazon Wishlist to build up our "Shelf Love Library." It has been wonderful seeing our little library grow with every new book donation we've received from our generous community. We are pleased to announce that we now have over 50 titles, thanks to the individuals, families, and groups that donated. These books are being utilized by our clients as an educational and healing resource,

centered on learning about domestic violence, life beyond abuse, trauma healing, and self-help. As such, these book donations will serve as an invaluable message for victim/survivors, whether that be a message of understanding, support, encouragement, validation, hope, strength, empowerment, and the like. If you want to provide someone with that message, there's still time to donate. The Alliance will always be adding new titles to our Amazon Wishlist that will be available for purchase and donation. If you would like to view our selection or donate, scan the QR Code with your device's camera to be taken to our wish list. We are so grateful for the continued support of our community!

"We read to know we are not alone."

C.S. Lewis



Bilingual Advocate, Ofelia, hosts 2nd Annual Knowledge is Power Event

The Alliance's 'Knowledge Is Power' event was hosted for the second time this past October at the Glencoe City Center. It is an event completely conducted in Spanish, intended to inform and empower Hispanic women in the community. At this event, information was provided about McLeod Alliance services and other resources available in the McLeod County area. Attendees played games and won prizes, enjoyed refreshments thanks to Coborn's of Glencoe, and

shared in both laughter and tears.

Due to additional funding secured this year, Bilingual Advocate Ofelia will be hosting two 'Knowledge Is Power' events. Our first event of this year will take place on May 11th, 2024, at the Hutchinson Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism building. The second event will take place in October for Domestic Violence Awareness Month (date TBD).



McLeod Alliance, Inc.

P.O. Box 393
Hutchinson, 55350

Receiving duplicates? Incorrect addresses? New person in position?

We'd like to know. Please contact the Alliance by mail, e-mail, or phone, and we'll take care of the problem. Thanks!

Alliance Staff List

Executive Director

Amanda Raisanen

Advocacy Coordinator

Glynis Vacek

Bilingual Advocacy Program

Ofelia Vergara

Legal Advocate

Karina Robeck

Board of Directors

Chair

Sandi Sportelli

Vice Chair

Jordan Malone

Secretary

Tara Drahos

Treasurer

Lori Krenik

Tom Gifferson

Tim Langenfeld

Jason Strachota

Kaylin Kealy

Berit Spors

Kristen Durst

Krista Picha

Erin Hoppe



**United Way of
McLeod County**

Telephone
320-234-7933

Out of Area
800-934-0851

E-Mail
mavdv@hutchtel.net

Website
www.mcleodalliance.org



Thank You for Supporting McLeod Alliance's 26th Annual Bowlathon Fundraiser!

Platinum Sponsors



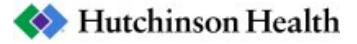
Gold Sponsors



Silver Sponsors



WILLIAM YOUNG AGENCY, INC.



Thank you to all of the local businesses, groups, & individuals who donated to our Bowlathon!

Act Your Age
 Animal Medical Center on Crow River
 Ashley Adams
 Auto Xpress
 Barbers on Main/Urban Hair Studio
 Benny's Meat Market
 Bonnie Mohr Studio
 Brownton Rod & Gun Club
 Buffalo Wild Wings
 By Mae
 C & L Distributing
 Carly's Shoes
 Casper's Chiropractic
 Clay Coyote Pottery
 Coborn's, Glencoe
 Crow River Signs
 Crow River Winery
 Culver's
 Daily Dose of Nutrition
 David Ding, Wood Crumbs LLC
 Due North Carwash
 Flank Steakhouse
 Genesis EnsoSpa
 Hair Lounge
 Heartland Ag Systems

Herbal Pumpkin Patch
 Hutch Bowl
 Hutchinson Chiropractic Health
 Hutchinson Dental Center
 Hutchinson Health
 Incognito Photography
 Jay Malone
 Joy & Pat May
 JRRYOGA
 Karlene Ulrich
 Knock Out Nutrition
 Let It Grow
 Main Street Sports Bar, Glencoe
 McCormick's Family Restaurant
 Mike and Lori Krenik
 Move Well Chiropractic
 Muddy Cow
 Nail Spa & Wax
 Oakdale Golf Club
 Olita
 Outdoor Motion
 Papa Murphy's Pizza
 Prairie's Edge Casino & Resort
 Qdoba
 Rhema Coffee Shop, Glencoe

River House Kitchen + Drinks
 RiverSong Music Festival
 Roman & Jill Bloemke
 Science Museum of MN
 Seneca
 ShadowBrooke Golf Course
 Sonia Hernandez Gomez
 St. Paul Saints
 State Farm, Anderson Ins. & Financial Services Inc
 State Theatre
 Subway South, Hutchinson
 Subway, Hwy 7 W, Hutchinson
 Taco Johns
 Tara Drahos
 Theresa Frericks, Mary Kay
 Tri County Water
 Unhinged Pizza, Glencoe
 Wheel & Cog
 Wiehr Stylin'

If we've inadvertently missed someone, please accept our sincere apologies.



A Special Thank You to Our 2023 Fund Drive Donors!

Angvall, Eric & Judy
Animal Medical Center
Anonymous Cash Donation
Anonymous Cash Donation
Anonymous Money Order
Anonymous Money Order
Baumetz, Beverly
Beatty, Ted & Pat
Birkholz, Alan & Brenda
Cannon, Mike & Amber
Citizens Bank & Trust
Citizens Insurance Services
Concordia Ladies Aid
Crary, Nan
Crow River Professionals
Association
Daggett, Thomas & Dr. Barbara
Dobratz, Muriel
Eckhart, Bruce
Eggert, Fran
Exsted, Kathleen
Faith Lutheran Church Women -
Missions
Glencoe Lions
Hanson, Anthony
Hassinger, John & Jean
Haugland, John
Haukos, Kim & Carol
Heartland AG Systems
Hedin, Jay
Hoffman, Joann
Hoikka, Jerome & Patricia
Horton, Carla
Hutchinson Dental Center
In Memory of Carole Brosz
In Memory of Connie Weber
In Memory of Dave Kraemer
In Memory of Mary S. Anderson

Kennedy, Tom & Lori
Krentz, Linda & Mitchell
Lemke, Laure & Lee
Liffitt, John & Rita
Lopez-Re, Nora
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Malone, Jordan
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Otto, Jane & Chris
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Steve Kropp Insurance
The Jonas Center of Glencoe
Twice is Nice
Twiss, Dennis
Ulrich, Tim
Vanderheiden, Lori
Vorliceck, Tina
Wagoner, Doug & Lynda
Wangerin, Thomas & Bev
William Young Agency
Winters, Jody
Wood Crumbs

If we've inadvertently missed someone,
please accept our sincere apologies.