



McLeod ALLIANCE

McLeod Alliance Spring Stories 2023

Have you noticed?! Our newsletter has a new look and a new name! Don't worry, our mailing schedule will still be the same, but our fall edition will be called "Fall Features"! Watch for it in the mail this coming fall! Our new design was made possible by the talented students at Ridgewater College in the Multimedia Design Technology Program. We are so thankful for their talent, support, and partnership. Read on to check out our new layout!



McLeod Alliance participated in the second annual Welcoming Week in Glencoe. The event held each September is centered on creating a sense of belonging and community connectedness. The Welcoming Week Block Party featured music & live performances, food vendors, yard games & activities, and a community resource fair.



McLeod Alliance received proceeds from Vineyard United Methodist Church's Bingo Event held at the McLeod County Fair. We are so appreciative of the support of our community!



Alliance Director accepted a \$4,500 grant award from the Hutchinson Area Community Foundation at their Grant Award Ceremony held in November. McLeod Alliance was honored to be one of several recipients of this award. We thank you for your continued support & trust in our organization.

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From the Director's Desk

While we welcome Spring and the brightness & warmth it brings, I would like to highlight a time that fell only a couple months ago, right towards the end of our cold MN winter- February. February is so important to me, as it's the month that brings awareness to Teen Dating Violence. Not only does it bring awareness to the dangers of Teen Dating Violence, but also reminds me healthy relationships are possible after abuse. As a teen who experienced this type of abuse, I know the importance of the education this month provides. It also is a reminder to myself that light, growth, and change, much like spring, can come after what seems like the darkest moments in our lives. Being a part of an organization whose mission is to support victims/survivors through these moments is what called me to the McLeod Alliance. I am very grateful to serve our community and work to bring further awareness to not only the month of February, but also the prevalence and experiences of domestic violence survivors and victims in our community.



-Amanda Raisanen
Executive Director

Amanda Raisanen

Alliance Wish List

The community donates needed items to the Alliance for which we are forever grateful. Currently, the items we need are:

- Tissues
- Feminine Hygiene Products (Tampons)
- Toilet Paper
- Kid's Bubble Bath
- Paper Towels
- Laundry Detergent

Introducing another way to donate! Want to donate, but don't have time to go shop? McLeod Alliance is excited to announce that we now have an Amazon Wish List.

Scan the QR Code with your device's camera to access our list of needed items. You can browse items, add to cart, purchase, and have the item(s) delivered right to our office!



Meet the Board of Directors: Berit Spors

Family? My husband, Tom and I will be celebrating our 15th wedding anniversary this fall. We have one daughter, Elin who is 10 years old and a 4th grader at St. Anastasia Catholic School.

Employment? I am the Health & Human Services Director for McLeod County and spent most of my early career in senior services operations and management.

Hobbies? I enjoy traveling, spending time at the lake with family, watching my daughter play basketball and softball, listening to music and enjoying a good cup of coffee.

Why serve on the board? The work that the McLeod Alliance does is so valuable to our community and I'm thrilled to be able to support and empower our staff in carrying out our mission.

Hopes for the Alliance? I hope that the McLeod Alliance can continue to grow and evolve to meet the needs of those we serve and that more people learn about the great work we do.

Thoughts for the public? Check out our website www.mcleodalliance.org or call 320-234-7933 if you have questions or want to learn more about the services McLeod Alliance provides.



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Staff Spotlight: Glynis

My name is Glynis, and I am the Advocacy Coordinator at McLeod Alliance. I have been a part of this organization for more than 20 years, assisting victim/survivors as they navigate through very uncertain, complicated and sometimes dangerous times. This work is never easy, but serving my community in this capacity is both an honor and a privilege.

When not at work, I love being in the kitchen cooking up something wonderful. Once spring arrives though, you can find me in the garden tending to perennials and creating beautiful spaces where my family and friends can relax and enjoy time together.

-Glynis Vacek
Advocacy Coordinator



Glynis Vacek

Mark Your Calendars: McLeod Alliance “Page it Forward” Book Drive Fundraiser

What: The Alliance is seeking your support in collecting new books from our Amazon Wish List for October 2023 Domestic Violence Awareness Month! Books we would like in our client library are focused on domestic violence, life beyond abuse, trauma healing, & self-help.

When: The Alliance is collecting books in anticipation of DVAM 2023 this October. Book collection starts in September! From then on, we will always be accepting books from our Amazon Wish List to continue building our client library!

Where: Books can be purchased online from our Amazon Wish List & sent directly to our office. Or you can order to your residence & drop by to donate & visit us!

How: If you are interested in purchasing a book to add to our client “Shelf Love Library” selection, please visit [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) and search McLeod Alliance under “Find a List or Registry” & select our “Page it Forward” list. You can also scan the QR Code with your device’s camera to be taken directly to our Amazon Wish List.



Calendar of Events (April-October)

Spring

- National Child Abuse Prevention Month (April)
- Temple Lodge #59 Breakfast Buffet (April 16, 2023)
- National Crime Victims' Rights Week (April 23-29, 2023)
- We Care About Our Kids Day (April 29, 2023)
- OJP Conference (May 23 & 24, 2023)
- Office Closed for Memorial Day (May 29, 2023)

Summer

- Social Host for Music in the Park (June 26, 2023)
- Office Closed for Independence Day (July 4, 2023)

Fall

- Jimmy's Pizza Fundraiser (Date TBD)
- Office Closed for Labor Day (September 4, 2023)
- Welcoming Event (September, Date TBD)
- Book Collection for Book Drive Fundraiser (September)
- Domestic Violence Awareness Month (October)
- McLeod Alliance DVAM Outreach Activities (Dates TBD)

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

Facebook: McLeod Alliance
Instagram: @mcleodalliance



Advocates in Action - Domestic Violence Awareness Month Outreach & Awareness

OCTOBER IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

October is a very busy month for staff at McLeod Alliance. During this month, we focus on outreach and spreading awareness of both domestic violence and our services throughout McLeod County. This is because October is recognized nationwide as Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM). This past DVAM 2022, the campaign slogan was Every1KnowsSome1, highlighting the prevalence of relationship violence. The statistics indicate that 1 in 4 women & 1 in 7 men will experience violence from an intimate partner within their lifetime. Just this past fiscal year, the Alliance served 385 victims/survivors in McLeod County. Abuse may be a lot closer to home than many realize. Someone you know may be experiencing relationship abuse- it could be a family member, a neighbor, a coworker, a friend. We know domestic violence does not discriminate, and it can happen to anyone. This is why it is important to let our community know about our services, and that we are here to offer support & resources.

#Every1KnowsSome1

OUTREACH BOOTHS

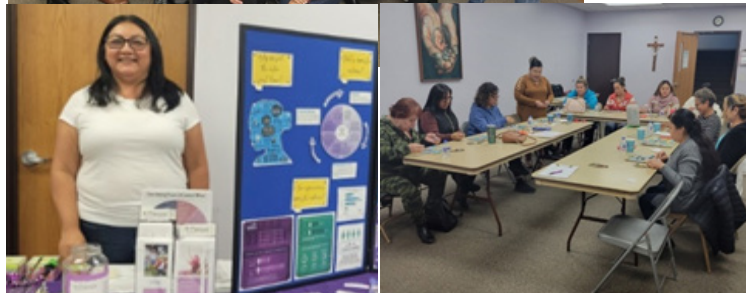
McLeod Alliance would like to thank all of the local businesses that helped us spread awareness during October by having our table tents, tear off flyers, and other materials available at their place of business. A special thank you to Cashwise Foods-Hutchinson, Hutchinson Mall, Marshalls, Maurices, Glenn's Supervalu-Winsted, Goodwill, Walmart, Dunn Brothers Coffee, Dollar Fresh Market, & Coborn's-Glencoe for inviting us to have our informational booths at your place of business!



OCTOBER AWARENESS MEETING

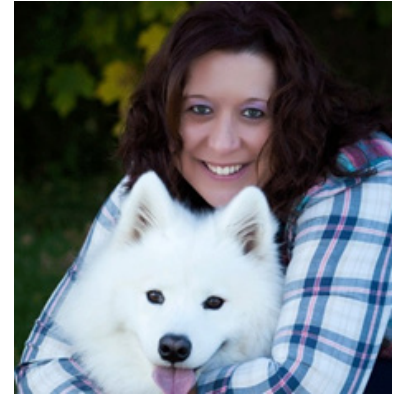
"Knowledge is power. This meeting was targeted to empower women in the Hispanic community. It is very important to inform the community about our services, to let them know we are here for them and help to identify steps to take in case of a domestic violence situation. Additional information about custody, parenting time, safety planning, immigration resources, and court process were also topics of discussion at this meeting."

-Ofelia Vergara
Bilingual Advocate



From the Board Chair

GratITUDE is about focusing on what is good in our lives and being thankful for the things we have. Given that, it seems right that I use this moment to express my gratitude for all of you! Our Bowlathon returned this year, and it was a great day which is in large part due to our sponsors, donors, bowlers, MC's and our amazing staff. The staff worked many hours and it showed. I am extremely grateful for all the support and kindness you all show our alliance. Don't miss out on next year, reserve your spot now...I hear there are already some team challenges happening! Now we can focus on Spring! Flowers, sun, green grass, fields being planted, it is a season of transition. Transition is nothing new for the courageous women, men, and children we serve each day. Survivors of intimate partner violence navigate incredible amounts of change on their paths to safety, McLeod Alliance is here to help be that stability on their journeys. This season, I encourage all of you to show some grace and embrace the season of transition.



-Sandi Sportelli
Board Chair

Sandi Sportelli

A Gracious Thank You to Our Donors (September 2022 - February 2023)

8th District Bar Association
Amazon Smile Donations
American Legion #407
Anderson, Donald & Jennifer
Anderson, Sheri
Arlt, John & Carol
Bank of America
Birkholz, Alan & Brenda
Blackbaud Giving Fund
Christ Lutheran Church
Citizens Bank & Trust
Degree of Honor Lodge Silver Lake
Edina Realty Foundation
Edward Jones Investing
Evangelical United Church of Christ
Frontstream
GFWC of Silver Lake
Gillard, John & Gail
Glas, Don & Jacque
Grace ELCA Women, Brownnton
Health Partners
Holy Trinity Council of Catholic Women

Horstmann, Stanley & Patricia
Hutch Health
Hutchinson Community Foundation
IJ Burich Family Foundation
Johnson, Ralph & Geri
Krentz, Linda & Mitchell
McLeod County
Mighty Cause
Paypal Donation
Peace Lutheran- Dorcas Club
Plato Lions
Powers, Vicky
Purcell, Mary
Rickeman, Scott & Jacolyn
Schantzen & Schantzen
Schwab Charitable Fund
Stearns Foundation
Stearns, Rachel
Thrivent
Trettin, O. & L.
Twice Is Nice
Vineyard United Methodist Church

Holiday Cheer

McLeod Alliance Christmas Project



Pictured above is Emma Brueggemeier delivering gifts for one of our families.

Once again, we had a successful Christmas Project 2022. We are thankful to our community for all the support; without our generous sponsors, this project would not exist. Your sponsorship allowed us to extend some extra holiday cheer to 12 client families. We deeply appreciate you and thank you for giving joy to the families we serve.

Spreading Holiday Spirit

A special thank you to the Hutchinson MN Police Department for sponsoring our agency through the “Shop With a Cop” program this year. Thanks to you, Christmas cheer was spread a bit further this year to the 4 client families that were able to participate.

Holiday Retreat

Happy Holidays from us to you! McLeod Alliance staff and Board of Directors gathered for a holiday party at the Crow River Winery.



Bilingual Advocate Ofelia Vergara and Board Member Lori Krenik attended the 4th Annual Holiday Craft & Vendor Festival 2022 in Glencoe. Our informational booth was displayed with holiday cookies for attendees to decorate.



Stalking Survivor Shares Her Story in Observance of January 2023 Stalking Awareness Month

“My Guardian Angels”

My story began 30 plus years ago when a complete stranger approached me at my place of employment and told me he loved me. It made me feel very uneasy.

Then the phone calls started. I told him to stop calling me but he continued. My family, friends, employers and relatives were getting calls, asking about me. It got so bad that I went to the police for help, and that’s when I was introduced to my “Guardian Angels”, McLeod Alliance. I thought at the time, “how can they help me?” Well, I don’t know how I would have handled the situation without them.

Over the years they have been there for every violation, every court hearing, keeping track of all the documentation, but most of all giving me strength and courage when I didn’t know I had it. They have helped me file 8 harassment restraining orders, accompanied me to numerous court hearings, helped me write a victim impact statement to present to the court, and so much more.

Eventually I was granted a 50 year harassment restraining order. But that didn’t end the cycle. My stalker has a history of alcohol abuse, has had numerous DWI’s, and has an extensive history of drug abuse. At one point, there were 75 active harassment restraining order violations. He eventually went to prison for those violations, but somehow was still able to contact me by phone. He even found a way to send me letters from prison. For every violation, my Guardian Angels were there to support and help.

Years ago, my stalker was diagnosed with several disorders and committed to a mental health correctional facility. While he was there, I received a call from the facility that he had threatened my life. He spent many years there and eventually was granted a provisional discharge from civil commitment and was moved to another facility. Recently, I was notified that it has been approved for him to live independently. I contacted my Guardian Angels and once again they are working hard on my behalf to keep me safe. I don’t know what I would do without them!

My story is not over and I don’t think it will ever end. But I thank God for my Guardian Angels.

If you or someone you know has experienced stalking, there is help. Please reach out to McLeod Alliance to speak to an advocate today. For more information on stalking, visit [The Stalking Prevention, Awareness, and Resource Center at \[stalkingawareness.org\]\(https://www.stalkingawareness.org\)](https://www.stalkingawareness.org)

25th Annual Bowlathon FUNdraiser Brings the Community Together!

With our 25th annual 'Strike Out the Violence' Bowlathon in the books, I am once again incredibly humbled by the support our community has shown. Each year, our staff and board of directors work tirelessly to create an event that is fun and exciting for those who attend. This year was no exception. With a new director, new board members, and new emcees who never experienced Bowlathon, it was truly a team effort to ensure that everything went smoothly!

It was an exciting day as attendees brought in over \$10,000 in pledge dollars and spent a fun afternoon bowling and winning prizes. The business team that brings in the highest dollar amount in pledges earns the right to display our traveling trophy in their place of business until our next Bowlathon. This year, HP Insurance from Brownton took home the trophy for the third 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 some really nice prizes. Thank you to our sponsors and everyone who bowled, pledged, and donated to make this such a great event!

-Glynis Vacek
Bowlathon Chair



HP Insurance of
Brownton won the
traveling trophy yet
again, by bringing in
\$3,855 in pledges



McLeod Alliance, Inc.
P.O. Box 393
Hutchinson, MN 55350

Receiving duplicates? Incorrect addresses?
New person in position?
We'd like to know. Please contact the Alliance by mail,
email, or phone, & we'll take care of the problem. Thanks!

McLeod Alliance Staff List

Executive Director

Amanda Raisanen

Advocacy Coordinator

Glynis Vacek

Bilingual Advocacy Program

Ofelia Vergara

Legal Advocate

Karina Robeck

Board of Directors

Sandi Sportelli, Chair
Kristen Durst, Vice Chair
Tara Drahos, Secretary
Lori Krenik, Treasurer
Tom Gifferson
Tim Langenfeld
Jason Strachota
Kaylin Kealy
Berit Spors
Jordan Malone
Krista Picha



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A Special Thank You to Our 2022 Fund Drive Donors!

Anderson, Marlys
Angvall, Eric & Judy
Animal Medical Center
Anonymous Cash Donation
Bear Lake Sunshine Society
Beatty, Ted & Pat
Bergseng, Dr. John & Patty
Borstad, Stephen & Jean
Cannon, Mike & Amber
CD Queen Inc.
Chas McLaughlin Auxiliary
Citizens Bank & Trust
Citizens Insurance Services
Concordia Ladies Aid
Crary, Nan B.
Curtiss, John & Vickie
Ding, David & Gilhooly, Shannon
Dobratz, Muriel
Dovenmuehle, Allan & Theresa
Duncan, Jill
Eckhart, Bruce
Faith Lutheran Church Women
Fowler, James
Gavin, Janssen, & Stabenow, LTD.
Glencoe Lions
Hallberg, Jean
Hanson, Anthony
Haukos, Kim & Carol
Hausladen, Beth
Hoffman, Joann
Hoikka, Jerome & Patricia
Horton, Carl
Hutchinson Dental Center
Inglis, Mary & Tom
Kennedy, Tom & Lori
Kiwanis Club of Hutchinson
Knop, Sharon
Kraemer, Gregory & Cynthia
Krentz, Linda & Mitchell
Liffitt, John & Rita
Lyons, James & Shannon
Matthias, Ronda & Mark
McCormick, Emmet & Marge
McKay, Jim & Karen
Merkel, Bruce & Linda
MidCountry Bank
Millerbernd, Ralph & Jan
Neff, Mary
Newcomb, Lucille
O'Donnell, Brian (Parker) & Shari
Olson, Kurt
Otto, Jane & Chris
Parkview Dental
Pinske, Tim & Marlys
Radloff, Sandy
Rehmann, Dennis & Betty
Rickeman, Scott & Jacolyn
Schenheit, Richard
Schermann, Elaine
Schott, Gary & Deb
Schumann, Carolyn
Smyth, Peter
Stearns, Rachel
Sterner, Jeffrey
The Jonas Center of Glencoe
Ulrich, Tim
Wagoner, Doug & Lynda
Wangerin, Thomas & Bev
Winters, Jody
Wuethrich, John
Ziegler, Scott

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

McLeod Alliance Thanks You!

Platinum Sponsors



Gold Sponsors



Silver Sponsors



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

Amazing Grace
Animal Medical Center on Crow River
Ashley Adams
Auto Xpress
Barbers on Main/Urban Hair Studio
Becky Havelka
Benny's Meat Market
Bonnie Mohr Studio
Brad and Peggy Zinniel
Buffalo Wild Wings
Carly's Shoes
Cashwise
Chanhassen Dinner Theatre
Clay Coyote Pottery
Crow River Winery
Daily Dose of Nutrition
David Ding, Wood Crumbs LLC
Gold Tree Apparel
Hair Lounge
Heartland Ag Systems
Herbal Pumpkin Patch
Hutch Co-Op
Hutchinson Chiropractic Health
Hutchinson Dental Center
Hutchinson Health
Hutchinson Therapeutic Massage, Sandy

Jordan Malone
Joy & Pat May
Karlene Ulrich
Kwik Trip
Let It Grow
Little Oak
Luke Battes
Michelle Penk
Mike and Laura Knodel
Mike and Lori Krenik
Move Well Chiropractic
Nancy Brown
Napa Auto Parts, Hutchinson
Nuvera
Oakdale Golf Club
Outdoor Motion
Papa Murphy's Pizza
Prairie's Edge Casino & Resort
Qdoba
River House Kitchen + Drinks
RiverSong Music Festival
Robert Vaughan
Sara Bauer, Raspberry Toodle
Science Museum of MN
Second Life
ShadowBrooke Golf Course

St. Paul Saints
Subway South, Hutchinson
Subway, Hwy 7 W, Hutchinson
Taco Johns
Tara Drahos
Terri Healy
The Other Place, Hector
Theresa Frericks, Mary Kay
Town & Country Tire
Tri County Water
Unhinged Pizza, Glencoe
Venus Salon, Brittany
Wiehr Stylin'
Hutch Bowl
Joe's Sport Shop
Jill Springer
Roman Bloemke
McLeod Alliance Board

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