

Embrace Quarterly E-Newsletter
December 2017



In the Era of the Silence Breakers

"It is morally impossible to remain neutral in this conflict. The bystander is forced to take sides.

It is very tempting to take the side of the perpetrator. All the perpetrator asks is that the bystander do nothing. The victim on the contrary, asks the bystander to share the burden of pain.

The victim demands action, engagement and remembering...

In order to escape accountability for his crimes, the perpetrator does everything in his power to promote forgetting. Secrecy and silence are the perpetrator's first line of defense. If secrecy fails, the perpetrator attacks the credibility of his victim. If he cannot silence her absolutely, he tries to make sure no one listens. To this end, he marshals an impressive array of arguments, from the most blatant denial to the most sophisticated and elegant rationalization. After every atrocity one can expect to hear the same predictable apologies: it never happened, the victim lies, the victim exaggerates, the victim brought it upon herself; and in any case it's time to forget the past and move on.

The more powerful the perpetrator, the greater is his prerogative to name and define reality, and the more completely his argument prevails."

--Judith Lewis Herman, [Trauma and Recovery: The Aftermath of Violence - From Domestic Abuse to Political Terror](#)

It is a privilege to do sexual violence prevention and survivor advocacy work in the era of the #MeToo 'Silence Breakers'. Thank you to our communities and advocacy partners for your continued support in ending violence and oppression for all people. We look forward to advocating for more social change in 2018! We wish you all a safe and very happy holidays.

In Peace and Solidarity,

Embrace Staff Members

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Program Highlights

Embrace's Safe Exchange Program

Did you know that Embrace offers a FREE SafeExchange Program in Ladysmith? This program provides parents, guardians and their kids a safe, confidential and stress-free place to do a custody exchange. Parents can exchange their kids at the Rusk County Office and Shelter between 8:00am and 8:00pm any day of the week, including holidays. Please call (800) 924-0556 for



more information! [Read More >>](#)



Washburn and Price Counties Trained in Non-Lethal Strangulation

In 2016 alone, Wisconsin saw 73 people lose their lives to domestic violence. According to the Lethality Assessment Program, strangulation is an evidence-based risk factor for homicide. Law enforcement and prosecutors... [Read More >>](#)



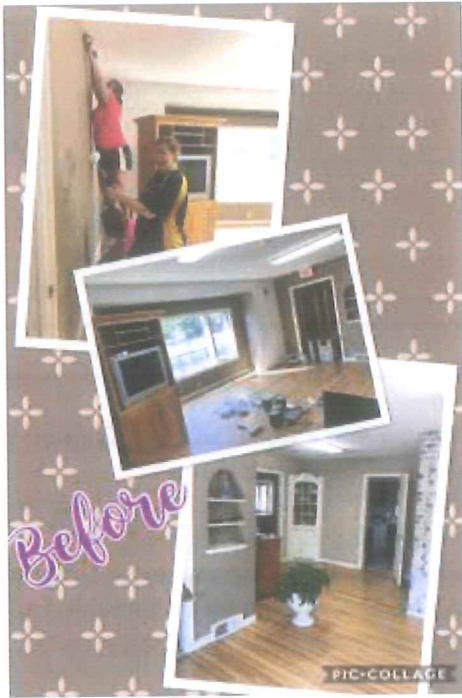
"No Shave November" Donation

This November, Morrie's Chippewa Valley Mazda staff held a "No Shave November" beard contest! The Morrie's crew took pictures of all the guys at the beginning of the month with their clean shaved face and then again at the end of the month with their full beards. The ladies at Morrie's judge the "best" beard. This year's contest winner was the Business Development Center's Manager, David Hetke, pictured to the left. David chose to donate the contest funds to Embrace! Thank you for your support David and Morrie's Crew!

New Youth Programs at Embrace

Throughout 2017, Embrace has tracked a surge in youth seeking safe shelter services both with and without their parent. Between October 1, 2016 and September 30, 2017 there was a jump to 44% of all shelter residents being under the age of 18. In past years, the number of children in shelter hovered around 25% of all residents.

To best respond to the increase of kids coming into shelter, Embrace created a new Youth Development Advocate position with support from the Victims of Crime Act and promoted Kendra Taber, an Embrace Crisis Advocate, to the position. The position is responsible for



maintaining direct counseling and advocacy for youth in shelter. The position also assists parents in understanding the impact of trauma on their children's brain development. Strengthening the parental bond with the child and other protective factors will help the child bounce back and prevent future violence. The kid-friendly spaces in the Shelter and Outreach Offices were organized to include more hands-on and fun healing activities. The spaces were also redecorated to be more gender neutral and colorful! The "before" and "after" pictures to the left show the overhaul of the space that's now a designated Kids Room at the Shelter and Rusk County Office.

In addition to the updated spaces, Embrace is now offering the Connected Kids program to families in Shelter. Connected Kids is an evidence-based curriculum through the American Academy of Pediatrics. The program is designed to address the important issues of violence prevention and resiliency building in children who have experienced trauma. Research has shown that developing qualities of resilience serves as protection from... [Read More >>](#)



Thank You, Chefs!

Our 2017 Men in the Kitchen Chefs out-did themselves this year! Their donations of the multi-course meals as well as their time, creativity and enthusiasm put towards this event raised funds that will allow advocacy services to continue in Price, Rusk and Washburn Counties. Embrace is beyond grateful to have our Chefs' partnerships and commends their bravery in taking a leadership role to end gender violence.

"In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends." – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
