

Embrace Quarterly E-Newsletter
September 2016



Embrace and Local Law Enforcement Lead the State in Domestic Violence Homicide Prevention

As Domestic Violence Awareness Month kicks off this weekend, Embrace is excited to announce that Rusk and Washburn Counties were trained this week as trainers of a nationally-recognized domestic violence homicide prevention program, called the Lethality Assessment Program (LAP). Both Rusk County Law Enforcement Departments, the four Washburn County Police Departments, and Embrace were selected as Wisconsin's third Lethality Assessment Program Team. This Team has already begun to incorporate the evidence-based LAP assessment and referral protocol into law enforcement's domestic violence incident response. As part of the protocol, Embrace's trained staff will be available to support high-risk survivors in the moment with safety planning and resources. The LAP program is proven to prevent homicides in our communities. Other benefits to our communities will likely include a reduction in the high rates of domestic violence incidents, suicides, and near or attempted homicides our service areas face. All officers, deputies and advocates from the participating agencies will be fully trained in the life-saving model by January 31, 2017.

Pictured above with the Wisconsin Department of Justice Staff are Rusk and Washburn Counties' new LAP trainers from Spooner Police Department, Minong Police Department, Birchwood Police Department, Shell Lake Police Department, Washburn County District Attorney's Office, Ladysmith Police Department, Rusk County Sheriff's Department, and Embrace.

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Program Highlights

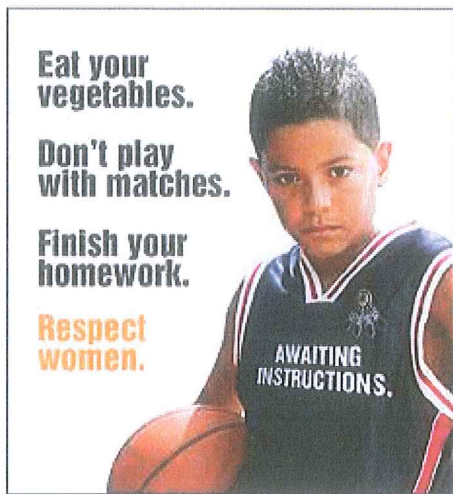


Increased Need, Increased Support

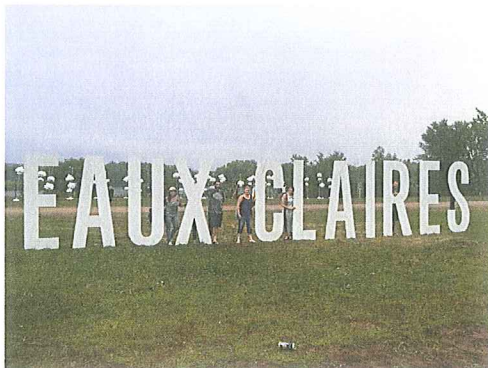
With Embrace's increase in efforts to raise awareness of sexual violence and reach all survivors in the community through collaborative efforts with partners, people are coming forward to Embrace at a high rate. If Embrace's services to survivors continue as projected through the end of 2016, Embrace will have more than doubled the number of services in comparison to only one year earlier. In order for Embrace to properly respond, Embrace has increased its staff's hours and hired new staff to expand the program. [Read More >>](#)

Local Football Coaches Partner with Embrace and Stepping Stones in Violence Prevention

In today's schools, athletes tend to be a very influential group of people. Many of the qualities of a successful athlete such as discipline, cooperation, and integrity, are also the building blocks to becoming a respectful individual and a



role model for others." In turn, coaches are some of the most influential people in the athletes' lives. Their influence extends beyond the field and into the everyday moments of the students they work with... [Read More >>](#)



NEAUX VIOLENCE

For a second year in a row, Embrace and Family Support Center partnered with USA Kubb and the Eaux Claires Music and Arts Festival to raise awareness of our work and prevent sexual violence at the festival grounds. Staff engaged with over 1,500 festival attendees while playing "Kubb for a Cause" and handing out "I <3 Consent" condoms. Thank you, Eaux Claires!

[Event photos here >>](#)



Don't Miss the Party!

Yes, our 2016 Men in the Kitchen dinner tickets for are sold out, but that doesn't mean you have to miss the party! After dinner on Saturday, October 8th, doors open to the public at 8pm for a suggested \$5 donation. Come join us for live music and dancing with County Line, raffles, and a silent auction--all to support Embrace! [Click here](#) for more information or check us out on Facebook.



Survivor Story: Children Living in Fear

They are screaming again. She waits in her room with her younger brother and sister. She knows she needs to protect them because if she doesn't, who will? She thinks about calling 911 as she hears the first crash of something smashing the wall. This isn't new... [Read More >>](#)

"If the numbers we see in domestic violence were applied to terrorism or gang violence, the entire country would be up in arms, and it would be the lead story on the news every night."

—Rep. Mark Green, Wisconsin





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Newsletter

September 2016 E-Newsletter

Increased Need, Increased Support: Meet Embrace's New Staff

With Embrace's increase in efforts to raise awareness of sexual violence and reach all survivors in the community through collaboration, people are coming forward to Embrace at a high rate. If Embrace services to survivors continue as projected through the end of 2016, Embrace will have more than doubled the number of services in comparison to only one year earlier. In order for Embrace to properly respond to survivors and help them to thrive within the unique poverty and social barriers of the tri-county service area, Embrace has increased its staffs' hours and hired new staff to expand the program. Below is a little about our newest staff members hired this past spring and summer!



From Left to Right: Ashley Grant, Domestic Violence Advocate in Rusk County, Natalie LaPointe, Sexual Violence Program Coordinator in Washburn County, Cassandra Clark, Sexual Violence Program Coordinator in Rusk County

Hello, my name is **Cassandra**! I recently joined the Embrace team as the Sexual Violence Program Coordinator for Rusk County. I was born and raised in the area and after High School I went on to attend the University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire to pursue a double major in Sociology and Women's Studies. It was during my internship in Eau Claire when I discovered my passion for helping survivors of domestic violence and sexual

assault- being able to help support and empower individuals as an advocate was such rewarding work, I instantly knew that this was the career path I would like to continue on.

After graduation, I accepted a position at a family resource center in Hayward. Within that role, I provided supportive services, parenting resources and community referrals to families living in Sawyer County. After three years of working with the agency, I had discovered the opportunity to work at Embrace- my passion and desire to work with survivors of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault was rekindled. I am very excited to be working with Embrace, although each day can bring new challenges it also brings many rewards. Something I am very excited about is the opportunity to provide prevention education to the Rusk County community and students in the school districts.

During my free time I love to watch slow-pitch softball in the summer, travel with friends and family and spend time with my husband and daughter.

Hi, I'm **Natalie**! I love being active outdoors, playing and watching sports, and spending time with my friends, family, and pets. Growing up in Northern Wisconsin, I've come to love small-town life, and I have also learned a lot about how rural living affects a survivor's experience. Seeing the way that poverty, isolation, difficulty accessing resources, and other barriers affected people in this area inspired me to take action. While attending the University of Wisconsin-Madison, I was able to learn more about the reality and effects of domestic and sexual violence through what I had seen as a student. By majoring in Human Development and Family Studies, and minoring in Gender and Women's Studies, I learned about what I could do to support those affected by violence, and about how to prevent it from happening in the first place. The more involved I became in learning about sexual and domestic violence, the more confident I was that this was exactly the sort of work that I wanted to do after graduating college. Now that I work at Embrace, I have the privilege of being reminded daily why I wanted to enter this field in the first place. Seeing the work that still needs to be done, while also having the opportunity to witness the capacity we all have to make change and help those who need it, are both factors that keep me passionate about what I get to do at Embrace.

My name is **Ashley G.** and I am the new Domestic Violence Advocate at Embrace in Ladysmith. I am from Phillips, WI, so I am very familiar with the need for services in rural Wisconsin. I graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay in May of 2016 where I majored in Human Biology and earned my Bachelor of Science Degree. I will be serving domestic violence and sexual assault survivors at Embrace for a year, as I have applied and been accepted into a Doctor of Podiatric Medicine Program. In my free time I enjoy hunting, fishing and going to stockcar races.

I am looking forward to working for a non-profit in Northern Wisconsin and gaining the capacity to work with survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault.

Local Football Coaches Partner with Embrace and Stepping Stones in Violence Prevention

In today's schools, athletes tend to be a very influential group of people. Many of "the qualities of a successful athlete such as discipline, cooperation, and integrity, are also the building blocks to becoming a respectful individual and a role model for others." In turn, coaches are some of the most influential people in the athletes' lives. Their influence extends beyond the field and into the everyday moments of the students they work with.

This year, the joint Rib Lake/Prentice Hawks football team is putting into play the nationally recognized Coaching Boys into Men curriculum (CBIM). This curriculum will support the teams in building a culture of respect, integrity and equality. The CBIM sessions are being delivered in the Prentice and Rib Lake High Schools by Head Coaches, Jeremy Brayton and Mark Krommenacker. Domestic Violence Program Coordinator,

Angela Kleinhans, from Embrace in Price County and Program Coordinators from Stepping Stones in Taylor County have partnered with Brayton and Krommenacker to support the team in program implementation and evaluation, and they are also available to provide follow up information to the team and any additional counseling and advocacy players may need on an individual basis. With Prentice and Rib Lake High Schools taking the lead on violence prevention in Embrace's service area, the young men in these schools will learn healthy relationship skills and that violence never equals strength.

Coaching Boys into Men is an evidence-based, violence prevention curriculum that strategically builds upon the relationships coaches develop with their athletes in order to deliver the lessons and key points. CBIM is routinely cited as one of the most effective curriculum addressing "themes such as personal responsibility, respectful behavior, and relationship abuse." The program is meant to be implemented in a team setting in order to allow the team to learn together and hold each other accountable for their actions.

Survivor Story: Children Living in Fear

They are screaming again. She waits in her room with her younger brother and sister. She knows she needs to protect them because if she doesn't, who will? She thinks about calling 911 as she hears the first crash of something smashing the wall. This isn't new, she is all too familiar with the sound of hands hitting faces, and bodies hitting floors. She wonders if she should call, but wait... last time she called, the weeks after only got worse. She was warned not to call, warned to mind her own ***** business. There are consequences for calling the police and she didn't want to know how much worse it could get.

The police have been to their house before. Last time they came, she was caught frantically in the middle of her mother and him, trying to protect her. She pleaded with them to stop. The police arrived, made them stop, and arrested him. She slept soundly for a couple of days, but then he came back.

He's nice when he comes back, for a little while. He buys them flowers, candy, and even jewelry sometimes. He apologizes and says he'll never do it again. She doesn't believe him because she knows it's just a matter of time. She always knows when it will happen again, she can tell. Something in him changes and she has to be very careful what she says and what she does. She has to agree with everything he says to try to keep him happy.

She worries a lot, about her brother, about her sister and about her mother. It's difficult to concentrate in school. She easily gets angry and withdraws from her teachers, friends and the work she's supposed to be doing. Why does math and science even matter? How can she concentrate? When she has to return home in just a few hours...

She cuts herself sometimes to feel something... anything... that's not fear. She's thought about suicide to escape, but then she worries that no one will protect her siblings. She's lost and tired, and wants to scream and cry and punch the girl at school that laughs at her. People try to tell her she's crazy and needs medication, but she doesn't want to feel numb. She just wants it to stop.

She wants to feel joy, and happiness more often. She wants to laugh with her friends and cry at sappy movies. When does she get to do that?

A note from the advocate:

This story came from the mouths of children and teens I have worked with—from the many stories I have swirling in my mind. There is no direct happy ending to this particular story because I do not have one to tell. The indirect positive I have for this epidemic is that Embrace is focused on enhancing direct services to youth. Program Coordinators in each county are also working together to incorporate understanding of how domestic and sexual violence affects our youth, into our community working groups. Staff at Embrace have become

trained facilitators in [ACE](#) and [Trauma-Informed Care](#). We will continue to weave the child's voice into all of our outreach and prevention agendas. As we connect as a community to support victims and survivors, including children, and hold offenders accountable for their actions, we will see a positive change in our communities. We will see a brighter future for our children.

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