

Embrace Newsletter Spring 2021



GET HELP

DONATE



Providing Access to Advocacy Driven Forensic Medical Care

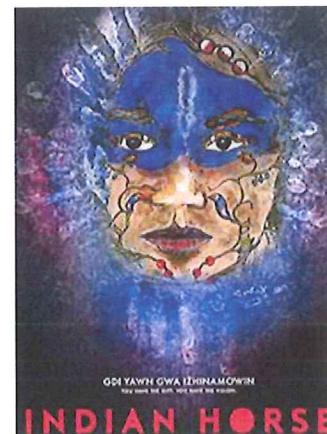
Embrace and our 'Tracking Our Truth' nursing and culturally-specific partners were one of three programs in the country to receive funding to develop non-hospital based medical care sites for historically marginalized survivors. Learn more about the services on our new [webpage](#).

Tracking Our Truth:
Providing Access to Advocacy Driven Medical Forensic Care

Program Highlights

Virtual Screening & Discussion of *Indian Horse*

As part of April's Sexual Assault Awareness Month events, Tracking Our Truth partners and Embrace are hosting a free virtual screening of the award winning film *Indian Horse* on **Wednesday, April 7th from 6pm - 9pm**. This moving drama sheds light on the dark history of American Indian Boarding Schools and the lasting impacts of colonial settler violence. Following the screening of the film, join the panelists via Zoom for a discussion on historical trauma, the importance of culturally-specific responses to sexual violence, and new non-hospital based forensic medical care and exam services available throughout Wisconsin. Advocates will be available for one-on-one support during the screening. [Read more & register for this event.](#)



How We Are Spending the GoFundMe Donations



After the Barron County Board of Supervisors voted to pull Embrace's annual funding of \$25,000, we panicked and questioned how we would continue to serve and support all survivors coming forward in the same capacity as before. Thanks to the incredible outpouring of concern and financial support, we raised \$102,107 through the "Embrace Loses County Funding over BLM Support" fundraiser on our GoFundMe webpage. But, because the \$25,000 was an annual unrestricted funding source for our nonprofit organization, we will need to stretch the funds raised over the span of several years in order for our day-to-day operations to continue functioning as normal. [Read more.](#)

Volunteer Spotlight

Embrace has the pleasure of working with Angela Pahl this semester for her Spring Internship. Angela is attending UW-Stout for her Bachelor of Science Degree Program in Human Development and Family Studies. When we asked Angela why she chose to intern at Embrace, her response was, "I have heard a lot about Embrace and they have done so many good things... Interning here is... helping me build the skills I will need with starting a new career. The team here is amazing and everyone is so helpful and compassionate about their work which makes it very easy to see why I chose this field to go into." Embrace is looking for 2021 summer interns and volunteers, including volunteer board members. If you're interested in applying to volunteer or intern with Embrace, please [contact us.](#)

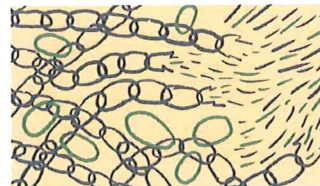


Survivor Story

"I would be dead if it weren't for you... and the ladies at Embrace. He would have killed me," Maria* told me on the phone, hundreds of miles away from where the abuse started. "Look at me now! I am a success story! I want others to hear my story and be encouraged." Maria first reached out to Embrace in late summer 2020. An immigrant... [Read more.](#)

Beyond Criminalizing Domestic Violence

"...far from deterring intimate partner violence, criminalization exacerbates some of the strongest factors that correlate with it, including economic instability and trauma. The world has changed since VAWA's passage in 1994. At that time, only a few women (mostly women of color) argued that criminalization would harm marginalized communities. Now, those women are joined by voices from the mainstream anti-violence movement, including community organizations such as Embrace, in rural Wisconsin..." [Read Leigh Goodmark's article.](#)



Make a Donation!



Events Calendar

Anyone is welcome to join the events listed in our [online calendar](#). You can click on the individual event for location, times, and session topic details. You can also call our [offices](#) if you have transportation or child care concerns during the event.



Follow Us!

It'd be great to connect with you on social media! We post updates, and it's one more way to reach out for confidential support. Our handles on Facebook, Pinterest and Snap Chat are [@EmbraceWI](#), and [@EmbraceWisc](#) on Instagram.



Make an Impact!

Are you ready to get involved and make a difference? There are numerous ways to spend your time with Embrace. Consider joining us as a board member, intern, or volunteer as a group on a specific project. To get started, [contact us](#).

"Nothing that we do that is worthwhile is done alone."

- Mariame Kaba

[Donate](#) | [Programs & Advocacy](#) | [Annual Reports](#) | [About Us](#) | [Careers](#) | [Events](#)

[Board of Directors](#) | [Volunteer](#) | [Wishlist](#) | [Archived Newsletters](#)



VIRTUAL SCREENING & DISCUSSION OF *INDIAN HORSE*

As part of April's Sexual Assault Awareness Month events, Tracking Our Truth partners and Embrace are hosting a free virtual screening of the award winning film *Indian Horse* (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O2cyFInvA4s>) on **Wednesday, April 7th from 6pm - 9pm**. This moving drama sheds light on the dark history of American Indian Boarding Schools and the lasting impacts of colonial settler violence. Following the screening of the film, join the panelists via Zoom for a discussion on historical trauma, the importance of culturally-specific responses to sexual violence, and new non-hospital based forensic medical care and exam services available throughout Wisconsin. Advocates will be available for one-on-one support during the screening.

To register for this free event, please email Angela at angela@embracewi.org (<mailto:angela@embracewi.org?subject=Registering%20for%20Indian%20Horse>).

INDIAN HORSE

©Elevation Pictures

Virtual Film Screening and Panel Discussion

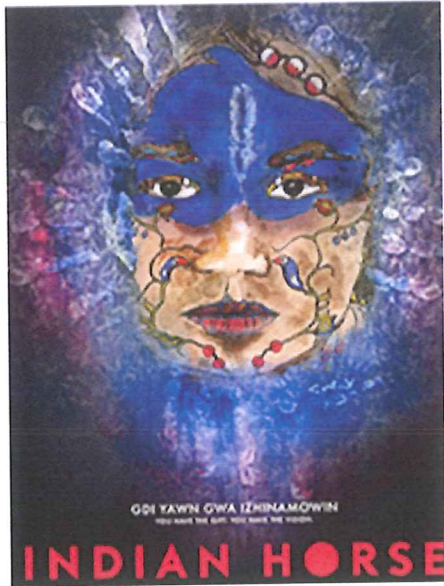
with Tracking Our Truth partners

Wednesday, April 7th

6:00pm-9:00pm

**This event is
FREE!
Registration
Required!**

An adaptation of Ojibway writer Richard Wagamese's award-winning novel, *Indian Horse*, this moving and important drama sheds light on the dark history of Indigenous boarding schools.



Join us after the film for a panel discussion on:

- Historical trauma and the lasting impacts on Native domestic and sexual violence survivors
- New non-hospital based services available; Tracking Our Truth: Providing Access to Advocacy Driven Medical Forensic Care (SANE)

Panelists include UW-Milwaukee College of Nursing, HIR Wellness Institute, Gerald L. Ignace Indian Health Center, and St. Croix Valley SART. Discussion facilitated by Embrace.

Please send an email to angela@embracewi.org to register by April 5th.

For more information,
call Embrace at
715-532-6976.



Tracking Our Truth:
Providing Access to Advocacy Driven Medical Forensic Care

How We Are Spending the GoFundMe Donations

After the Barron County Board of Supervisors voted to pull Embrace's annual funding of \$25,000, we panicked and questioned how we would continue to serve and support all survivors coming forward in the same capacity as before. Thanks to the incredible outpouring of concern and financial support, we raised \$102,107 through the "Embrace Loses County Funding over BLM Support" fundraiser on our GoFundMe webpage. But,

because the \$25,000 was an annual and unrestricted funding source for our nonprofit organization, we will need to stretch the funds raised over the span of several years in order for our day-to-day operations to continue functioning as normal.

To stretch the generous donations across as many years of services as possible making up for the annual loss of County support, the Embrace Board of Directors voted to invest the donations in a low-risk account to help maximize these funds by earning interest. Embrace will also continue to search for other dependable sources of unrestricted annual funds to replace what has been lost as the annual loss will continue to impact us on a yearly basis.

With these donations and their earned interest revenue, we will be able to keep our doors open to survivors experiencing domestic and sexual violence in Northwestern Wisconsin. The crisis line will continue 24/7, our advocates will still be there to accompany survivors through medical exams and interviews, and the Safe Shelter will remain open. Our crisis counselors are ready and available whenever they're needed. Survivors can continue to find help, safety, and hope here. Without the generous support of our GoFundMe donors, it wouldn't be that way.

Survivor Story

“I would be dead if it weren't for you... and the ladies at Embrace. He would have killed me,” Maria* told me on the phone, hundreds of miles away from where the abuse started. “Look at me now! I am a success story! I want others to hear my story and be encouraged.”

Maria first reached out to Embrace in late summer 2020. An immigrant in this country, she arrived years ago under a now-expired immigration visa. She left her family in another state to follow a smooth-talking Wisconsinite who asked her to marry him and applied for a visa as his fiancé. The love story she imagined was ripped from her as the man she intended to marry started showing his true colors. When the verbal abuse started, Maria threatened to go back to her family. Her fiancé stole her visa, her documentation for being in the country, and hid her from the world. Maria spent most of her time alone working on her fiancé's hobby farm. Working on the road, he would be gone for sometimes weeks on end, leaving Maria with little food and no money. By the time Maria called Embrace, the abuse and trauma she experienced was crushing. Maria refused to have sex with her fiancé when he returned from work; he shut off the water and electricity for their home as punishment. Because of the lack of clean, running water, Maria became very ill with an infection and was hospitalized for two weeks.

The abuse, anxiety, and lack of nutrition took a toll on her body but not her spirit. Embrace was able to give Maria food, water, clean clothing, and emergency assistance through the Moving Forward Funds program. She was able to get by on what she had for months. One day, Maria called with news. I could hear her smile as she explained her son asked her to come live with him in another state. "It was time," Maria told me. "I prayed and God told me this is my opportunity." Maria packed up what belongings she could fit into her son's vehicle and fled.

That was not the last we heard from Maria. She contacted Embrace several times since living with her son. During the last phone conversation, she told her advocates that her dreams are becoming reality! Maria left more than just broken promises in Wisconsin when she moved out. She left her seamstress materials and a sewing machine. Maria makes wedding dresses. In the state she moved to, she met an advocate who connected her with a local fashion designer. This designer was willing to not only donate some of her old sewing materials to Maria, but she had a job interview scheduled. She would make wedding dresses again.

"You are a blessing to me. Thank you for bringing this sparkle into my life. You have been a sparkle in my life," Maria blessed me in Spanish and translated her kind blessing into English.

**Maria is a pseudonym.*

Survivor story written by Alyssa Melin, Domestic Violence Program Coordinator - Washburn County



(i t \hr.

[Archived Newsletters \(/archived-newsletters\)](#) | [Annual Report \(/annual-report\)](#) |
[Confidentiality Policy \(/confidentiality-policy\)](#) | [Office Locations \(/contact\)](#) | [How Are We
Doing? \(/how-are-we-doing\)](#)

© 2018 **Embrace** (/home) All Rights Reserved.