



# SAFE HAVEN

Domestic Abuse & Sexual Assault Support Center  
PO Box 665  
Shawano, WI 54166

Spring/Summer 2023

**Mission:** To encourage a safe community, free of physical and sexual violence and emotional abuse, through shelter, caring, advocacy and education.

**Vision:** To be a catalyst for change and to break the cycle of violence so individuals or families can become healthy, self sufficient and independent.

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month and Child Abuse Awareness Month

## Help Safe Haven “Turn The Town Teal”!

*A message from Jen Bisterfeldt, Executive Director*

We are gearing up for our busiest time of year! April kicks off Sexual Assault Awareness and Child Abuse Prevention Awareness Month, before we launch into summer fundraisers and events. We are so grateful to the City of Shawano and all of the businesses in the Business Improvement District (BID), Shawano Downtown Ladies Day, for partnering with Safe Haven to help “Turn The Town Teal”. **Watch for our ribbon wrapped trees downtown and at Franklin Park and Huckleberry Harbor during the month of April.** This campaign is helping us to raise awareness of sexual assault and child abuse issues. A special thank you goes out to Mayor Bruce Milavitz and City Clerk Lesley Nemetz for signing an official Proclamation, declaring April as Sexual Assault and Child Abuse Awareness Month in the City of Shawano! The BID and several downtown businesses are also showing their support by offering some limited edition products for sale for “Ladies Day” on April 21st . Watch for special deals where portions of the proceeds will be donated to Safe Haven to help provide services to survivors. The theme this year for Ladies Day is “Ladies Supporting Ladies”. Safe Haven’s annual Vinyasa Against Violence yoga event will also be held that evening. Tickets are already sold out, but feel free to stop in at Stubborn Brothers to say hi to the teams from Safe Haven and other area agencies.

Our awareness campaign is timely, given a rise in sexual assault survivors reporting at Safe Haven. We have seen almost 50 survivors of sexual assault in our program in the first quarter of 2023. This is a problem that affects all of us and we need to all be a part of the solution. Join us as we show support for survivors everywhere. Ending sexual abuse and child abuse starts with all of us.

Thank you to everyone who helped Safe Haven in any way. We wouldn’t be able to do our work without each and every one of you. We are grateful. - Jen



Board of Directors

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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### SAFE HAVEN STAFF

Jennifer Laude Bisterfeldt  
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### Shelter Advocates

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Melodie Weso

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Maggie Bohm

Please call our 24-hour crisis line at (715) 526-3421 or (888) 303-3421 for more information about our groups or to speak with an advocate.

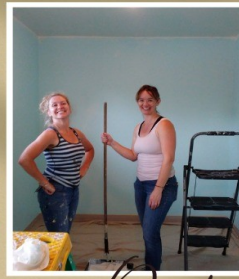
Check out our website at [www.shawanoshelter.org](http://www.shawanoshelter.org)  
“Like” us on Facebook (Safe Haven of Shawano County)  
Text only line: 715-584-1258

## Events/April Happenings:

**April 4<sup>th</sup> Day of Action:** Each year on the First Tuesday in April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) Day of Action. We focus awareness upon sexual violence prevention by wearing teal.

**April 21<sup>st</sup> Vinyasa Against Violence Yoga Event:** This is Safe Haven's 5th Annual Vinyasa Against Violence. We are excited to be back at Stubborn Brothers Brewery this year for this empowering Evening! Also happening is Shawano Downtown Ladies' Day. The theme is "Ladies Supporting Ladies" During this event, Shawano Downtown is teaming up with Safe Haven in support of Sexual Assault Awareness month. You'll find many of our Shawano Downtown stores offering specials that support Safe Haven. Wear teal on Ladies' Day in support of Sexual Assault Awareness month! Shawano Downtown will be surprising shoppers, who are wearing teal, with Shawano Downtown shopping dollars.

**April 26<sup>th</sup> Denim Day:** Show support for sexual assault by wearing denim jeans. Denim Day is a campaign that began after a ruling by the Italian Supreme Court where a rape conviction was overturned because the justices felt that since the victim was wearing tight jeans, she must have helped the person who raped her remove her jeans, thereby implying consent. The following day, the women in the Italian Parliament came to work wearing jeans in solidarity with the victim. Peace Over Violence developed the Denim Day campaign in response to this case and the activism surrounding it. Since then, what started as a local campaign to bring awareness to victim blaming and destructive myths that surround sexual violence has grown into a movement. As the longest running sexual violence prevention and education campaign in history, Denim Day asks community members, elected officials, businesses and students to make a social statement with their fashion statement by wearing jeans on this day as a visible means of protest against the misconceptions that surround sexual violence.



*Make a Difference*

[www.shawanoshelter.org/volunteer/](http://www.shawanoshelter.org/volunteer/)

APRIL IS

Sexual Assault  
Awareness Month

TURN THE TOWN TEAL

SAFE  
HAVEN



**TEAL** is the signature color of Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) and is used to show our support for survivors of sexual assault. Throughout the month of April, you will see **TEAL** ribbons decorating Shawano Downtown, Franklin Park & Huckleberry Harbor to raise awareness of this very real issue happening in our community. Below are more ways you can support survivors and raise awareness locally.

Vinyasa Against Violence  
Healing Yoga Event  
Friday April 21st, 2023  
Stubborn Brothers Brewery  
Crescent Ballroom  
(Space is limited)

SHAWANO  
DOWNTOWN

Shop.  
LOCAL

April 21st is Shawano Downtown Ladies' Day  
"Ladies Supporting Ladies"

Shop your favorite downtown stores & see how they are supporting Safe Haven while raising awareness for Sexual Assault Survivors! Wear **TEAL** and be one of many shoppers who receives a Shawano Downtown gift certificate.

SAFE  
HAVEN



Safe Haven provides free, confidential services to survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence. Services include advocacy, 24-hour hotline, crisis intervention, court support, education, and shelter.

24 HOUR Crisis Line  
715-526-3421 or  
Toll Free 1-888-303-3421  
Text Only: 715-584-1258



Over **half** of women have experienced sexual violence involving physical contact during her lifetime.



Almost **1 in 3** men have experienced sexual violence involving physical contact during his lifetime.



LISTEN.  
BELIEVE.  
SUPPORT.





## Child Abuse Prevention and Family Strengthening Month Awareness

Every child deserves to grow up in a safe, stable, and nurturing environment. April has historically been **Child Abuse Prevention Awareness Month** and Safe Haven works to grow community awareness and offers preventative education.

In April, 2022 Governor Tony Evers signed a proclamation also officially designating April as **FAMILY Strengthening Month**. Children raised in loving and supportive environments are more likely to prosper academically and financially, becoming successful contributing members of society. Research has shown the most effective way to prevent child abuse and neglect is to provide support to families so children can grow up in an environment that fosters their wellbeing. Prevention is not only about preventing something negative from occurring, but also about promoting something positive happening. So we are asking that you help us create more **FAMILY Strengthening awareness** in our community.

If you know a family in need of support, offer friendship, play a game with them, decorate a garden with pinwheels (National Symbol for Child Abuse Prevention Awareness), find a pinwheel coloring sheet and color with them to hang it up for everyone to see and admire. Enjoy the family events at our own Franklin Park this summer or even in the springtime. Take time to just listen to everyone in the FAMILY! Take time to enjoy each person or child's special qualities they bring to the family. After all, who doesn't like to walk past a sidewalk with a fun colorful chalk message? Why not create that message in front of your house?

If you, or someone you know, is a victim of abuse, please reach out to Safe Haven. We are here to help.

## Your Donations Keep Us Going!

### Safe Haven Wish List

**URGENT NEEDS: Paper Towels, Low Sugar Juice, and Canned Soups**

- Gift Cards (Grocery Stores, Wal-Mart) & Gas Cards
- (he) Laundry Detergent
- Applesauce, Granola Bars, Protein Bars
  - Women's Deodorant
- Paper Plates, Plastic Forks



## THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS

October 2022 - March 2023



Many community members donate their time, talent, goods and services to Safe Haven. We thank all who generously contribute to our program to make it successful. The following have donated \$500 or more to Safe Haven during this time period (not including fundraisers).

Bob & Maribeth Klopke, Shawano Area Community Foundation, Green Bay Packers, Crawford Family Foundation, Clintonville Area Foundation, Gillett Suring Clergy Association, Zion Lutheran Church Women's Ministry, St John's Episcopal Church, Norbertines, St John's Lutheran Church Hermansfort, Shawano Women's Club, NUTZZ Charities, Lisa Gast/WPS Foundation, Little Rapids Corporation, Chris Dorak/HPI, M3 Insurance, Chuck & Monica Hozza, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, Pam Gardner, June Brockman, City of Shawano, Peggy Gallagher, Augie & Lil Sptizberger, Carol Golke, Tammy & Bob Cherney, Bonnie Sperberg in memory of LJ, Mary Podzilni, Anonymous, Nancy & Jerry Hentges, Greg & Patty Thatcher, Barbara & Tim Schmid, Jim & Suzanne Petru, Shawano County, United Way—Shawano County

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## Safe Haven Statistics (January-December 2022)

- Shelter provided safe housing: **68 adults and 72 children**
- Shelter received 2574 crisis calls
- Provided support group to 38 women and 13 children
- Provided 4220 services to **398 victims ( women, men, and children)**
- Law enforcement completed **114** intimate partner lethality assessments during a domestic violence call. **55% of the calls screened in as high danger/potential homicide risk**
- **Law enforcement averaged 10 intimate partner domestic violence calls per month**
- Safe Haven Team presented to 34 groups at area schools, grades K-12, educating 842 children
- Safe Haven Team gave 10 presentations to various community groups, educating 560 people
- Safe Haven Team provided 52 community awareness activities
- Safe Haven Team provided 5 professional trainings to area business or agencies



SAFE HAVEN

Safe Haven Ladies Golf Outing

**SAVE THE DATE**

WEDNESDAY JULY 26TH, 2023

GOLDEN SANDS GOLF COURSE  
CECIL, WI

Come Sail Away

\*PRIZES FOR BEST DRESSED TEAM\*  
\*PRIZES FOR BEST GOLF CART DECOR\*

Limited to 32 teams

Contact Rachel with questions 715-526-3421 or email: [communityengagement@shawanoshelter.org](mailto:communityengagement@shawanoshelter.org)

MORE DETAILS TO COME



**Would you like to receive this newsletter via email? Please email your contact information to: [help@shawanoshelter.org](mailto:help@shawanoshelter.org) or visit our website and view the newsletter online.**

### Upcoming Events!

**Vinyasa Against Violence**  
April 21, 2023 @ 5:30  
Stubborn Brothers Brewery  
Shawano, WI

**Ladies Annual Golf Outing**  
July 26, 2023  
Golden Sands Golf Course  
Cecil, WI

**First Responders Ball of the Badges**  
November 10, 2023  
North Star Mohican Casino Resort  
Bowler, WI