



WOMEN IN NEED

ADVOCATING FOR PEACE AT HOME
THROUGH JUSTICE AND EDUCATION

Annual Report

2016-2017

At A Glance

It is the middle of the night. The phone is ringing and you're not sure what is going to happen next, but a voice on the other end asks, "How can I help you?"

The person on the other end listens as you explain your situation. They empathize, safety plan, and offer you options, even though it is so late into the night. They work with you to make sure you are safe and connect you with services and resources.

This is the role of Women In Need's 24-hour hotline. In past year, 1,299 hotline calls were received by trained staff and volunteers. Many of these calls were individuals in domestic violence crisis situations seeking shelter, Protection from Abuse Orders, assistance with custody, counseling, and more.

Trained staff provided 10,608 hours of counseling and advocacy over the past year to 1,767 new victims and their family members. This includes empowerment counseling where individuals have the opportunity to talk about their experiences and learn about resources and options available to them to help them begin their healing journey.

Women In Need's expanded shelter, Anna's House, was able to safely shelter 167 women and children for 6,565 nights, however, there were many more requests for shelter that could not be accommodated. Advocates worked with many individuals to find other safe options when our shelter was full.

Through collaborations with Chambersburg Hospital, Waynesboro Hospital, and Fulton County Medical Center, a Women In Need advocate provided medical accompaniment to 62 sexual assault victims including supporting victims through the Forensic Rape Exam.

One of the most requested services from Women In Need is legal assistance with obtaining Protection from Abuse Orders, Custody, Divorce, and Support. This past year, Women In Need's legal advocates and law office opened 405 new cases. While the law office only represented 110 victims in support cases, they managed to obtain \$180,739.32 in support for those clients.



Women In Need's Education Department was also active in the community providing 512 programs and trainings to schools, community groups, medical facilities, law enforcement and more.

All of these services would not be possible without the continued support of the community and volunteers who donated 2,868 hours of service to Women In Need.

A Day In Shelter

2 AM

Something you never thought could happen to you has just happened. The police are at your home after a fight between you and your partner went too far. The controlling behaviors have been getting worse, but tonight was the first there has ever been violence. You no longer feel safe.

One of the officers pulls you aside and talks to you privately, asking a series of questions. They inform you that people in your situation have been killed and ask if you would like to speak to a Women In Need advocate.

Could things really be this bad? Don't other people have it much worse?

The advocate on the phone talks to you about safety. No, you don't know when your partner will be released from police custody. No, you no longer feel safe in your own home. No, you don't have any family or friends who you can stay with.

The advocate works with you to arrange transportation to their emergency shelter. An officer stands by as you pack up two bags of clothes and some other possessions. You are afraid of what is going to happen to the rest of your stuff, but know you can't take it with you.

3 AM

The officer drops you off at the back of a building that is dark except for one window where the light is on as the advocate prepares for your arrival.

The advocate you spoke with on the phone meets you at the door with a friendly smile and helps you bring in your bags. You go into an office where the advocate talks with you and fills out an intake packet. They inform you that before you can take your clothes to your room, you must dry, wash, and dry them again in the laundry room. The advocate helps you start the process before giving you a pair of pajamas that are slightly too big, a set of towels, and some toiletries so you can take a shower.

How did I end up in a shelter?

4 AM

After giving you a tour of communal living space, kitchen, library, and courtyard, they walk you to your bedroom. You will have a roommate for the first time since college. The room is dark as the other person is sleeping, but you climb into a soft twin bed with fresh sheets.

At least I'm safe here.



9 AM

You are awoken by the sounds of a child crying in the hallway. Your roommate has already gotten up and left the room. You slowly get out of bed, sore from the previous night, and find some of your clean clothes to wear.

Out in the communal area, women and children are sitting at a long table eating breakfast and chatting. Several others are watching television or cooking in the kitchen. One of them welcomes you and offers to show you where everything is in the kitchen. They help you make a cup of coffee and invite you to sit with them. They ask about you and tell you their stories.

I'm not alone.

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A Day In Shelter (continued)

10 AM

The Shelter Manager invites you into her office and welcomes you to the shelter. She works with you to come up with a list of things you need to help you get back on your feet. You work with her to create a goal plan to find a job and housing in 30 days.

Can I do this in that short amount of time?



3 PM

You meet with your Counselor/Advocate to talk about the goal plan you had made with the Shelter Manager that morning. Things are beginning to become overwhelming and you don't know if you can do it. The Counselor/Advocate listens and talks with you, helping to break things down to where they seem more manageable. They offer to help with your goals and talk to you about your strengths.

It's a lot, but I can do this.

4 PM

Kids are home from school and the communal areas are filled with sounds of talking, playing, and cooking. It gets to be overwhelming, so you grab a book from the small library and go to your private room. There is a small couch and chair in the sitting area where you try to relax, but the building just isn't as quiet as your home.

I feel so lost and out of place. I want to go home.

11 AM

A Legal Advocate meets with you to talk about legal options and what happened to your partner after they were arrested. They talk to you about Protection from Abuse Orders and set up an appointment to help you fill out the paperwork the next day.

I don't want them to get in trouble, but what else can I do?

1 PM

Several of the other women staying in the shelter gather in the communal living area for a shelter meeting. Someone makes coffee and snacks to share. Some of the others talk about having job interviews or apartments they found. Others are still struggling. The staff talk about how to make a budget for living expenses.

This isn't going to be easy.

7 PM

You start to get hungry and venture out into the communal area. The kitchen is empty and you search the cabinets for something to eat. Your partner was the one who liked to cook and you feel a pang of guilt and nostalgia. You wonder if your partner is still in jail.

When we weren't fighting things were good. I know my partner loved me.



8 PM

There is no WiFi and you don't want to use up all the minutes on your cell phone. There is a single, desktop computer in the library, but it is finally not in use. You go in and sit down in front of the screen. You wish you could just get on your social media accounts and skim through your friends lives like you normally do at home, but you know you should focus on your goals.

You get on Craigslist and other websites looking for apartments, all of which are more than the bit of money you have saved. You decide instead to start by looking for a job, applying for anything you think you might qualify for.

What would my friends think of me now?



10 PM

You have barely slept in over 48 hours and you retreat to the small bed. You can hear the faint talking of people out in the halls. Your roommate comes in and grabs some clothes to take a shower. Exhausted and overwhelmed, you finally drift off to sleep.

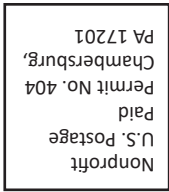
We were supposed to be happy. This was not where my life was supposed to go. Now, here I am, starting over.

Leaving behind a home, possessions, and a life is difficult and overwhelming, especially when the situation involves domestic violence.

Women In Need's Emergency Shelter, Anna's House, provides short-term safe housing every day to victims who are fleeing domestic violence.

During their 30 day stay, individuals work with staff to create a goal plan and find resources in the community to help them live a life free of violence, as well as attend individual and group counseling sessions to start their healing journey.

While Anna's House has doubled the bed space from Women In Need's previous shelter, it has been full for many months and unable to serve all those requesting shelter.



Women In Need, Inc.
1280 Progress Road
Chambersburg, PA 17201



Financial Review

Total Assets	3,656,430
Unrestricted net assets	3,354,606
Permanently restricted net assets	280,754
Temporarily restricted net assets	21,070
Total Net Assets	3,656,430
Contribution Income	149,406
Capital Campaign Income	93,394
Total Grant Income	1,668,176
Total Income	1,910,976
Program Services Expenses	1,609,737
Supporting Services Expenses	234,719
Fundraising Expenses	25,777
Total Expenses	1,870,233
Changes in Net Assets (Net Income)	135,144

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