



# Annual Report

October 1st, 2020 - September 30th, 2021

*Empowering lives through HOPE*

## HOPE COALITION ANNOUNCES A NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Open communication and teamwork are the hallmarks of the leadership style Sara Kern brings to HOPE Coalition. Sara, who has been with the coalition since July of 2019, succeeded Kris Kvols as Executive Director on July 1st. Sara has been involved in advocacy since college, when she took a Sociology of Gender class and volunteered to work at the local crisis line. "I was always very aware of oppression in our systems. I am someone who wants to fight oppression." she said, citing a climate of oppression against racial minorities, women, people in poverty and the LGBTQIA+ community. "Working to lift up and provide power to those who need it - that's my career path" she said. Sara has six years of leadership experience and more than 15 years of working with mental illness, sexual assault, trauma and homelessness.

Kris will be exploring new options now, stating "I'd like to work further upstream, to work to prevent the things I've seen over years." She is looking into the field of prevention or possibly grant writing. She feels that much has been accomplished locally towards stopping domestic violence and sexual assault stating, "I am proud to have advocated on behalf of those who came to HOPE Coalition for assistance, I will carry their stories with me for the rest of my days."

HOPE Coalition appreciates all of the work Kris Kvols has provided our community over the last 11 plus years!



### BOARD MEMBERS END OF TERM

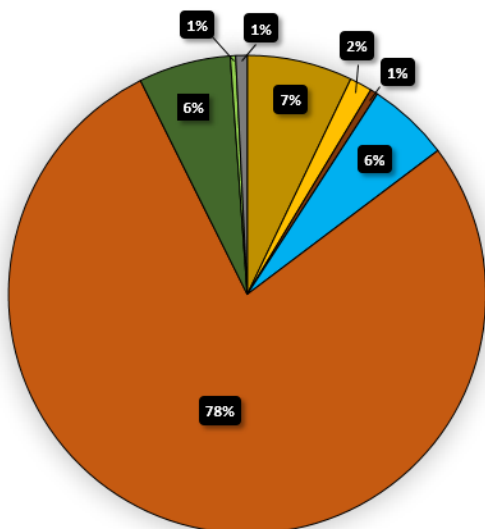
HOPE Coalition would like to extend a huge THANK YOU to Catherine Johnson and Tilton Davis for their years of service. They both completed their terms this year and between them, they have provided more than 30 years of volunteer service to our organization.



### MOVED TO A NEW LOCATION

In November 2020, HOPE Coalition moved to our new location Suite 104 at 1926 Old West Main. We are excited to have all of our community based advocates and administrative staff in the same location. Any person in our community needing support from our Community Care Fund, Housing Support Services, Sexual Assault Services, Domestic Violence Services and our Kids Count Program will find us in one place.

We would like to thank United Lutheran Church and Christ Episcopal Church for graciously allowing us to utilize space in their buildings over the last two years. Their support allowed us to continue our important work in the community!



### Funding Sources

- Individual Donations
- Churches
- Organizations/Corporations
- Foundation
- Government Grants
- United Way
- Rental Fees
- Misc

<p>Steve Murphy - President Paige Anderson - Vice President Mandy Arden - Secretary Teresa Kosmos - Treasurer</p>	<p>2020 - 2021 Board Members</p> <p>Ethan Seaburg Sheena Whitlock Denise Morcomb Vicki Lambert</p>	<p>Brittany Huneke Josie Erlandson Michelle Weisen Matthew Zolondek</p>
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## WHAT WERE YOU WEARING?

In April 2021, we hosted a "What Were You Wearing" exhibit at the Red Wing Art Depot Annex and Minnesota State College SE. The event showcased a survivor art installation to dispel myths regarding sexual violence. 'What were you wearing' is a common question sexual assault victims are asked, along with, were you drinking or where were you? These questions shift the blame to victim and are not the root cause of why an assault happened.

Many of our guests that came to view the installation were very moved and shared a few of their thoughts in our guest book. One guest wrote "This is a wonderful exhibit that really shows it doesn't matter what women wear. It brings up memories I've tried to forget" and another guest shared "excellent exhibit, brings home the personal side of an important issue."

### 2020-2021 IMPACT STORY

A client, Jane Doe, recently left her husband of 12 years. With her parents consent, she legally married him as a minor. He groomed her from a young age and was physically, emotionally and financially violent through their entire relationship. He would not allow her to finish high school, get a job or to leave the house on her own. When they had children together he claimed they weren't his and accused her of cheating. Jane was not given the opportunity to learn how to live on her own and he took advantage of that, always telling her she wouldn't be able to make it without him. He often forced himself on her as "payment" for providing for the family.

When Jane decided to leave him, HOPE was able to get her into a Domestic Violence Shelter. From there she worked with an advocate to develop life skills, such as, budgeting, filling out applications for jobs, health insurance and many other skills. Our advocates helped her with housing applications and she was able to obtain a housing voucher to move into her own apartment. The advocates also put her in contact with a free legal service to start the divorce process and get an Order For Protection.

Jane recently told her advocate the thing that inspired her the most was when she was told we believed her; no one had ever said that to her before. She is currently in the process of obtaining her GED and has a goal of going to college in the future.



"Sweats, a university shirt and a ball cap. We were just going to be hanging out as usual, drinking and watching a movie. I drank way too much and woke up with him on top of me!"

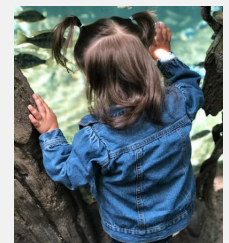


"Probably a little sundress, that's what I always wore. The worst part was it was from my brother, my own family member."



### A DAY AT THE ZOO!

We are so thankful for our supporters! A wonderful community member provided donations to the Minnesota Zoo which allowed an experience that may never have happened.



### 2020-2021 HOPE COALITION CLIENT SERVICES AT A GLANCE

- Provided 120,923 services
- 1,011 individuals in 719 households
- Community Care Fund: 140 households
- Housing Support: 161 households
- Domestic Violence: 399 individuals
- Sexual Assault: 44 individuals
- Kids Count: 63 individuals