



# 1990-2020

## HISTORY OF HOPE COALITION

### ORIGINAL BOARD MEMBERS

- Melissa Bonday, Citizen
- Elizabeth Burhans, Court Services
- Yvonne Childs, Citizen
- James Cook, Alliance for the Mentally Ill
- Rev. Carmen Edwards, Outreach Ministry
- Pastor Gary Elg
- Verna Fricke, Public Health
- Robert Glassnapp, Zumbro Valley Mental Health
- Gordon Lee, Citizen
- Ginger Hedstrom, Goodhue County Social Services
- Catherine Johnson, Attorney
- Charles Johnson, RW Police Department
- Glen Kuhl, NSP
- Tim Mahoney, Community Support Program
- Lisa Oelkers, Social Worker
- Brian Peterson, City of Red Wing
- John Selkirk, Maple Hills Apartments
- Nancy Swanson, RW Technical College
- Mary Weigenant, Citizen
- Michael Wiegand, SE MN Private Industry Council
- Consultant: Richard Grabko, Executive Director, RW HRA

### ORIGINAL FUNDERS

- Emergency Shelter Grants Program
- Gemini Foundation, Cannon Falls
- Local Battered Women's Advocacy Project
- Local area churches
- MHFA Loan
- MN Southern Initiative Fund
- Northern States Power
- Red Wing American Legion
- Red Wing HRA
- Red Wing Shoe Company
- Red Wing Area United Way

**1991**  
**October:** Envisioned by Rev. Carmen Edwards, Mary Weigenant and Yvonne Childs, Red Wing Area Coalition for Transitional Housing (RWACTH) serves its first clients in a single house. A family can stay for up to 60 days while they find permanent housing.

**1994**  
 Board seeks funding for The Women's Center (TWC), to house women and children in Goodhue County.

**1995**  
**June:** TWC opens, housing 8 homeless women and their children (maximum 16 people) for a stay of up to 60 days. TWC serves only women and children fleeing domestic violence. Transitional Housing Program serves local homeless families.

Mission: To eliminate homelessness, family violence and oppression by providing safe, affordable housing, comprehensive support systems and systems – change advocacy for all.

**2006**  
 RWACFTH takes over management of the Community Care Fund - a collaboration of local churches, foundations, and the United Way of Goodhue, Wabasha and Pierce Counties - for people seeking help with basic needs.

Mission: To end child abuse, family violence, and homelessness so that every person has the opportunity to live life to the fullest; while treating those we serve with respect, compassion and dignity.

**2012**  
 Charities Review Council awards HOPE its Meets Standards Seal (renewed 2018)

United Lutheran Church's "Homes for God's Children" Program funds new short-term transitional housing apartment for HOPE.

**2015**  
 Mission: Empowering lives through HOPE.

**2017**  
**June:** HOPE offers a youth advocate in the Cannon Falls schools.  
**October:** HOPE opens a Domestic Violence outreach office in Wabasha County

**1990**  
**October:** First official meeting of Red Wing Area Coalition for Transitional Housing.

Original Mission: To provide affordable housing, support services and encouragement towards independence of the homeless.

**1992**  
**July:** The Coalition gains 501(c) (3) status as a non-profit organization and expands to 5 housing sites spread across the county.

Mission: To provide affordable housing, support services and community education regarding housing issues and homelessness.

**1996**  
 City Council approves increasing TWC occupancy to a maximum of 24 people. Launch of Kids Count Program for abused children.

**1999**  
 RWACFTH establishes an office at Friendship House after a generous gift from the Church of St. Joseph.

**2001**  
**April:** First Kids Count Vigil during Child Abuse Prevention Month.

**2008**  
**February:** RWACFTH becomes HOPE Coalition.  
**March:** First HOPE fundraising banquet at St. James Hotel.

**2009**  
**February:** TWC changes name to Haven of Hope Safe Home serving only women and children. Men are served through HOPE's Outreach Program.  
**August:** First annual Walk to End Violence.

**2014**  
**January:** HOPE moves its administrative offices to Mayo Professional and Community Center.  
**March:** HOPE becomes fiscal agent of the Goodhue County Sexual Assault Multi-Disciplinary Action Response Team (SMART).

**April:** HOPE takes over provision of Sexual Assault Services to Goodhue and Wabasha Counties.

**2018**  
**November:** Mayo Professional and Community Center closes. HOPE is temporarily housed at Christ Episcopal Church & United Lutheran Church for up to two years.