

# CONNECTIONS

The Center Against Sexual & Domestic Abuse, Inc.

Fall 2021

## Domestic Violence Awareness Month October 2021



To recognize Domestic Violence Awareness Month, CASDA will collaborate with community partners throughout October to educate community members about domestic violence, raise funds, and share information about local services for victims and survivors of abuse.

### Domestic Violence by the Numbers (2020)

- 344:** DV calls received by the Superior Police Dept.
- 164:** DV calls received by the Douglas County Sheriff's Department
- 354:** Children & adults receiving DV-related services from CASDA (86% of all clients)
- 1,327:** DV-related calls and online requests for help (69% of total calls)

An opening event, featuring proclamations by the mayors of both Superior and Duluth, will take place **Friday, October 1st, from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at the Barkers Island Festival Park Pavilion**. A follow-up educational activity will take place **Wednesday, October 13th, from 4:30-6:30 p.m. at Vintage Italian Pizza (VIP)** in Superior. The kickoff event alerts the community to the issue of domestic violence. The interactive training activity offers community members a chance to experience the barriers that a victim of domestic violence might face when trying to flee. Both events are FREE. Members of the public are invited and encouraged to attend!

In addition to Superior Mayor Jim Paine and a representative from Duluth Mayor Emily Larson's office, guest speakers at the October 1st event will include CASDA Domestic Abuse Program Coordinator, Lisa Jordan, Safe Haven Community Engagement Coordinator, Jaci Christiansen, and community member Angel Woodhall, a local spiritual advisor who will offer \$5 card readings with all proceeds going to CASDA. The event will also feature art displays and local musicians James Wiita, Shane Nelson and Aaron Tank. Many survivors of abuse find that art and music offer valuable outlets to process the trauma they have endured.

The "Why Does She Stay?" interactive training event on October 13th will include a free pizza meal served at 4:30, opening remarks at 5:00, training activity at 5:15 and debriefing and discussion from 6:00-6:30.

Also in October, community members will have two family-friendly opportunities to support services to victims and survivors: a pizza dinner at the Thirsty Pagan on **Tuesday, October 5th, from 4:00-7:00 p.m.** and a Bowl-a-Thon to "strike out" domestic violence **Sunday, October 24th**, with games at **11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.** For more details and registration information, individuals can visit the **events tab at [casda.org](https://casda.org)** or call 715-392-3136.

Several community groups and events have also made plans to support CASDA and survivors during Domestic Violence Awareness Month, such as the **UMD Bulldogs Women's Soccer Team**, who selected CASDA and Safe Haven as their October 3rd "Kicks for Causes" beneficiaries, and Superior's **Christ Lutheran Church**, whose members are collecting non-monetary donations for CASDA's shelter. CASDA will be a **Socktoberfest of Superior** recipient, too! **A big thank you** to these and all other supporters!!

See pp. 3-4 for more dates and details, plus **reminder flyers that you can clip and post!**



# CASDA Works to Dismantle Racism and Improve Workplace Culture

The Center Against Sexual and Domestic Abuse (CASDA) recognizes that to carry out our mission, we must also work to dismantle racism and other forms of systemic oppression. Racism intersects with domestic and sexual violence, and often compounds its effects on victims. Our organization apologizes for harm we have caused to Black, Indigenous and People of Color in our Community through historic failures on our part to recognize the ways systemic racism and oppression have informed our policies and practices.

Therefore, as we strive to empower individual survivors of abuse, we will actively work toward achieving equity for all Black, Indigenous, and People of Color in our community. CASDA commits to further educating ourselves, recognizing and understanding our own privilege and the harm we have caused, and examining our biases, while acknowledging and validating the history and lived experiences of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color.

## Anti-Racism Statement



About eight months ago, CASDA embarked on a 12-to-15-month training journey facilitated by the Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault (WCASA) to help our agency evolve as an anti-racist organization and to further develop a positive workplace culture.

Thus far, sessions and activities have addressed the following topics:

- organizational trauma,
- direct and ethical communication,
- anti-oppression/anti-racism principles and practices, &
- support for all staff, with a focus on staff of color.

During this process, CASDA developed an anti-racism statement, vetted with several community members of color, which we are now pleased to share here. We will strive to incorporate these principles in our work, whether at CASDA or within the community at large. Per our MOU, we recognize that **“the process of becoming anti-racist is never complete and must be an ongoing commitment.”**

We thank WCASA staff for their expert technical assistance as we work through this deep dive into CASDA's history, practices, strengths, and areas for growth. We will emerge stronger and more equipped to ally ourselves in a meaningful way with survivors of color and with adults and children of color throughout our community.

## For DV Survivors, lack of housing complicates leaving

An ongoing concern for CASDA clients, as well as many other abuse survivors, is a shortage of affordable housing. Sadly, for low-income victims and survivors of abuse, this shortage may propel them back to their abuser for lack of other options. During the last documented one-day count of domestic violence services (conducted last September by the National Network to End Domestic Violence) 88 percent of Wisconsin's unmet service requests were for housing or shelter.

According to Deanna Reder, a CASDA advocate who also works at Dabino'lgan Shelter in Duluth, the wait for subsidized housing in Duluth is now one to two years. CASDA Outreach Advocate Denise Selden says that the Superior Housing Authority (a public agency which helps low-income people secure housing) has a three-year waiting list for one-bedroom apartments and has paused accepting applications for them. She also points out that the discrepancy between the Douglas County average household income (\$29,379) and average rental cost (\$766) is higher than the widely recommended formula of spending no more than 30% of your gross income on rent.

While of course this housing shortage presents a barrier to victims trying to flee imminent danger, it proves an even bigger hurdle to the many who are still homeless after their temporary shelter stay. Typically, a survivor displaced for months or years no longer qualifies for emergency shelter at most facilities designated for victims, even if the survivor is still in need of permanent housing. Transitional housing, offered by providers like Harbor House and Northwest Community Services Agency, can sometimes fill the gap, but it is rare to find an immediate opening. A cycle of homelessness often begins during this difficult time.

To assist survivors with these challenges, CASDA relies on strong partnerships with housing providers who understand the urgency of securing housing for individuals and families fleeing domestic violence. Currently, local properties and management companies are not accepting domestic violence preference letters, but CASDA's Shelter Program Coordinator, Joanne Sanders, says that our clients are generally able to begin either the Minnesota or Wisconsin Coordinated Entry Process in a timely manner, within two days to a week. Coordinated Entry is a program through which people experiencing homelessness connect to appropriate, tailored housing. However, appropriate housing rarely opens fast. For a Section 8 housing voucher, Joanne estimates the wait at one to three years, or about six months for low-income clients with a disability. Public housing, she says, could entail up to a year's wait, depending on the person's family size and background.

Housing is a complex topic, with this article giving only a snapshot of existing barriers. Two more related challenges are the limited number of properties within the allowable price range for housing vouchers, and the number of landlords willing to accept vouchers from prospective tenants. Both CASDA's Outreach Advocate and Shelter Program Coordinator are certified in the University of Wisconsin-Extension's "Rent Smart" educational program, whose goal is to create a collaboration between landlords and potential tenants with low credit scores or poor rental history to give them a second chance. The program helps renters gain control over their financial situation and secure stable housing. CASDA is also actively working to help educate landlords about the voucher program and to break the stigma of renting to low income families. To learn more about these efforts, including Rent Smart, please contact [denise@casda.org](mailto:denise@casda.org).



# Upcoming Events: Snip & Save!

## Domestic Violence Awareness Month

### Event Calendar

Friday Oct.1

- Mayoral Proclamation
- Arts in the Park  
\*Community Event\*  
Barker's Island  
5-7pm

Sunday Oct.3

- Kicks 4 Causes Donation Drive  
UMD Soccer Stadium  
12-1:30pm

Tuesday Oct.5

- End Abuse at the Caboose  
\*Fundraiser\*  
Thirsty Pagan  
4-7pm

Wednesday Oct.13

- Why Does She Stay?  
\*Community Event\*  
Vintage Italian Pizza  
4:30-6:30pm

Sunday Oct.24

- No Time to 'Spare'  
\*Fundraiser\*  
Bowl-A-Thon  
Village Lanes Bowling Alley  
11am-4pm

Check our website & facebook page for updated events

Center Against Sexual  
and Domestic Abuse



## END ABUSE AT THE CABOOSE

**\$20 PIZZA & A BEER/BEVERAGE**

@THIRSTY PAGAN, OCT.5TH 4PM-7PM

**50/50 Raffle!!**

**Door Prizes!!**

**Good Music!!**

#WEARERESILIENT

Center Against Sexual and Domestic  
Abuse

## WHY DOES SHE STAY?

October 13th 2021 4:30-6:30PM

VIP Pizza

1201 Tower Ave, Superior, WI  
54880

**PIZZA, SALAD AND DRINK  
PROVIDED**

Interactive exercise to  
provide information on  
barriers that victims  
face when trying to  
leave

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
AWARENESS MONTH**

Please RSVP by 10/07/21 @  
715-392-3136 or email  
denise@casda.org

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AND DOMESTIC ABUSE

## Art and Music in the Park

*Holistic Card Reading \$5*

Twin Ports - Mayoral Proclamation  
OCT. 1ST 5-7PM  
BARKER'S ISLAND PAVILION

### SPEAKERS:

*Superior and Duluth Mayors  
Community Speaker  
Program Coordinators  
(CASDA & Safe Haven)*

Also  
look for  
purple flags  
in front of  
the Douglas  
County  
Courthouse  
during  
October!

# Upcoming Events: Snip & Save!

#WEARERESILIENT

Center Against Sexual And Domestic Abuse  
Domestic Violence Awareness Month

## KICKS 4 CAUSES

### Donation Drive

**OCT. 3 @12 PM**  
UMD WOMEN'S SOCCER  
JAMES S MALOSKY STADIUM

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**Donations:**

**Household Items:** Toilet Paper, Paper Towels, Kleenex, 42+ Garbage Bags, 13-Gallon Garbage Bags, Deodorant, Shampoo & Conditioner, Lotion

**Over the Counter Medications:** Tylenol, Advil, Tums, Cold Meds, Benadryl, Kids Medications

**Gift Cards**

**Non-Perishable Foods:** Coffee, Sugar, Cereal, Canned Goods, Juice, Mac & Cheese, Jelly, Sauces, Boxed Items, Soups, Healthy Snacks, Oil

**Household Cleaners:** Disinfectant Spray, Laundry Soap, All-purpose Spray, Bleach, Pine Sol, Dish Soap, Windex, Dryer Sheets, Toilet Cleaner, Disposable Gloves, Hand Sanitizer

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Domestic Violence Awareness Month

## No Time To Spare Bowl-A-Thon

Register your team & bowl to 'strike out' Domestic Violence!

**WHEN** October 24th 2021 Shifts: 11am & 2pm

**WHERE** Village Lanes \*6419 Tower Ave\*

\$100/TEAM INCLUDES: 5 BOWLERS, LANE, SHOE RENTAL, PIZZA & DRINK  
Door Prizes 50/50 and Meat Raffle!!

**Team Prize Categories:**

- Highest Team Score
- Most Pledge Money Raised
- Creative Team Vibe

**Info & Registration:**  
(715) 392-3136  
[www.casda.org](http://www.casda.org) or  
[facebook.com/CASDAorg](https://facebook.com/CASDAorg)

## CASDA seeks to build Safe & Strong Presenter Network

The Safe & Strong Body Safety Curriculum contains age-appropriate lessons for kindergarten through sixth grade students, broken down by grade level. The program defines safe and unsafe touches and helps kids identify trusted adults using a conversational method centered around common scenarios.

After receiving certification last year, CASDA piloted Safe & Strong at Superior's Cooper Elementary School, where about 820 students participated.

Feedback from school staff was overwhelmingly positive, and CASDA has begun working to bring these important messages to a wider audience. To that end, we are offering Presenter Certification sessions to community members in hopes of building a network of adults who will join us in child sexual abuse prevention efforts, getting critical information to children in a variety of settings.

CASDA's next Presenter Certification training session is set for Wednesday, November 3rd. Any caring adult

who has regular contact with children is a great candidate to attend: school counselors, teachers, advocates, staff and volunteers at faith-based organizations, preschool and daycare teachers, parents and other caregivers, and community members. For more information, [please see the flyer on the following page.](#)

### Enbridge provides funds and training opportunity

Enbridge recently awarded CASDA a \$10,000 "Fueling Futures" grant to help sustain our Douglas County Outreach Advocate's services. The Outreach Advocate provides community based support to long-term clients who have survived abuse. Our current Outreach Advocate is a certified life coach with a passion for helping survivors reach personal goals. She also participates in community task forces related to elder abuse, mental health and substance abuse.

Enbridge is sponsoring an educational opportunity for CASDA's Community Engagement Coordinator, as well: Realized Worth's *Virtual Volunteering Accelerator for Nonprofits*, an intensive online course to increase nonprofits' capacity for facilitating remote volunteering, with a focus on group projects for corporate employees. Thank you, Enbridge, for helping CASDA sustain services to survivors and to our community!





# Safe & Strong Child Presenter Certification



The Safe & Strong Child program is a body safety curriculum that has been provided to schools, pre-schools, ECFEs, and Head Start programs in Southern Saint Louis County, Minnesota for more than 25 years.

\* CASDA is excited to expand the use of this valuable child sexual abuse prevention tool to Wisconsin and beyond.



**November 3rd, 2021, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

**PRICE- \$60 INCLUDES:**

- 6.5 HOURS OF TRAINING THAT WILL CERTIFY YOU TO TEACH THE CURRICULUM WITHIN YOUR ORGANIZATION AND COMMUNITY
- A BOUND BOOKLET AND USB DRIVE CONTAINING THE CURRICULUM
- SAMPLE LETTERS FOR FAMILIES AND SCHOOL STAFF, STORYBOARD PICTURES, SCENARIOS AND MORE



Register at

[www.eventbrite.com/e/safe-and-strong-child-presenter-certification-training-tickets-174489882937](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/safe-and-strong-child-presenter-certification-training-tickets-174489882937)

TRAINING WILL TAKE PLACE OVER ZOOM



**casda**

CENTER AGAINST SEXUAL & DOMESTIC ABUSE INC.



# New Faces at CASDA!

p.6

## Dayja Schwichtenberg Sexual Assault Program Coordinator

Dayja recently joined CASDA as our Sexual Assault Program Coordinator. Dayja provides a variety of services to sexual assault survivors, including support group meetings, advocacy throughout court cases, and emotional support. She also plans and runs Sexual Assault Awareness Month events.

In both her personal and professional life, Dayja is passionate about helping people, especially “meeting people where they are at, no matter where that is.” She loves coaching soccer at the University of Minnesota Duluth because it allows her to be an integral part of young people's lives as they are “testing the water.”



Dayja's vision is to create closer ties with the community, so that she can make CASDA and the Sexual Assault Program more known with the hope that it will reach more survivors and gain their trust. Her community involvement starts with participation in the Douglas County Coordinated Community Response (CCR) Team for Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. CCR members are currently in a planning stage, trying to figure out what the community needs from all of them, how their positions affect survivors, and how they can improve processes for survivors. Dayja is also starting to think about fun and meaningful community activities for April 2022: Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

A recent Iowa State University graduate, Dayja says that she brings a young mind with her to CASDA, which helps with looking at things a little bit differently. She is also eager to absorb the knowledge around her to continue her professional growth: taking what people say and using it to her best advantage. In Ames, Iowa, Dayja worked at ACCESS, which served victims of sexual assault and domestic violence. There, she gained experience in answering the crisis line, navigating transitional housing, and working closely with the ISU campus sexual assault advocate to bring different programs to ISU, with creative adjustments around COVID-19 restrictions.

Outside of work and soccer, Dayja is passionate about her plants, her dog, and reading. Welcome, Dayja!



## Samantha Rohl Children's Program Intern

Joining our Children's Program this fall is intern Samantha (Sam) Rohl. Sam currently attends school at Southwestern College based in Santa Fe, New Mexico, where she is pursuing a master's degree in art therapy and counseling. This summer, Sam moved back to the Midwest to be closer to family and for more opportunities in the field.

While at CASDA, Sam is looking forward to learning the many facets that surround sexual and domestic abuse. She will be building on prior knowledge and experience gained as an advocate at a shelter for survivors of domestic and sexual violence in River Falls, Wisconsin. She is considering a career in a related field after her graduation next spring.

In Sam's free time, she is typically outdoors on a hike or on the water with friends. She likes to stay active and works out almost daily. She also makes art and hangs out with her two cats, Luigi and Lil Guy. She likes to bake a lot, and she says that her coworkers reap the benefits if there are leftovers!

A fun fact about Sam is that she can find four-leaf clovers. One summer, she found over 2,000 and has a whole box full of them to prove it!





## Human Trafficking Response Team Serves Victims, Identifies Gaps

Human trafficking is defined as the use of force, fraud, or coercion to obtain some type of labor or commercial sex act. CASDA's mission encompasses services to trafficking survivors because the crime often intersects with domestic violence, sexual assault, and/or child abuse. Furthermore, the imbalance of power and control between a trafficker and their victim is very similar to that present in abusive relationships. Traffickers take advantage of individuals in vulnerable situations, preying on them by promising to provide for their most basic needs, such as food and shelter. This crime primarily affects minors who are put into harmful situations by someone known to them who is preying on their need to feel loved and to be part of a family. No matter what their age, victims of trafficking typically find it very difficult to leave or seek help.

Locally, the Human Trafficking Response Team (HTRT) is a collaboration among multiple agencies including CASDA, the Superior Police Department, PAVSA, the District Attorney's office, Fond Du Lac Reservation, and others, that work together to end human trafficking. Working within Douglas, Bayfield, and Ashland counties, the HTRT takes a victim centered and trauma informed approach. Being trauma-informed with trafficking victims means giving them a voice and choice since they have had all their power stripped away. Members of the HTRT want to ensure that victims have even the smallest choices, such as where to sit during a meeting with law enforcement or child protective services. A non-trauma informed approach would be to tell a victim of sex trafficking what they need to do or blame them for the crimes committed against them.

As a relatively new task force, the HTRT's first accomplishment is forming this cross-disciplinary collaboration to make sure gaps are filled, no victims fall through the cracks, and the needs of victims are met. The team seeks to end human trafficking in the community by providing direct services to individuals affected by human trafficking, not allowing human trafficking to continue, finding the individuals who place others into these situations, and working to find and fill any gaps that may be in the system -- for example, by collaborating with agencies in Minnesota, where a Safe Harbor law has been in effect since 2014. Because Wisconsin does not currently have a Safe Harbor law, a trafficking victim under the age of 18 can legally be charged with prostitution and incarcerated. Proposed Safe Harbor bills are currently making their way through the Wisconsin legislature with apparent traction. Similar bills introduced during the past several years have failed to pass.

During Human Trafficking Awareness Month in January, local teen Mackenzie Cook raised nearly \$3,000 for CASDA to direct to trafficking education and services! We applaud Mackenzie's vision and initiative! We also thank every community member who supported Mackenzie's drive.



# Small Talks

## How WI Prevents Underage Drinking

Why should you talk to kids about alcohol? Underage drinking is a real problem in Wisconsin, and it starts earlier and can be more dangerous than you might think. But parents, loved ones, and other caring adults can make a real difference. All you have to do is talk. That's right. Having small, casual conversations with kids, starting around age 8, can help prevent underage drinking.

CASDA is pleased to promote the Small Talks initiative as a member of the Douglas County Drug Prevention Coalition, which is made up of community members with a desire to intervene in the cycle of addiction in our area. One of the ways in which the coalition's goal aligns with CASDA's mission is that underage drinking is associated with a higher risk of physical and sexual assault.

If you would like more information about Small Talks please visit [smalltalkswi.org](http://smalltalkswi.org) or contact the Douglas County Drug Prevention Coalition via email at [drugpreventioncoalition@gmail.com](mailto:drugpreventioncoalition@gmail.com).



 **Socks for Survivors**

# Golf Scramble

**SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS**

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**More than  
\$5,000  
raised  
for  
CASDA!**

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- State Farm: Matt Thoreson
- Superior Choice Credit Union
- Superior Fire Department Local 74
- Superior Savings Bank
- Vintage Italian Pizza

**Other Supporters**

- Anonymous (Vikings tickets)
- Art on the Planet
- Benna Ford
- Bernick's
- Butten's Green Acres Golf Course
- Cedar Lounge/Earth Rider
- Chris Allen (Kaul 101.7)
- Dreamland Supper Club
- Grandview Golf Links Course
- Grizzly's
- Hammer Time Charters (Mike Andler)
- How Sweet It Is
- Jay Hansen
- Kelsey Miles
- Keyport Liquor
- Lubovitz Enterprises/Lux Hotel Grp
- Linda Jarzyski
- Littlest Bake Shop
- Lyon Roots
- Manitou Inn Bar & Grill
- McGraw Lake Tavern
- Midwest Communications
- Nemadji Golf Course
- North Shore Bank
- Northern Pines Golf Course
- Norwood Golf Course
- Nummi Jewelers
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- Paul's Pour House
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- Sandy Breitmann
- Scott Wallis, CPA
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- Silverwood Pet Care
- Soft Pines Resort
- State Farm (Matt Thoreson)
- Stop-A-See
- Thirsty Pagan
- Trends
- Village Pump
- Wine Beginnings
- Wine Seller Winery

**Music Sponsor**

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**Hole-in-One Sponsor**

**Benna Ford**

Thanks, also, to golfers, Nemadji staff, our volunteers and everyone else who helped make this year's Golf Scramble a success! Your generosity will help support services for adult and child survivors of abuse, as well as a community effort to end violence. Please contact CASDA if you do not see your name listed!

**New Year's Eve Gala Update:** As this newsletter goes to press, CASDA is weighing public health risks and deciding whether to host a virtual or in-person fundraiser this year. Please **SAVE THE DATE (12/31)** and watch our website ([casda.org](http://casda.org)) and Facebook page ([CASDAorg](https://www.facebook.com/CASDAorg)) for developments! If you might like to volunteer on the "Behind the Masks" planning committee, please email [jill@casda.org](mailto:jill@casda.org).



Mailing label here

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Superior, WI 54880