



FCC FRONTLINE

\ 'FRƏNT-,LĪN \ : THE MOST IMPORTANT OR INFLUENTIAL POSITION IN A DEBATE OR MOVEMENT



YOUR GIFTS MAKE A *difference*

WHY YOUR GIFTS MATTER

We host fundraisers, send special letters, hand deliver Christmas cards, and so much more. Why? Why do we ask you - the general public, the business community, the church community, faithful supporters - to donate to us every year? Sometimes more than once a year? The answer to that goes well beyond balancing a budget.

We ask so we can change lives - and many times, save lives too. When our grant funding doesn't cover all of

the costs to get someone to safety and keep them safe, we can't just stop helping. We can't say "sorry, we've run out of funds, but you can try again next year." For too many of our clients, next year might not come. They need help now because the threat to their life is so great, they may not survive without it.

So... what do those funds help us do? How are they life saving, exactly?

For many, it's a bus ticket.

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A bus ticket to get them into the arms of family who will love and support them. The same family their abuser has isolated them from, making every effort to sabotage relationships in an attempt to cut off any possible support.

For many, it's a hotel night. It's 2 AM and we've just gotten a call that we need to respond to a domestic violence crisis situation. Our advocate gets out of bed, quickly dresses and heads out the door within 10

YOUR GIFTS MAKE A DIFFERENCE CONTINUED

minutes of receiving the call. Our advocate arrives on scene to meet with the victim. She still has blood running down her face and bruises covering her body from the vicious attack. She has barely managed to escape to the neighbor's house to call 911. It's not safe for her to go home. So at 2 AM we put her up in a hotel, where she can have the security of a locked door, the comfort of a hot shower, and access to a phone. She can get some rest before we meet the next day to talk through options and safety plans.

For many, it's for the kids. It's a new start at school. It's getting back to a sense of normal. Well child checks and dentist appointments are no longer overshadowed by violence. Assistance with daycare helps in job searching and stability. Access to snacks and meals eliminate food insecurity.

For many, it's a chance to

rebuild. Help with job searching, having been prevented from ever having one. Assistance getting a new place to call home. Securing a vehicle. It is rebuilding independence that was stripped away.

Sometimes it's whatever is needed to recover from the real life nightmare of unexpected tragedy - homicide. Being there to support as long as needed, often spanning years.

Sometimes it's ensuring there is ALWAYS someone just a phone call away - having staff available 24/7.

It humbles us to ask you time and time again to write us another check. Know that we appreciate your consideration and gifts so much. Know that we are asking with good reason and put your donations to good use. Know that we can not carry on this life-saving and life-changing mission without you.



Hope from the CEO

This holiday season, let us not forget those in our communities who are living in fear, thankful to be alive at the start of each day. Or those who will spend their holidays consumed with grief after unexpectedly losing a loved one tragically to homicide. Everyone whose lives have been forever altered by crime in ways we hope to never experience. Your financial gifts can bring hope to those in desperate need of safety, services and resources. Thank you for your generous support. Together, we can restore hope for others.

-Shari

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Domestic Violence & Integrated Advocacy (IAS)

It is so rewarding to help our clients reach safety. The road to safety is not always easy; it can be exhausting both physically and mentally. The journey, however, is always worth it when we reach our desired outcomes.

Safety tends to look different for everyone. Sometimes it's leaving an abusive partner. Other times it's safety planning; figuring out how to be safe during times of escalated violence. Sometimes, it's our housing - a refuge for as long as needed.

For one client, safety meant leaving. She met regularly with our advocates, stayed in our housing and learned to live on her own. She found a job that she's great at, child care and transportation, and continues to budget to take care of her children.

Homicide & Violent Crimes (WISH Unit)

Our Crime Victim Specialists continue to help guide victims and families through everything that comes with being a victim/survivor of crime. Some of these things include grief support groups, court proceedings, individual counseling, 24/7 crisis support, funeral advocacy, financial assistance, & much more.

What does financial assistance include? Gift cards and gas cards to attend everything from the funeral of a loved one to court proceedings. One family received a gift card to purchase a cake for high school graduation; the graduating student lost their mother to a domestic violence murder. The need is great and we cannot do this without you. Thank you for your continued support for our program.

Iowa Victim Service Call Center

We have seen a tremendous increase in our call volume in the past year. We went from 22,821 calls to 32,050. Why so many calls?

Awareness is one reason. More people are learning that our service is available to them. They are learning that we are here, every hour of every day, and always available to talk.

Concentrated efforts is another reason. We spent several months focusing on college campuses. We put our phone number and text line on every college campus that would let us. If any student is raped, sexually assaulted or victimized by any other crime, we will be here to help them. We will believe them. We will support them confidentially.

We will support all victims and survivors, always.



ON THE *12th* DAY OF CHRISTMAS
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE GAVE TO ME

- 12 nights of crying,
- 11 broken toys,
- 10 sleepless nights,
- 9 put downs,
- 8 meals disrupted,
- 7 times hiding,
- 6 acts of violence,
- 5 gifts destroyed,
- 4 kicks to the dog,
- 3 police calls
- 2 death threats,
- and a lifetime of anxiety

{SAFE} HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

The sound of ripped paper, squeals of delight and laughter signal pure joy. The delectable tastes of all those homemade Christmas sweets appease the taste buds while the smell of a holiday feast fills the air. The sights of family together, stockings all hung and all that is Christmas pleases the eye. Loving embraces warm the hearts on that chilly Christmas Day.

Should we do this one more time?

The sound of screams, threats and physical violence terrify. The taste of blood from the latest blow is all too familiar, while the smell of fear is so very real in this moment. The sights of destroyed gifts, shattered dishes and crying children cause deep sorrow and pain. Loving embraces are not present here on this chilly Christmas Day.

Which of these resonates with you? Unfortunately, for so many, the latter is all too familiar. While the story is not the same for everyone, the threat of violence in many forms is.

So what can you do? Help us support the many children and families who are hurting this holiday season. Financial donations offer the greatest chance to bring peace and hope to children and families in need. Every gift makes a difference.

**Gifts can be sent to:
Family Crisis Centers
PO Box 295
Sioux Center, IA 51250**

Favored FIVE

A list of our top 5 needs this quarter! You can find a full list of needs on our website at familycrisiscenters.org.

1. Financial Donations
2. Laundry Detergent
3. Paper Towels/Toilet Paper
4. Cleaning Products
5. Clorox Wipes

Hope IN REVIEW

Hope in numbers from last fiscal year. These numbers combine all 4 divisions - Domestic Violence, IAS, WISH Unit & Call Center.

- Housing Nights..... 10,678
- Hotline Calls..... 32,050
- Children & Adults Served..... 17,254