



EMPOWER

OUR

FUTURE

**A Vision to
End Domestic
Violence
In Minnesota**

MCBW

Minnesota Coalition
for Battered Women

EMPOWER OUR FUTURE

A VISION TO END DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN MINNESOTA

Empower Our Future claims the future we desire for domestic violence victims, their families, our programs, our communities, and our movement overall.

For a number of years domestic violence programs expressed frustration, saying they felt the work was led by outside forces and funders who did not fully understand the needs of programs or survivors. Domestic violence survivors and advocates were no longer leading the work. We could not find the time nor space to create our own vision.

Over the past two years, Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women (MCBW) prioritized creating this plan for the future, this vision to guide us in the coming years. More than 100 people and 80 programs across Minnesota combined their great experience, wisdom, and passion to empower our future and end domestic violence.

This plan serves to empower our future. Our vision inspires us and all who work alongside us to take measurable actions towards ending domestic violence in Minnesota. Using all of our best selves, join us in beginning this work.



Liz Richards
Executive Director



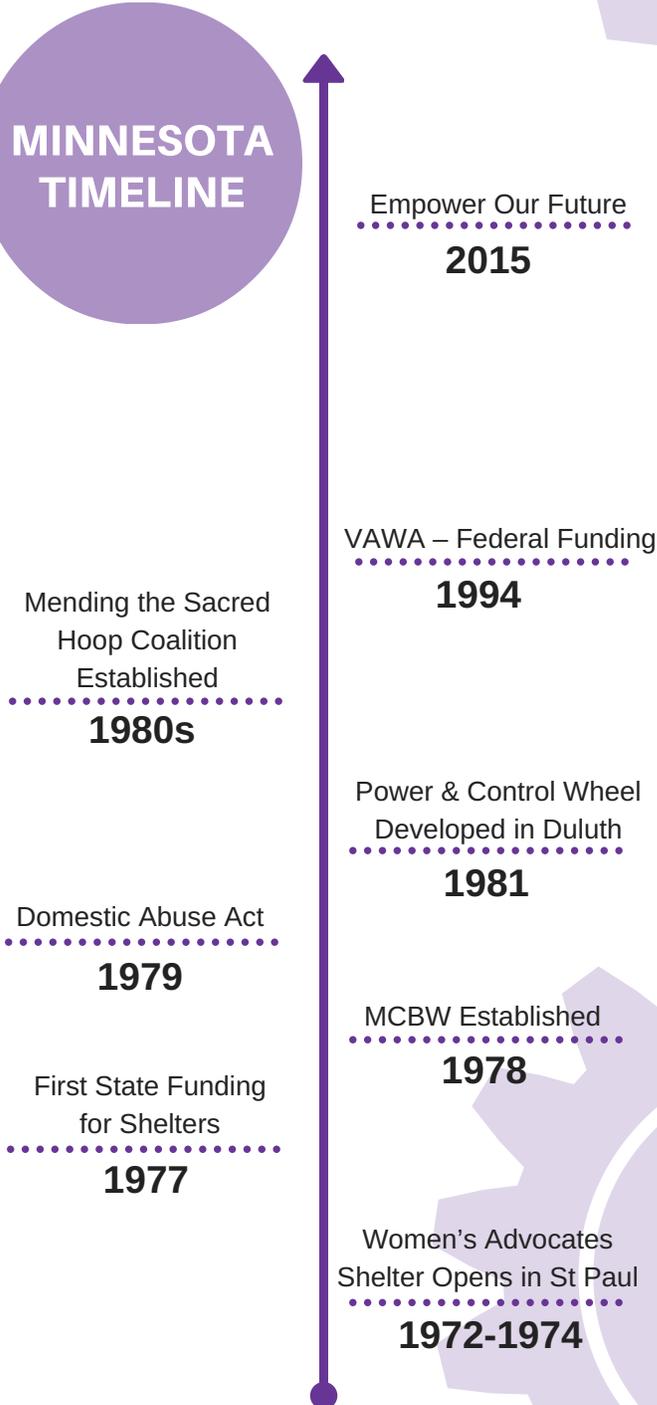
Sherry Sanchez Tibbetts
Chair of Board of Directors

MINNESOTA
COALITION
FOR
BATTERED
WOMEN

OUR PROCESS

OUR HISTORY OF LEADERSHIP & INNOVATION

MINNESOTA TIMELINE



Minnesota is a leading innovator with over 40 years of experience in the field of domestic violence. We are the site of one of the country’s first domestic violence shelters, have some of the strongest government support, are often the first to enact protective legislation, and have created models used both nationally and internationally. But in recent years, the work to end domestic violence has plateaued --- economic strain eats away at program foundations, and programs are working with increasingly complex family situations, shifting the focus to crisis intervention.

Yet there is a moment of great opportunity to end domestic violence in Minnesota. Public awareness of domestic violence is at a never before seen level: the National Football League is airing awareness commercials during the Super Bowl; the Vice President is championing domestic and sexual violence work; and social media is facilitating conversations on a scale impossible a mere decade ago. It is time to re-ground our work as a movement and intentionally plan for the future.

The Plan: *Empower Our Future* results from two years of directed discussion among more than 100 people across the state.

The Question: “Based on where the field is today, how do we end domestic violence in Minnesota?”

The Outcome: We return to the principle that sparked this movement: *all domestic violence work must be informed by and in response to survivors*. This central principle informs the work of ending domestic violence.

This summary provides highlights from the plan to *Empower Our Future* with more detail contained in the full report. Minnesota has the people, resources, expertise, and passion to continue leading innovation in the movement to end domestic violence.

For more information and to access the full report, please visit www.mcbw.org

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



1 in 3 adult women have experienced domestic violence in their lifetime.

1 in 6 men have experienced sexual abuse in their lifetime.



MINNESOTA:

More than **65,000** adults receive domestic violence services from programs each year



Less than 50% of people who experience domestic violence ever reach out for services



41.2% of youth seen at Twin Cities teen health clinics report physical and/or sexual violence in their relationships

Homicide is the leading cause of death during pregnancy.

MINNESOTA, 2015:
34 domestic violence homicides.
Victim ages: **14 to 76**.
Homicides in **19** cities,
36% in Greater Minnesota.

SOURCES

American Journal of Public Health

Center for Disease Control

Full Frame Initiative

Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women

Minnesota Department of Public Safety

Minnesota Department of Health

Minnesota Office of Justice Programs

National Network to End Domestic Violence

Project Connect

Minnesota's Domestic Violence Programs provide essential public safety services such as:

- 24-hour crisis line
- Transportation to safety
- Protective order assistance
- Housing & childcare assistance
- Support through legal proceedings
- Community outreach & education
- Support groups
- Child & youth services
- Access to hospital & clinic care





ANTI- OPPRESSION

A WORLD FREE OF OPPRESSION IS
WHERE THE VAST POTENTIAL OF
HUMANITY WILL BE REALIZED.

The Vision: Every person will enjoy the basic human rights to healthy food, clothing, housing, education, healthcare, freedom of speech/movement/ideas, self-determination, and safety. Abuse of privilege will not exist, nor will domestic, sexual, interpersonal, or state violence.

The Plan: We have long understood the complexities of people's lives and how intersecting oppressions impact safety for those being battered; therefore we need to address oppression in all of its forms in order to end intimate partner violence. We will do this by using innovative strategies, collaborations, and initiatives.

Context: As the domestic violence movement shifts to more social service provision, we see less responsiveness to peoples' complex needs. Historically, when we have attempted to honestly and effectively address oppression and inequity, we have been met with resistance, alienation, criticism, and co-optation from systems, funders, and our communities. Despite being overwhelmed by the enormity and entrenched nature of oppression, we have hope and believe change is possible through processes of trust and innovation.

☰ STRATEGIES

Work to re-frame media & policy maker messages to promote anti-oppression initiatives

- Monitor major media outlets on their domestic violence framework and use of language; provide data to change coverage.

Promote learning exchanges across cultural & geographic lines

- Create diverse work groups on specific topics, such as healthcare access
- Develop advocate exchange program

Facilitate survivor's participation in social action around issues that directly affect them

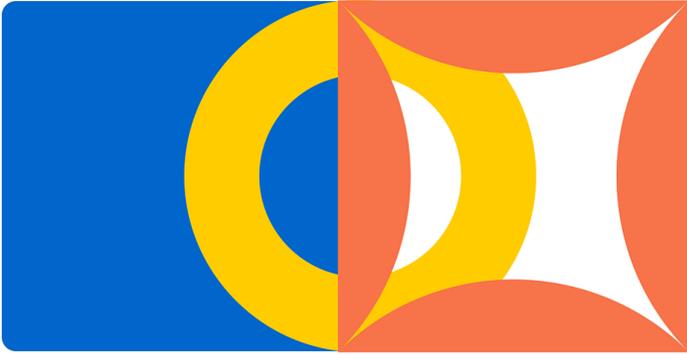
- For example: poverty, domestic violence, racism

“I ask,
*what would it be like to
play with children who
have never experienced
violence?*

I want to ask,
*what would it be like to
play with children who
have never experienced
discrimination or bias? ”*

- Sandy Davidson

BOTH/AND/ALL



COMPLEX UNITY

WE REMEMBER THE WHOLE IS
GREATER THAN THE SUM OF ITS
PARTS.

The Vision: Victim-survivor voices and perspectives are included at all levels of our unity and organizing. We join together, recognizing there are many paths to achieve our vision - not either/or, but both/and/all.

The Plan: This plan promotes collaboration both within the domestic violence movement and beyond. Complex Unity requires recognition of our many shared core values, and an ongoing receptiveness to new frameworks, approaches, and ways of doing our work.

Context: Domestic violence work and our formal organizing grew up separate from other anti-violence against women areas: domestic violence, sexual assault, sex trafficking, tribal work. We have had different funding, different ways of organizing, and different ways of thinking about the issues. Moving forward, with a common understanding of the complex & intersectional nature of our work, we intentionally join together to increase our influence.

WE VALUE THE COMPLEX GREATER
WHOLE AND THE INDIVIDUAL PARTS.

Complex Unity: Duluth Sex Trafficking Taskforce



STRATEGIES

Dedicate resources for communications & collaboration

Facilitated meetings or opportunities for networking & cross-learning

Listen, educate, and collaborate with youth

Support youth in meaningful and appropriate roles that prioritize their experiences and expertise

Build relationships with “unusual partners” – identify who is not at the table and invite them into conversation

Support unconventional partnerships, e.g. Disability Rights, Environmental Justice, Maternal Health & Wellness with Domestic Violence



**EQUALITY:
A NATURAL STATE OF BEING**

SOCIAL NORMS CHANGE

EQUITY, FREEDOM FROM DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND EXPLOITATION AND ALL OTHER FORMS OF OPPRESSION, IS A NATURAL STATE OF BEING.

The Vision: Equality is a natural state of being and is institutionalized through policies and laws. We invest resources in educating each new generation about the values and mechanisms that sustain a world free of violence, where every individual is valued and cherished.

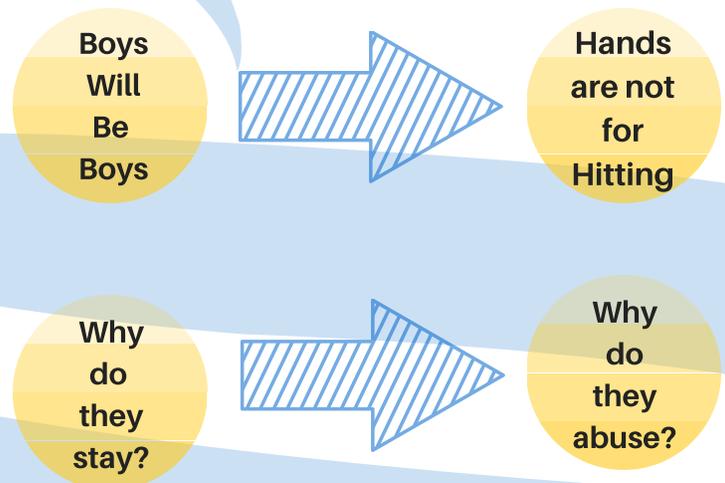
The Plan: Our work focuses on social change. We examine how our programs and our work are structured, supported, and evaluated to create social change. We address and shift the structures that enable domestic violence.

Context: A central principle at the inception of the domestic violence movement was to change social norms that promote and support intimate partner violence. It has proven difficult to focus on prevention and social norm change as funding and programming heavily prioritize crisis intervention.



STRATEGIES

-  **Broaden our message about gender-based violence and draw the connection between all oppression/all violence and domestic violence**
-  **Promote research that defines the cost of domestic and sexual violence in order to "make the case" for prevention work**
-  **Engage broadly with men and boys on developing healthy relationships and their role in prevention – sports as one avenue for engagement**
-  **Establish early child domestic violence screening & intervention programs to interrupt patterns of power & control focused on perpetrators of violence**
-  **Employ a social justice worker in every domestic violence program**





**HOUSING:
A BASIC HUMAN RIGHT**

ECONOMIC JUSTICE

NO ONE WILL BE FORCED TO REMAIN
IN A VIOLENT RELATIONSHIP
BECAUSE OF A HOUSING NEED.

The Vision: Every person has access to the full range of safe and affordable housing options, no matter who they are or what issues they face.

The Plan: This plan focuses on the economic justice issue of safe, affordable, and appropriate housing. This is a "housing first" model that focuses on housing needs knowing full well that the full range of economic justice issues must be addressed and are linked to the ability to effectively address housing issues. For example, without access to living wage jobs, childcare, and transportation, survivors are unable to maintain housing.

Context: Historically, the domestic violence field has provided emergency shelter housing for battered women. We have expanded to include emergency shelter for all survivors of domestic violence/sexual exploitation. We have expanded into other types of housing – e.g. transitional housing, supportive housing, rapid rehousing models. Despite our housing work, there remain significant gaps that must be addressed to foster sustainable, violence free lives.

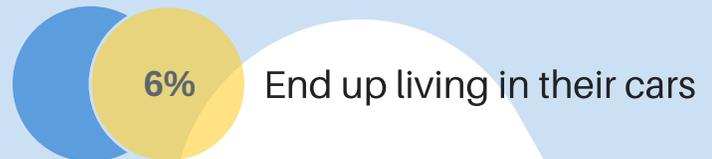
Domestic violence is a leading cause of housing instability.

Housing advocacy services

#1 unmet need

for domestic violence survivors

Due to unmet housing requests, domestic violence programs report:*



STRATEGIES

Name housing and economic justice as a part of the movement to end domestic violence in Minnesota:

- Designate a domestic violence representative on all key housing committees/task forces
- Support every domestic violence program to develop housing advocacy

Prevent housing instability:

- Educate landlords about domestic violence and resources available for individuals, promote alternatives to eviction
- Create programs to work on problematic credit & criminal histories and with landlords to maintain housing
- Work to reduce policies/laws that penalize and/or evict victims.

Prioritize domestic violence victims for housing options

Promote innovative housing models and flexible housing funding

*For 20% of survivors with unmet housing requests, it is unknown what they did.
2013 Domestic Violence Counts Report



TELLING OUR STORY

EVALUATION

WE WILL TELL OUR STORY EFFECTIVELY USING DATA WHOSE PARAMETERS AND COLLECTION METHODOLOGY HAVE BEEN DEFINED BY THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FIELD.

The Vision: The field of domestic violence will work in partnership with funders to ensure that the evaluation process and requirements are in sync with the needs of victims/survivors and programs.

The Plan: Conduct robust data collection and evaluation that focuses on the victim experience and on the full spectrum of our communities. Victim confidentiality will be understood and respected through all data collection and evaluation. Programs must be given capacity assistance to develop evaluation tools that capture the full magnitude of the services provided and community impact.

Context: Currently, we conduct evaluation that is defined and required by funders. There are limited resources designated for research, data collection, or evaluation.



STRATEGIES

-  Adapt and promote culturally diverse evaluation models
-  Evaluate innovative approaches recognizing the value of experimentation and failure
-  Broaden the partners, non-profit & governmental, who are gathering data on domestic violence and promote cross-sharing of that data
-  Use the power of the personal story – this work is not just numbers
-  Create best practices for evaluation that measure social norm and system change work and meet with funders for common application of those standards

Only 7% of all survivors' definition of success include leaving the abusive relationship.

Success means having a system [of services] available to survivors when they need it.

THANK YOU

The Butler Family Foundation's financial support made this plan possible. They funded the Impact Initiative, a directed discussion led by MAP for Non-Profits. More significantly, Butler Family Foundation generously invested in MCBW to open the discussion to all of our domestic violence programs from across the state. MCBW has spent two years focused on the future of domestic violence work in Minnesota. We, along with many programs and individuals, actively engaged our imaginations to shape visions for the future. Our daily work is responding to violence and crisis. It is difficult to create the time and space needed for expansive thinking. Support from the Butler Family Foundation made it possible to create time and space for the discussions necessary to create the plan.

The depth and richness of the plan exists because of the work of many. The participants in the Impact Initiative, MCBW's board and staff, and advocates from Minnesota's domestic violence programs spent days in discussion to draw out the rich knowledge and expertise that exists in Minnesota.

Finally, our thanks extends to you; for both taking the time to read the plan to empower our future and working with us to implement recommendations and strategies to end domestic violence in Minnesota.

Together, we can live violence free!

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Program Manager

MEMBER PROGRAMS

360 Communities/Lewis House, Dakota, Carver, Goodhue, Hennepin, Ramsey
Advocates Against Domestic Abuse, Aitkin & Crow Wing
Advocates for Family Peace, Itasca, Northern St. Louis County
Advocates for Human Rights, International
Alexandra House, Anoka
American Indian Community Housing Org., St. Louis, Koochiching, Lake, Cook, Itasca
Anna Marie's Alliance, Sherburne, Benton, Stearns, Mille Lacs, Wright
AshaUSA, Anoka, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey
Asian Women United of MN, Hennepin, Ramsey
Aurora Center for Advocacy & Education, University of Minnesota
Battered Women's Justice Project, National
Battered Women's Legal Advocacy Project, Statewide
Bluff Country Family Resources, Filmore, Houston
Bois Forte Victim Services, Nett Lake, Koochiching, St. Louis
Breaking Free, Ramsey
Casa de Esperanza, Hennepin, Ramsey
Committee Against Domestic Abuse, Brown, Nicollet, Blue Earth, LeSuer, Sibley, Waseca, Watonwan, Faribault
Communication Service for the Deaf, Statewide
Community Health Service, Polk, Norman, Clay, Pennington
Community University Health Care Center, Hennepin
Cornerstone Advocacy Services, Hennepin
Crime Victim Crisis Center, Freeborn
Crisis Resource Center of Steele County, Steele
Dakota County Attorney's Office, Dakota
Division of Indian Work, Hennepin
Domestic Abuse Intervention Programs, St. Louis
Domestic Abuse Project, Hennepin
Down On Violence Everyday DOVE, White Earth Reservation, Mahnomen, Becker, Clearwater
Equay Wiigamig, Red Lake Reservation, Beltrami
Family Safety Network of Cass County, Cass
Friends Against Abuse, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods
Gender Violence Institute, Statewide
Global Rights for Women, International
Hands of Hope Resource Center, Morrison, Todd
Headwaters Intervention Center, Hubbard & Clearwater
Hmong American Partnership, Ramsey
Hope Center, Rice
Hope Coalition, Goodhue
Isaiah's Domestic Violence Task Force, Statewide
Lakes Crisis & Resource Center, Becker and surrounding area
Lutheran Domestic Violence Initiative, Ramsey
Mahnomen County Victim Services Office, Mahnomen

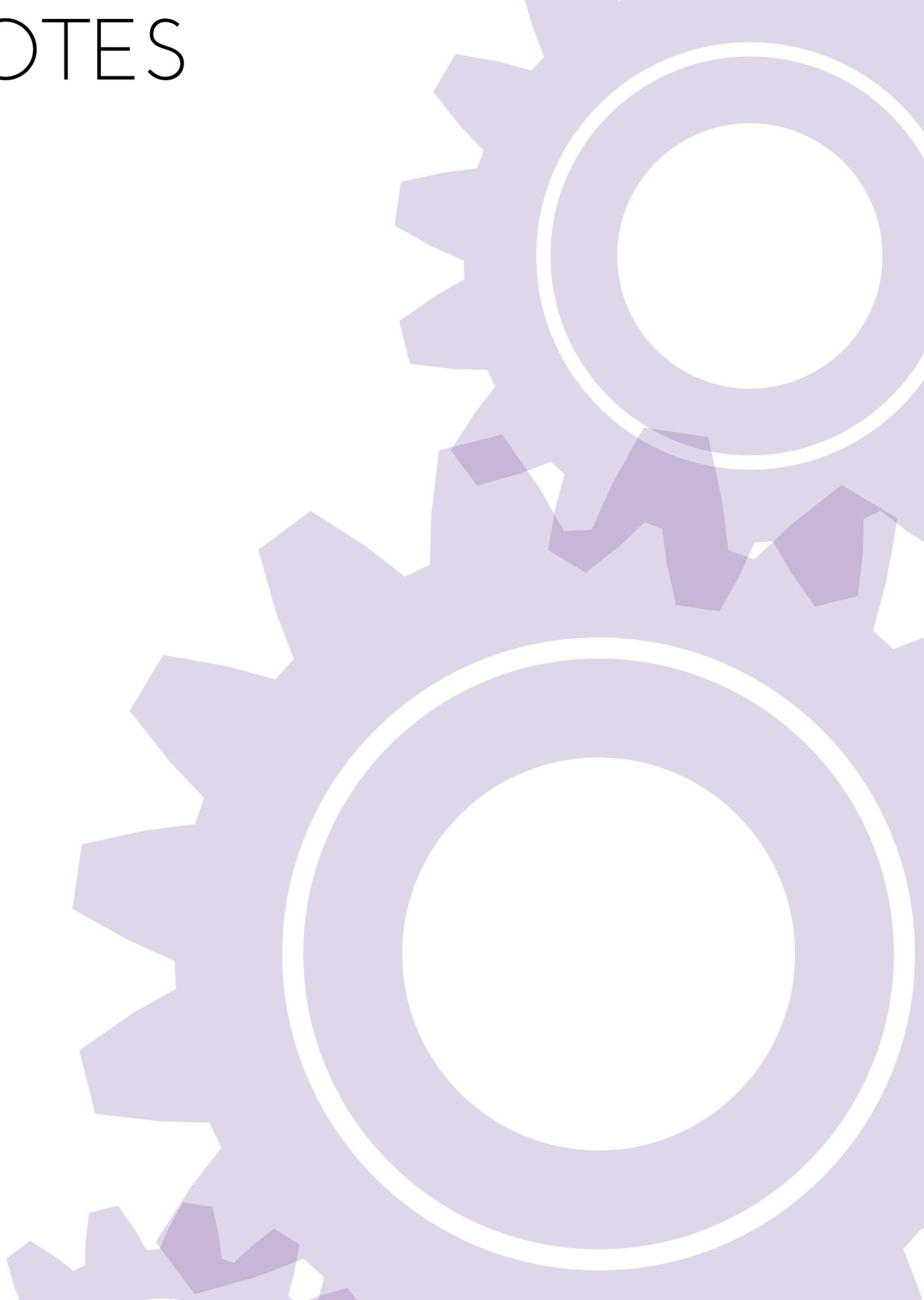
MEMBER

MEMBER PROGRAMS

Marshall County Victim Services, Marshall
Men as Peacemakers, St Louis
Mid-Minnesota Women's Center, Crow Wing
Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless, Statewide
Minnesota Elder Justice Center, Statewide
Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center, Hennepin
McLeod Alliance for Victims of Domestic Violence, McLeod
Missions, Inc./Home Free, Hennepin
New Horizons Crisis Center, Lincoln, Lyon, Murray, Redwood
North Shore Horizons, Lake
Northwoods Coalition for Family Safety, Beltrami, Cass
Oasis of Love, Hennepin
Outfront Minnesota, Statewide
Pearl Crisis Center, Mille Lacs
Pillsbury United Communities, Hennepin
Praxis International, National
Rape & Abuse Crisis Center of Fargo-Moorhead, Clay, Wilkin
Refuge Network, Chisago, Isanti, Kannebec
Rivers of Hope, Wright & Sherburne
Ruth's House, Rice
Safe Avenues, Kandiyohi, Swift, Chippewa, Lac Qui Parle, Renville, Meeker, McLeod
Safe Haven Shelter, St. Louis, Carlton, Aitkin, Itasca, Lake, Cook, Koochiching
Safe Journey at North Memorial, Hennepin
SEWA-AIFW (Asian Indian Family Wellness), Hennepin, Ramsey
Sexual Violence Center, Carver, Hennepin, Scott
Sojourner Project, Hennepin, Carver, Dakota, Ramsey
Someplace Safe, Big Stone, Grant, Pope, Stevens, Douglas, Traverse, Wilkin, Otter Tail, Wadena
Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services, Southern MN
Southern Valley Alliance for Battered Women, Carver, Scott
Southwest Crisis Center, Noble, Pipestone, Rock, Cottonwood, Jackson
St. Paul and Ramsey County Intervention Project, Ramsey
Tubman, Anoka, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Washington
Violence Intervention Project, Pennington, Polk, Marshall, Kittson, Roseau, Red Lake, Norman
Violence Prevention Center, Cook
WATCH, Hennepin, Ramsey, St Louis
WINDOW, Carlton, Pine & Kanabec
Women of Nations, Anoka, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Washington
Women's Advocates, Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, Washington
Women's Resource Center, Winona
Women's Rural Advocacy Programs, Lincoln, Lyon, Yellow Medicine, Redwood
Women's Shelter, Inc., Dodge, Fillmore, Olmsted, Wabasha

WOMEN
BATTERED
WOMEN

NOTES





We ask that the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women
be credited when information from this plan is used.

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Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women

60 East Plato Boulevard, Suite 130

St. Paul, MN 55107

Phone: (651) 646-6177

Fax: (651) 646-1527

Web: www.mcbw.org

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