



The MISSION: The Mission of HELP of Door County is to eliminate domestic abuse through prevention and intervention services and to advocate for social change.



HELP of Door County, Inc.
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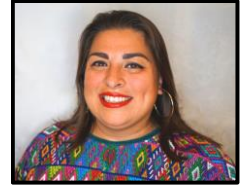
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MOTHERHOOD

“Nothing else will ever make you as happy, as sad, as tired, or as proud as motherhood. For nothing is as hard as helping a person develop their own individuality, while struggling to keep your own.” – Anonymous



Happy Mother’s Day! When I think of motherhood, I think of my Mother, Mother-in-Law, Grandmothers, Aunties, Sisters, and Friends. I reflect on my own mothering, the hard moments, and the proud moments. Moments when I grow and break cycles that no longer serve my ancestors or me. I think of everyday moments. Moments that seemed so small but were building the foundation of my children’s lives. I think of the joys that mothering has brought to my life and how full my heart feels when I reflect upon them.

Mother’s Day has always been bittersweet for me. I reflect on the beauty, resilience, and strength that the mothers in my life have shown, but I also reflect on the sacrifices, pain, and struggles that went hand in hand.

I think of those that had to mother themselves as children. I think of foster mothers and adoptive mothers. Those that have difficult relationships with their mothers. Those that have taken on the task to fill that role as mother; whether by themselves, relative, friends, mentors, etc. I think of LGBTQIA2S+ mothers, trans-mothers who feel betrayed by their bodies or not. I think of single mothers or mothers who are contemplating leaving an abusive relationship making them single. I think of mothers who are dealing with the loss of their child or who are grieving the loss of their mother.

Motherhood shows up in so many forms. Mothering is such a huge spectrum of stories and lives. I tried to capture as many as I could, but I know that some are missing.

Last week, I had the honor to spend some time at the Hmong American Women’s Association (“HAWA”), led my Tammie Xiong. During a tour of their new building, I was awe struck by the most beautiful tapestry on the wall. It grabbed my attention as I saw little dolls that resembled my indigenous worry dolls (that to this day still find their way under my pillow). Adorning the tapestry were beautiful red poppies. Red poppies always remind me of my Great-Grandmother Winifred Potier. They remind me of her green thumb and how poppies adorned her garden. I told Tammie how much that tapestry called to my heart, how beautiful it was and how the poppies stood out to me. She responded that “each poppy was in honor of Hmong mothers that have been killed as a result of intimate partner violence.” I then noticed that some poppies had buds on them, Tammie said that “the poppies with buds were in honor of children that were killed alongside their mother.” The silence entered the room, the lump in my throat and my eyes filling with tears. I asked her “how could something so beautiful be so absolutely heartbreaking at the same time?” HAWA started this tapestry in the 1990’s and to date they have honored over nineteen women and six children in Wisconsin.

Why do I tell you this? So, you can take time to reflect on the mothers in your life. The beauty and the memories that invoke a smile. I also want you to reflect on the mothers that are doing the best they can, to keep themselves and their children safe. Can we honor motherhood, in its many forms, which are here in Door County? Please consider a donation to HELP of Door County to honor of the mothers in your life. We all need to walk alongside the different mothers in our community that will need **HELP’s** lifesaving services.

What is a Restraining Order and What Does It Do?

Did you know that Advocates at HELP assist with more than 95% of the Domestic Violence restraining orders in the County?

A **Restraining Order** is a multi-step process that HELP's Advocates follow to assist its Domestic Violence clients:

Step one: An Advocate discusses the situation with the client. The Advocate reviews the Wisconsin State Statute to determine which statute the client's situation falls under (if any). The Advocate explains how to write a statement and discusses relevant evidence.

Step two: The Advocate and the Petitioner (the individual filing the restraining order) fill out the restraining order.

Step three: The restraining order paperwork is completed and delivered to the Clerk of Courts. If approved, a Temporary Restraining Order (14 days) is put into place until the injunction hearing (final restraining order hearing). The Respondent (the individual who harmed) must be served in order for the restraining order to progress. The Petitioner is given a court date for the injunction hearing (final hearing).

Step four: The Petitioner must attend the hearing (the Respondent is not required to attend) and be prepared to testify. At the injunction hearing, the court determines if there is enough evidence to grant a permanent restraining order.

There are four types of restraining orders in the State of Wisconsin, as described in Wisconsin Statute [§ 813.12](#).

Domestic Abuse may occur between adult family, household members, adult caregivers, former spouses, between adults who have or had a dating relationship, or between adults who have a child together:

- Infliction of physical pain or injury
- Intentional impairment of a physical condition
- Sexual assault
- Stalking
- Intentional damage to physical property to the petitioner
- Threat to engage in the conduct of any of these behaviors

Harassment

- Striking
- Shoving
- Kicking
- Child Abuse
- Sexual assault
- Stalking
- Conduct or acts that harass or intimidate another person
- Threats or attempts to do any of these

Child Abuse includes but is not limited to:

- Causing physical injury to a child
- Trafficking a child
- Sexual assault or exploitation of a child
- Manufacturing methamphetamine when a child is present
- Causing emotional damage to a child because of neglect

Individual At Risk is an adult with a physical or mental condition that substantially impairs the ability to care for their needs. OR an elder over 60, who is experiencing or at risk of experiencing the following behavior:

- Physical/Sexual abuse
- Emotional abuse
- Neglect/Self-neglect
- Financial exploitation
- Unreasonable confinement or restraint
- Harassment

Your support of HELP enables us to continue providing restraining orders. services at no cost to our clients.



Domestic Violence Intervention Program



The Domestic Violence Intervention Program (“DVIP”) at HELP of Door County is often confused as an “anger management” group or class.

HELP’s DVIP uses the Duluth Model Curriculum© to teach and reinforce healthy coping skills, accountability, and responsibility to release acts of power and control in order to achieve the balance of equality not just in domestic relationships but in all relationships. We do this through guided group discussions, media resources such as filmed re-enactments, individual sharing, and exercises that involve self-reflection.

Our men’s group meets once a week for 30 weeks. Our participants are most often referred to us through the District Attorney’s office, the probation office or as part of a court-ordered sentence.

We also meet with women who come to us in the same ways as our men. Women meet once a week for 12 weeks. The difference in program duration is because our women clients most often cause harm as a retaliation for being harmed.

Visitation and Exchange Program

In 2000, HELP of Door County began its Visitation and Exchange (“V&E”) Program to keep families safe. We recognize that when power and control dynamics within domestic violence and divorce can create strained communications between families which is detrimental to the children involved.

The V&E Program eliminates direct conduct by adults by providing a neutral, confidential, and safe place to facilitate healthy interactions and to preserve the bonds between children and their parents.

These services are free to clients and residents of Door County.



Magda Gutiérrez
Visitation and Exchange Coordinator

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Eliminating Domestic Abuse
Eliminando Violencia Domestica
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Ajamou Butler



Upon receiving a grant from MMG Foundation, Inc., HELP was honored with an incredible opportunity to host Ajamou Butler, one of Wisconsin’s most influential Black leaders.

Ajamou held a MENpowerment session with a group of HELP’s DVIP participants. To quote Ajamou, *“In this heavy, mentally-challenging conversation, I helped men hold themselves accountable for the pain they’ve caused. We uncovered unhealed personal traumas that enabled their abusive behaviors, and I taught them that unpacking their pains, past and present, is the first step in reversing abusive energy.”* Ajamou also hosted a workshop with inmates at the Door County Jail. Afterward, Ajamou shared, *“We talked about homing in on pain points, trauma, fatherhood, drug usage, and other things that hurt men who aren’t capable of expressing that pain. The conversations with those inmates shook down barriers and boundaries that might have divided us on the outside. Racial definitions never came into our mix; in that moment, we were just men dealing with the all-too-familiar problems of being human in a world that never wants to see our humanity.”*

Regarding his time at HELP, Ajamou wrote: *“HELP of Door County is such a practical, resourceful, women led, dope organization! They get to the root. They advocate loudly and proudly, they serve, they minister, they heal!”*

Thank you Ajamou, for your kind words.

WOMEN'S FUND OF DOOR COUNTY

We recently received a grant from the Women's Fund to assist with our Transitional Living Program. We are so very grateful for your continued partnership and community support. Thank you.



Women's Fund of Door County is a **component fund of the Door County Community Foundation, Inc.**

Congratulations to our nominees from Help of Door County

Grace Fellner,
Karl May Lifetime of
Service Award

Stephanie Skiba,
Adult Volunteer of
the Year



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The tapestry referenced in our Cover letter.



From all of us at HELP, a heartfelt "thank you" for your dedication over the years to our organization.

Milly Gonzales, Executive Director
Grace Fellner, Hotline Operator and Visitation and Exchange Facilitator
Magda Gutierrez, Visitation and Exchange Coordinator
Stephanie Skiba, Hotline Operator



Please see below our **WISH LIST** for our clients:

- * Lysol Disinfectant Spray
- * Cleaning Supplies
- * Garbage Bags
- * Shampoo
- * Conditioner
- * Body Wash
- * Lotion
- * Razors (Men's and Women's)
- * Nail Clippers
- * Tweezers
- * Tampons
- * Toilet Paper
- * Kleenex Tissue
- * Fabric Softener/Sheets
- * Laundry Detergent (small bottles preferred)

We are seeking individuals that share our vision and would enjoy serving the community in any of the following capacities:

- **HOTLINE OPERATORS**
- **VISITATION AND EXCHANGE FACILITATORS**

Please contact our offices at

920-743-8785

