



Mission Statement

HAVEN is a champion to people who have experienced abuse. We provide safety, shelter and assistance to victims and survivors in a free and confidential manner. Through education and advocacy, we support their journey of empowerment to achieve economic and emotional independence.

About HAVEN

HAVEN creates the space to candidly speak out on the effects of interpersonal abuse which is necessary to end violence and strengthen our communities.

Our mission is based on the following philosophy:

- ◆ We believe it is a basic human right to live free of interpersonal violence.
- ◆ We believe that everyone has a role and a responsibility in this work.
- ◆ We do not do this work in isolation. We believe in the importance of collaborations and alliance building.
- ◆ Our work is driven by survivors' voices. Survivors and all those affected by interpersonal violence deserve compassionate services, dignity, privacy, and respect.
- ◆ We believe that this work is based in commitment to human equality, and that domestic and sexual violence is rooted in entitlement to dominance and oppressive power.
- ◆ We believe that sexual violence is any unwanted sexual contact (verbal and/or physical), including rape, incest, child sexual assault, ritual abuse, acquaintance rape/assault, intimate partner or marital rape, sexual harassment, exposure, and voyeurism. Sexual violence refers to acts of violence where sex is used as the weapon.
- ◆ We believe that children who are exposed to traumatic stress of adverse childhood experiences, some of which include emotional, physical, and sexual abuse, and domestic violence, are not only at risk of repeating the cycle of violence, but also have greater risks for serious health and social challenges during their lifetimes.
- ◆ We believe that diversity and safe, accessible services are fundamental to social change.
- ◆ We believe in the power of advocacy, education, prevention, and driving public policy as agents of social change.

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Edited by Esther Schulz

"No winter lasts forever; no spring skips its turn."

- Hal Borland

January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month

Are you aware of what can make a person more vulnerable to human trafficking? Would you be able to recognize the types of situations which may indicate trafficking? According to the Polaris Project, rather than knowing the signs of human trafficking, the emphasis is now more in-depth—it's knowing the stories. The Polaris Project is a non-profit organization founded twenty years ago that is both credible and prominent in the effort to "change the conditions that make sex and labor trafficking possible". Polaris operates the National Human Trafficking Hotline, and has compiled and analyzed one of the largest data sets about trafficking in the United States. Polaris, which is named for the North Star, also supports trafficking survivors on their way to freedom and healing.

So what increases the chances for a person to be targeted by a trafficker? According to the Polaris Project website, "significant risk factors include recent migration or relocation, substance use, mental health concerns, involvement with the child welfare system and being a runaway or homeless youth. Often, traffickers identify and leverage their victims' vulnerabilities in order to create dependency." Youth who have already experienced childhood adversity such as abuse, domestic violence, or family instability, can be more susceptible to traffickers, who prey on those who are marginalized. In their section on myths and facts, Polaris states, "the most pervasive myth about human trafficking is that it often involves kidnapping or physically forcing someone into a situation. In reality, most traffickers use psychological means such as, tricking, defrauding, manipulating or threatening victims".

And what kind of situations or "stories" indicate risk for a person to be trafficked? Polaris gives multiple examples, including someone "who is newly showered with gifts or money, or becomes involved in some kind of overwhelming, fast-moving, asymmetric (older/younger or wealthy/struggling) romantic relationship". Another story would be someone "who is recruited for a new opportunity that requires them to move far away but their recruiter/prospective employer evades answering their questions, or is reluctant to provide detailed information about the job." You can read more scenarios on the website that describe the tactics of traffickers. It's important to understand that the "crime of human trafficking does not require any movement: survivors can be recruited and trafficked in their own home towns, and even their own homes".

The Polaris website is an extensive source of information for anyone who wants to increase their awareness and understanding of human trafficking. For example, you might engage with the sections devoted to the stories of survivors, and how their expertise contributes to the work against trafficking.

The Polaris Project asserts that "ending human trafficking means tackling the underlying patterns of exploitation so that we prevent trafficking before it starts, and fundamentally changing the power dynamics that allow it to happen."

Anyone needing help concerning human trafficking can contact the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-888-373-7888 or text "BeFree" 233733. Suspected human trafficking can be reported to your local law enforcement agency. HAVEN can provide advocacy and resources for survivors, and also further information and presentations regarding human trafficking. Please call 715-536-1300.

<https://polarisproject.org/myths-facts-and-statistics/>
<https://polarisproject.org/recognizing-human-trafficking/>
<https://polarisproject.org/centering-survivors/>



SAVE THE DATE #WearBlueDay

January 11



Human Trafficking Awareness Day

HAVEN'S WISH LIST

Contact HAVEN at 715-536-1300

- * Band aids
- * Alcohol pads
- * Triple antibiotic ointment
- * Acetaminophen
- * Ibuprofen
- * Fragrance free laundry detergent
- * Toilet bowl cleaner
- * Bus tokens
- * Hotel vouchers
- * Dryer sheets - sensitive skin
- * Case of printer paper
- * Scotch tape
- * Used/gently used 4G smartphones

Donations can be dropped off at HAVEN,
1106 E 8th St, Merrill, WI 54452,
during business hours, Monday - Friday
8:00AM - 4:30 PM
Thank you!

Home for the holidays?

For many, the holidays mean spending time with friends and family - a time to relax and spend time with the people they love.

For others, it can bring feelings of stress and isolation.

Give a little extra compassion this season -
you never really know what someone is going through.

HAVEN sends our love and support to anyone this holiday who is:



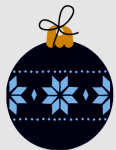
Struggling with their
mental health



Not accepted by
their family



Grieving a loss



Dealing with
financial barriers



Unable to be with
their loved ones



Spending time with
people who are abusive

Volunteer Opportunities

- ☼ **Shelter Maintenance**
Job duties include any of the following: repairs, general cleaning, painting, etc.
- ☼ **Child Care/Child Activities**
Come to the shelter and read a book or do any activity with the kids. Full volunteer training will be provided.
- ☼ **Transportation**
Transport clients to various appointments when needed, and/or transport clients to the shelter (may include various locations in the area). Must have a valid driver's license, and liability insurance.
- ☼ **Auto Mechanic**
Evaluate automobile problems and/or service automobiles. May include oil changes, tune-ups, etc.
- ☼ **Fundraising**
Plan and organize events to raise money and/or items for HAVEN.
- ☼ **Cleaning**
Weekly Office/shelter house chores.



We welcome all individuals to apply as volunteers who are committed to our cause. Volunteer opportunities can range from short-term to long-term, and locally or remotely.

If you are interested in becoming a HAVEN volunteer,
please contact HAVEN at 715-536-1300
or email Jan at volunteercoordinator@haveninc.org

We look forward to hearing from you!

Teen Dating Violence Awareness

Imagine being in middle school or high school and meeting someone you are completely smitten with. They are absolutely perfect and make you feel all sorts of feelings yet gradually you begin to feel insecure and unsure of your worth.

According to the CDC's Youth Risk Behavior Survey and the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, **teen dating violence is common.**

About 1 in 11 female and 1 in 14 male high school students report having experienced physical dating violence in the last year.

- **Physical violence** is when a person hurts or tries to hurt a partner by hitting, kicking, or using another type of physical force.

About 1 in 8 female and 1 in 26 male high school students report having experienced sexual dating violence in the last year.

- **Sexual violence** is forcing or attempting to force a partner to take part in a sex act and or sexual touching when the partner does not or cannot consent. It also includes non-physical sexual behaviors like posting or sharing sexual pictures of a partner without their consent or sexting someone without their consent.

Many survivors disclose verbal and psychological abuse as what really diminished their self-worth and yet is the hardest to prove in the eyes of the law.

- **Psychological aggression** is the use of verbal and non-verbal communication with the intent to harm a partner mentally or emotionally and/or exert control over a partner.
- **Stalking** is a pattern of repeated, unwanted attention and contact by a partner that causes fear or concern for one's own safety or the safety of someone close to the victim.

*****Some teens are at greater risk than others. LGBTQ youth are disproportionately affected by all forms of violence, and some racial/ethnic minority groups are disproportionately affected by many types of violence.***

*****26% of women and 15% of men who were victims of contact sexual violence, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime first experienced these or other forms of violence by that partner before age 18.***

Unhealthy, abusive, or violent relationships can have short-and long-term negative effects, including severe consequences, on a developing teen. For example, youth who are victims of teen dating violence are more likely to:

- Experience symptoms of depression and anxiety
- Engage in unhealthy behaviors, like using tobacco, drugs, and alcohol
- Exhibit antisocial behaviors, like lying, theft, bullying, or hitting
- Think about suicide

Violence in an adolescent relationship sets the stage for problems in future relationships, including intimate partner violence and sexual violence perpetration and/or victimization throughout life. For example, youth who are victims of dating violence in high school are at higher risk for victimization during college and into their adult lives.

What can we do to protect the youth?

Teach safe and healthy relationship skills

- Social-emotional learning programs for youth
- Healthy relationship programs for couples

Engage influential adults and peers

- Men and boys are allies in prevention
- Bystander empowerment and education
- Family-based programs

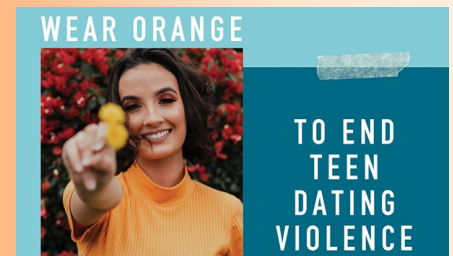


Disrupt the developmental pathways toward partner violence

- Early childhood home visitation
- Preschool enrichment with family engagement
- Parenting skill and family relationship programs
- Treatment for at-risk children, youth and families

Create protective environments

- Improve school climate and safety
- Improve organizational policies and workplace climate
- Modify the physical and social environments of neighborhoods



Strengthen economic supports for families

- Strengthen household financial security
- Strengthen work-family supports

Support survivors to increase safety and lessen harms

- Victim-centered services
- First responder and civil legal protections
- Treatment and support for survivors of Intimate Partner Violence, including teen dating violence
- Housing programs
- Patient-centered approaches



HAVEN can email you the newsletter: If you are interested, please call 715-536-1300 or email esther@haveninc.org



**You can also find a PDF version of our newsletters at <http://www.haveninc.org/>
Click on NEWSLETTER**



A Year-in-Review of outreach events of HAVEN's Bilingual Program

Mother's Day Celebration



Christmas celebration

Making tamales and enchiladas and singing posada. Also a fun piñata for the children.



Hispanic Heritage Month Food-Fest



THANK YOU, DONORS

Our sincere thanks to the donors listed below, who made contributions and in-kind donations to HAVEN, Inc. for the year 2021. We have made every effort to acknowledge these gifts correctly. Please contact us and accept our apologies should any error or omission be discovered.

George Amelse
 Mary Ann Abraham
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 Tomahawk Community Seventh-Day Adventist Church
 Ascension Hospital
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 In Memory of Suzy Wurl by Faye LaMere

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 Pine River School for Young Learners
 Polka-Dotted Pie
 Prairie River Eagles 4-H Club
 Quirt Family Dental
 Riverside Presbyterian Church
 Sprinter
 St. Francis Church
 St. Francis School
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 T. B. Scott Library-Staff
 The Happy Snapper
 Tomahawk Star Foundation
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 Trig's
 Trinity Lutheran Church
 Van Ert Electric Co.
 Walmart
 What's Brewin'?
 Wisconsin Phi Master c/o Lynne Reindl
 WJJQ
 Young's Pharmacy
 Multiple Anonymous Donors



This year, HAVEN received two Christmas trees! Park City Credit Union's Member Service Center came by to donate a tree and goodies for our shelter residents. Mike Hamann and Rainbow Valley Evergreens donated a tree for our support group room. We are so grateful to have a community that wants to share the love and encourages smiling!





A donation of hand-crafted wooden trucks and train sets were donated to HAVEN by the talented George Janssen. We were able to gift these to the youth we support and even to some of the adults. Their smiles were priceless .



The congregation from Trinity Lutheran Church in Merrill went above and beyond to ensure six families were given a positive, memorable Christmas experience. Thank you all for surrounding us with HOPE.



During November, member businesses of Tomahawk Main Street, Inc., participated in "We Give Thanks" by collecting contributions from their customers for area non-profit organizations. Diamond Rock Glass Studio and Tomahawk Furniture designated HAVEN to receive their customers' donations. Pictured is Michelle Arnott of Diamond Rock presenting the funds collected by both businesses. HAVEN is grateful to Diamond Rock Glass Studio and Tomahawk Furniture and their customers for their generous contributions to our work.



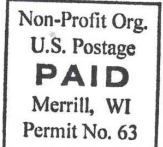
St. Stephens United Church of Christ had a fun event at one of their services and collected baby items for the kiddos we support. Tangible items like this take the financial pressure off of the parent, allowing them to focus on their family's healing. We are so grateful to have such wonderful people care.

HAVEN Inc.
1106 E 8th St,
Merrill, WI 54452
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Email: executivedirector@haveninc.org

HAVEN Staff
Executive Director: Kim
Finance Officer: Deanna
Sexual Assault Advocate: Amy
Community Educator: Nancy
Bilingual Advocate : Esther
Bilingual Advocate : Myriam
LGBTQ Advocate : Brianna
Volunteer Coordinator : Jan

Shelter Advocates :
▪Amy K. ▪Chelsea M. ▪Janice E. ▪Sarah M.
▪Savanna R. ▪Dawn P.

HAVEN Board of Directors
Dawn Ives, President
Linda Schmidt, Vice-President
Paul Wagner, Treasurer
Karen Karow, Secretary
Michelle Arnott
Art Lersch



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ADDRESS: _____

Address Change (Please fill in below)

Please remove my name from the HAVEN mailing list

Please send me the newsletter by e-mail. E-mail address is: _____

\$10 _____ \$25 _____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____ \$250 _____ Other _____

I would like to make a contribution towards the work of HAVEN in assisting survivors to feel safe and confident for a stronger Lincoln County.

MAKE A CONTRIBUTION TO HAVEN

