



FCC FRONTLINE

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



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WHAT IS ADVOCACY?

Advocacy is a word we use often when we describe the work we do. When you open an FCC brochure, it's listed right there as one of our services. So... what does it mean, exactly?

The answer to that is endless. There are so many things our staff do to help the people we serve. Advocacy for one person can look completely different for another. The things we do one day can be completely different the next. Advocacy, for us, is as

unique as the individuals we serve. It is what we do to ensure the people we help have the tools and resources necessary to protect their rights and safety. It is what gives them a voice, something that was suppressed by an abuser or lost because of an unexpected violent crime or homicide.

So for "Natalie", advocacy meant safety planning. Do you know what it's like to plan for your safety in your own home? If you've never had

to, these are some questions we run through over and over again. *What areas in your home are safe with no weapons and ways to escape? Do you have important emergency numbers saved and ready to dial? Is your phone charged at all times? Could you throw a few essentials in your car randomly enough that it doesn't look like a planned escape?* These questions are not the same for everyone. The plans can change over time, bringing in new questions and details to

WHAT IS ADVOCACY CONTINUED

remember. We practice these plans repeatedly because something that seems obvious and small can be lifesaving for a person in crisis.

For "Rebecca", advocacy was unwavering support as she worked to maintain her independence from her abuser. We safety planned for months before she was granted a protection order and left her abuser. She was able to get her own place in the community she wanted to live in through our Rapid Rehousing program. We helped her work on a resume and find a job. We worked with her to develop a budget, making sure she understood all of the expenses of her new life and home. Those donations of food, toiletries and cleaning supplies? They helped her make her rent at a time when the budget was so tight she didn't have a penny to spare. We helped her establish a

social circle, something her abuser made sure she did not have.

For "Jake", it was so many things following the death of his wife due to a drunk driver. It was helping him get reimbursement for funeral costs and travel expenses for loved ones. It was connecting him with local counseling services. It was making sure communication continued with law enforcement and county attorneys. It was supporting him through the trial and with his victim impact statement. It was surrounding him with care through our staff led grief support groups.

The stories could fill pages upon pages. With just these few, though, you can see just how unique our services can be.

So if you'd like to know what advocacy means? It just depends on who you ask.



Integrated Advocacy Services (IAS)

Our IAS division recently partnered with Sanford Medical Center in Sheldon. We have an advocate working out of the Sheldon clinic once a week. Providers are now implementing a screening tool to use when seeing patients. The screening tool was designed by our division to gain insight into a patient's level of safety as well as signs of verbal, physical, and sexual abuse; human trafficking; and other violent crimes.

Sheldon's Sanford Medical Center has welcomed our advocate with open arms and our partnership has started strong. If you would like to be connected with our clinic advocate in Sheldon, please call 1.800.382.5603.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



Domestic Violence & Human Trafficking

So far this fiscal year, advocates have completed over 125 presentations to churches, businesses, service providers, and community members in the 17 counties we serve. Outreach is such a vital part of the work we do. Thanks to the hard work and outreach efforts of our advocates, we have seen a significant increase in the number of clients served in the following counties: Calhoun, Monona, Cherokee, and Palo Alto.

If you would like an advocate to present to your church, business, or group, please contact us at fcc@familycrisiscenters.org



Homicide & Violent Crimes (WISH Unit)

Our WISH Unit has been busy serving crime victims and homicide survivors in 29 counties in Western Iowa.

With continued advocacy services, the Crime Victim Specialists honored the lost loved ones during Survivors of Homicide Victims Awareness Month from November 20 to December 20, 2018. The Specialists sent letters along with awareness bracelets to survivors and their families.

WISH Unit understands that each crime victim/survivor is unique. The services provided are specialized to fit individual needs.



Iowa Victim Service Call Center

Did you know, a few times each year, our Call Center staff call every resource in their comprehensive database to ensure information is accurate? Do you know how many that includes? **1,165**. They are not just checking for a working number. Homeless shelters, for example, are asked: *What services do you offer? Do you have meals and what day/time? Who do you provide services to (men, children, women, etc)? What hours are your intakes? Is it just one night or longer?*

Thanks to our staff, every caller can get the information and help they deserve.

Did you know you can help others in need by having materials available?

We have posters with tear-off numbers that are perfect for restrooms. We have brochures filled with information about what we can do. We have small cards that can be given discreetly to someone in need.

Email fcc@familycrisiscenters.org and we will get some to you.



WINE GALA & AUCTION

March 15, 2019

at Terrace View Event Center
230 St. Andrews Way, Sioux Center

Doors Open at 5pm
Auction begins at 6:30pm

Tickets \$25
at Melissa's Hope Chest in Sioux Center
or email fcc@familycrisiscenters.org

Join us for our 9th annual Wine Gala & Auction! The event will feature wine tasting, hors d'oeuvres, live auction and dessert bar. The event raises vital funds to support the life-changing and life-saving services we provide every day. **How can you help?** You can donate an item to the auction.

We also need sponsors and have many opportunities available. We need guests as well, so purchase a ticket and attend! For more information, contact us at fccfamilycrisiscenters.org or 712.722.4404.

WHAT IS RAPID REHOUSING?

Imagine you had to leave your home, never to return. Imagine the only place for you to go - and it's only temporary - is 2 hours from where you live. What do you do? How long can you stay there? Do you enroll your children in a new school? Find a new job? Is there even anything more permanent available there? These are questions our clients face when leaving an abusive relationship.

Family Crisis Centers' Rapid Rehousing is a program designed to help those experiencing domestic violence obtain and maintain permanent housing. One of the benefits to clients is the ability to choose where to live. The program provides individualized financial assistance; connection to local support and resources; and intensive support from FCC advocates to maintain independence from violence.

Favored FIVE

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

1. Financial Donations
2. \$10 Gas Cards
3. \$25 Grocery Cards
4. Laundry Detergent
5. Toilet Paper

Hope IN REVIEW

Hope in numbers from last quarter.

Rapid Rehousing Nights.....	3,003
Call Center Calls.....	9,030
DV/Human Trafficking Clients....	292
WISH Clients.....	153
Integrated Advocacy Clients.....	55