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Embrace Winter 2020 Newsletter



GET HELP

DONATE

Look what you make possible.

Thank you!

A big shout out and THANK YOU to our volunteers for their work on projects at Embrace's Safe Shelter in Ladysmith.

The pet kennel materials were purchased through the Hope Lutheran Mission Endowment Fund, and we are super grateful to our volunteers, Andrew and Chase (top right photo), for putting the materials and their construction skills to use getting the kennel habitable and safe with the materials for shelter residents' pets. The kennel area in the lean-to of the garage can now be used by residents when they bring their pets to the Embrace Safe Shelter. We also want to thank the group of Cameron High School graduates for sharing their artistic talents painting a beautiful mural on the garage door of Embrace's Safe Shelter in Ladysmith. The creative group designed the mural so that Embrace can visually show to its communities that we aspire to be welcoming allies to people facing any oppressions. Thank you for making our shelter and offices more inclusive and safe for all people to reach out to, Makenna, Grace, Roux, Zawadi, and Hope (bottom center photo)!

We are always looking for ways to make our spaces more inviting, and we can't do it without the help of our volunteers! We appreciate all tasks like cleaning the offices or shelter, answering phones, outdoor yard help, basic building maintenance, and distributing promotional materials which are all important to running the organization and supporting Embrace's mission. If you have a creative idea for a larger volunteer project or a desire to help in another way, we are always need volunteers and helping hands! You can contact our Office and Volunteer Coordinator, McKenzie, at mckenzie@embracewi.org with all inquiries. Again, thank you to our volunteers on all projects, and welcome to any new and upcoming volunteers!

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Program Highlights

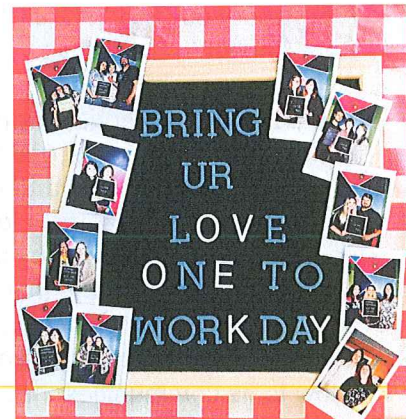


Training Designed to Save Lives

"With domestic abuse being one of the few crimes in Barron County that increased in 2019, we are working directly with Embrace and the victims of these crimes to better serve them," said Sheriff Chris Fitzgerald. "Implementing LAP is one of the ways law enforcement can reduce verbal and physical violence crimes in our communities. Our goal is to protect the victim and prevent future violence, and the Embrace team will help with that." To date, 15 law enforcement departments in Embrace's four-county service area of Barron, Rusk, Price, and Washburn Counties... [Read more.](#)

Embrace Wellness Committee's "Bring Your Loved Ones to Work Day" Event

Embrace held a BYLOTWD wellness event in 2019 to celebrate and thank the network of support staff members have outside of the workplace that allows them to continue working in this field. We received such awesome feedback from everyone involved in the first-time event, we're doing it again in 2020! [Read more.](#)



Embrace Staff's Pets Helping Survivors and Safe Shelter Residents

Mazey, a seven year old black lab and terrier mix, and Dottie, a three year old border collie and blue heeler mix, have become loved by staff and survivors coming to the Washburn County Office and Rusk County Office and Safe Shelter. Their presence brings smiles, hugs, and laughter throughout the buildings. Mazey and Dottie promote self-esteem, provide comfort, reduce anxiety, and offer friendship. They have the ability to change moods and create a calming environment for those who need it most. Mazey comes to work with Jess, Sexual Violence Program Coordinator in Washburn County, and Dottie comes to work with Katie, Executive Director. Mazey, Dottie and their handlers are scheduled to complete a comprehensive course in Animal Assisted Therapy in 2020. Embrace's offices and the safe shelter are pet-friendly.

We've Moved!

The staff in Embrace's Price County Office and Barron County Office have officially moved to and began meeting with survivors in the new locations. The Barron County Office is located at 12 West Marshall Street in Rice Lake, and the Price County Office is located at 305 South Avon Avenue in Phillips. Watch for invites to our open house events! [Read more](#) about the move.

"Men in the Kitchen" Chefs Needed!

Do you cook... even a little? Are you brave enough to share your culinary skills? Are you ready to make a difference in the lives of the survivors Embrace serves? Then, Embrace needs you! Join us for Men in the Kitchen in October 2020. [Read more.](#)

Online and Innovative Support Group Options

Embrace's completely anonymous online support group series will restart in March! Using the secure online chat technology called HelpRoom provided by our partners at RAINN, Embrace staff facilitate topic-based discussions on Tuesday evenings for 12 weeks. Topics and how to join can be found on Embrace's [website](#). Also coming up on Feb. 17, CCF Bank and Xcel Energy partnered with Embrace to offer an Economic Empowerment group tailoring banking basics for survivors. [Read more.](#)

Survivor Story

"Special thanks to Embrace... for their support and strength. I utilized Embrace's Facebook chat and advocacy. Each and every interaction with this organization was phenomenal. I felt heard. I felt believed. I felt supported and I felt prepared. I couldn't imagine going through this process without them!" To read the survivor's full story, "The Injunction Hearing," check out the blog [Survivorhood](#).



Make a Donation!



Events Calendar

Anyone is welcome to join the events listed in our [online calendar](#). You can click on the individual event for location, times, and session topic details. You can also call our [offices](#) if you have transportation or child care concerns during the event.



Follow Us!

It'd be great to connect with you on social media! We post updates, and it's one more way to reach out for confidential support. Our handles on Facebook, Pinterest and Snap Chat are [@EmbraceWI](#), and [@EmbraceWisc](#) on Instagram.



Make an Impact!

Are you ready to get involved and make a difference? There are numerous ways to spend your time with Embrace. Consider joining us as a board member, intern, or volunteer as a group on a specific project. To get started, [contact us](#).



"In a racist society it is not enough to be non-racist. We must be anti-racist."

- Angela Davis



24/7: 800.924.0556 (crisis phone) / 715.532.6976 (crisis text) Rusk County Shelter and Office: 107 Lindoo Avenue East Ladysmith, WI, 54848

[Unsubscribe](#)

TRAINING DESIGNED TO SAVE LIVES

Rice Lake, WI--Embrace is excited to announce all seven law enforcement agencies in Barron County have been trained in the nationally recognized domestic violence homicide prevention program, called the Lethality Assessment Program (LAP). The Lethality Assessment Program was first developed in Maryland and provides law enforcement an evidence-based lethality assessment instrument to identify victims of domestic violence who are at high risk of being seriously injured or killed by their intimate partner. The program immediately connects the victim to Embrace's trained advocacy staff to support high-risk survivors in the moment with safety planning and resources.

The LAP assessment and referral tool is vital for first responders. Research shows that for 28% to 33% of victims, the homicide or attempted homicide is the first act of violence, meaning that observing non-physical tactics by an abuser is critical. Additionally, only about 4% of abused women accessed a domestic violence hotline or shelter in the year prior to being killed by an intimate partner, illustrating that those who are perhaps at the greatest risk of homicide are not reaching out for help on their own.

According to Brittney Olson, Domestic Violence Program Coordinator at Embrace, "That's why the LAP is so valuable. It capitalizes on the victim's point of contact with law enforcement and gets victims connected with support and assistance immediately. The LAP has been found to be highly effective."

In one study, the LAP tool correctly identified 92% of women who experienced near-fatal violence. Victims who participated in the program also experienced less frequent and less severe violence than victims in the comparison group and engaged in protective actions more often.

After Embrace expanded their advocacy services for domestic and sexual violence survivors to Barron County in January 2019, Embrace's staff, who are trained facilitators in the program, held LAP training sessions with every law enforcement department.

"All officers in the county are trained to complete LAP screens with victims and follow referral protocols connecting them to advocacy services and support 24/7. Embrace staff are extremely grateful to law enforcement administration and officers for their enthusiastic response to the life-saving, new program," reports Katie Bement, Executive Director at Embrace.

"With domestic abuse being one of the few crimes in Barron County that increased in 2019, we are working directly with Embrace and the victims of these crimes to better serve them," said Sheriff Chris Fitzgerald. "Implementing LAP is one of the ways law enforcement can reduce verbal and physical violence crimes in our communities. Our goal is to protect the victim and prevent future violence, and the Embrace team will help with that."

To date, 15 law enforcement departments in Embrace's four-county service area of Barron, Washburn, Rusk and Price counties have been trained to use LAP while responding to domestic violence incidents. Training to use the screening and referral tool is available at no cost to participants. Embrace encourages all first responders and medical providers to become trained in LAP.

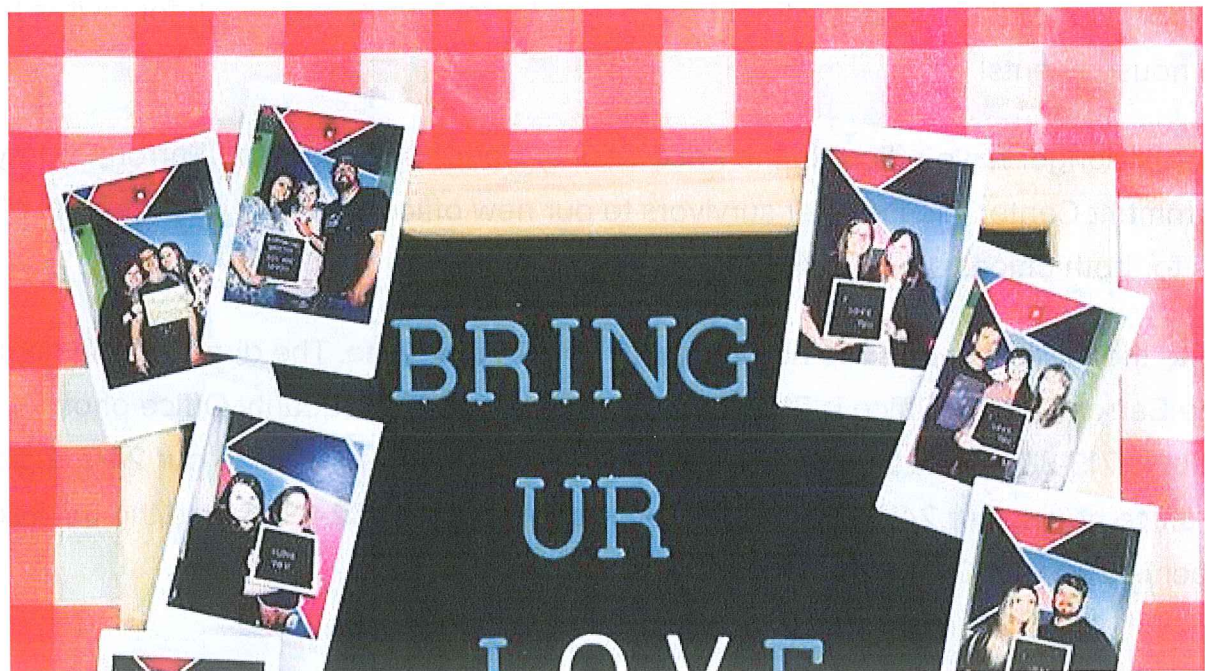




Pictured left to right:

Embrace Domestic Violence Program Coordinator Brittney Olson, Barron County Sheriff Chris Fitzgerald, Chetek Police Chief Ron Ambrozaitis, Cameron Police Chief Mike Lynch, Turtle Lake Police Chief Al Gabe, Rice Lake Police Captain Tracy Hom, Barron County Sheriff's Department Captain Ron Baures, Barron Police Chief Joe Vierkandt, and Embrace Executive Director Katie Bement.

EMBRACE WELLNESS COMMITTEE'S "BRING YOUR LOVED ONES TO WORK DAY"





WE'VE MOVED!

The staff in Embrace's Price County Office and Barron County Office have officially moved to and began meeting with survivors in the new locations. The Barron County Office is located at 12 West Marshall Street in Rice Lake, and the Price County Office is located at 305 South Avon Avenue in Phillips. In our new buildings, we have access to conference rooms, and we have space available for community partners who'd like to meet confidentially with survivors. In the Barron County Office, we have access to an auditorium for meetings and trainings. Let us know if you would like to schedule a meeting with us or a survivor in one of these spaces. Feel free to stop by for a visit, and watch for invites to our open house events!

We will no longer have offices in the Price County Courthouse or in the Barron County Government Center. Please refer survivors to our new office locations. The general office hours for both offices are 8am-4pm.

Despite the moves, our **phone numbers will remain the same**. The direct phone number for the Barron County Office is 715-537-6334. The direct Price County Office phone number is 715-339-4521. These direct office phone numbers forward to our 24/7 crisis line after office hours. Our 24/7 crisis phone and text line is 715-532-6976, and the toll free number is 800-924-0556.

Thank you for your support through the transitions!

“MEN IN THE KITCHEN” CHEFS NEEDED!



Men in the Kitchen

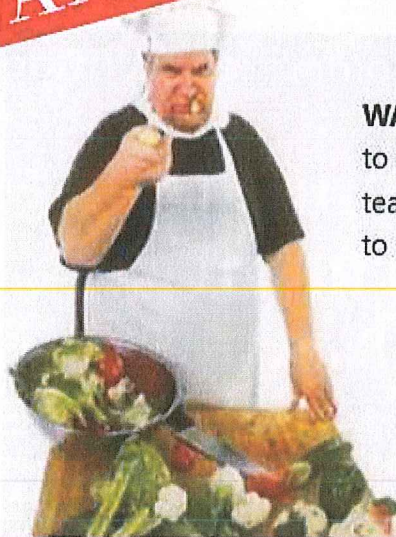
A fundraiser for Embrace

Saturday, October 24, 2020

Turtleback Golf, Dining and Conference
Center

4pm—10pm

WANTED



WANTED: Men who can cook and are willing to help raise money for Embrace by forming a team to **PLAN, COOK, SERVE** and **BUS** a meal to a table of 8 - 10 people.

Do **YOU** cook (even a little)?

Are you **BRAVE** enough to share your culinary skills?

Are you ready to **MAKE A DIFFERENCE** in the lives of men, women and children who come to Embrace for help?

Then, **WE WANT YOU!**

We are looking for men to cook and have fun at this event by making their table enticing, entertaining and delicious!

Each volunteer chef will form a small team to plan, cook, serve and bus a meal to community members who buy a ticket to eat at your table.

We ask that volunteer chefs are willing to donate the expense of the meal as their contribution to Embrace.

Live music, dancing and fun with a local band will take place after dinner!



If you are willing to take on the challenge, call Embrace at 715-532-6976.

Do you cook... even a little? Are you brave enough to share your culinary skills? Are you ready to make a difference in the lives of the survivors Embrace serves? Then, Embrace needs you! Join us as a chef for the fifth annual Men in the Kitchen event to be hosted in Rice Lake on Saturday, October 24, 2020.

ONLINE AND INNOVATIVE SUPPORT GROUPS (/S/FINAL-CCF-BANK-FLYER.PDF)

The flyer features logos for Embrace (with the tagline 'people. change. equality.'), CCF BANK (with the tagline 'MAKING MORE POSSIBLE'), and Xcel Energy. The background is a dark image of fireworks exploding. The text is white and yellow.

embrace {people. change. equality.}

CCFBANK MAKING MORE POSSIBLE

Xcel Energy

Come join us for a free, completely confidential event!

Economic Empowerment with CCF Bank

Are you planning on leaving or have left an abusive relationship and don't know where to begin financially? Embrace has partnered with CCF Bank and Xcel Energy to offer expert knowledge on basic banking fundamentals.

What we'll be talking about :

- ideas for budgeting and goal planning
- how to balance a checkbook
- safety and fraud information
- how to open a bank account with little or no credit

Items needed to open a free bank account:

1. Driver's License or ID - not expired
2. Need to know or bring in - Social Security number
3. Proof of address if not on the ID or License
4. Names & birthdays of anyone you'd want to list as POD on account (person who would get money after death) optional .

Where:
Embrace Shelter
107 Lindoo Ave. E. in Ladysmith

When:
Monday, February 17th
1:00 pm- 4:00 pm

CCF Bank staff will have materials ready for you to set up your very own

*A free lunch will be served at 12:00 pm

Childcare and transportation assistance may be available upon request

Register for the event by calling 715-532-6976

up / our / own bank account that day! If you are interested, please bring the above listed items with you.

FDIC

Follow Embrace on:



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