ADVOCATES for family peace

1611 NW 4th St
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

820 9th St N
Virginia, MN 57922

1-800-909-8336

www.affp.org

TO IMPROVE LIVES BY ENDING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Relaxation Room

AFFP received a grant in March of 2025 from the MDI Cares Council in Grand Rapids. Thanks to those funds, we were able to purchase items such as a comfortable sofa, gentle lighting, a soft rug and some cozy blankets to update our support group room at the Grand Rapids office. This room accommodates any survivor that needs a calm, relaxing space to process, make decisions, wait for an order or hearing, or simply recharge during a stressful time. Clients have waited for rides here, calmed children, and paused to breathe, all the while knowing they are safe.

Outreach

As part of our goal to provide support to our local communities, AFFP staff attended many community events in Itasca and St. Louis counties, including:

- Community Steps in Hibbing
- National Night Out, Community Connect and Itasca Pride in Grand Rapids
- Range Iron Pride and Kristen Bicking Memorial in Virginia
- Mental Health Fair in Hibbing
- City of Virginia AEOA Block Party
- Volunteered at the Disabled Veterans fundraising event in Cohasset

Staff have also visited multiple organizations in Ely, Grand Rapids, Hibbing and Virginia such as North Star Women's Group, AAUW, church groups, and Star of the North Lions Club. We've given presentations on topics related to domestic violence awareness, prevention, and resources.

Service Period 10/1/2024 - 9/30/2025

640
Crisis line calls (after business hours)

5343
Times advocacy services were provided

859
Adults received services from AFFP

Client Quotes

"I will be grateful to you all my life."

"Thank you for believing in me."

"Thank you for giving me a space to share without judgment. I truly can't tell you how much it meant to me."

We Can't Do This Work Alone

DONATIONS

We received over $45,000 in donations this fiscal year thanks to many generous donors! Every dollar goes directly toward helping survivors of domestic violence with necessities, housing, resources, and rebuilding their lives. We could not do this work without each of you! Your support is greatly appreciated.

SCAN TO DONATE

THANK YOU TO OUR 2024/2025 GRANT FUNDERS!

- Arsher Trust
- Blandin Foundation
- CDBG - St. Louis County
- Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation
- MDI Cares Council
- Office of Justice Program
- Park State Bank
- United Way 1,000 Lakes
- United Way of NE Minnesota

Thank you and a shout out to all the agencies, organizations and groups that we've connected or reconnected with over the past year. We are humbled by your generosity of time and commitment to our communities!

RAISE AWARENESS

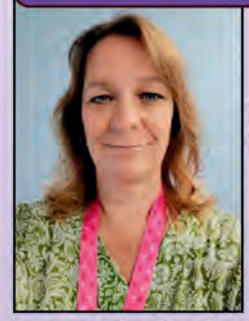
Help us break the silence! October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN THE U.S. - 2024

- Nearly 1 in every 2 women, and 2 in 5 men, will experience intimate partner violence (IPV) in their lifetime
- 47% of women have encountered sexual or physical violence or stalking by an intimate partner
- Every MINUTE, 32 people experience some sort of IPV
- More than 16 million people suffer from IPV annually
- IPV contributes to 1 in 5 homicide victims; over half of female homicide victims are killed by a current or former male partner
- About 16 million women, and 11 million men, experience IPV before age 18.

THERE HAVE BEEN 40 DOMESTIC-VIOLENCE RELATED HOMICIDES IN MINNESOTA IN 2024 - MOST ON RECORD IN 30 YEARS.

Welcome Colleen C.!



As of May 2024, we welcome Colleen Chapin as the new Executive Director of AFFP. She comes to us with 32 years of experience in the non-profit world, most in leadership roles. She has 30+ years of experience in finance, is a prior board member of AFFP and has a personal commitment to helping end the cycle of abuse in our community. We wish her the best in continuing the honorable legacy of AFFP.

Transitional Housing

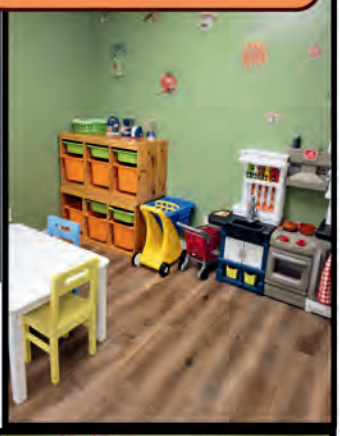
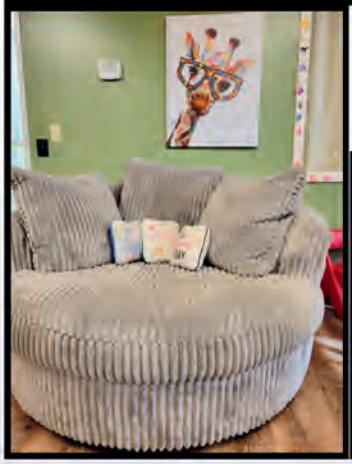
Our transitional housing program resumed in May 2024. Since then, survivors have found our properties to be a safe haven to breathe while they rebuild their lives. One unit was completely refurnished, and other updates have been made to improve residents' comfort, along with unit functionality. We've also created a waitlist so we can keep in contact with clients actively seeking housing.One emergency unit is also available to individuals and families needing short term housing while making other housing arrangements.

9 households (10 adults, 8 children) utilized transitional housing

28 households (29 adults, 20 children) were placed in hotels

6 households (7 adults, 11 children) utilized emergency housing

Supervised Visitation Program

PROUD MEMBER OF Supervised Visitation Network
EDUCATE . COLLABORATE . ADVOCATE

AFFP's Supervised Visitation Program provides supervised visitation and exchange services in a child focused, safe environment for families in our community. AFFP is a member of the Supervised Visitation Network (SVN), an organization of over 800 visitation providers worldwide dedicated to providing safe parental access for families.

What's new?

- **Added new toys and activities for children and parents to enjoy together, along with redesigning spaces for comfort and areas for bonding**
- **Replaced the fence and gate around the outdoor visit area to improve safety, privacy and peace of mind**
- **Replaced playground equipment and rearranged the outdoor area for better accessibility and safer play**
- **Staff participated in new training and gained certifications to provide additional services to families and children**
- **Increased staff and available visit times to meet family needs**

Play area before...

and after!

Nurturing Parenting Skills Classes

AFFP is now offering Nurturing Parenting Skills classes! These classes use an evidence-based approach to promote healthy parenting practices and strengthen family bonds. We help participants build valuable skills such as stress management, fostering empathy and positive communication, creating safe and consistent routines, accessing tools for nurturing emotional and physical well-being in children, and creating a nurturing home environment.

Who can benefit:

- New or expecting parents
- Parents wanting to improve their parenting skills
- Families involved in supervised visitation
- Individuals looking to create a safe and supportive home environment

These classes also meet requirements for probation and court orders!

If your community is fortunate enough to have a Supervised Visitation Program:

- There will be fewer CPS reports
- We can see improved parenting practices
- We can provide Safer homes
- There can be trust between families and child welfare systems
- There is an enhanced capacity to support vulnerable populations
- We will see increased Community stability

Client Testimonials

Their unwavering support and guidance have been nothing short of life-changing. Whether it's providing practical advice, teaching me valuable parenting skills, or simply being there to listen, they've created such an uplifting and encouraging environment. My bond with my son has strengthened so much because of the tools and support they've given us.

Honestly, AFFP SVP Staff has helped me more in the last few months here than I could ever even properly explain. I don't know how I could thank you guys enough for what you guys have done for me here. At a time where life is just a struggle for me, you guys are a welcome sight each and every week.

Our situation involves a child with special needs and a history of trauma, and the staff made every effort to understand those complexities. Before visits began, we were invited to tour the center, meet the staff, and help our child become familiar with the space.

GRAND RAPIDS OFFICE
1611 NW 4TH ST
218-326-0388
WWW.AFFP.ORG

VIRGINIA OFFICE
820 9TH ST N
218-248-5512
WWW.AFFP.ORG

TO IMPROVE LIVES BY ENDING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Place stamp here

ADVOCATES
for Family Peace
1611 NW 4th ST
Grand Rapids, MN 55744