FEATURES:
Looking Forward To 40
Inclusion, Not Tolerance
Rediscover Your Health
Tributes To Mom
Everyday Superheroes
On A Life-Saving Mission
A Safe Bet
Looking Forward to 40

It’s not often that someone utters the words, “I’m looking forward to turning forty,” but in the case of Rose Brooks Center, we are. We are extraordinarily happy by what we all (yes, that includes you!) have accomplished over the past 39 years.

Rose Brooks Center responds to the community’s needs and has grown from a 19 bed facility to a 100-bed emergency shelter, opened a fully staffed on-site pet shelter, an on-site health clinic supported by local volunteer physicians, and continues to create systems change within community partner organizations, all to name a few.

For 39 years we’ve listened to and worked alongside survivors as they work to find justice and freedom from violence, and we will be here as long as we are needed.

While we dream of a day when our services are no longer needed, we count it a privilege to still be here, still fighting for the rights of those abused, still educating communities, still creating systems change, and still providing safe futures for thousands of adults, children, and their pets. So yes, we are looking forward to forty in 2018, and we are looking forward to having you there, as we continue to listen to a community that needs safety and support, while making Kansas City a safer place to live, work, and grow.

Sincerely,

Susan K. Miller, CEO

P.S. Our 24/7 Crisis Line is 816.861.6100. We are here. Always.

Inclusion, Not Tolerance

At Rose Brooks Center, the first thing we say to someone entering shelter is, “We are happy you are here.” Now imagine if we said, “We have to tell you we’re happy you are here.” That is the difference between inclusion and tolerance.

Rose Brooks Center creates spaces, environments and attitudes that are welcoming, positive and non-discriminatory, not only because it is the right thing to do, but because we understand that inclusion means removing barriers to increase participation in life-saving services. Inclusion is genuine and embraces all aspects of our diversity. It eliminates barriers and empowers people, valuing their minds, hearts, and hands. Whether you are a woman, a man, a person who identifies as transgender, a refugee, or someone with a disability, Rose Brooks Center supports your diversity and works to understand the unique barriers standing in the way of a life free from abuse. Here, the one thing we can’t tolerate, is tolerance. But the one thing we accept, is inclusion.

In 2013, with funding from the Oppenstein Brothers Foundation and Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City, Rose Brooks Center built the infrastructure for our new formal, two-room on-site clinic. Since then, the SafeCARE Health program has been providing holistic, comprehensive health advocacy and clinic services to the families of Rose Brooks Center. Those suffering from domestic violence have intensive—and often neglected—chronic health needs, and with access to volunteer physicians and support from Goppert-Trinity and the KC Care Clinic, they are rediscovering their health. Along with increased access to healthcare and preventative exams, Rose Brooks Center is enabling families to participate in their health care without further traumatization... an expanded definition of life-saving care.
**Everyday Superheroes**

We once heard the best advice given to a young lady about to turn 13: “Believe in everyday superheroes.” The advice, meant as a way to help shape the young person’s belief in acts of kindness, is certainly something we believe at Rose Brooks Center. But we call our superheroes “volunteers.”

At Rose Brooks Center, we love our volunteers! As a matter of fact, last year we had over 2,100 volunteers (aka superheroes), offer 16,986 hours of kindness, equal to 707 days of support! Program volunteers worked directly with the individuals and pets of Rose Brooks Center, while other groups and individuals worked a variety of short-term projects, also in support of our mission.

Every day, we see volunteers make a difference in the lives of the families and pets of Rose Brooks Center. We hear the moms living in shelter thank pet volunteers for walking their dog while they are at work. We see the look of happiness on a family’s face when they walk into a freshly painted living room. And we hear a child laughing with a children’s advocate volunteer, while mom is in therapy.

So, yes, we believe in everyday superheroes, and we invite you to learn more about volunteer opportunities at:

www.rosebrooks.org/how-to-help/volunteer

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**Tributes To Mom**

Truth be told, we believe a mom should be honored 365 days a year. Motherhood, after all, is a responsibility too large for just one day of recognition. But here at Rose Brooks Center, we also know our moms are learning new coping skills for themselves and their children, as they seek healing and freedom from abuse. Sometimes it’s a long and difficult road, but one that leads to discovery, hope, and empowerment. An empowered mom, is a mom who ultimately leads her family to a happy, healthy, and safe future.

This is why this past Mother’s Day we offered others the chance to honor the “mom” in their lives with a gift to Rose Brooks Center, aptly named, “Honor Another, Empower a Mother.” We are very pleased to share some of those tributes with you.

“I continue to be amazed by your strength of heart, your spirit, and your ability to make others laugh. This gift is in your honor.”
- From a son to his mother

“My mom was a nurse, special education teacher and caretaker for countless relatives. She never passed up an opportunity to help people. She would be proud of the work and efforts of your organization.”
- From a daughter to her mother

“You are a wonderful mom and special daughter. So very proud of you. Have a great Mother’s Day. With love, Mom.”
- From a mother to her daughter

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ON A LIFE-SAVING MISSION

You see it every time you receive this newsletter. You see it each time you visit the Rose Brooks Center website. You may even see it below our logo, without realizing it is there. Our mission statement, “Breaking the cycle of domestic violence” so that individuals, families, and their pets can live free of abuse.

Rose Brooks Center is about saving lives. Not just protecting the hundreds of individuals, families, and pets who need our emergency shelter to escape immediate danger, but the thousands of families who dream of a life safe from violence - a complete life built on respect, love, and compassion.

Our programs stand on three critical pillars to accomplish our mission of ending the cycle of domestic violence: Keeping Families Safe, Creating a Safer Community, and Ending the Cycle.

Keeping Families Safe
- Emergency Shelter
- Pet Shelter
- 24-Hour Crisis Line
- Facilities and Food Service

Creating a Safer Community
- Court Advocacy
- Hospital Bridge Program
- Clinical Support
- Lethality Assessment Program with KCPD
- Community Education
- Volunteer Services

Ending the Cycle
- Children’s Program
- School-Based Project Safe®
- Housing
- Economic Empowerment
- Health Clinic

To learn more about Rose Brooks Center’s life-saving mission or services, please visit www.RoseBrooks.org

A SAFE BET!

SAVE THE DATE
TICKETS START AT $125!

Learn More:
www.RoseBrooks.org/Casino or contact Sarah Crowell at sarahc@rosebrooks.org, 816-605-7112

Casino and Auction Night
Saturday, October 14, 2017
Sheraton Overland Park

Socialize with Rose Brooks Center
www.RoseBrooks.org