

# The Legacy of One Therapist

“A compassionate ear.” “The greatest understanding.” “The reason I am the whole person I am today.” These are the kinds of things that have been said about therapists who work at Rose Brooks Center. But more specifically, they are all the things that have been said about one in particular - Erin Langhofer.

Becoming a therapist is often a rewarding and fulfilling career choice, but it is also a challenging one. They help others move through some of their deepest times of need, and for therapists at Rose Brooks Center, that also involves the complexities of working with someone who has experienced domestic violence.

When you work with survivors and victims of violence, it requires a deeper assessment of an individual’s safety and risks, a better understanding of the systems in which victims find themselves navigating, and many other complex emotional issues. For these reasons, the therapists who are part of Rose Brooks’ Clinical Program are some of the most cherished people in the eyes of survivors.

In August of this year, we lost Erin Langhofer to gun violence when she was hit by a stray bullet at a popular community event in Kansas City. As you read the letter from Erin’s family on the other side of this insert, you not only begin to understand the enormity of this loss, but the extreme gratitude Erin’s family feels by the community’s outpouring of love and understanding. “We at Rose Brooks Center share in their gratitude,” adds Rose Brooks Center’s CEO, Susan Miller. “We miss Erin terribly and thank the community for supporting the work of Rose Brooks in her honor. As a therapist and shelter support advocate, she was committed to bringing hope to others, and that hope will live on because of your kindness.”

Erin was a dedicated and gifted therapist who was completely invested in her work. Staff recall Erin’s ability to light up a room and for many, was the team member who brought everyone together. It was not uncommon to see Erin sitting outside enjoying a brief break or lunch, and before long others would gather to join her. For those she served, she was this and more - often tailoring her process to meet the client’s needs in the most supportive way. This was the power of her light and one of the reasons her legacy will live on.

For those who gave in Erin’s memory, you are now part of her legacy. A legacy that will continue by supporting the mission and programs she served, with enhancements made in the very building she worked. Because of the kindness of both strangers and those who knew her well, Rose Brooks therapists and staff will continue to help others who need the healing and safety of Rose Brooks Center. One individual who gave in Erin’s memory may have said it best: “Thank you Rose Brooks for continuing to help the many people that Erin didn’t get the chance to touch yet through her bright light on this Earth, but I know her legacy will be continued on through all of you.”

To that, we all respectfully say thank you.

# The Legacy of Your Support

Your gifts will help support the following programs:



## The Clinical Program:

Offering therapy services that help empower adult and child survivors to reclaim their lives through the complex healing process.



## The Children’s Program:

Offering a wide variety of services to support the emotional and physical well-being of children who are healing from domestic violence.



## Project SAFE®:

A school-based, violence prevention program offering support groups, therapy, and education that provides students the tools needed to make positive life choices and develop healthy relationships.

*...we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.*

A Thank You from Tom, Marcy, and Kathryn Langhofer.

During the time our daughter Erin worked at the Rose Brooks Center, she felt she'd found exactly where she was supposed to be. The work was hard, she told us, but rewarding. Helping people who had few options, Erin counseled and cared for all her clients, who came from all walks of life. We will always wonder how much further her impact might've been felt had she had more time on earth.

It's in her spirit and honor that we now want to reach out and say thank you to everyone who contributed to Rose Brooks in Erin's name after her tragic death in August at the Crossroads First Friday event. She would be astonished at the outpouring and generosity of all of you, from people who knew her and people who didn't. It probably would've made her laugh with joy because that's just the kind of person she was.

For those of you who knew Erin well, you'll remember that we often called her Smiley. She had the biggest smile! She could make a bad day tolerable and a good day so much better. Erin was a vivacious, fun-loving girl, always able to find humor in any situation. She was both utterly silly and deeply caring, outgoing and at the same time humble.

More than anything, though, Erin had a way of making everyone feel comfortable, which was probably why she was so good at her job. She could converse with anyone and they would leave feeling heard and important — and usually amused. She was also an exceptional daughter, sister, niece, cousin and friend, the kind of person who was authentic in her delight for people she cared about.

It would mean so much to Erin to know that you recognized her life by contributing to a cause she cared so much about and helped to create a legacy that will benefit so many.

For her, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Tom, Marcy and Kathryn Langhofer



Tom, Kathryn, Erin and Marcy