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Message From the CEO

Dear friends of Rose Brooks Center,

As many of you already know, I have accepted the role of CEO, following Susan Miller's retirement this summer. Although it may seem appropriate to say, “It's a pleasure to meet you,” I already feel as if I know each and every one of you.

As Rose Brooks’ Chief Operating Officer for the past 19 years, I have had the honor to work alongside many of you as volunteers and supporters, and have seen first-hand the impact of your investment in our mission. It’s your investment that allows our staff to work with our community partners, as they address the system-related barriers to safety that domestic violence survivors face. I am committed to sustaining the legacy of your kindness with survivor-centered advocacy, and building upon the achievements of the last 43 years, in which Rose Brooks Center has served this community.

Earlier this year, we launched an updated strategic plan for the ongoing quality of services; for learning and growth centered on equity and inclusion, accessibility, and trauma-informed care; as well as sustained organizational stability. The strength and impact of the plan is rooted in the voices of survivors, frontline staff, volunteers, and our community partners. We look forward to advancing best practices and strong community collaborations to help keep families safe, create safer communities, and end the cycle of violence. It is our shared vision that survivors throughout our community will have confidence that Rose Brooks is here for them.

When survivors reach out for help, they are taking a big step in reclaiming their future. And as we move into the second half of 2021, we maintain an unwavering commitment to providing the safety and resources survivors need to live free of abuse. On behalf of Rose Brooks and those we serve, thank you for standing with us.

With sincere gratitude,

Lisa Fleming, CEO

Safety Helps Us Heal

For domestic violence survivors who are also experiencing trauma, feeling safe is very important. Safety affords our bodies and minds the ability to heal. One domestic violence survivor said it like this, "As you settle in [at Rose Brooks], you begin to breathe. You feel grateful that the stress and the fear is gone, especially for your kids. You’ve reclaimed your future and have the quality of life you all deserve."

Thank you for helping families reclaim their futures.
Rose Brooks Center’s training center has a long history of educating Kansas City community service professionals in how to appropriately respond to and assist victims and survivors of domestic violence. In January of 2021, Rose Brooks transitioned to a completely virtual format and is now educating service providers from all over the country! Offering continuing education units (CEUs) for professionals, this service is wildly popular for organizations and individuals wishing to learn more about the barriers and trauma victims face when working to live free of domestic violence.

We also understand that a domestic violence-informed community is a community which empowers, supports, and believes all victims and survivors. Go to training.rosebrooks.org to learn more and view all nine courses currently being offered.

Families who do not speak English or who come from different cultural backgrounds often do not feel represented as they navigate community resources. Sadly, a lack of representation is also a common barrier to safety and care, as abusers convince their partners that no one will understand them or accept them, thus they have nowhere to go. This powerful control tactic diminishes a victim’s confidence to reach out for help.

Now imagine if a victim reaches out for help and one of the first things they see is a poster that reads, “You are welcome here” in several languages, including their own. It is then their trust is increased and they feel empowered to take steps toward safety and healing.

From the moment you enter Rose Brooks Center’s doors, we want to make sure you feel valued and comfortable. Our new signs (pictured) also support one of our strategic plan’s objectives, which is to “advance equity and inclusion in all aspects of policy, practice, communication, and environment.”

Visit our newsletter online at inbloom.rosebrooks.org, and find out why we chose the languages we did.
Did you know that our printed newsletter is also online, and includes bonus content?! We created this online presence as a way to allow our friends and readers the ability to always have access to and/or share Rose Brooks Center news. Check out inbloom.rosebrooks.org today!

If you have any questions about ways or how to give, please contact Marla Svoboda, Chief Development Officer at marla@rosebrooks.org.

Starting at Zero

Rose Brooks Center's operating budget runs on a fiscal year, starting July 1st annually, and each year we project an income to expense zero balance. Our operating budget is raised through dozens of grants and events, as well as individual and corporate donations. What many people don’t realize, however, is that any excess funds raised in one year, simply cannot carry over to the next due to nonprofit accounting guidelines. Which means, we start at zero each and every July 1st! This is also why your donation matters so much to us, and the families and pets we serve.

We are at the beginning of our fiscal year and we continue our work to raise operating income through several diverse strategies - all to ensure uninterrupted care for those we serve. And on behalf of those we serve, we say thank you for your donations that help thousands of families and pets, live a life free of violence. Whether it’s by a one-time gift, through a monthly donation in our Life Savers program (see above), attending an event, or a gift of stock or QCD (Qualified Charitable Distribution), your donation goes directly to support our mission! And if you have any Missouri Income Tax liability, there are Missouri Domestic Violence Tax Credits available at a rate of 50%! Learn more about ways to give at rosebrooks.org/how-to-help/donate.

If you have any questions -
If you have any questions about ways or how to give, please contact Marla Svoboda, Chief Development Officer at marla@rosebrooks.org.

Peace of Mind

We have a new resource we would like to offer our readers. Get peace of mind by updating or creating your legal will, all for FREE. You never have to pay for a document you create on FreeWill. Just go to freewill.com/rosebrooks today and check it out!