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Message From the CEO

Dear Friends of Rose Brooks Center,

I hope you are all having a wonderful summer, filled with special moments and memories with friends, family, or loved ones. At Rose Brooks Center, we count it an honor to walk alongside those we serve, as they create new and lasting memories all summer long.

Some of the memories that we truly love to see here at Rose Brooks Center are the ones where both adults and children are smiling and laughing. Sometimes it’s a sprinkler to run through on a hot day, or a back-to-school field day filled with fun and games for the entire family. Other times, it’s a family-style cookout to celebrate the holidays or children happily playing with their pets.

Regardless of the moment, there is a profound significance that is not lost on us as we watch survivors create new memories because of their safe environment. As a matter of fact, feeling safe is one of the many ingredients our bodies and minds need in order to heal.

By your many gifts of time and kindness, you allow countless families the space to not only create special moments together, but the time to heal from trauma.

We thank you for these incredible gifts and wish you a safe and happy rest of your summer.

With sincere gratitude,

Lisa Fleming, CEO

Rose Brooks is here. Our 24-hour Help Line is 816.861.6100.

The Kid Zone

Every year, Rose Brooks Center’s Children’s Program provides comfort and safety for those who are the youngest victims of domestic violence. As one might assume, shelter life can be stressful – especially for little ones. Our Children’s Program provides all the support and supplies needed to help children begin the healing process.

One of those support systems is called Kid Zone. The Kid Zone, staffed by the Children’s Support Specialist, is a multi-purpose onsite physical space with toys, art supplies, computers, and a variety of play stations for children. Kid Zone offers developmentally appropriate play and learning for children while their parent attends therapy or is taking part in other support resources. Additionally, school-age children regularly come to the Kid Zone after school for help with homework or to use the computers.

Rose Brooks Center Children’s Program also includes case management, family enrichment, parental education and support, and individual and group therapy for all ages. To learn more about the Children’s Program and its many other resources, visit www.inbloom.rosebrooks.org/kid-zone/.
A Safe Place To Call Home

Rose Brooks Center’s Housing Program helps survivors find housing and gain economic stability to build safe homes, free from violence. Along with permanent housing, services include employment advocacy and economic empowerment. Combined, these services address one of the primary barriers survivors face when leaving an abusive relationship – a safe place to call home that is sustainable.

Because we know that 99% of survivors experience financial abuse, Economic Empowerment offers support in repairing the effects of economic abuse, including credit repair, budgeting, and education.

Domestic violence often jeopardizes a survivor’s ability to work and have a steady income to live independently. Employment Advocacy services support survivors through all stages of the employment process, from preparing for a job search to getting and keeping a job.

Rose Brooks Center’s Housing Program is a 12-month program that includes case management, financial planning, job readiness, rental assistance and other optional support as survivors heal and work toward a sense of independence.

To read more about the Housing Program or to see our new program brochure, visit our online newsletter at www.inbloom.rosebrooks.org/.

The Pet Shelter is 10 Years Old!

Ten years ago, Rose Brooks Center became the first program in the region to accept pets. The policy change happened when a domestic violence survivor contacted the hotline seeking shelter but refused to enter the facilities because she would have had to leave her pet behind. Even more so because this pet, a 110-pound Great Dane named J. Matthew, had just saved her life by laying on top of her during an attack. On that day, Rose Brooks Center accepted their first pet, and a legacy was born.

Although the giant Great Dane was the first animal to live at Rose Brooks, he was not the last. To this day, J. Matthew’s memory lives on in the more than 500 pets of all kinds who have found safety along with their owners.

Since opening in 2012, the program has protected approximately 75 pets per year, providing over 2,900 nights of safety annually. Today, growth continues with plans in place to physically expand the cat shelter, retrofit shelter bedrooms, and to continue providing training, education, and advocacy to other agencies throughout the community and across the country to better serve survivors and their pets.

To learn more about Rose Brooks Center’s pet program or to see the story of the heroic Great Dane who inspired it, please visit us online at www.rosebrooks.org/services/pet-shelter/.
Summer Fun

As Lisa mentioned in this issue’s letter, summer at Rose Brooks Center is often filled with fun and laughter, much to the efforts of staff, volunteers, and partners who want to help create memories for the families living at Rose Brooks. Below are just a few examples of our summer fun so far.

*Summer Reading is Fun!* Kids earn credit and rewards by reading books, having a parent read to them and/or by attending a Wednesday afternoon reading circle with our Children’s Support Specialist. *Ready, STEM, Go!* On Tuesdays, the Kansas City Public Library facilitates a group STEM activity for everyone. *A Time to Heal.* One night each week support staff facilitate education and therapy groups. *Lions, Baseball, and Concerts!* Thanks to many of our community friends, such as the Kansas City Zoo, The Kansas City Royals, and Starlight Theatre, families enjoy all of the fun Kansas City has to offer throughout the summer.

P.S. We’ve had one outside day each week dedicated to water play and general silliness.

Tax Credits Now 70%

The value of Missouri Domestic Violence Tax Credits is now 70%! The amount of credit a donor can receive has increased from 50% to 70% for all gifts made after July 1, 2022. If you are an individual or business that has Missouri tax liability, and give more than $100 to Rose Brooks Center throughout the year, you can receive a 70% tax credit. Please note that tax credit applications have to be submitted within one year of the gift, and are approved on a first-come, first-served basis. **Apply early to ensure credits are available!**

Applying for a tax credit only requires a brief application, original signature, and proof of the donation as defined in the frequently asked questions. Then mail the original to Rose Brooks Center – and you’re done! Once we receive the application and required documents, we send it to the state. The state will send the notification of the tax credit back to the donor. Please allow 4-6 weeks for this entire process! To learn more about tax credits, read frequently asked questions, or to download an application please visit: [www.rosebrooks.org/how-to-help/tax-credit/](http://www.rosebrooks.org/how-to-help/tax-credit/).

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.

You Are Invited

What does music bingo, a book release party, and brunch all have in common? They all are ways to have an amazing time while supporting the mission of Rose Brooks Center, and you are invited! To read about the many special or community events happening and how to get involved, visit us online at [www.rosebrooks.org/events/all-events/](http://www.rosebrooks.org/events/all-events/).