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A Message From the CEO

Dear Friends,

As I reflect on the previous year, I’m reminded of the moments of strength I’ve witnessed in survivors as they reclaim their lives and futures. These moments would not be possible without you, our friends, walking alongside us and those we serve.

It is an incredible honor to serve survivors within the safety of our shelter and throughout the community. You will read in this issue some of the many ways we accomplish our mission to break the cycle of domestic violence. And we recognize the significant role volunteers, donors, and friends have in providing a safety net of care for those who are seeking a life free from violence.

I want to personally thank each of you for your commitment to the mission of Rose Brooks Center. With your advocacy and support, you reaffirm our message of hope to each individual we serve – the message of “Rose Brooks is here.”

In turn, all of us at Rose Brooks Center wish you a hopeful and safe holiday season.

With a grateful heart,

Lisa Fleming, CEO

And The Award Goes To . . .

Rose Brooks Center’s Project SAFE® program is a school-based violence prevention program within Jackson County, working with children by providing group support and education at schools, on-site, and during the school day – the most effective strategy to reach students. Currently, Project SAFE is in 32 schools throughout Jackson County alone!

In September of this year, Kansas City Public Schools (KCPS) honored the Project SAFE team and program with the Community Champion award. KCPS started the Community Champion award to recognize partners/volunteers to express gratitude for sustained and extraordinary service to schools and programs in their system. During the presentation, a representative from the board shared, “With all of the tremendous work Rose Brooks has done at KCPS throughout the years, we want to acknowledge YOU. We want you to know your effortless commitment to our students does not go unnoticed and you all are the epitome of a KCPS Community Champion! Our schools cannot do it alone, and we are so grateful to have Rose Brooks as a partner!”

Please join us in congratulating the Project SAFE team for this accomplishment. To read more about this program and its curriculum visit: inbloom.rosebrooks.org/ProjectSafeAward/

Project SAFE staff pictured left to right, unless noted: Dr. Jennifer Collier (KCPS), Christian Aguirre, Sandy Hills-Sorenson, Lisa Fleming, Ciara Frazier, Darron Williams, and Nate Hogan (KCPS Board President).
A Leader in Domestic Violence Response

For the past five years, Rose Brooks Center has led an effort to address domestic violence crime in Kansas City – a first of its kind. The Blueprint for Safety brought together entities including Rose Brooks Center, 9-1-1, the Kansas City Police Department, Probation and Parole, and others to create new policies and practices, enhancing Kansas City’s response to domestic violence crime. The end result was a single document with a chapter for each agency within the criminal legal system.

Since then, Rose Brooks’ Blueprint Team, consisting of Annie Struby, the Blueprint for Safety Coordinator, and Cayla Waller, the Lethality Assessment Manager, have been busy implementing Blueprint for Safety principles. Pictured to the right, Annie presents a training on domestic violence and the Blueprint policies to new 9-1-1 operators. Below, Annie and Cayla partner with KCPD to provide domestic violence and Blueprint policies training to new officers at the Police Academy.

Patrol officer and academy instructor, Jeremy Sheer, describes the training’s impact. “The ability to coordinate with resource partners has enhanced the police department’s ability to not only assist victims with survivors, but to ensure the immediate and future safety of victims is at the forefront and on the minds of responding officers as they handle domestic violence incidents.”

To date, more than 74 hours of training have been completed across the entire criminal legal system, from 9-1-1 to post conviction. Rose Brooks Center’s continued implementation of the Blueprint for Safety will distinguish Kansas City as a leader and innovator in domestic violence response. To read in more detail about the Blueprint for Safety’s impact throughout the legal system, visit online at: inbloom.rosebrooks.org/BlueprintsImpact/

Getting Your Smile Back

For many individuals, going to the dentist can create anxiety. But for survivors of domestic violence, it can trigger past trauma from being assaulted in the face or mouth by their abuser, leaving damage to their teeth. Rose Brooks Center is helping victims and survivors get their smiles back thanks to a generous grant from Delta Dental of Kansas – a partnership which has everyone smiling!

“Because of Delta Dental of Kansas funds, one survivor who got her dentures told me how great it was for her to finally have teeth to chew with,” explains Rose Brooks Center’s Health Services Coordinator, Eva Vlach. “She said that injuries to her throat, due to domestic violence, made it hard for her to swallow properly if her food wasn’t chewed well. Now she can actually chew her food so she can swallow without pain.”

To date, survivors have received services ranging from basic exams and x-rays to extractions, dentures, and crowns. Without this added resource and support dedicated to dental care, many survivors would still be hiding their very beautiful and much-deserved smiles. Read more at inbloom.rosebrooks.org/GettingYourSmileBack/
Saving While You Give

Rose Brooks Center is excited to share a new way to give without reaching for your wallet! With finances top of mind, it may feel difficult to make the impact you want this year. But if you own appreciated stock, you can donate them to make a difference, and potentially gain favorable tax benefits.

In addition to the standard benefits of stock giving (there is no capital gains tax to pay on your donation!), the value of the Missouri Domestic Violence Tax Credit is now 70%. For example, if you donate $1,000 of stocks to Rose Brooks, you can submit a brief application and receive $700 back on your Missouri taxes.

To learn more about the process for tax credits, you can visit rosebrooks.org/tax-credit. And if you’re ready to make a stock gift, please use this free online resource to make the process simple: freewill.com/stocks/rosebrooks.

Please visit our website for more information, or contact me with any questions about gifts. Marla Svoboda, Chief Development Officer, at marla@rosebrooks.org.

P.S. As another year comes to an end, my heart is full. It's full of respect for the caring professionals who work here, and full of awe for the incredible generosity of donors like you, who make our life-saving services possible. Whether it's an online gift, a check in the mail, a gift of stock, or remembering Rose Brooks Center in your will, your support means the world to so many. Thank you.

We Want You To Know

We are actively working to advance equity and inclusion in all aspects of policy, practice, communication, and environment. Rose Brooks Center demonstrates this commitment by centering diversity, anti-oppression, and social justice in our work toward addressing the intersectional oppressions that impact victims and survivors of intimate partner violence.