



Safe Haven
Shelter and Resource Center



VOICES

WINTER 2022

BREAKING GROUND

Safe Haven has always supported individual survivors, while also advocating for the systemic change needed to address the root cause of violence. Our shelter has housed thousands of survivors over the decades. And now our pending remodel will help us offer an improved space to heal with a more complete trauma-centered approach. We couldn't be more excited.

Please join us in making this vision a reality!



SHELTER REMODEL PLANS

Winter is still here, but the sound of construction brings hope for new beginnings. After several years of planning, Safe Haven's remodel project is underway! Our 3-phase project is both practical and ambitious, and will help us better serve survivors for another 20+ years. This project has the potential to positively impact 10,000+ lives over the course of two more decades. Given the cost of the remodel, that breaks down to around \$270 per life impacted/changed. The math is simple; this project will transform lives!

Our remodel includes:

- expanding our footprint to include eight, new bedrooms
- remodeling existing bedrooms to allow for additional privacy
- the addition of four accessible bathrooms
- relocating the children's playroom near our Youth Advocate's office
- expansion and privacy upgrades to our staff office spaces

If you are interested in learning more or contributing to our capital fundraising goal, please contact our Director of Philanthropy at carine@safehavenshelter.org or 218-730-2468. Thank you!

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Warm greetings!

This month marks my tenth year at Safe Haven. I remember so vividly walking through the doors on my first day as an Advocate with all of the ambition, energy, and resolve to change the world one person at a time! There have been nearly 4,000 survivors that have come into my life in this decade during my time at Safe Haven; many whose face I still see so clearly in my mind and whose voice resonates in my heart. I hope that every single one is in a safer place than when we first met, and that they have found peace and joy. I wonder if their children have grown into the adults they'd planned to be, and if they have been able to experience the good in the world too. There have been many who've returned to the shelter over the years, and we know that with each reintroduction, they are stronger than the time before. Ten years have passed in the blink of an eye. I've traded some youth for humility, some energy for wisdom; but every day when I walk through the doors, I can still feel the same resolve that I had on day one. I realize that as Advocates, we are changed by survivors too. In this decade and the next, and the one after that; until long after my tenure has come to an end, Safe Haven will continue to be a place of profound inspiration and steadfast hope for all who walk through our doors.



Brittany Robb
brittany@safehavenshelter.org

Support is available 24/7



(218) 728-6481

FROM HER PERSPECTIVE

Jaci Christiansen, Community Engagement Coordinator

Joining Safe Haven in 2019 as our Community Engagement Coordinator, I quickly learned that I'd be doing a little bit of everything. Built into my role is the flexibility to pivot and assist wherever the agency has the greatest need. Because of this, I've had the honor of working alongside just about everyone at Safe Haven, including our amazing advocates, leadership team, board members and volunteers. I've attended community events to promote Safe Haven's services, given presentations and trainings to organizations and businesses, helped answer the crisis line, and even collected donations for our holiday wish list. In short, I've gotten to experience just about everything, and I couldn't be more proud to be a member of Team Safe Haven.

An important part of my job is spreading awareness about the hope we provide for survivors of relationship violence. So often, someone who is in need of our services, or knows someone in need, speaks up after a presentation and I am able to connect them with our advocates to get them started on their journey to safety. But my favorite part of getting out in the community is hearing from those who have been deeply impacted by Safe Haven's services: "I'm alive today because of you." "I basically grew up in the shelter. Thank you for helping my mom out." I always think back to one particular event, when a stoic older gentleman quietly approached me to say, "Thank you, you helped my daughter and grandkids when I wasn't able to. Thank you."



Jaci out in the community promoting Safe Haven's services.

And it's no secret around the agency that public speaking is my jam. I get to provide health care workers, students, businesses and a wide array of community members with a greater understanding of relationship violence, as well as the resources to help support survivors. My goal is to provide tools for survivors and those who would support them, to advocate for system changes that can break the cycle and raise a future generation free from violence, and to educate on the scope and depth of relationship violence's impact on its victims. For example, many are surprised to learn that women who have experienced domestic violence are 80 percent more likely to have a stroke, 70 percent more likely to have heart disease, 60 percent more likely to have asthma, and 70 percent more likely to drink heavily than women who have not experienced intimate partner violence. These staggering statistics speak for themselves.



Throughout the pandemic, I've been able to support Safe Haven wherever the greatest need has been. This has allowed me to see the work that our advocates do in a more intimate way, and trust me - these folks are miracle workers. One day this winter I was working the front desk of the Resource Center, and I saw just how hard our advocates hustle to meet the needs of our clients. I also saw firsthand how much the clients respect our advocates. I tried not to take it personally when a client was disappointed that I wasn't who they hoped would answer the phone; clearly showing the relationship and rapport our advocates build with the survivors we serve. I've been able to join in the celebration when a client secures housing, and witness the tears of joy when a lost pet was found. I've also seen the resiliency of our advocates as they provide survivors the freedom to make hard decisions, even if they themselves disagree, because this helps survivors regain their power. It's all part of the complex process of supporting survivors on their journeys, and I am thankful for the parts I can play along the way.

If you are interested in hosting a training or having us table at your next event, contact Jaci at jaci@safehavenshelter.org or 218-740-6601.
Thank you for supporting our mission!

SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT

Sharon and Jack Kemp

Thrive Level, Hope Circle Partners



Sharon and Jack Kemp first learned about Safe Haven from their long-time friend, Marilyn Bamford, who championed our cause for decades. Sharon got engaged and served on Safe Haven's Board of Directors from 2004-2009, during the exciting creation of our Resource Center. The Kemp's have continued to support Safe Haven financially because they believe strongly in our mission to support individual survivors, while also addressing the systemic and root causes of domestic violence.

The Kemp's were motivated to give a generous year-end gift in December 2021 (in addition to their annual contribution) after learning about Safe Haven's remodel project. They had just sold their condo in Florida and wanted to use some of the money to address critical housing needs in Duluth. "We are impressed that Safe Haven has always been forward-looking in response to social conditions (right now: the pandemic), attentive to best practices, and focused on the immediate needs of survivors. This building project reflects all of these concerns," said Sharon.

The Kems also cite the kindness and dedication of Safe Haven's hard-working staff as another motivation for their major gift. "They are truly committed to the people they worked with and to the mission of Safe Haven," said Sharon.

Thank you, Sharon and Jack, for your commitment to us!

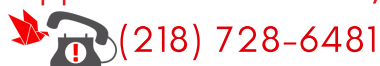
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To remove yourself from our list or to receive an electronic copy, email us at outreach@safehavenshelter.org

Support is available 24/7



(218) 728-6481

Celebrate your birthday with Safe Haven!



Our crowdfunding platform is fast and easy! Create your birthday fundraiser and invite your friends and family to celebrate your big day by supporting Safe Haven!

Simple step-by-step instructions:
www.safehavenshelter.org/birthday

Thank you for sharing your birthday love with Safe Haven!

(An example of a successful birthday fundraising page)

P.S. Our birthday is coming up in March! Stay tuned for more!