Board President

If you spend a moment reflecting on the vision of the Women’s & Children’s Alliance, you capture the essence of what the WCA is all about.

"To foster a community where individuals thrive in safe, healthy relationships."

These few words speak volumes about what you as a volunteer, donor, supporter or advocate do to help the people that the WCA work with every day. Without your support and encouragement, the incredible staff of the WCA would not be able have the success they do in serving the individuals and families of our community.

Domestic abuse and sexual assault are real and impact our communities. Unfortunately, it is not going away anytime soon, which only reinforces the need for the work the WCA does. Your ongoing support is critical for the WCA to achieve its stated mission. Safe, healthy relationships are the cornerstone to breaking the cycle of domestic violence. We are making progress one life at a time, and we could not do it without your ongoing help and assistance.

On behalf of the talented women and men that make up the Board of Directors of the WCA, of which I have the privilege to lead, we thank you for your contributions to the success of the WCA and look forward to a future where everyone has the opportunity to thrive in a safe and healthy relationship.

Women’s & Children’s Alliance

Board of Directors

Executive Committee:

Darrel Anderson  President
Bill Bodnar  President-elect
Debbie Wachtel  Vice President
Lynne Sterling  Treasurer
Theresa McLeod  Secretary
Debbie Cleverley  Member at Large
Kris Ormseth  Member at Large
Laura Cobb  Past President

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Cherie Buckner-Webb
Jessica Burke
Merlyn Clark
Julie DeLorenzo
Beverly Geddes
Tyley Nelson
Holly Rasmussen
Stephanie Westermeier
Jodi Whittaker
Executive Director

Most of us go through life oblivious to the impact we have on others, especially the effect we have on people we don’t know well.

Do you ever think about the power of one moment in time?

This past year there have been several instances where individuals have shared with me the effect of one interaction, one person, one moment in time — and how that changed their life for the better. It is only many years later that we might have the good fortune to hear from one or more of those individuals how we may have helped them along their life’s journey.

At the WCA we have been privileged to hear of several of these moments when the organization was able to become a very important part of someone’s journey to freedom. This year’s annual report will chronicle one such journey, and you will have the chance to learn about the services we provided last year through her eyes.

Thanks to you and to donors before you, we were here to allow those moments to take place.

_____________________________________________________

Women’s & Children’s Alliance

Vision, Mission & Core Values

Vision
To foster a community where individuals thrive in safe, healthy relationships.

Mission
Safety, healing and freedom from domestic abuse and sexual assault.

Core Values
Empowerment — Fostering potential
Respect — Recognizing and honoring the dignity of all
Integrity — Consistent in word and deed
Financials
how we do it

2014-15 Revenue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributions/Fundraising</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government Grants</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Grants</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thrift Store</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fees for Services</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endowment</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total $2,163,507

2014-15 Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shelter and childcare</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program support services</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counseling</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case Management &amp; Financial Literacy</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Court Advocacy</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative Services</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total $2,159,215

92% Over 92% of WCA expenses supported direct client services this past fiscal year

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Book of Gifts 2015

the book that made moments possible ...and dreams come true

Our Book of Gifts for the last year is filled with over 4,000 individuals who gave us their time, their talents and their treasures.

We are ever so grateful, thank you! Please visit our Book of Gifts at: http://www.wcaboise.org/about-us/reports-policies/annual-reports/

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About the Cover the power of one moment

On the second floor of the WCA, in one of several rooms along a hallway, Holly* stood motionless. With her back to the open door, she was looking out the window and seemed, for a brief moment, to be in another time and place. Holly was one of 80 individuals from a volunteer group organized through their workplace who had come in to help renovate the WCA’s top floor. Volunteers pulled out old built-in furniture, carpets and other remnants from a time when the secure shelter rooms were all at the Washington Street location.

In that moment standing in the room, Holly looked thoughtful and serene, despite the sound of construction and chatter all around her. She, like many others, was at the WCA to give back to her community. But for her, that moment also held a much deeper meaning. Holly is a survivor of domestic abuse, and a former WCA client. She lived in that room with her children! We are going to take you along as we share Holly’s story of coming full circle.

*Names and identifying details have been changed to protect “Holly’s” privacy
The WCA offers multiple services to provide safety to those impacted by abuse including two 24-hour hotlines, a secure residential shelter program, court advocacy and safety planning.

Hotlines
The WCA’s two 24-hour hotlines are the critical first step for people seeking safety. Staffed by trained Client Advocates familiar with a variety of community resources, this is the place for people with questions for themselves or for someone they care about. Additionally, this is the first point of entry for all clients looking to participate in any of our programming.

Like all of our clients, Holly and her children’s journey to a life free from abuse began by talking to a WCA Client Advocate. The moment that conversation began marked the beginning of finding the help they needed to finally be safe — the first step on Holly’s path to freedom.

Safe Shelter
At the heart of WCA’s efforts to provide safety is a secure residential shelter and transitional housing program that provide beds for women and children. This program offers an array of programs, including individual counseling, case management, parenting and life skills classes and support groups.

A Safe Place to Sleep
Research clearly demonstrates that domestic abuse and sexual assault happen in all different domestic living arrangements, economic situations and types of intimate partner relationships. And for some individuals in these relationships, the journey to a life free from abuse begins with the WCA’s secure shelter.

WCA Client Advocates answered 1,936 calls to two 24-hour confidential hotlines and met with over 140 individuals who walked in to our Washington Street location looking for help.
During the last fiscal year, 159 women and children were housed for a total of 10,235 safe bed nights at the WCA’s shelter. While at the shelter, each client also received additional services from the WCA and from other community partners — arranged through their case managers — to help them gain freedom and achieve the healing needed to break the cycle of abuse.

All of our services are offered free of charge to survivors and we don’t differentiate based on income, race, religion, gender or socioeconomic status. Women and men alike, as well as children of all ages, can receive important services at the WCA including case management*, safety planning, counseling, court advocacy and financial literacy education*, among others. These services are offered to both shelter residents and clients living in the community.

*Services offered only to adults.

**WCA Shelter Client Profile**

- **44%** of the adults were age 18 through 30, while 6% were over 51.
- **57%** of shelter residents were children, 39% of the children were 5 years old or younger.
- **66%** of residents presented with an annual income of $8,000 or less.
- **36%** most recent abusive incident involved strangulation.
- **76%** presented with concurrent or past substance abuse.
- **16%** of the shelter clients only completed elementary school.
- **36%** were abused daily.
- **86%** reported a family income of $12,000 or less.
- **61%** were sexually abused as a child.
- **59%** grew up in a home where there was violence between their parents and, historically, three quarters of these women have children.

Those who need a safe place to sleep can enter our 120-day residential shelter program. While some find a safe place to stay or secure new housing arrangements at some point during the 120 days, others find themselves still navigating barriers such as security issues, finances and lack of proper documentation to safely move on. In these situations, clients may move into our transitional housing program and remain for up to two additional months as they work with case managers and community partners to secure permanent housing.

At a cost of approximately $100 per person for the comprehensive services received during one night in the shelter, we could not have made this possible without the generosity of our community.
Safety
Advocacy

Eleven years ago, after a particularly violent altercation with her husband in their backyard, Holly and her children found safety at the WCA’s secure shelter for close to three weeks. During that time, the family met with counselors, case workers and those from partner organizations, and began the process of plotting out their course.

Not only was Holly dealing with her extensive physical injuries, but also with the newfound knowledge that her older daughter had been sexually abused by her stepfather (Holly’s husband). One day, Holly vividly remembers watching through two-way glass as her youngest daughter was interviewed by law enforcement and victim representatives, to learn if she too had been the victim of sexual abuse by her father. That is one moment no mother ever wants to experience.

After formal charges were filed against her then-husband and he was denied bail, they moved out of the shelter and were able to safely move back to their home. However, Holly and her children continued to receive counseling, court advocacy and case management services as, what she called, “out-patient” clients.

At the WCA, we have many clients who may not necessarily need a safe place to sleep in our shelter as a residential client, but do need other services to help them on their journey to a life free from abuse. In fact, last year WCA Clinicians, Case Managers, Court Advocates and Client Advocates provided support to over 1,400 community clients.

Court Advocacy
Thanks to a long-standing partnership with the Ada County Court system, WCA staff members walk petitioners seeking protection orders through the process before they have a hearing in court. Staff and trained volunteers explain court processes, discuss options, resources and client concerns, and offer emotional support. Having a compassionate, knowledgeable advocate lets victims know they are not alone in the process. The WCA’s Court Advocacy program also supports clients navigating family law cases, such as divorce, custody and interstate relocation. By offering pro se support, referring clients to legal service agencies and connecting clients to volunteer attorneys, the WCA is able to provide broader services to clients facing complex civil legal matters.

Last fiscal year:

72 clients were assisted by volunteer attorneys
123 clients were referred to Idaho Legal Aid and/or Idaho Volunteer Lawyers Program (representing a 324% increase from last fiscal year)
592 WCA Court Advocates assisted with 592 of the 672 civil protection orders filed in Ada County
Safety Planning

A safety plan is a personalized, practical plan that can help a victim avoid dangerous situations and know how to react if they find themselves in one. This plan includes ways to remain safe while in the relationship, when planning to leave, when using technology and after separating from the abuser. Safety planning is more than a logistical roadmap — it also involves creating a plan to cope with emotions and for talking with friends and family about the abuse. WCA staff may explain how certain legal processes can affect a victim’s safety and how a client can remain safe while participating in various legal proceedings.

WCA staff conducts safety planning with victims, friends and family members. Sometimes multiple safety planning sessions are useful. As situations and circumstances change, so does the plan for a client’s safety.

325 safety planning sessions conducted with clients

2,390 There were more than 2,390 calls to the WCA court advocacy program

Because her case was heard in criminal court where the judge issued a No Contact Order (NCO), Holly did not need to utilize the services of a WCA Court Advocate to help in obtaining a Civil Protection Order (CPO). However, when she had to appear in front of a grand jury to determine if her husband would be indicted for her attempted murder as well as for the sexual abuse of her daughter and her niece, Holly had the rock-solid presence of a WCA Court Advocate next to her each step of the way. The Court Advocate helped her to understand the process and provided emotional support in the face of reliving the terrible details of her abuse. Telling her story to the jury, in that moment of overwhelming emotion, Holly was not alone.
Counseling

Counseling is where healing begins for most clients. Whether it’s a weekly support group or individual counseling, the WCA offers survivors master’s-level Clinicians trained in offering a variety of approaches that best help clients on the road to healing.

last fiscal year

1,929 sessions conducted by Clinicians for adults

575 sessions conducted by Clinicians for children

36 average number of adults who awaited counseling each month

32 average number of children who awaited counseling each month

6 full-time Clinicians and one master’s-level Intern

As Holly continued to heal from her severe physical wounds, both she and her daughters were traversing their way across a very difficult emotional slope.

Holly, reeling from being stalked, physically and emotionally abused, and learning of sexual abuse of one daughter and her niece, tried to push her pain aside and be there for her children. Although Holly thought she herself was fine and did not really feel a connection with her counselor at first, about two months into her journey she hit an emotional wall while in one of those rooms on the top floor of the WCA on Washington Street. And in that moment, the wall came down and the hurt and fear and confusion came cascading out... and her journey to healing her soul began.

WCA provides services that help individuals recover from the trauma of witnessing abuse as a child or child sexual assault. Survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence are empowered to rebuild strong relationships with their children and with themselves as they learn how to create the life they’ve always dreamed of having.
Case Management

Survivors face many obstacles before they can truly be free of domestic or sexual abuse and its insidious hold on their spirit and their lives. The WCA has two full-time Case Managers who help guide clients to community resources that provide them with choices to rebuild their lives. Whether it’s health care, employment, food or housing, Case Managers know how to access the supportive services that create the Treasure Valley’s safety net.

Education

Classes in nurturing parenting styles, financial literacy and breaking the cycle of domestic violence are among the many educational sessions available to WCA clients. Basic life skills, such as routine automobile maintenance and how to fix nutritious meals, also are available.

The Treasure Valley Economic Action Program provides much needed programs about budgeting, saving, investing and using credit effectively. All courses are designed to empower individuals and provide the tools they need to create the life they want for themselves and their family.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>1,198</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>44%</td>
<td>employment</td>
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<tr>
<td>267</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>and meditation</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Along with counseling, one of the important and impactful services Holly and her family received from the WCA was the time and assistance of their Case Manager. They qualified for support from the Crime Victim’s Compensation Program as well as other community partners to help get the healing and restorative services they needed. This complex and sometimes overwhelming process was much easier for Holly because she had someone knowledgeable to help with each step and provide support.

Freedom is what you do with what’s been done to you.
Providing Opportunities

The Susan P. Sherlock Fund, which has served WCA clients for 13 years, provides vocational training and scholarships for clients attending skills-based training with either Create Common Good or Usful Glassworks. Clients gain skills, and are awarded scholarships as they successfully complete each phase of the training program. The scholarship allows clients to earn up to $1,000 each.

Clients become eligible to participate in one of the two programs through referral by their Case Manager after they graduate from the financial literacy course, and have completed the scholarship application.

As clients successfully reach goals specific to each training program, they earn their stipends. This work experience enables clients to obtain the tools and the self-confidence they need as they head into the workforce.

Since the job training aspect of the scholarship went into place in 2013, 20 individuals have participated and 14 (70%) obtained employment upon completion.

...the safe feeling I had while I was there and the ability to start replacing bad memories with good ones

Jane*, a mother of three who was recently diagnosed with breast cancer, came to CCG in 2013 from the Women's & Children’s Alliance. Her barriers to employment included lack of childcare, low self-esteem from an unhealthy domestic partnership, and limited English skills. During training, Jane excelled in our food service program. At graduation, she said her favorite thing about CCG was “the safe feeling I had while I was there and the ability to start replacing bad memories with good ones.” Jane now has a network of support and her children receive proper care while she is at work. Her confidence has grown as she developed a new skill set, and Jane is now employed in a commercial kitchen.

Create Common Good has been the popular choice for participants, and is focused on cultivating culinary skills guided by a professional chef.

To learn more about Usful Glassworks, visit usfulglass.com.

To learn more about Create Common Good, visit createcommongood.org.
The WCA strives to foster a community built upon healthy relationships, and we could not do it without the help of some incredible collaborations. Treasure Valley Economic Action Program (TVEAP), as well as FACES Family Justice Center, have each built valuable partnerships with the WCA to provide more assistance to clients in the valley.

**Educating for Financial Stability**

...this class was helpful to open my mind that I can be financially better off in my future

Providing financial literacy education to our clients, and to neighboring agencies has enabled the WCA to move forward in its goal to cultivate a safer, healthier community. The WCA is the lead agency for TVEAP, which began in 2010 as a collaborative effort of six valley agencies.

Our financial literacy curriculum empowers participants and equips them with the skills necessary to gain economic independence in a safety-centered setting. Two financial literacy educators employed through the WCA facilitate the program. Participants are eligible for unlimited coaching sessions after graduating from the financial literacy course. Community members can contact an educator and explore helpful websites by visiting the financial literacy page on www.wcaboise.org.

In addition to WCA clients, the educators have also facilitated classes for clients at Nampa Family Justice Center, Advocates Against Family Violence (Hope’s Door), Ada County Jail Re-Entry Program, Idaho Department of Corrections, Marian Pritchett School and Duck Valley Indian Reservation. This past year our educators also provided unit-specific seminars to community organizations based on client need at Boise Rescue Mission City Light Home for Women and Children, Boise State University Women’s Center, and most recently at the Department of Labor and Training for youth participating in the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) program. They will also begin a new partnership with Agency for New Americans in the fall.

Our Financial Literacy Educators have been extremely pleased with their client coaching sessions, specifically with regard to credit. Clients have pulled their credit reports, contacted creditors, set up payment plans and set goals to be more financially stable and independent. As one client put it, “this class was helpful to open my mind that I can be financially better off in my future.”
Working Together to Strengthen our Community

Did you know the WCA assisted with 592 of the 672 Civil Protection Orders filed within Ada County during the last fiscal year? The WCA is able to enhance our Court Advocacy services thanks to our strong partnership with FACES Family Justice Center. The WCA employs two Victim Advocates at FACES, who provide safety planning and protection order assistance. A Domestic Violence Court Case Manager who provides victim advocacy and case management to clients going through court proceedings is also located at FACES thanks to a grant from the Office of Violence Against Women.

FACES also provides a variety of services domestic and/or sexual violence survivors may need that the WCA doesn’t provide, such as forensic exams and basic healthcare. By having so many important services under one roof, and in such close proximity to the WCA and the courthouse, clients are given easier access to services as they journey down their own path to safety, healing and freedom.

FACES is located at 417 S. 6th St. in downtown Boise, and more information on services can be found at facesofadacounty.com

if he makes you lose your family, 
lose your friends, 
lose your confidence, 
or lose your happiness, 
then you need to lose him
Endowment Fund
Women’s & Children’s Alliance

Our Endowment Fund was established to provide funds in perpetuity for the operation of the Women’s and Children’s Alliance. During 2010 – 2011, in honor of our Centennial Celebration, we invited donors to help “jump start” our Endowment Campaign by joining our “Founder’s Circle”. The following individuals became members of this special group by contributing a minimum of $20,000 to the fund before September 9, 2011, the date of our “Once in a Lifetime” Centennial Celebration Gala.

Founder’s Circle
Russ and Janet Buschert
Suzanne G. Guetschoff
Kaye and Larry Knight
Luci and John McDonald
SueB Fund
“Dolly” Waring Sylvies
Kathy Troutner

Individuals making planned gifts become members of our Heritage Society and are helping us secure our long-term Endowment Fund Goal of $10,000,000.

Heritage Society
Marcene Austin
Jeff and Bea Black
Carolyn Corbett
Julie DeLorenzo
Margaret Henry
Serena McAlvain
SueB Fund
Teresa Yragui

Other Cash Donors this fiscal year include:
Nancy Adrian
Randy Della Memorial
Ruth Hayes
Kaye and Larry Knight
John and Luci McDonald
Beverly A. Miller Trust
Ellen Reynolds
SueB Fund

We are honored to recognize those providing cash gifts and/or planned gifts at significant levels through the following named opportunities as follows:

$1,000,000
Shelter Program Sponsor

$500,000
Counseling Champion

$250,000
Children’s Sponsor

$100,000
Friends in the Courtroom
Marcene Austin
Beverly A. Miller Trust
Katherine Troutner

$50,000
Listening Ear
Susan Bredeson Newby

$25,000
Guiding Light
Dorothy Aldecoa
Jeff and Bea Black
Russ and Janet Buschert
Margaret Henry
Serena McAlvain
John and Luci McDonald

$10,000
Staff Advocate
Carolyn Corbett
Randy Della
Julie DeLorenzo
Randy and Elizabeth Hill
Teresa Yragui

Fund balance over $830,000
Balance + Planned Gifts = $1,200,000
Corporate & Foundation Granting Agencies

Women’s & Children’s Alliance

Ada County Association of Realtors, Inc. (ACAR)
The Allstate Foundation
Avenue of Hope – Home Partnership Foundation
Bank of America Charitable Foundation
Camille Beckman Foundation
CenturyLink Clarke M. Williams Foundation
Cooper Family Foundation
Emerson Charitable Trust
First Story
Four J Foundation
The Grainger Foundation
The Hallday Foundation
Idaho Community Foundation
The IRONMAN Foundation, Inc.
The Jean (Wareagle) Sullivan Foundation
The John F. Nagel Foundation
Langain Barber Foundation
Laura Moore Cunningham Foundation
Lightfoot Foundation
McCourt Foundation
The Mennonite Foundation Inc.
Micron Technology Foundation
Ms. Molly Foundation
The Kisser Family Foundation
Chris Meredith Donor Advised Fund
Renaissance Charitable Foundation, Inc.
Sally Beauty Cares
Sam & Peggy Grossman Family Foundation
Scarpinot Internation of Boise
Sylvan Creek Foundation
Tate Family Charitable Trust
United Way of Treasure Valley

Federal and State Grants

Women’s & Children’s Alliance

Idaho Council on Domestic Violence and Victim Assistance
Department of Housing and Urban Development
STOP Violence Against Women
Community Development Block Grant

The Shop
A Boutique Thrift Store

Thanks to generous donors, dedicated volunteers and loyal shoppers, The Shop was open last year for 254 days, selling 36,732 items in 10,454 transactions. With 4,037 total donations, gross sales reached over $177,750 to contribute directly to the WCA’s mission.

Stop by to browse and shop. With complete inventory changes in the spring and in the fall, there’s always something new, and you can feel good knowing that every penny goes to help families and children whose lives have been impacted by domestic abuse or sexual assault.

Monday – Friday 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Members of the Hope Society are multi-year donors who believe passionately in the work we do. They also understand that we need sustainable funding we can count on in order to serve the increasing needs in our community. Joining the Hope Society is a significant commitment, and it represents priceless gifts of safety, healing and freedom to the families we serve.

There are three levels available; each represents the minimum level of commitment:

- **Safety** $1,000 per year for five years
- **Healing** $10,000 per year for five years
- **Freedom** $25,000 per year for five years

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**Hope Society Members** (as of July 2015)

Nancy Adrian  
Ahlquist Family  
Ann Allen  
Darrel and Lori Anderson  
Anonymous  
Marcene Austin  
Mike and Toni Ayers  
AJ and Susie Baizlof  
Jan Bastian and Dennis Whitmore  
Jan M. Bennett and Cory Stambaugh  
Lysi and Scott Bishop  
Jeff and Bea Black  
Bill and Karla Bodnar  
Gina Brotmeyer  
Jan Bryant  
Russ and Janet Buschert  
Fran Caprai  
Carolyn Casey, Women’s Ahl Camp  
Rob and Susan Centeno  
Marilyn and Sandy Clark  
Mike and Sharon Clawson  
Teresa Cleary  
Debbie Cleverley  
Laura Cobb  
Nancy Collins and Daughters  
Carolyn Crosby Collins  
Carolyn Corbett  
Julie Custer and Kathy Scott  
Shauna Delta  
Tom and Julie DeLorenzo  
Deborah and Joe DeSousa  
Rich and Judy Dickson  
Susie Dustin  
Pat Dye  
Julee Edgar  
Tom and Janet Gehlke  
Lisa Grov  
Raquel and Kjeld Guglielmetti  
Bryan and Emmy Guthrie  
Mary Hanson  
George and Bev Harad  
Robert and Anne Hay  
Erica Hill  
Deni Hoechner  
Morgan Hoffman  
Kenneth Howell and Bernadine Marcon  
Daniel and Julie Hunt  
Pauline Irlm  
Lauri Janos  
Sally and Alen Jeffcoat  
Anna Jenny  
Tamara Johnson  
Zeke and AnnMarie Johnson  
Judy Jones  
Nancy and Charley Jones  
Steve and Barb Keen  
Toni and Mark Kelchner  
Larry and Susan Kelley  
Athena Kleene  
Larry and Kaye Knight  
Tannan and Matt Koehl  
Bill Knowlton and Amy Moll  
Nancy and Emie Lemas  
Jack and Pam Lemley  
Jennifer Leonard  
Ann Lewis  
Treacy and Kurt Liebich  
John Lough and Pat Diener Lough  
Edmund Low  
Scol and Christina Ludwig  
Aunick and Tyler Lund  
Carol Martin  
Carrie and Mark Matsko  
Doug and Serena McAlvain  
Kelly McConnell  
John and Luci McDonald  
Mac and Cherie McElroy  
(in memory of Randy Della)  
Mike and Theresa McLeod  
Cindy Mendoza-Gray and John Gray  
Mike and Lori Mers  
C.K. Haun and Karen Meyer  
Anne Moe  
Mary and Emie Monroe  
Dee and Bryan Mooney  
Jason and Annie Morley  
Jack and Lois Morris  
George and Karen Mulhem  
Ralph and Carol Myers  
Dave and Diane Myklegard  
Amber Myrick  
Karey Neal  
Neil and Tyley Nelson  
Alicia Nichols  
Connie Brown Olson  
Kris Ormseth and Kathi Pearce  
Jim O’Toole and Karla Rosa  
William and Melissa Palumbo  
Dick and Susie Parish  
John and Sue Paul  
Stacy and Mark Pearson  
Mystella and Peter Pena  
Ned and Renee Pontious  
Heather Quisel  
Wayne and Wendy Rancourt  
Kendall and Holly Rasmussen  
Marjorie and Peter Reedy  
Julia Robinson and Peter Koziak  
Edwin and Stacy Salvi  
Darcelle Sander  
Margaret Sato  
Sandy Schmitt  
Charles and Jenny Schmeiger  
Jack and Jan Scripps  
Tom and Jan Shipler Jr.  
Ingrid Sliger  
(in memory of Olivid & Gerd Mae)  
Tom and Carol Smith Family  
Greg and NorRae Spohn  
Craig Stein  
Teri Stein and Ed Miller  
Brandy Stemmer  
Laura and Andy Stento  
John and Lynne Sterling  
James and Patti Stevenson  
Lisa Stoehr  
Joni Stight  
Duane and Lori Stueckle  
Pam and Brian Thomas  
Doug and Carrie Tucker  
Richard and Lisa Ulfinn  
Peter and Debbie Wachtell  
Jodi Whittaker, CPA  
Gia Wolverton and Dan O’Donnell  
Michael and Angie Wood  
Kyle Woods  
Ryan and Holl Woodings  
Mary Woof
Corporate Pillars
Women’s & Children’s Alliance

The Treasure Valley business community recognizes the value of creating a community where people thrive in safe, healthy relationships. By becoming a WCA Corporate Pillar, businesses support the life-changing journey to safety, healing and freedom for survivors of domestic abuse and sexual assault in our community.

Corporate Pillar Spotlight

Damsel In Defense

Damsel In Defense was started by two moms, Mindy Lin and Bethany Hughes, who had a passion for personal protection. They were looking for an opportunity to provide for their house-holds while helping others. As it turns out, there were a lot of passionate people like them, and they have welcomed 10,000 Independent Damsel Pros to their growing family to date. Statistically, one in four women will be sexually assaulted in their lifetime. The mission of Damsel In Defense is to change those statistics by equipping, empowering and educating women. The Independent Damsel Pros who have joined the mission are not only arming women nationwide, but also offering empowerment and healing to those affected by assault.

it's a privilege to be able to give back in a way that betters lives

Mindy Lin and Bethany Hughes
Co-Founders of Damsel in Defense

One by one, Damsel In Defense is changing statistics. Their mission of equipping, empowering and educating women is the heart of the company, evident by their monthly support of amazing organizations like the WCA that are making a difference in the lives of those who have been assaulted. On an international scale, Damsel In Defense has also partnered with Destiny Rescue to fund a home in Cambodia where girls rescued from the throes of sex trafficking receive refuge and hope for a future free of abuse.

“We have both long respected and appreciated the efforts of the WCA here in our own community. We believe in what the organization stands for and consider it a privilege to be able to give back in a way that betters the lives of others in our own backyard and protects women, which is something we are obviously very passionate about.”
The WCA's Tribute to Women and Industry (TWIN) awards luncheon honors outstanding professional women in our community along with organizations whose policies and practices salute and encourage high achievement by women.

For over two decades, talented and inspiring women have been recognized each year — making TWIN the longest running local program honoring professional women in the Treasure Valley.

The 22nd Annual TWIN Awards Luncheon was held April 2, at the Boise Centre. Over 700 people joined the WCA in honoring women who have excelled in their fields.

Congratulations to the 2015 TWIN Honorees!

Shannon Alder  
Annette Alonso  
Kathleen Anneke  
Melissa Bates  
Anne Brauer  
Lynda Bruns  
Rebecca Campbell  
Bonnie Carns  
Karen Carpenter  
Trisa Clemens  
Julie Combs  
Michelle Edmonds  
Lori Fascilla  
Deborah Ferguson  
Sherry Fernandez  
Cassie Fontaine  
Shelley Gable  
Linda Gerber  
Debbie Grahek  
Johanna Hale  
Bonnie Heinrich  
Heather Hill  
Bessie Katsilometes  
Shelby Kerns  
Amy Kohlmeier  
Beth Malasky  
Kimberly Maloney  
Jaimee Martinez  
Karen Metz  
Susan Morris  
Amanda Myers  
Gwen Olson  
Alicia Parker  
Sherry Parks  
Christa Patton  
Shannon Pearson  
Lindsey Pontious – Brist  
Megan Poshka  
Sarah Reed  
Anne Roegiers  
Jennifer Shalz  
Terry Sellman  
Trish Simon  
Lynette Standley  
Stacie States  
Olga Tijerin-Menchaca  
Jodi Vanderpool  
Renee Watson  
Allison Woods  
Mandi Zillner

Visit www.wcaboise.org for more information and lists of past TWIN honorees.

Joyce Stein Award

The Joyce Stein Memorial Award is given in memory of Boisean Joyce Ann Stein, a long-time supporter of the WCA (YWCA). Each year a Treasure Valley resident who has made a positive impact on the growth and advancement of women is honored.

Greg Bower began his career in public service as a deputy in the Ada County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office in 1975. He became Chief Criminal Deputy Prosecutor in July of 1977, and was elected Ada County Prosecuting Attorney in 1982, a position he held until his retirement last year.

Greg’s dedication to making our community a better, safer place is commendable. His legacy is one of compassion, vision and leadership.

The prestigious Joyce Stein Memorial Award was first presented in 1980.
Hope Needs Space to Grow

WCA Launches Capital Campaign

For the first time in over a decade, the WCA has launched a capital campaign to expand our transitional housing program.

Domestic violence is the leading cause of homelessness for women and children. During our past fiscal year, the WCA sheltered 60 women and 99 children. These are women and children who would either not have left their abusive situation, or been homeless since they did not have the resources to pay for housing.

Current situation:
Serena’s House property includes a 15-room shelter. Ten of these rooms are used by our Emergency Shelter program which allows clients and their children to stay up to 4 months. One of these rooms is used for “emergency overnights” with the anticipation that clients in this room are moving out within a few days; and four of the rooms are currently used as “transitional housing,” allowing clients to stay an additional two months.

The need:
While many clients are able to find housing options after their stay with us in the Emergency Shelter, some are not able to do so. It may not be safe for them to leave a locked secure facility, or it may simply be that they need more time to find affordable housing.

The solution:
The capital campaign of $1.4 million will help address the WCA’s current and future needs by building an eight-room transitional shelter on our Willow Lane Campus. This facility will significantly enhance our current residential capacities by doubling the number of rooms available to those who need some extra time to secure affordable and appropriate housing for themselves and their children.

...a safe place to live, learn and begin the journey towards a life free of abuse

Please help the WCA provide a safe place for clients to live, learn and begin the journey towards a life free of abuse by supporting our $1.4 million capital campaign. With eight rooms, a two-month stay and an average family size of three people — this building’s impact on the families we serve in our community will be invaluable.
Prevention Work is Key

Education and empowerment are critical to breaking the cycle of abuse in our community, and we know that we cannot alone break the cycle of violence. We need to work collaboratively and join together to expand and strengthen our resources.

In this past year, we have seen a dramatic increase in the number of requests for educational presentations and special “Tour in a Box” events. We have also been working to connect with local schools and youth organizations to share information about healthy relationships, boundaries and the dynamics of abuse.

Two important things have happened in the past year that will allow us to continue making these connections and engaging students. First, we rolled out a new program called “Student Champions,” aimed at engaging students (middle school-aged and older) and providing them the information and resources they need to have conversations with their peers about what they are experiencing.

Secondly, thanks to a grant from the Idaho Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, we have added a full-time position to join our Outreach Team as a Prevention Specialist, working closely with the Coalition to develop curriculum and activities that will help make social change in local schools and communities.

The Clothesline Project

Every October

Every October the WCA participates in the Clothesline Project asking local businesses to hang t-shirts decorated by survivors of domestic abuse in their establishments. The t-shirts give survivors a voice and allow this very real issue to be brought to light in the community. Jenny, an employee from a local business sent us a message with the following story about the impact that one t-shirt had in one moment.

*what could very well have saved someone’s life from domestic abuse...was one t-shirt*
The Clothesline Project

Jenny’s story: Our agency participated in The Clothesline Project and I’m sharing this story with you because not only did it impact my life in a very personal way, but it may have saved a life, as well.

As our staff was hanging the shirts, a concern of “the dark one” came up. One of my staff members stated that the shirt with what looked like blood stains and the words “stop” and “don’t hurt me” was too graphic and shouldn’t be hung. I announced to the office what the WCA stood for, and why The Clothesline Project was so impactful. I hung “the dark one” anyway.

I was approached by a care provider last week. She asked if I was the administrator, and if she could close the door. She explained to me why she hadn’t been showing up to her scheduled shifts with her clients. Her husband had been hiding her car keys, and keeping her phone from her. She couldn’t call into work, and she was unable to retrieve our multiple messages. She stated she had to continuously buy prepaid phones to call into our office to make excuses why she was not making it to her shifts. Before knowing this information, she was on my radar to be terminated.

She went on to say that she had been in this abusive and controlling relationship for quite some time. She started to cry. She mentioned The Clothesline Project. She said she had never seen it before. She was folding a brochure in her hand, ripping the edges as she spoke to me. She read the posters, she saw the brochures, but what really spoke to her was “the dark one”.

She said, “It’s easy to see the happiness and liberation from the shirts that portray freedom, peace and the healing process… but the shirt with the blood stains and painful words reminded me that I’m not alone. It showed me that someone had the courage in their darkest hour to make one more phone call, and be able to be in a place to share their story.”

What happened next was incredible. She asked me if she could borrow my phone in my office to call the crisis line. I told her to take all of the time she needed. She was spoken to with respect, and reassurance. She was educated on a safety plan to move forward, and who she could trust in this difficult endeavor. She was asked if she was in a safe place at that moment. Her tears quickly receded, and her face could have lit up the room.

After getting off of the phone with the crisis line, she asked if she could store a duffel bag with her belongings in my office. There, the duffel bag sits, waiting for her return.

She’s been given an advanced paycheck to cover her time that she is unable to work with our clients to focus on her children, and removing herself from her abuser. Our agency is happy to announce that she has been given a personal cell phone, and she has a plan in place. To be free.

On behalf of myself, my staff, and our employee, we all thank the WCA for being present in our office that day. Had it not been for The Clothesline Project, and the “dark” t-shirt that is otherwise difficult to look at, this individual’s struggle would have continued.

I implore you to continue to circulate the “dark ones”. They are hard to look at and absorb, but so is the underlying issue. Thank you for being in our office when our employee needed it most. The Clothesline Project spoke to her in a way that only a survivor’s hands could convey.
Healing Begins with Hope
The theme of our 11th annual fundraising/outreach event was “Childhood Memories.” The morning began with remarks by Executive Director Bea Black, and a powerful video of three WCA clients and their inspiring stories. Cindy Mendoza, a local businesswoman, survivor, former client and an advocate for victims in our community, shared her story with the audience. Because of the services she and her children received from the WCA, she said, “My grandbabies are the 3rd generation, the generation that will have no memories of domestic violence!”

If These Walls Could Talk Tour
This past year, 1,256 community members experienced our “If These Walls Could Talk” tour either at one of the two tours held monthly at the WCA’s downtown facility or at an event planned at their home, place of business or other location in the community. During the tour, attendees learn what our mission of safety, healing and freedom truly means. They hear how victims of domestic abuse and/or sexual assault find a safe place to begin to heal from their past and learn how our clients acquire the tools to build safe, independent lives... free from violence.

Ambassador Program
Since its inception in 2011, the WCA’s Ambassador program has continued to grow and develop a solid foundation of members from all over the community. This volunteer program consists of individuals who are passionate about the WCA and about helping those who have experienced the trauma of domestic abuse and sexual assault. Our Ambassadors are the voice of the WCA in the community, sharing our mission and educating those around them.

To date, the WCA has 65 Ambassadors and 93 prospective Ambassadors. Want to be an Ambassador? Simply recruit ten or more people to attend our “If These Walls Could Talk” tour, attend a special Ambassador lunch and join this group of fantastic community members.

Volunteers
The WCA wouldn’t be able to help all the people who need our services without the commitment of dedicated volunteers.

• A total of 1,470 individuals donated 11,080 hours in the last calendar year, the equivalent of having more than five and one-third additional full-time people on staff!
This past year the WCA has been working to expand our outreach and prevention efforts. With an increased national attention on domestic abuse and sexual assault, the WCA has been given a unique opportunity to engage a growing number of individuals in conversations surrounding our work. This is especially meaningful to us as we believe in the power that every individual can have in saying #NoMore to domestic abuse and sexual assault in our community.

Working with survivors, we continually hear stories of the impact that one conversation, one concerned friend, or one helpful stranger can have for an individual living with abuse. We have heard countless testimonials about the “one moment” that finally led an individual to seek help.

It is our goal to prepare every person we come into contact with for their “one moment.” One way we do this is by giving out our shoe cards. WCA shoe cards list both local and national resources, signs of abuse and safety planning tips. We encourage everyone to carry a shoe card in their wallet in case they ever find themselves with an opportunity to give a family member, friend, or stranger the help they might need. Giving away a shoe card is a simple gesture that allows a victim to seek the services they need on their own terms.

Another prevention method that we have implemented this year is an increased effort to work with students in the area. With our Break the Cycle presentation and Student Champion program, we work to give young people skills and tools to recognize and address abuse before it begins. We want every student to know what to do in that vital moment: how to talk to the friend they’re concerned about, when they need to go to a trusted adult, and how to identify when a relationship becomes unhealthy.

We invite you to join us in these efforts. Take a shoe card, talk to the young people in your life, and remember the importance that one moment can have on an individual’s journey to safety, healing, and freedom from domestic abuse and sexual assault.

Be an Active Bystander: Carry a WCA “Shoe Card”

Please remove this card and carry it with you!

Are you, or someone you know Being Abused?

Police/Emergency: 911
Domestic Violence Hotline: (208) 343-7025
Sexual Assault Crisis Hotline: (208) 345-7273
(For emergency shelter, counseling, and protection orders)

This card provided by the Women's & Children's Alliance
Outreach and Education

Each month, we bring educational materials to events including health fairs, community resource fairs, volunteer info nights and conferences.

Let us know if you have an event you’d like us to come to, and we will bring materials targeted to your audience. Our outreach materials include:

WCA Brochures • Shoe cards • Volunteer and Ambassador Opportunities
An interactive and informative Healthy Relationships activity
A detailed list of all WCA services and more!

Tables are run by friendly, trained outreach volunteers and WCA staff members. If you’re interested in becoming an outreach volunteer, email outreach@wcaboise.org and we’ll contact you to schedule a training session as positions become available.