



# The Bridge

Violence Ends. Empowerment Begins.

Issue 8

AUGUST 2019

A bridge is a structure built for the purpose of providing a passage over obstacles.

## Mission Statement

The prevention and elimination of domestic violence and sexual assault. We work to enhance equality in relationships. We are opposed to the use of violence to control the lives of others. The Bridge is committed to eliminating violence in the lives of women, children and men through empowerment, education and social change.

## Healthy

### Relationships

The Bridge promotes healthy relationships. We focus on the safety of victims when working with them. Every situation and individual we work with is different, and so are the outcomes. We continue to do our best to help those we serve.

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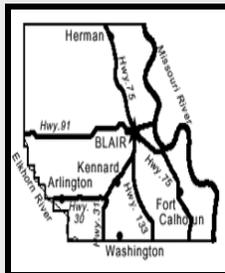


## 5-County Bridge Advocacy



## License Plate #29 - Washington County

Advocacy through the Bridge's mission takes shape in many Nebraska, area towns. We service five specific counties: Dodge, Saunders, Burt, Cuming and Washington. Our eyes, today will focus on the happenings and services that are specific to Washington County in this publication.



Washington County was founded in 1854. the total population as of 2017 is 20,721. Washington County comprises five towns (Blair, Ft. Calhoun, Kennard, Washington, Arlington, and Herman). Blair is the largest town. Washington County was named after President George Washington. The county seat is in Blair, and the county is a member of the 1st Congressional District. Washington County has many points of interest. Such as, Ft. Atkinson State Historical Park, Desoto National Wildlife Refuge, Wilson Island Recreation Area, to name a few. However, a keen point of interest to The Bridge is how the communities work with us to promote equality and safety in relationships. Washington County continues to embrace education, through empowerment to promote social change while committing to help end violence in the lives of men, women and children.

Jody Koziol, our Washington County Advocate, houses at The Bridge satellite office, at Memorial Community Hospital in Blair. Jody states, "I see clients on a daily basis offering them a safe and confidential environment to help them along a path to healthy relationships. I want to guide and help them heal from the abuse they have endured."

"Victims come here with very low self esteem and low confidence. One great tool we use is the Gallup Strength Finder Test. The results remind them of their natural talents that have diminished while living in an abusive environment. When their top 5 strengths are revealed, they are able to revive, know and grow their strengths. This knowledge stimulates personal growth and helps victims on their road to a new life beyond abuse." Jody states, "being an advocate means giving your full attention to each individual as they heal from the wounds they have suffered. Deep listening is the key to healing and is transformative to the victim." The Bridge offers victim support, 6 active groups weekly, confidentiality, advocacy, emergency shelter and the 24-hour Crisis Line (1-888-721-4340).

Jody remarks, "What I love best about being an advocate is seeing victims become survivors and watch as they reach their full potential."

### Through a Victim's Experience:

*"The Bridge is a great organization that has put my mind at ease with my life. It helped me feel hope and see the light. Without going into my life story, I would recommend The Bridge to mothers and children that need help or peace of mind. The counseling is free and I felt so safe talking to her (Jody K.). No judgment and she is a wonderful woman, listened to me, watched me cry, and be crazy. Still in the end, she was my rock, support and did everything possible to get me and my children out. She's an angel. Thanks you so much to The Bridge and Jody!"*

# Honoring and Remembering



The Train Depot in Blair, NE provides warmth and community support for The Bridge's April Vigil. This vigil honors survivors and those who have fallen to violence, or have been victims of sexual assault.



## Washington County Advocates For Victims



Washington County advocates and supports victims of violence throughout various activities and partnerships within their communities. Hosting the Sexual Assault Month Vigil helps provide support to survivors and families of victims. Victims share their stories through words and song at the vigil. A balloon launch is set to promote empowerment and to show on-going love and a lasting memory for those lost to violence. Education, monetary and in-kind donations for helping a survivor is communicated through our satellite office and the many businesses, churches, schools, and agencies who provide on-going assistance and support in Washington County. "When someone tells you they were sexually assaulted, the best way to respond is simply to Start by believing." Defining what happened to the victim is painful. Sexual violence takes many forms, but one thing stays the same: **IT IS NEVER THE VICTIM'S FAULT.** We are grateful for the support of Washington County working in partnership with The Bridge. You can be the biggest help in the eyes of a victim. Look for signs of abuse and neglect, be aware and make a report. You could be saving a life!



### Washington County Numbers~2018

The Bridge worked with:

\*63 victims of domestic violence

\*10-victims of sexual assault with  
89 children

\*403-Crisis calls

24- Hour Crisis Line

1-888-721-4340

Spanish Crisis Line

1-877-215-0167



Above Photos: Washington County hosted The Bridge's Sexual Assault Vigil.

Watch for information in next month's publication about our exciting new "Union Depot" garden in sponsorship with the *Union Pacific Foundation!* Sneak peek below!



# Incredible Donations



The following names are of those who donated to The Bridge between the dates of July 1-Present. We regret the accidental omission of any donor. Thank you for your donation and continued support;! We could not do this without you!

1st Baptist Congregation, Blair  
 Alfonso Martinez, DAV Chapter #18  
 Barb Hille  
 Barbara Dean  
 Clever Clovers 4-H Club  
 Darlene Prokop  
 David & Connie Giese  
 Derick & Kylie Kampscheinder  
 Eldene Thomas  
 Eloise Greunke  
 First State Bank  
 Grace Lutheran Church, West Point  
 Jeremy Rehwaldt

Jake & Niki Herre  
 Jenni Zeilinger  
 Jody Bykerk  
 June Vogel  
 Kendall Wagner  
 Lenore Peatrowsky  
 Lisa Wieman-Schulz  
 Mary Ellen Raines  
 Michael and Cindi Brass  
 Milliken Park Elementary Staff  
 Peggy Iverson  
 Pinnacle Bank  
 Rachel Needles  
 Sandy Trehearn

Sara Rahn  
 Scott Palmer  
 Sharon Erickson  
 Sinai Lutheran Church  
 The Presbyterian Church Deacons,  
 Fremont  
 Virginia Pullen  
 Wanda Kowd

## Needs List

Copy Paper  
 Stamps  
 Size 7 Diapers  
 Toilet bowl cleaner and brushes  
 Hand pump soap  
 Dish soap  
 Individual Spaghetti's and  
 Mac and Cheese meals  
 Ketchup  
 Mustard

Coffee  
Snacks  
 (granola bars, Rice Krispy treats,  
 pretzels, fruit snacks, cookies, etc.)  
 Microwave popcorn  
 Crackers/Goldfish crackers  
 Individual soup meals/cups  
 Fast Food Gift Cards  
 Pocket folders  
 Lysol/Clorox spray cleaner

Toilet paper  
 Individual Microwave meals  
 Jelly  
 Fruit cups  
School Activity Presentation Items:  
 Suckers  
 Large marshmallows  
 Starburst jelly beans  
 Play Dough  
 Sidewalk Chalk

"AND ONE DAY SHE DISCOVERED THAT SHE WAS FIERCE, AND STRONG, AND FULL OF FIRE, AND NOT EVEN SHE COULD HOLD HERSELF BACK, BECAUSE HER PASSION BURNED BRIGHTER THAN HER FEARS"

~Mark Anthony

## Volunteer at The Bridge Note: Next training is September 8, 2019

The volunteer rate remained steady as 62.8 million Americans volunteered 7.9 billion hours last year. Those who volunteer enrich our community and keep our nation strong. Volunteering goes beyond helping other people. Studies have shown that the volunteers themselves benefit, whether through increased job prospects, better health, or even better overall well-being. Nebraska rates 7th highest in volunteer rate, with 34.6% of Nebraskans volunteering their time.

**We respond to nearly 4,000 crisis calls each year. If you or someone you know would like to get more involved with The Bridge, please encourage them to contact us (402-721-4340) to learn more about volunteer opportunities and volunteer training.**



**24 Hr Crisis Line 1.888.721.4340**  
**1.402.727.7777**  
**Email:**  
**info@bridgefromviolence.com**

**FREMONT**  
**141 South Union**  
**1.402.721.4340**

**BLAIR**  
**810 North 22nd Street**  
**1.402.533.4411**

**WEST POINT**  
**500 East Decatur Street**  
**1.402.372.2204**

**The Bridge Services**

24-Hr Crisis Line: 1.888.721.4340 or 1.402.727.7777,  
 Crisis Intervention, Emergency/Temporary Shelter,  
 Support Groups for Women and Children, Medical  
 and Legal Referrals, Criminal Justice Advocacy, Public  
 Education and Awareness.

**Victim services are free, confidential, and available in Spanish.**

**Women's Support Group**

**Fremont** - English & Spanish Women's  
 Support Groups & Children's Rainbow Days Group,  
 Thursdays, 6:30-7:30,  
 The Bridge, 141 S Union,  
**Babysitter available**



**The Bridge Board**

- |                                    |                          |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Ja Harnish, President</b>       | <b>Alisa Brunsing</b>    |
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| <b>Dian Christensen Hillis</b>     | <b>Vickie Cameron</b>    |
| <b>Marcey Darmento</b>             |                          |

**The Bridge Staff**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Suzanne Smith</b> , Executive Director                                     | <b>Kylie Kampschneider</b> , Sexual Assault/<br>Criminal Justice Advocate        |
| <b>Jody Bykerk</b> , Shelter Program Manager                                  | <b>Christine Torres</b> , Cuming County/Spanish<br>Speaking Services Coordinator |
| <b>Stacey Lichtenberg</b> , Community<br>Education Coordinator                | <b>Linda Schlapfer</b> , Outreach<br>Communications Coordinator                  |
| <b>Jody Koziol</b> , Burt/Washington Outreach<br>Coordinator                  | <b>Niki Herre</b> , Client Advocate  |
| <b>Jennifer Thomason</b> , Criminal Justice<br>Advocate/Volunteer Coordinator |  |

**LEAVING A LEGACY**

A thoughtful planned gift can become a beautiful legacy you leave to The Bridge and to the victims of abuse who come through our doors for years to come. Bequests, Charitable Gift Annuities, Charitable Remainder Trusts and Charitable Lead Trusts are a few of the many avenues you may consider for continual support. An attorney can help you decide which option best fits your personal needs and financial circumstances.

