

**Dear Friends,**

Our WISE staff recently gathered at the beautiful Leading Fields retreat center in Woodstock, Vermont for our annual planning. As we created our “Tricky and Incredible” lists, I was struck by all the amazing things that we accomplished in spite of the challenges we faced and because of the incredible support of our community. Because of you.

As we grow in capacity, we realize how important it is to maintain our connections with each other and also with our broader community. With you. We are always looking for new ways to connect and nurture our relationship with you. We look forward to staying connected and keeping you informed about all things WISE at the various community gatherings, through our printed publications such as Highlights, our email communications, Facebook, and Twitter.

We are so appreciative to all of you for the many ways that you support our mission to end gender-based violence.

Warmly,

  
Peggy



## Save the dates

**WISE Writing Group**  
Wednesdays  
5:30-7:00 pm

**Court Observer Training**  
March 18, June 3  
9:00 am-11:30 am

**Covered Bridges Half Marathon**  
Team WISE Sign-up  
Starts December 15

**RVC Spin-a-thon 2019**  
March 23

**Foundations of Gender-Based Violence**  
Spring Training starts in  
March 2019

## Board Members

Jenny Williams, *President*  
Sharin Luti, *Vice President*  
Patricia Spellman, *Treasurer*  
Emily Dentzer, *Secretary*  
Brian Edwards • Gail Gentes • Pat Glowa  
Martha Goodrich • Kate Griffiths Harrison  
Mindi Laine • Giavanna Munafo  
Valerie Nevel • Margaret Rightmire  
Gretchen Rittenhouse • Mike Shipulski  
Peggy O'Neil, *Executive Director*  
Allison Linke, *Tuck Revers Board Fellow*  
Susan Dewees, *Board Emeritus*

*Giavanna Munafo has designed and delivered training and professional development programs focused on advancing diversity and inclusion for over twenty years.*

*Mindi Laine has over fifteen years of experience in development, most recently managing the Centennial Circle of the Dartmouth College Fund.*

*Allison Linke, Dartmouth '12, is a second year Tuck student with a background in brand management.*



*Indy and Axel helping with the move*

## A new home

Over half of the people we support have children, and many struggle with housing issues. Domestic violence is a leading cause of homelessness for families.

Leaving an abuser often results in a need for new housing. Many people flee with little more than the clothes on their backs.

This summer we celebrated a new beginning with a young family who was living in our Safe Home. A single mom, juggling a job and two children, was able to make the first steps toward moving into her own space, but needed help making her new apartment a home. We reached out to our larger WISE community, and the outpouring of generosity was overwhelming. Many people offered to help and donated household items and gift cards. The family now has furniture, appliances, a fully-stocked kitchen, and bicycles for the children.

One of our Board members joined staff to manage the move. When the moving company did not show up, she took control of the situation and made it happen regardless, right on schedule! The team set up the new home and it was ready when the family arrived. All of us at WISE are so grateful for our supportive community.

*“This is the first place I’ve had on my own without a man. Thanks to WISE for believing in me and helping me make this possible.” - Survivor in her new home*

*“When I first spoke to the advocate, it felt as if a hundred pound weight fell off me in that instant. I’ve never felt that safe, not even in my home country. Here is home.”*

*- WANN Immigration legal services client and survivor*

## Creating a world where all can thrive

We are pleased to announce that Welcoming All Nationalities Network (WANN) is now a program of WISE. Since 2011, WISE has been the fiscal sponsor of WANN which afforded WANN the capacity to provide essential legal services to humanitarian immigrants in New Hampshire and Vermont. In turn, WANN’s support for many of WISE’s immigrant clients strengthened the impact of WISE’s already powerful work. Over the last 7 years working together, we recognized an increasing need for sustainable support for immigrant survivors of gender-based violence in the Upper Valley. By incorporating WANN as a WISE program, we ensure that these humanitarian immigrants are supported.

Most WANN clients are victims of gender-based violence, often by the hands of a U.S. citizen spouse. Without legal immigration status, individuals are unable to work and are vulnerable to victimization from many sources, such as criminals who traffic humans, and abusers who use immigration status as a tool for domestic violence. Alongside WISE’s Crisis and Advocacy Program, Emergency Shelter and Supportive Housing Program, and Prevention and Education Program, WANN will provide comprehensive services to immigrant survivors of gender-based violence. We believe that this migration empowers both organizations to live more fully into our shared vision to create a world of freedom, justice, equality, and dignity where all can thrive.



## Volunteer spotlight: Cybele Merrick in her own words

*“As is true for many people, the social and political environment of the past several years have moved me to action. I’ve always been a feminist, an anti-racist, a proud progressive. But as of late I’ve wanted to do more than just donate to causes and read lefty publications. Lately, I’ve wanted to take action. Whether it is writing to members of Congress or marching in protests, I’ve wanted to put my principles into practice.”*

*Being a WISE volunteer is part of that.*

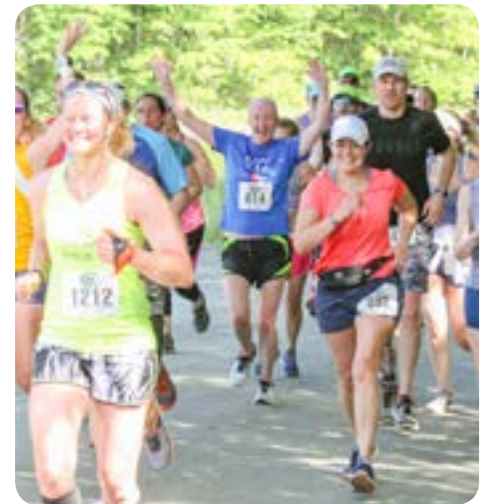
*It began with taking WISE’s “Foundations of Gender-Based Violence” course. The course deepened my understanding of issues of prejudice, gender, and power while it allowed me to serve as a WISE volunteer. So far, I’ve done tabling and prepared a meal for residents at WISE’s shelter. I hope to get involved in court observation as well. Being a WISE volunteer is one of the ways I can make the political, personal.”*



*Cybele Merrick with her family*

## The best WISE miles

The weather was perfect for the 2018 Covered Bridges Half Marathon on June 3. Billed as “The best 13.1 miles in New England,” this event is very popular in the running community, and especially among runners who like to run for a cause. This year, 33 people registered to run on the WISE team. Due to their individual fundraising efforts, we received over \$19,000! If you are interested in participating in the 2019 CBHM, contact Lisa MacDonald [lisa.macdonald@wiseuv.org](mailto:lisa.macdonald@wiseuv.org). Learn how we can support you while your run supports WISE.



*Kate Doucette going all out for WISE!*



*Our WISE Windsor team, Amanda and Sophie*

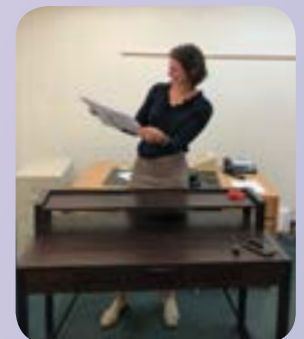
## WISE in Windsor

*“We are creating a space that mirrors the warmth of our Program Center. And we want to curate the space with care and intentionality.” – Sophie Bodnar, Rural Advocacy Coordinator*

Last fall we announced that we received a federal grant from the U.S. Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women which provided the opportunity to set up a support center in Windsor, Vermont. We are pleased to report that we have a location and have been working towards opening the doors as soon as possible. The new space is located in the Windsor Connection Resource Center, right in the center of town. It is freshly painted and the phone system is up and running. The phone lines are connected to the Program Center in Lebanon, which guarantee

seamless support every hour, every day. Furniture is arriving day-by-day, and our WISE Windsor team is working hard putting the pieces together. Even though renovations are still in progress, we are already utilizing the conference room to meet with survivors. Once open, Amanda Moses, the WISE Youth Advocacy Coordinator, and Sophie Bodnar, the WISE Rural Advocacy Coordinator will begin meeting with survivors regularly.

We hosted our first gathering with our community partners: Good Neighbor Health Clinic, Upper Valley Haven, Mt. Ascutney Hospital, Special Investigations Unit (SIU), Child Advocacy Center (CAC), and David Cahill, Vermont State Attorney. We talked about the challenges and barriers to accessing services. This was the first step in determining what will guide our work as we strengthen a coordinated, trauma-informed response to rural, youth, and immigrant survivors.



*Sophie putting together desks*



## A wiser community: the final campaign countdown

WISE supporters are doing it again! Your tremendous generosity has been amazing as momentum keeps us steadily moving towards our \$2,000,000 goal.

If you have not yet had the time to make a campaign gift, **IT IS NOT TOO LATE!**

All contributions truly make a difference, particularly as your donation is maximized with a \$100,000 challenge grant from The Jack & Dorothy Byrne Foundation.

Visit [www.wiseuv.org/donate](http://www.wiseuv.org/donate) or mail your gift to 38 Bank Street, Lebanon, NH 03766.

Together, we will end gender-based violence.



*a wiser community*  
campaign for growth & sustainability



Star Guzy

## Creating positive change

In 2016, WISE created the Not in Our House Scholarship Award for a graduating Lebanon High School student that shows a commitment to ending gender-based violence. The award serves as a complement to the Not in Our House (NIOH) Fund established in 2012 by the Lebanon girls' lacrosse team in memory of their adored teacher Natalie Perriello. The team honored their teacher by providing extracurricular and

## WISE on campus

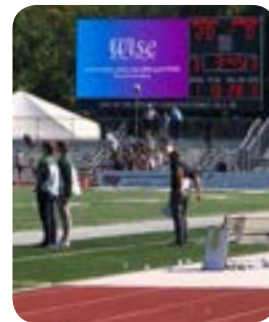


While we continue to build our advocacy capacity for Dartmouth College, we are increasing our visibility so students, faculty, and staff know that WISE is available for support and can help navigate the different options both on and off campus. We placed 220 displays on all tables in Courtyard Café, Collis, and 1953 Commons for the first two weeks of the fall term, reminding students that they are not alone.



Courtyard Cafe

We are pleased to share with you that we extended our partnership with Dartmouth College for another 3 years. As we provide a consistent presence on campus, the number of students, faculty, and staff seeking our support grows exponentially.



Dartmouth Memorial Field

We partnered with Dartmouth Athletics which helps us reach not only the Dartmouth Community, but also reaches our community at large. Look for our signs and tables at football, hockey, and basketball games. And listen to our WISE Words segments during game broadcasts on ESPN Radio 94.5 FM.

## WISE in the news

In a year where #metoo stories dominated the media, our experienced voice was as important as ever. Valley News, Vermont Digger, Seven Days, The Dartmouth, Image Magazine, Education Week, Men's Health Magazine, National Public Radio and The River (93.9 FM) all covered our work and reached out to us for our thoughts about gender-based violence. Check out our archives and visit [www.wiseuv.org/who-we-are.html#news](http://www.wiseuv.org/who-we-are.html#news).

Kaitlin Chamley



community engagement opportunities to children impacted by domestic or sexual violence. The WISE Not in Our House Scholarship Award was inspired by Natalie Perriello's commitment to education.

This past June, we were pleased to award not one, but two scholarships. Peggy O'Neil presented the Not in Our House scholarship award to graduating seniors Star Guzy and Kaitlin Chamley. Both seniors demonstrated an interest in understanding the issues of domestic and sexual violence as well as a strong commitment to ending the violence.

Star shared that she hopes to "educate and teach the past so we no longer have to repeat it, and pave a way to a safe, happy, violence-free, equal future, where no woman or child is scared or abused." Kaitlin shared that she hopes to "be a part of a change that values social justice

and awareness, and equality between races and genders." We are so proud of these young women and know that they will create positive and lasting change.

The NIOH Fund is continuously funded through the fundraising efforts of the Lebanon High School women's lacrosse team, Sara Ecker, and other donors. Many children have benefitted from the NIOH Fund through camp and after school activity scholarships.

## Our year in review

Every autumn, we like to pause and reflect on what our program staff and volunteers were able to accomplish throughout the year. We are inspired by the generosity of spirit and support of our WISE community. We could not do this work without the shared commitment of all of you. We are so grateful for the many ways that you show us time and time again that you stand with us in our mission to end gender-based violence.

This year, WISE provided support to 1,260 people within our communities. 67.4% were people who contacted WISE for the first time. We believe that this high percentage reflects an intentional strategy to increase our outreach efforts.

The Prevention and Education Program delivered 554 presentations, and reached 5,560 students. We added three new schools, spending time at Cardigan Mountain School, Crossroads Academy, and Wilder School. Our educators provided multi-session interactive presentations to students K-12 in 32 schools. One strategic priority was to increase the frequency of school visits, expanding our ability to share more intensive and comprehensive curriculum with each school.

## A WISE evaluation

Over a year ago, we announced that WISE was identified as unique because of the way our survivor-centered advocacy and our youth violence curricula influence each other. We partnered with Prevention Innovations Research Center (PIRC) at the University of New Hampshire to perform a 6-year evaluation study of our school-based curricula.



WISE prevention in progress

During these past months, we developed the controls, questions, and methodology so that we are able to effectively measure the impact of our curricula on skills and behaviors that impact relationships. It took a little longer than expected due to changes in state research requirements, but we officially began the evaluation this fall. The study will follow students in the Lebanon, Woodstock, and Windsor School Districts.



6th grade Lebanon Middle School student's poster

*"I learned a lot when WISE came. I learned what a healthy relationship looks like and what an abusive relationship looks like. I now know what I could do if a friend is in an abusive relationship and how to handle it.*

*If I'm in a relationship and it doesn't feel right, I now know what to do. It was helpful to hear about some examples of abusive relationships, at colleges, parties, and even schools. I think this topic is super important and many males and females should be educated on this topic." - Eliza Dodson*

## FY2018 by the numbers

### Advocacy Program

1,260 total people supported  
105 total people supported per month  
849 first time callers  
71 first time callers per month  
603 after-hours calls  
10,831 total crisis line calls

### Prevention and Education Program

32 schools  
9 school districts  
554 presentations  
5,560 students

### Professional Training

health professionals, law enforcement, educators  
47 presentations  
1,552 participants

### Community Engagement

court observers, ambassadors, volunteer advocates  
100+ active volunteers



Eliza Dodson and Laura Shands at Woodstock Union High School