

Dear Friends,

We have so much exciting news to share with you! With your help, we successfully raised over \$2,000,000 and closed out our growth and sustainability campaign. Congratulations and a huge thank you to all of you who helped us achieve our goal. The funds raised allow us to move forward and expand our vision for the organization.

Over the past 18 months, we carefully crafted the WISE strategic direction for the next five years. We are pleased to share it with all of you, our very WISE community.

We have already begun to put into action many of our strategic priorities. Our staff is larger than ever as we increase our capacity to respond to the needs of our Upper Valley communities. We look forward to keeping you informed as we create a stronger, healthier, and wiser community together.

Warm regards,

Peggy
Peggy



Save the Dates

WISE Women Writing
Wednesdays, May 29, June 5, 12, 19
5:30pm-7:00pm

Court Observers
Monday, June 3
9:00am-11:30am

Foundations of Gender-based Violence
Saturdays, June 15 and June 22

Please call 603-448-5922 to learn more.

Board Members

Jenny Williams, President
Kate Griffiths Harrison, Vice President
Patricia Spellman, Treasurer
Emily Dentzer, Secretary
Brian Edwards • Gail Gentes • Pat Glowa
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Peggy O'Neil, Executive Director
Allison Linke, Tuck Revers Board Fellow
Susan Dewees, Board Emeritus



highlights

May 2019

“I appreciate how WISE ties together the entire spectrum of gender-based violence, how it intersects with other forms of violence, and how ingrained it is in our society while still maintaining a sense of hope that there are specific actions we can take to work toward a better society.” - WISE Volunteer



a wiser community
campaign for growth & sustainability

A strong and successful finish

We are very pleased to share that we successfully completed our \$2,000,000 growth and sustainability campaign. Our public appeal in April helped bring us to the finish line!

The campaign consisted of three components: Organizational Growth and Capacity, Facilities Planning and Improvement, and Endowment. As we begin our next fiscal year on July 1st, we intend to leverage campaign funds to eliminate the mortgages on both of our buildings (the Program Center and the Safe Home) as well as to increase our endowment to a threshold which generates operating revenue. We will also utilize campaign funds to increase education staff as we further commit to community prevention work.

We are grateful for the tremendous participation - from both our faithful supporters and those who are new to our WISE community. We are always humbled by the incredible generosity of our own Upper Valley community.

Resources for WISE adults

Check out our redesigned prevention section on the website (wiseuv.org/prevention/#wise-parents). Curious about how to respond when your middle-schooler says they are ready to date or what to do when you do not like your teenager's bae? Explore ways to help them develop skills to have safe and healthy relationships. We include grade-specific info sheets about what we teach, things to consider, conversation starters, and links to our favorite resources.

Follow our education-focused Instagram and subscribe to our email newsletters that include an educational component for adults.

We want you to learn about what we teach students in the classroom and understand why it is important. There are many big and little ways you can support the youth in your lives.

WISE is social

There are more ways to connect with WISE! We recently launched Instagram as part of our strategy to connect with young people outside the classroom. The content is relevant to people of all ages, and complements our other communications. Follow us on Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter @WISEuv.

Partnering with wiser businesses

When considering how to prevent sexual harassment in the workplace, many of us only focus on policies. Our Prevention and Education team is working with local businesses to think beyond the policy.

We are collaborating with local businesses to engage in conversations about workplace culture. The training format is easily tailored to specific sectors and employee roles, and focuses on creating environments that promote positive and respectful interaction between colleagues and customers.

Giving businesses the opportunity to think proactively about all of the possibilities for making their workplace vibrant, safe, and encouraging for everyone is an exciting opportunity for our Prevention and Education team.

We look forward to adapting the business training model throughout the Upper Valley. Contact us for more information.



Sexual Violence Awareness Month at DHMC

Looking to our future: WISE Strategic Direction 2019-2024

Over the past ten years, we intentionally focused on developing a strong organizational foundation to prepare for bold growth and community impact. In 2018, we initiated a comprehensive planning process to shape and articulate the strategic direction for the organization. The WISE Board of Directors, staff, and volunteers engaged in multiple discussions and we are very grateful to the dozens of community stakeholders who provided valuable insights through dynamic focus groups. We are pleased to present our leading areas of focus and the accompanying operational priorities. Our path forward is aspirational and achievable.

Community Engagement for Social Change

- Build communications expertise and capacity related to gender-based violence
- Ensure meaningful presence within 21 communities of service area
- Engage more survivors and community members to create greater community impact and change



Chelsea in the classroom at Cardigan Mountain School

Survivor-Centered Advocacy

- Increase and strengthen housing options for survivors
- Expand legal services for survivors
- Develop youth-focused advocacy services
- Build broader and easier access to WISE advocacy
- Continue commitment to systems and institutional advocacy

As we move towards our 50th anniversary, we have identified 5 leading areas for attention. Each area has strategic priorities and is interdependent on the others for success. The identified priorities will help shape how we allocate resources and connect with community partners over the coming years. Our path forward remains firmly grounded in our commitment to lead the Upper Valley to end gender-based violence.



WISE Board, staff, and volunteers



New sign on Advance Transit

Innovative Leadership to End Gender-based Violence

- Deepen prevention-based programming
- Develop youth leadership on issues related to gender-based violence
- Teach and train community partners on WISE advocacy and prevention model
- Assert the value and impact of our experience as survivor advocacy organization in creating social change

Buildings and Program Space

- Plan Phase III renovations for Program Center
- Ensure proper maintenance of Program Center and Safe Home



WISE Program Center

Organizational Sustainability and Growth

- Increase the number of new supporters
- Expand giving and engagement options for supporters
- Steward endowment growth
- Improve reporting and analysis capabilities