

Dear Friends,

Twenty years ago when I joined WISE as its new Executive Director, staff told me that they wanted WISE to come out from behind closed doors, to become more accessible to survivors, and to become more widely known and trusted in our community. WISE staff was, and still is, truly wise. We strengthened and expanded our advocacy and prevention education programs, added the Welcoming All Nationalities Network, and created the Multi-Disciplinary Interview and Training Center. We purchased and renovated our Program Center, Safe Home and Jane's Place. Our bold staff has grown to 20+ people, our volunteers are a growing group of caring community members, and our Board of Directors, then and now, are committed, kind, and smart people who have stewarded WISE's growth and sustainability so graciously.

For many of us, change and the hope of new experiences is energizing. For some of us, change can be scary and full of unknowns. Someone who walks into our shelter or through the doors of our Program Center for the first time might not yet be able to feel safe or experience the hope of new possibilities. And so, even as WISE adapts, grows and evolves as an organization, we remain steadfast in our survivor-centered approach and we humbly honor our grassroots beginnings.

Our role in the Upper Valley is to be a trusted and caring place for people who are not safe, and for whom stability is elusive. Our role, also, is to inspire, encourage, inform and invite more people to join us to end violence, share hope, and change lives. We are able to do this because of your strong and consistent support, always believing in our mission and affirming that together we can create a more peaceful Upper Valley.

Warm regards,

Peggy
Peggy



Save the Dates

2023 Annual Meeting
Tuesday, May 23rd
5:00-6:30 pm

WISE Connections
Wednesdays 5:30-7:00 pm
rebekah@wiseuv.org for more details

Covered Bridges Half Marathon
Sunday, June 4, 2022

Board Members

Martha Goodrich, Chair
Kate Harrison, Vice Chair
Margaret Rightmire, Treasurer
Gail Gentes, Secretary
Angela Zhang • Jason Lichtenstein
Jenny Levy • Jenny Williams
Karen Colberg • Mike Shipulski
Mindi Laine • Pat Glowa
Patricia Spellman • Sherice McCarthy-Hill
Peggy O'Neil, Executive Director
Susan Dewees, Board Emeritus
Sandhya Rajaramana and Will Indvik,
Tuck Revers Board Fellows

highlights

Issue 16



“WISE is the reason I am free. Free of abuse, free from domestic violence, free. They're always there for me. No matter what.” - survivor

Meeting with a WISE advocate

Our mighty team of WISE advocates are always here for people experiencing gender-based violence. They are highly-skilled, creative, caring, and committed. We caught up with Bailey, Campus Advocacy Coordinator, for a friendly chat and wanted to share. Bailey joined WISE staff in 2018. She is co-located at the WISE Program Center and on the Dartmouth Campus.



Bailey, Campus Advocacy Coordinator

What brought you to WISE?

I spent the first 10 years of my career in higher education. I've done administration, taught, assisted in research, and supported curriculum development at the graduate level. For the most part, I worked in the marketing and online content development. The degree programs I supported were largely rooted in social impact; the school's mission was to create change agents through the arts and social sciences. I was drawn to the mission-based work, but over time I felt disconnected from direct impact.

After deciding my dog and I were destined for the fresher air and greener pastures of Vermont, I started looking at careers in the Upper Valley. Having grown up in the area, I knew of WISE and its formal partnership with Dartmouth to provide advocacy services. When the Campus Advocacy Coordinator role became available, I considered my experience and understanding of higher education, my desire to work directly with others, and my desire to work for a feminist organization that promotes the health of my home community. Luckily for me, it all lined up.

What part of your job do you find most inspiring?

I'm truly inspired by the mission and culture of WISE as an organization. This is a deeply thoughtful, smart, nimble, compassionate, and reflective group of people who each bring a unique set of skills, perspectives, experiences, and ways of living into the ideals of advocacy, prevention, and social change. We are all firmly rooted in the communities we serve, and bring not only a desire to create safer and healthier spaces, but a personal investment in treating our home well. We not only respond to violence through advocacy and prevention work; we also have a vision for change that we work towards in each of our daily tasks, interactions, and initiatives.

Above all, of course, is the resilience of the survivors we work with. I am reminded each day of the capacity for us all to not only survive and get our basic needs met, but our very human impulse to thrive. In working with campus survivors, I have learned that students are very invested in the health of their own small communities, from their clubs and teams to their Greek houses. They want health, justice, safety, and equity in all spaces, and they work really hard to build that in their time on campus. They are mindful of who they want to be, which inspires me to strive for the same.

If you could get rid of one thing from your daily routine, what would it be?

Having just had a baby a few months ago, this is a loaded question! I try to find joy in all things in my daily routine, from flossing to changing diapers. That said, having to come up with what to eat for dinner every single day takes up an inordinate amount of space in my brain. I love food - I love to grow it, cook it, and eat it - but if I never had to hear "What do you want for dinner tonight" ever again, I would be *thrilled*.

Unexpected surprises

There have been so many cool ways that our community shows up for WISE. To the group of people who collectively walked, ran, cycled, skied, and snowshoed over 1,000 miles, to the high school clubs and teams who hold bake sales, to the local businesses who table, coordinate item drives, and include WISE in their golf tournaments - all these unique and creative ways that you fundraise for WISE matters. Your efforts bring awareness to gender-based violence, show survivors that their community cares, inspire us, and bring us joy.



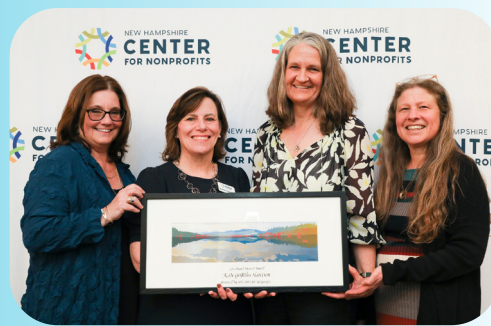
Hanover High School Feminism Club Bake Sale

Congratulations Kate!

On April 11th, the NH Center for Nonprofits honored Kate Griffiths Harrison as the recipient of the 2023 New Hampshire Board Impact Award. A WISE group of Board, staff, and family travelled to Concord to join in the celebration.

For ten years, Kate has served as an after-hours volunteer advocate. In 2019, she joined the WISE Board and currently serves as the Vice Chair of the Board and Chair of the Governance Committee.

Kate has a beautiful willingness to push herself out of her comfort zone, to be curious in our work, and to always be examining what can and should be improved. Whether as Board member, volunteer, staff cheerleader, or friend, Kate encourages and inspires others to do the same. A well-deserved recognition indeed.



From left: Peggy O'Neil, WISE Executive Director; Kathleen Reardon, CEO of NH Center for Nonprofits; Kate Harrison, WISE Board Vice Chair; Stacey Glazer, WISE Program Operations Manager

Ways to engage

We value community participation and engagement. There are many ways that you can get involved and join us in our mission to end gender-based violence.

Learn. Our WISE booklets and materials are available to you at no cost. We offer customized workshops and training within a range of issues upon request. Email kate@wiseuv.org for more information.

Volunteer. We offer several volunteer roles and opportunities. We train community members to support the crisis line after hours and represent WISE at community events. Email volunteers@wiseuv.org.

Follow us. Share your email address and start receiving our monthly newsletter. Email marketing@wiseuv.org to sign up. Follow us @WISEuv on Instagram and Facebook and keep connected in real time.

Create a fundraising event or donation drive. Community members often create fundraising events or facilitate donation drives. Let us know and we can provide materials for your event. Email development@wiseuv.org.