

### Program Overview

The Sexual Assault Center of Family Services provides services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for victims of sexual assault and their families and friends. Services are confidential and free of charge, and provided to anyone regardless of age, race, or gender. Support services include crisis intervention, supportive counseling, follow-up assistance, support groups, medical and legal advocacy, and community education to reduce the occurrence of sexual assault.

### Who We Serve

Men, women, and children of any age throughout Brown, Door, Oconto, and Marinette Counties whose lives have been affected by sexual abuse or assault. **2009: 1,473 primary and secondary victims assisted.**

### A Story of Success

At the young age of 16, Margaret was the victim of sexual assaults in two counties by two different offenders. She became involved with the Sexual Assault Center through the investigation process and decided to file charges against her offenders.

Due to a number of family dynamics, Margaret and her mother relied on their Sexual Assault Center advocate for rides to each of the county's court appearances. Though her family was supportive and available when they could be, Margaret's father had serious health issues and was physically disabled; her stepmother had just started a new job and was unable to take repeated time off of work. Their advocate was the sole transportation for most court appearances and Margaret came to rely on her for support when her parents were unable to attend.

The court appearances extended over a two year period. Her Sexual Assault Center advocate provided court support for 20 appearances during that time, totalling nearly 37 hours. For some appearances, Margaret was present; for others the advocate acted on her behalf. She also had family support for some of the hardest court events, including her preliminary hearing.

Throughout the process, Margaret's advocate assisted her and her family with understanding and completing the necessary court paperwork. She also helped prepare the family for sentencing and was able to minimize re-victimization by coordinating a pre-sentence investigation meeting that would cover both counties at one time.

The Sexual Assault Center advocate has stayed in contact with her after sentencing and through the appeal process. Emotionally, Margaret has improved dramatically over time. She is now a survivor; she is setting goals and consistently reaching them. She has learned personal safety skills and through the help of her advocate, has lessened her chances of becoming a victim again in the future.

*The Sexual Assault Center has offices at 300 Crooks Street in Green Bay, 827 N 8th Avenue in Sturgeon Bay, 512 Brazeau Avenue in Oconto, and 1907 Ella Court in Marinette.*

*The above story is an example of the type of children, individuals and families we serve. Names, ages, and other personal information have been changed to protect the client's confidentiality.*

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