

The background is a detailed painting of a single-story house with a stone and siding exterior. The house has large windows and a gabled roof. In the foreground, there is a lush garden with many orange and pink flowers. The sky is a mix of dark, stormy clouds and a bright, golden sunset glow. A vibrant rainbow arches across the upper right portion of the sky. The overall mood is peaceful and hopeful.

The Caring Place

October
2026

It takes a village

www.thecaringplacenwi.org

24 hr Crisis Hotline: (219) 464-2128

Admin Building: (219) 464-0840

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DOMBY

Dear Friends,

For nearly five decades, The Caring Place has been here because people in our community believed this work was worth protecting. They gave their time, opened their hearts, raised funds, advocated for survivors, and built something that has continued to grow from one generation to the next. Today, it is our turn to think about what the next chapter of that legacy will look like.

The work we do is not always easy. We meet people during some of the most difficult moments of their lives, and every day I watch our staff show up with compassion, patience, strength, and an unwavering commitment to the people we serve. I am incredibly proud of them, and equally grateful for the community that continues to stand behind them.

As we look toward the future, we are focused not only on meeting today's needs, but on ensuring The Caring Place remains strong for years to come. That means building financial stability, caring for the place our residents call home, and creating a foundation that allows this organization to weather uncertainty while continuing to provide safety and support when it is needed most.

We have been given an incredible opportunity to begin doing just that. The McMillan family has generously offered to match up to \$100,000 raised by our community. If we reach our goal, together we can turn \$100,000 into \$200,000 toward strengthening the future of The Caring Place. Alongside this match, we are launching new giving opportunities and campaigns that invite our community to become part of our future in meaningful and sustainable ways. Whether someone chooses to give monthly, support a campaign, attend an event, volunteer, advocate for our mission, or simply share our story, every act of support helps keep this work moving forward.

The Caring Place has never belonged to just one person or one generation. It has been carried forward by thousands of people who believed survivors deserved somewhere safe to turn. To our supporters, partners, volunteers, Board, and especially our staff: thank you for believing in this mission and for continuing to show up for the work that is difficult, necessary, and deeply meaningful.

Together, we are not simply preserving the legacy of The Caring Place. We are building its future.

Warmly,

Jessica Luth

PRESIDENT & CEO

Jess' Note

"As we look toward the future, we are focused not only on meeting today's needs, but on ensuring The Caring Place remains strong for years to come."





PRESENTED BY

*Kathryn and
Stewart McMillan*

This year's Art with Heart was one for the books! Thanks to the incredible generosity of our guests, artists, sponsors, partners, volunteers, and community, we celebrated our most successful Art with Heart to date, raising more than ever before in support of The Caring Place and the survivors we serve.

But the impact of the evening went far beyond fundraising. Art with Heart gave us the opportunity to welcome new friends into our community, share the realities of domestic violence, and shine a light on our mission to break the silence that hides the violence... all through an evening centered around creativity, expression, and connection.

From beautiful artwork and an unforgettable atmosphere to the debut of a signature cocktail that was brand new to the country, so many special details came together to make the evening extraordinary. None of it would have been possible without the community partners who helped us bring our vision to life and the talented artists who generously shared their creativity for our cause.

We are also incredibly grateful for our Caring Place team, who poured so much heart, time, and energy into every detail of this event. To everyone who attended, donated, created, sponsored, partnered, volunteered, or cheered us on, thank you for putting your heart into Art with Heart. We cannot wait to see what we create together next year!





Click here
to be a part
of our legacy!



50 for the Future

THE CARING PLACE'S
LIVING LEGACY

**BECOME A LEGACY PARTNER THROUGH 50 FOR THE FUTURE.
YOUR RECURRING GIFT OF \$50 EACH MONTH PROVIDES
DEPENDABLE SUPPORT THAT HELPS THE CARING PLACE SERVE
INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES EVERY DAY OF THE YEAR.**

OCTOBER IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

SHOP OUR SUPPORTER GOODS

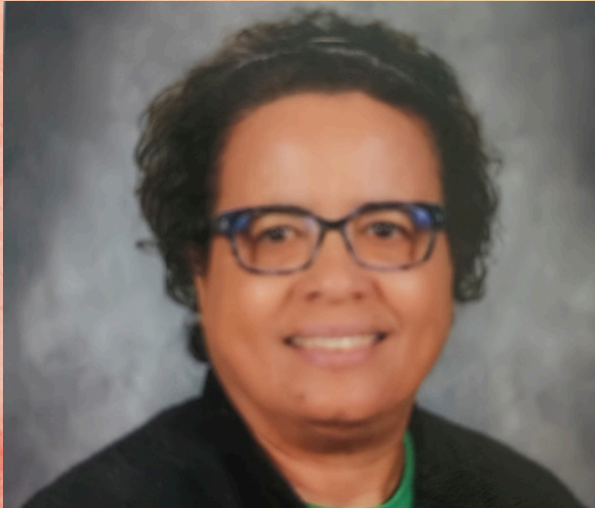


Coming Soon!
Follow us on Socials
to keep up



THE PEOPLE OF TCP

October 2026



OLGA

Olga has been part of The Caring Place for 11 months, providing client services and support while helping maintain a safe, welcoming, and respectful environment. Her role includes assisting clients, answering crisis calls, completing crisis forms, responding to client needs, and providing Spanish-language interpretation when needed. For Olga, working at The Caring Place is a privilege and an opportunity to be there for people when they need support most. She values being part of creating an environment where every client who comes through our doors can feel welcomed, respected, and safe.



ALEX

Alex joined The Caring Place four months ago as our Shelter Coordinator, a role that truly involves a little bit of everything. From keeping the shelter stocked with groceries to guiding new residents through the intake process. Before joining our team, Alex worked in hospice, where she learned the importance of simply being present and listening during some of life's most difficult moments. She sees that same impact at The Caring Place: in the relief on a new resident's face as they begin to feel safe and supported, or when a shy child finally feels comfortable enough to relax and play.



"I am incredibly proud to work alongside a team whose compassion, empathy, and dedication continually inspire me."



BLANCHARD

Hunter Blanchard, a Porter County Officer, has worked alongside The Caring Place for two and a half years, providing overnight security and an extra layer of support for our shelter. During his shifts, Hunter monitors cameras, walks the property, assists with crisis calls and intake forms, and lends a hand wherever he is needed. To Hunter, The Caring Place is much more than a domestic violence shelter. It is a place where survivors can find guidance, advocacy, and compassion, even when that support is simply a kind word during an incredibly difficult time. "I hope one day everyone in our community can see the incredible work The Caring Place does. I'm proud to have the opportunity to work alongside this team."

A NEW PLACE TO JUST BE A KID

THERE IS SOMETHING SPECIAL HAPPENING IN THE BACKYARD AT THE CARING PLACE!

THANKS TO THE GENEROSITY OF HOWARD GUTENSTEIN AND THE GUTENSTEIN FAMILY FOUNDATION, THE CHILDREN STAYING AT OUR SHELTER NOW HAVE A BRAND-NEW SWING SET, SOMETHING OUR PROPERTY HAD NEVER HAD BEFORE. AND, IN TRUE CARING PLACE FASHION, BRINGING IT TO LIFE WAS A TEAM EFFORT. MEMBERS OF THE VALPARAISO HIGH SCHOOL BOYS SOCCER TEAM VOLUNTEERED THEIR TIME AND MUSCLE TO HELP PREPARE THE SITE ALONGSIDE OUR NEW EMPLOYEE, KASEY HOAG, AND HER HUSBAND, PAT. EVERYONE PITCHED IN.

THE EXCITEMENT FROM OUR FAMILIES WHEN THEY SAW THE NEW SWING SET SAID IT ALL. FOR CHILDREN EXPERIENCING CIRCUMSTANCES FAR BEYOND THEIR YEARS, HAVING A PLACE WHERE NOTHING IS EXPECTED OF THEM EXCEPT TO PLAY AND BE A KID MEANS MORE THAN WE CAN SAY. WE ARE INCREDIBLY GRATEFUL TO HOWARD AND THE GUTENSTEIN FAMILY FOUNDATION FOR MAKING THIS POSSIBLE, AND TO EVERY PERSON WHO HELPED PREPARE THE SPACE. THIS IS HUGE PART OF WHAT THE CARING PLACE IS ALL ABOUT. CREATING SAFE SPACES FOR FAMILIES.



HELLO OCTOBER & UPCOMING EVENTS



CLICK HERE
TO LEARN
MORE

Moonlight Soirée

We're excited to introduce a brand-new Caring Place event...

An October Night Out to Sip • Shop • Stroll!

Grab your friends and join us for a beautiful fall evening in downtown Valparaiso.

Guests will make their way through participating local shops, bars, and restaurants, enjoying special stops, featured sips, shopping, and a little magic along the way.

Proceeds from tickets will benefit The Caring Place and our work supporting survivors of domestic violence and sexual harm.



Get ready to dress up, light up the dance floor, and BINGO like it's 1977! Black Tie Bingo is returning in 2027 with a Studio 54-inspired evening full of disco, glamour, and giving back. Guests can look forward to an unforgettable night featuring rounds of bingo, exciting prizes, a silent auction, cocktails, dinner, and plenty of BINGO... have fun with the theme and come dressed up! Behind all the sparkle is a purpose that matters. Every ticket purchased, game played, and dollar raised helps The Caring Place's mission.



We're thrilled to bring The Caring Place Cookie Walk back to Downtown Valparaiso for its second year! This festive community event invites guests to stroll through downtown, visit participating local businesses, and fill their boxes with delicious cookies and treats for an afternoon of fun and holiday magic! After an incredible first year, we're making Cookie Walk 2026 even sweeter! We are incredibly grateful to our sponsors, participating businesses, and community partners who help make this event possible. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor for The Caring Place's Cookie Walk please email deanad@thecaringplacenwi.org to get up!



MCMILLAN SPONSORSHIP MATCH

We are incredibly grateful to the McMillan family for an extraordinary matching gift opportunity that will help strengthen the future of The Caring Place. If our community comes together to raise \$100,000, the McMillans will match it, dollar for dollar. These funds will help build a strong reserve for The Caring Place, giving our organization greater stability and helping ensure our shelter remains a safe, welcoming and beautiful place for survivors and their children for years to come. This is about more than reaching a fundraising goal. It's about protecting the legacy of The Caring Place and making sure the doors that have offered safety and hope for generations can remain open for generations to come. Together, we have the opportunity to turn \$100,000 into \$200,000 for the future of The Caring Place.



Join The Caring Place
LEGACY

As The Caring Place approaches 50 years of serving our community, we are reflecting on the people who made this work possible and looking for those who want to help carry it forward.

Right now, there is an incredible opportunity to make that support go even further. Gifts toward our reserve fund can help us take advantage of the McMillan matching opportunity of up to \$100,000, helping us build a stronger foundation for the future.

FOR MORE INFO EMAIL:
kaseyh@thecaringplacenwi.org

MISSION SPOTLIGHT

ERICA DOMBY
BOARD MEMBER


FORMER CLIENT & CURRENT BOARD MEMBER

PRESS PLAY TO WATCH ERICA'S FULL STORY

Content Note: This video includes a personal account of domestic violence and leaving an abusive relationship. Please watch with care.

2 0 2 6 S P O N S O R S H I P S

DIAMOND

GUTENSTEIN HERITAGE
ANDERSON FOUNDATION
PCCF
FIRST SOURCE

PLATINUM

BMO
KEN ALLEN
CLEAVLAND CLIFFS

GOLD

OAK PARTNERS
URSCHEL LABS
JOANNE URSCHER
CROWN POINT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
LEGACY FOUNDATION

SILVER

MISS MOLLY FOUNDATION
CENTIER
US FEDERAL CREDIT UNION
REGIONAL FEDERAL

BRONZE

DELTA THETA TAU & DELTA DUDES • HORIZON • BOZAK FAMILY CHRISTMAS LIGHTS • AMANDA BACH REMEMBERED
POWERS HEALTH • NORTHWEST HEALTH • FIRST SOURCE • KAPPA KAPPA KAPPA IOTA • VON TOBEL • LEGACY
FOUNDATION • BE LIKE KEEGAN • FRANSICAN SIPP