

# The Caring Place



February  
2026

It takes a village  
[www.thecaringplacenwi.org](http://www.thecaringplacenwi.org)  
24 hr Crisis Hotline: (219) 464-2128  
Admin Building: (219) 464-0840

# Table of CONTENTS



02

## JESS' NOTE

A NOTE FROM OUR CEO  
JESSICA LUTH



03

## THE HOLIDAYS AT TCP

BOZAK CHRISTMAS LIGHTS  
COOKIE WALK 2025  
HOLIDAY GATHERINGS



04

## THE PEOPLE OF TCP

STAFF & BOARD MEMBER  
HIGHLIGHT



05

## HOW TO GIVE & BLACK TIE BINGO

GIVE IN THE NAME OF LOVE THIS  
VALENTINE'S SEASON  
& BLACK TIE BINGO 2026... BACK AND  
BETTER THAN EVER!



06

## WHAT'S IN STORE FOR FEBRUARY

FUNDRAISERS  
PARTNERSHIPS &  
AWARENESS



07

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT & SPONSORSHIPS

HENRY & MARY ALICE  
KOEHLER  
&  
A LOOK AT OUR 2026  
SPONSORS

We're excited to be participating in Target Circle, a community giving program that lets Target shoppers give back, at no cost to you! By voting for us with your Target Circle votes, you help us receive funding to support our shelter and those we serve. Simply open the Target app, find Target Circle, (make sure your ZIP code is set to 46383) and cast your votes for The Caring Place! Every eligible Target purchase = 1 vote, and every vote counts!

We're a **Target Circle** participant and here's how you can vote for us.



1 Choose  
My Target



2 Tap  
Cast votes



3 Find us &  
vote

# JESS' NOTE

*“Giving in honor of someone you love keeps their impact moving forward.”*

---



Dear Friends,

At the core of who we are is a belief that caring for one another truly matters.

Giving has a way of slowing us down and bringing us back to what's important. It reminds us that we're connected, that our lives overlap in ways we don't always notice, and that even small acts of generosity can make a real difference. When we give with intention, something shifts inside us. We feel more present. More grateful. More open.

I've seen how generosity can change a person... not just the one receiving it, but the one offering it, too. Giving can restore a sense of purpose and strengthen our emotional well-being.

It helps us feel rooted in something bigger than ourselves and reminds us that we belong. Our community is shaped by this spirit. Each act of kindness adds to the care we share and helps create a place where people feel supported and seen.

As you think about the people who matter most in your life, I invite you to consider honoring someone you love through a donation. Giving in their name is a meaningful way to celebrate their impact while helping others along the way. It's an act of love that carries forward.

Thank you for being here. Thank you for caring. I'm grateful to be part of a community that leads with heart.

Warmly,

PRESIDENT & CEO



# Happy holidays



Holiday House Party at The Caring Place



Treats donated from Twisted Sugar in Valpo



Holiday Staff Party at Peddlers



The Caring Place Cookie Walk



Bozak Christmas Lights



Cookie Walk Guests



Thrivent donated Squishmallows

# THE PEOPLE OF TCP

The Caring Place  
Meet our staff and board



## KEARSTEN EASTRIDGE

As a survivor of domestic violence herself... Kearsten, our Shelter Coordinator brings deep empathy and steady leadership to The Caring Place each day. From quiet check-ins to big milestones- like handing a family the keys to their first safe home- she walks alongside survivors as they rebuild their lives. Much of her work happens behind the scenes, creating a safe, supportive environment where healing can begin. On the hardest days, she shows up simply by being present, knowing that sometimes that matters most. Her work is grounded in one belief: independence is the path to lasting safety, and no one has to walk that path alone.



## JACOB DUVALL

Jacob, our Transportation Specialist, saw a simple but critical barrier for survivors. Essential things like... running an errand. Daily things that many of us take for granted. Whether he's driving across the county or sitting quietly with a client after tough news.... Jacob is a supportive ally. He's often the first person clients celebrate with after good news, and sometimes the steady presence they need after hard moments. His work keeps people moving forward and reminds them that they're not alone on the road ahead.

“

“There's a light at the end of the tunnel and that there's people out there that care and truthfully do want to see you succeed.”

- Jacob Duvall



## JOE ARROYO

Meet Joe, a dedicated member of our Board of Directors and the current Chair of our Development Committee. Joe joined the board one year ago after a coffee chat with the former CEO. Inspired by her passion and leadership, and feeling the full-circle connection through former mentor Bill Bach and The Amanda Forum... Joe knew this was the right fit. When he's not helping steer fundraising efforts, Joe enjoys spending time with his wife, children, and dog, especially outdoors! One fun fact you might not know... Joe once brought the house down performing the Napoleon Dynamite dance in his 8th-grade talent show. We're grateful for the heart and humor Joe brings to The Caring Place!



**HONOR THE ONE  
YOU LOVE WITH A  
GIFT THAT TRULY MATTERS.**

A one-time gift of \$25 helps provide safe shelter, essential resources, and compassionate care. Choose a Valentine's gift that reaches beyond flowers and chocolate. Simply scan the QR code and donate today!



**CLICK  
HERE TO  
SHARE THE  
LOVE**

**THIS VALENTINE'S DAY  
GIVE IN HONOR OF YOUR SWEETHEART**



**THE CARING PLACE**  
*Center for Change*



Black Tie Bingo is The Caring Place's Spring Fundraising event. A night dedicated to raising awareness and support for survivors of domestic violence across NWI.

This year's event will take guests back to the roaring twenties with a Great Gatsby themed evening full of elegance, entertainment, and excitement. Guests will enjoy an interactive dinner experience, lively rounds of bingo, and opportunities to connect with others who share a passion for creating a safe and peaceful community.

*Click here  
to purchase your  
tickets*

**BLACK  
TIE  
BINGO  
2026**

**MARCH 13, 2026  
5PM - 10PM  
300 GUESTS MAX  
\$125 PER TICKET  
HARRE UNION  
VALPARAISO  
UNIVERSITY**

# HELLO FEBRUARY



CLICK  
TO LEARN  
MORE



## DELTA DUDES SPOTLIGHT

Rex Richards is stepping into the spotlight as a contestant in the 2026 Delta Dudes Charity Pageant, competing to raise the most funds for a great cause. This high-energy event brings together community leaders for a night of fun, friendly competition, and philanthropy. Every dollar donated in Rex's name goes directly toward helping make a difference and could help crown him Delta Dude! Join us in cheering Rex on and supporting an unforgettable evening for our community.

## TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH



CLICK  
TO LEARN  
ABOUT  
AMANDA FORUM



February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month (TDVAM), a nationwide effort to raise awareness about healthy relationships and to prevent teen dating abuse before it starts. Dating violence is more common than many people realize. 1 in 3 teens in America are experiencing abuse in a relationship before adulthood. This year's theme, "Real Love Respects," highlights that respect is non-negotiable in healthy relationships. It should feel safe, honest, and affirming for everyone involved. We're honored to support this important cause and to invite local schools to our Amanda Forum every April, where we'll continue the conversation about building respectful, healthy relationships in our community.

Mike, the owner of Geitonia Greek Grill, has always believed that food brings people together, and that supporting your neighbor is just as important as serving a great meal. This February, **Geitonia is giving back to The Caring Place by donating \$1 for every quart of soup purchased**, helping support families and individuals right here in our community. It's a simple way to turn a comforting meal into meaningful impact. We're grateful to partner with Mike and the Geitonia team, and we invite you to support this local business that continues to show up for Northwest Indiana. Order soup, feed your family, and help make a difference, one quart at a time.

**Geitonia**  
greek grill

## Feed the Family This February

# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

THE KOEHLER  
FAMILY



When Henry and Mary Alice Koehler first walked through the doors of The Caring Place in 1996, they had no idea it would become a decades-long family tradition. During volunteer training, they learned that Henry's natural "fix-it" skills filled a real need at the shelter. That simple connection was all it took. They were hooked. What started as one evening a week doing small repairs quickly became a steady presence behind the scenes. Over the years, Henry's toolbox has logged countless miles, following him wherever something needed attention or a steady hand. The work wasn't flashy, but it mattered... and it kept The Caring Place running smoothly for the people who needed it most. As time went on, the Koehler's commitment grew beyond the two of them. When their grandchildren were old enough to help, they wanted in. Joe joined the crew in 2015, followed by Calvin in 2016 and Harry in 2017. Even now, when school schedules allow, they still return during breaks to lend a hand. Their parents, Kristin and Mark McMurtrey, often join larger projects too, turning volunteer days into true family workdays. For the Koehler family, one of the most meaningful moments came in September 2019 with the opening of the new shelter, a milestone they had the privilege of witnessing after years of service. But just as meaningful are the quieter moments: working side by side, finishing a task together, and sharing the satisfaction that comes from doing something useful for others. Volunteering has given the Koehlers more than a way to give back. It has given them time together, shared purpose, and a sense of connection that spans generations. As they put it simply, being a volunteer is its own reward. Every time they show up, they leave feeling they have received more than they have given. Their story is a reminder that sometimes the most powerful impact comes from showing up consistently, bringing what you have, and inviting the people you love to join you along the way.

## 2026 SPONSORSHIPS

### PLATINUM

GUTENSTEIN HERITAGE  
FIRST SOURCE FOUNDATION  
BMO  
ANDERSON FOUNDATION

### GOLD

TJX FOUNDATION  
URSCHEL LABS  
OAK PARTNERS  
STRACK & VAN TIL

### SILVER

MISS MOLLY FOUNDATION  
O'MEARA CHARITABLE FOUNDATION  
PORTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION  
CENTIER

### BRONZE

DELTA THETA TAU & DELTA DUDES • HARD ROCK CASINO NORTHERN INDIANA • HORIZON • BOZAK FAMILY  
CHRISTMAS LIGHTS • AMANDA BACH REMEMBERED • POWERS HEALTH • NORTHWEST HEALTH • FIRST SOURCE  
KAPPA KAPPA KAPPA IOTA • VON TOBEL • LEGACY FOUNDATION • ROTARY