

Dear Friends,

Fall for us at WISE is about endings and beginnings. As our fiscal year closes, we love sharing with all of you what we accomplish because of the unwavering support we receive from you in so many different ways.

We continue to be curious about the many issues that impact survivors and to strengthen our Upper Valley community response. By offering new WISE co-locations and new programs, we can better address the needs of survivors. As we work side-by-side with other organizations and systems, we are able to offer a lens through which our community partners can see the intersectionality of gender-based violence.

And yet, despite all the data, research, and work that we do, many people are still struggling to understand. They do not believe survivors, they are not listening. Too many people are falling through the cracks and getting hurt. Chanel Miller. Dr. Blasey Ford. The survivors of R. Kelly. The survivors of Epstein. #metoo. We have so much more work to do. Thank you for joining us in our efforts to shift our culture and end gender-based violence.

Warmly,


Peggy



Save the dates

WISE Writing Group
Wednesdays 5:30-7:00 pm

***The Great American Lie* Film Screening**
November 14 6:30 pm

Covered Bridges Half Marathon
Early registration for Team WISE
November 18 7:00 am

A WISE Book Tour
***Big Little Lies*, by Liane Moriarty**
November 19 6:30 pm

Foundations of Gender-Based Violence
Starting March 3 6:00-8:30 pm
Supporting Survivors begins March 24

Court Observers
March 16 9:00-11:30 am

RVC Spinathon
March 21 9:00 am

Board Members

Jenny Williams, President
Kate Griffiths Harrison, Vice President
Patricia Spellman, Treasurer
Emily Dentzer, Secretary
Brian Edwards
Gail Gentes
Pat Glowa
Martha Goodrich
Mindi Laine
Sharin Luti
Giavanna Munafo
Margaret Rightmire
Gretchen Rittenhouse
Mike Shipulski
Peggy O'Neil, Executive Director
Susan Dewees, Board Emeritus



“FETI made me realize that we could really change survivors’ negative experiences with systems. Interviews could actually facilitate victims’ ability to talk about the event as they experienced it, and be a vehicle for victims to be truly heard.”

– Abby Tassel, Director
WISE Multidisciplinary Interview and Training Center

What is FETI?

Forensic Experiential Trauma Interview (FETI) is an innovative approach to interviewing victims. FETI provides interviewers with a science-informed interviewing framework that maximizes opportunities for information collection and accurately documents the participant’s experience in a neutral, equitable, and fair manner.

Key differences between FETI and traditional interviewing techniques:

FETI Interviewing	Traditional Interviewing
Gathers psychological evidence	Uses who, what, where, when, why and how questions
Uses the same methodology for victims, witnesses, and suspects	Blurs the line between interviewing and interrogation
Uses brain-based cues	Requires sequencing, linear memory
Empathic listening	Doesn’t explore impact or context

Improving legal criminal systems

This fall, we officially opened the WISE Multidisciplinary Interview and Training Center (MITC) in White River Junction. MITC staff will provide FETI interviews for victims of domestic violence in northern Windsor County, VT, offer outreach and training to help build law enforcement’s capacity to provide trauma-informed responses to victims, and maintain a cohort of experts to testify in court. This innovative and distinct program coupled with our advocacy allows WISE as an organization to more fully support survivors.

The criminal legal system can be particularly difficult for people who have experienced trauma. By utilizing a more survivor-centered approach, we can begin to more effectively support victims, eliminate some of the challenges to the investigation and prosecution of domestic violence crimes, and reduce the experiences of secondary trauma for survivors. As our society becomes more aware of the neurobiology and impact of trauma, new interview techniques have been developed to capture the experience of trauma survivors and move away from the kinds of questioning that leave victims feeling blamed, unheard, and unintentionally encourages information that satisfies the interviewer. Forensic Experiential Trauma Interviewing (FETI) is a leader in this emerging field and through this innovative approach, victims can share their experiences of traumatic victimization, and the criminal legal system can access more useful information for investigative and prosecution work.

MITC, a unique collaboration between WISE, the Windsor County State’s Attorney’s office, the Windsor County Unit for Special Investigations and Hartford and Woodstock Police Departments, is an innovative project that has people across the country interested in the possibilities for this new model.

To learn more: visit www.certifiedfeti.com



Volunteer spotlight: Carissa in her own words

“Volunteering for WISE gives me hope that as a community we can overcome gender-based violence and not normalize it through victim-blaming and cultural norms. Volunteering continues to strengthen my sense of empowerment, something that victims of sexual and domestic violence can have taken from them.



Carissa has been a volunteer advocate since 2013

No phone call is the same, just as there is no one narrative to how people have their power stolen through victimization. Volunteering has shown me that domestic and sexual violence is far more prevalent than I could have imagined and that it can happen to anyone at any age. It can be isolating and confusing because of the shame and secrecy that still shroud it. Through volunteering, I get the opportunity to be a small light for someone who might need help finding their voice.”

A WISE Simon Pearce holiday

We are pleased to share that Simon Pearce selected us to be one of the 2019 non-profit beneficiaries of its holiday ornament program.

Every year, each Simon Pearce retail store selects a local non-profit to receive 20% of the holiday ornament proceeds. We are so honored that the flagship retail store in Quechee nominated WISE to be the recipient. The handcrafted Snow Drift Candy Cane is this year's local charity ornament — a wonderful gift or addition to your holiday decor.

Visit the Quechee Flagship store to support WISE this holiday season!



Simon Pearce snow drift candy cane

Supporting immigrant survivors

Last fall we announced that Welcoming All Nationalities Network (WANN) joined WISE as a new program. By providing administrative, financial, and fundraising support to WANN, Kate Semple Barta, WANN Director and Attorney, was able to more fully focus on providing legal services to immigrant survivors of domestic and sexual violence and community education surrounding humanitarian immigration and human trafficking.

In FY19, we were able to provide legal services to 151 people, compared to 62 in the prior time period. Services included full representation to new clients, consultations regarding immigration status, naturalization and family-based cases, and referrals to private attorneys and organizations for non-legal support services.

WANN provided outreach and education to 342 people through speaking engagements, participating in panel discussions, and collaborating with community partners. One of our educational highlights was partnering with the Lyme School, CHaD, and the Jordanian Royal Health Awareness Society and connecting local middle school students with their peers in Amman, Jordan via video chat. Many of the students in Amman were Syrian refugees. Real-life contact among youth helps them develop compassion and empathy across international and cultural borders.



CBP boarding the AT during the border patrol checkpoint on I-89

The Upper Valley is not immune from the national immigration policies put forth by the current administration. As we experienced in early September, U.S. Border Patrol checkpoints are happening right in our backyard. People are being profiled and asked for identification whether shopping at local stores or walking down the streets of Hanover. Increased enforcement by Dept. of Homeland Security in the region means increased fear for WANN's legal service clients—including fear for family members. This increases the vulnerability of immigrants who are victims of domestic violence because they cannot find safety at home. In this environment, humanitarian immigrants are seeking advice that can be life changing. We will continue strengthening our program to more fully support humanitarian immigrants within Upper Valley community.

Achieving campaign goals

Our successful capital campaign allowed us to fully pay off the mortgages on both the WISE Program Center and the WISE Safe Home. Eliminating this debt was one of the leading priorities of the Wiser Community campaign.

We were delighted, and very grateful to our campaign supporters, to enter our new fiscal year with this goal achieved. Funds that were previously allocated to debt payments are now available to supporting program operations.



WISE Safe Home

Upcoming WISE Events

We love finding new and different opportunities to engage with our community in a variety of spaces around our issues. We are so pleased to offer two WISE events in November.

A WISE screening

Join us at The Engine Room in White River Junction on Thursday, November 14 at 6:30 pm for a special WISE screening of *The Great American Lie*, the newest documentary by Emmy Award-winning filmmaker and First Partner of California Jennifer Siebel Newsom. We will provide refreshments and context as we watch this film together and make the connections to our work.

The film, which premiered at the San Francisco International Film Festival in



advocate.

We continue to see an increase in people accessing our advocacy through Title IX investigations as well as helping survivors navigate law enforcement, housing, and the legal system. Having access to independent advocates is critical and we are further strengthening our partnership with the college so that we are able to fully support the Dartmouth community.

With the settlement of Dartmouth's sexual misconduct lawsuit, many have asked us for our thoughts about the news. Our primary focus is and always will be to fully support and advocate for survivors. We cannot lose sight of the tremendous strength of the plaintiffs and the trauma that they endured. Although it is too early to comment on what the settlement will mean to WISE, we will let you know when we have more information.

April, exposes how social and economic inequality is rooted in our beliefs with the cultural pendulum swinging too far towards revering things we consider "masculine," like individualism, power, and money, at the expense of things we consider "feminine," like empathy, care, and collaboration.



Newsom's newest film

The film is free and open to the public. A cash bar and light snacks will be available.

WISE on campus

Our office on Dartmouth campus has moved! We are pleased to share that our new space is located in 213 Wilson Hall. It is a quieter, more comfortable location where students, faculty, and staff can meet with our campus



Wilson Hall



Decorating fridges with WISE stickers and magnets



A WISE partnership with Howe Library

A WISE book club

We had so much fun talking about *Educated* at the Etna Library this summer that we decided to create a WISE book club on the road! Join us at the Howe on Thursday, November 19 at 6:30 pm for our book club. We are partnering with the Howe Library in Hanover to read together and process some of the themes in *Big Little Lies*, by Liane Moriarty.

Pick up a copy at the Library or bring your own and spend the evening with us. We will provide snacks and refreshments.

Have any questions? Email us at marketing@wiseuv.org for more information about these two exciting events. We look forward to seeing you!

Our year in review

Our work is based in relationships with people. Picking up the phone or dropping by the Program Center for the first time takes tremendous courage and strength. We are inspired by every person who reaches out to us and every community partner who helps facilitate a connection.

This year, we expanded our advocacy staff so that we can address the growing needs within our community. This highly specialized group works together as a cohesive team while also offering specific areas of expertise such as housing, resource, family violence, immigrant, rural, and youth advocacy.

The Youth Violence Prevention Program increased reach by 21.8%, including an amazing 42.7% growth in elementary schools. We added Lyme Elementary, Barnard Academy, Samuel Morey, Westshire Elementary, and Reading Elementary to our already robust roster of WISE schools.

Increasing investment in public outreach was one of our priorities as we want to make sure that we are reaching survivors with the constant reminder that they are not alone. And, using different forms of media allow us to disseminate our prevention messaging throughout our communities. We expanded the WISE Words radio program supported by Hypertherm's HOPE Foundation and launched @WISEuv Instagram, reaching more young people. We partnered with Dartmouth College's Dali (Digital Applied Learning and Innovation) Lab to create Hugs, an animated short about consent. Our monthly digital newsletters included Parenting for Prevention shared an educational component to help guide adults with youth in their lives.



Lebanon Middle School students

FY2019 by the numbers

Advocacy Program

1,427 total people supported
119 total people supported per month
1,048 first time callers
87 first time callers per month
11,271 total crisis line calls

Youth Violence Prevention Program

34 schools
9 school districts
709 lessons
5,500 students

Professional Training

health professionals, law enforcement, educators
43 presentations
1,167 participants

Community Engagement

court observers, ambassadors, volunteer advocates
100+ active volunteers



WISE parent's night



WISE staff experimenting with prevention activities

WISE Co-locations

This year we opened new WISE co-locations throughout the Upper Valley. In-person advocacy and support is available during drop-in hours and by scheduled appointments. These added locations in conjunction with our 24-hour crisis line gives survivors options to access support in the way that makes sense to them.

WISE Program Center

38 Bank Street, Lebanon
Mondays - Fridays 8:30am - 4:30pm

Windsor Connection Resource Center

1 Railroad Avenue, Room 203, Windsor
Mondays, Thursdays, Fridays
12:30pm - 4:30pm
Tuesdays 8:30am - 12:00pm

Good Neighbor Health Clinic

70 North Main Street, White River Jct
Wednesdays 8:30am - 11:30am

Upper Valley Haven

713 Hartford Avenue, White River Jct
Hixon House: Fridays 8:30am - 11:30am

The Junction Youth Center

42 Maple Street, White River Jct
Wednesdays 3:00pm - 6:00pm

Dartmouth College Campus

213 Wilson Hall, Hanover
Mondays 8:00am - 4:00pm