

the Bridge

VIOLENCE ENDS.
EMPOWERMENT BEINGS.

JUNE 2023

The Big Give Campaign Exceeds Expectations!

The Bridge participated in the annual 2023 Fremont Area Big Give on May 9-10. Thanks to our friends and their support, we were able to raise \$10,510 which was matched by a very generous, anonymous donor. We also won \$1,565 in prizes throughout the day. In total, we raised \$22,585, exceeding last year's donations!

The Bridge also reached the second-highest amount raised of all the non-profit organizations that participated in the Big Give campaign, in part by an impressive 61 donors.

We are so grateful for everyone's contributions and the generosity we received from the community. The Bridge will be able to continue to provide physical and emotional safety to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

THANK YOU Fremont and the surrounding areas for helping us continue to empower freedom from violence in our communities!



Empowering Youth, Ending Violence With Education

Youth Prevention Programming in schools remains an essential part of The Bridge's mission to stop violence. Our partnership with area schools allow us to be in the building throughout the school year to engage students in activities that address respect, kindness, peer pressure, bullying, dangers of social media, healthy relationships and the importance of taking care of yourself.

Pictured below is The Bridge's Community Education Coordinator, **Stacey Lichtenberg**, talking to students at Trinity Lutheran in Fremont during a Youth Prevention session.



Random Acts of Kindness Continues To Pay It Forward

As we entered into 2023, the generosity of the kindness shown at the end of the year has made such an impact on the lives it has touched. Thank you to all who adopted families in 2022 allowing them to walk into 2023 with hope and confidence.

To You Kind Stranger,

When I picked up the gifts for my daughters today, I was instantly in tears. You have no idea how hard our year has been and now starting over after a tragic event occurred. Thank you from all of our hearts for going out of your way to adopt us this year - it's more appreciated than you could even imagine! Thank you for reminding me and my girls that there is love, generosity and people that genuinely care about helping others. I cannot wait for the day I am able to do this for a family in need too.

-- Local Domestic Violence Survivor

Raising Voices, Igniting Change

Recent Events Spotlighting Domestic Violence Awareness

Take Back The Night

The Bridge hosted our Take Back the Night event, on April 27th at The Depot in Blair Lions Club Park for Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Attendees listened as a mother and daughter spoke of their horrific experiences with domestic violence and sexual assault. A special thanks to both of them as well **Dr. Ryan Palmer** and The Bridge Vice President, **Vickie Cameron**, who spoke about the importance of raising awareness. The Blair High School Ovation choir performed topping of an incredibly moving evening.



Fearless 5K Walk/Run

For the fourth year in a row, we held our Fearless 5K Virtual Walk/Run Against Sexual Assault, which encouraged individuals to run or walk to raise awareness for sexual assault awareness month. This year we rebranded our t-shirts to have a tiger on the front, thanks to **Taylor Riecken** who came up with the idea and the design. Tigers are fearless, determined, and strong, just like the incredible individuals we serve! We want to thank everyone who participated in the 5K this spring and posted their pictures on social media!



Safe Date Prom Cards

We believe that Prom season is a great opportunity to ask students to take a pledge to be a good date and to define what being a “good date” means. The great news is that the majority of our teens are enjoying healthy and fun dating relationships and we want to continue to support them. We also are aware that one in three teens report they have already experienced physical, sexual or emotional abuse in a relationship. We partnered with several schools who handed out ‘Safe Date Pledge Cards’ to students when they purchased their Prom tickets.



“What Were You Wearing?” at Midland U

It’s a question people ask survivors of sexual violence all too often; a question that could be victim-blaming and an implication that, maybe, the survivor could’ve prevented their assault if they had worn something less revealing. The display we held at Midland University had outfits and stories of what these people were wearing during their sexual assault. This exhibit is intended to dismiss myths about rape culture that asks a survivor what they were wearing when their sexual assault took place.



Be The Change, Volunear For The Helpline

The Bridge responds to over 3,000 crisis calls each year, all received by volunteers. That’s where you come in! Becoming a crisis helpline volunteer is a rewarding experience that allows you to make a profound impact.

All volunteers receive comprehensive training to equip them with necessary skills to provide crucial support. Volunteering is a valuable way to contribute to one’s community and to be there for those who need it most.

Call **402.721.4340** to learn how you can help!

Thank You



A sincere thank you to our recent contributors for your generosity. We would not be able to pursue our mission providing support, shelter and advocacy for survivors without you.

Lisa Ahrens
Annette Backhaus
Nikki Beatty
Mike & Linda Betchel
Margaret Beckwith
John & Lynette Bendig
Maranna Bentley
Janet Beran
Michael & Cindi Brass
Dale Brickell
Lloyd E Brooks
Lorrie Brott
Don & Alisa Brunsing
Jody Bykerk
Joscelyn Camenzind
Doug & Vicki Cameron
Kathleen Chrisman
Scott, Rochelle & Lena Clausen
Cynthia Coffman
Dani Cooper
Jeremiah & Karen Cope
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Roxie Kracl
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Nicholas Lamme
Kevin & Brenda Larson
Bailey Licht
Stacey Lichtenberg
Mary Lichtenberg
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David & Sheila Monke
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Kathy Murphy
Robert Murray
John & Barb Musselman
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Ronda Niehaus
Lori Nielsen
Becky Novacek

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Ellen Osborn (Estate)
Merlin & Betty Oswald
Lenore Peatrowsky
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Wayne & Jacklynn Peterson
Brianna Pickett
Jamie Polick
Virginia Pullen
Russell Rabeler
Jeremy Rehwaldt
Jan & Jim Reinert
Maren Reppert
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Luisa Soto
Rick & Mary Spalding
Shirley Stara
Stillman Family
Chris Stoltenberg
Kristi Storm
Jennifer Thomason
Rachael Tullis
Terra Uhing
Lorrie Ulrich
Judi Wegner & Family
Annette Welander
Widman Family
Kevin Willis

George & Ann Wimmer
Tom & Misti Wolf
Jen Wolsleben
Tracie & Daniel Zahourek
Applebee's (Fremont)
Bergan Kids On Fire
Catholic Daughters
Cedar Bluffs Presbyterian
Cobalt Credit Union
District 6 Probation Office
Dodge County Court
First Baptist Church
First Interstate Bank
First Lutheran Church
First Lutheran Women
Franciscan Healthcare
Fraternal Order of Eagles
Fremont Area Women of Today
Fremont Beef
Fremont Methodist ED & Admin
Fremont Youth Power
Girl Scout Troop 58115
Glory Girls
Grace Lutheran Church
Lincoln Premium Poultry
MidlandU Arts
Nebraska Bank
Nebraska Quilt Company
North Bend Presbyterian Church
Nye Health Services
Platte Valley Church of Christ
Prairie Piecemakers Quilt Guild
Random Acts of Kindness
Reclaimed Chiropractic
Redeemer Endowment Board
Redeemer Lutheran Church
Sav-Rx
Seventh Day Adventist Church
Sinai Lutheran Church
St. Anne's Altar Society
St. Patrick Catholic Church
St. Timothy Evangelical Lutheran
Trinity Lutheran
Two Rivers Bank
YMCA

Urgent Needs List

Gas gift cards	Copy paper	Clothespins
Fast food gift cards	Stamps	Paper plates
Microwavable meals	Security cameras	Jumbo craft sticks
Tracphones & minutes	Toilet bowl cleaner	Small candies
Used cell phones		



Monthly Giving

Monthly giving helps The Bridge build a consistent base of monthly revenue. This gives us the stability to be able to offer each survivor services that are unique to their circumstance and plan for the future. For more info, email Info@TheBridgeFromViolence.com.

From The Director's Desk

Providing A Lifeline Of Support & Safety

Listening on the other end of the line during a recent crisis call I have never been more thankful for the support of our community. The caller was crying holding one of her children telling me he had her "trapped". I could hear her abuser yelling and the calming voice of one of our local law enforcement officers trying to talk him down, telling him to let her have the other baby... "You don't want to do this," he was telling him. I sat with her on the line letting her know she wasn't alone and trying to assure her the officer will handle this and you all will be okay.

Thank you for supporting our work. We are grateful to have the many partnerships within our communities and the support of all of our loyal donors. You help us be here 24/7 for the hundreds of calls we receive each month. The Bridge has experienced incredible support this year. Whether your donation is monetary, food, toiletries, blankets, hygiene or volunteering your time or participating in our events, you are part of our work and we ARE making a difference.

I continued to listen to the caller. There was a lull and then heard her moving and breathing heavy. I said, "What is happening? Are you OK?" She said I have the baby and I'm running to the car. I heard her get in, slam the door and we both took a deep breath and then she broke down sobbing. They were all out safe. Whew!

He was arrested. She was still too fearful to stay in the house. We placed her and her children safely into shelter. We had diapers, formula, clothing and food for them. All of which we had at the office from our community donations. These are calls that our advocates and volunteers take on a daily basis. Hard work? Yes, but absolutely rewarding. We know we are impacting lives. It is a privilege to provide this service. Thank you for your unwavering support.

-- Suzanne Smith

Our Mission

The mission of The Bridge is the prevention and elimination of domestic violence and sexual assault. We work to enhance safety and to promote equality in relationships. We are opposed of the use of violence to control the lives of others. The Bridge is committed to eliminating violence in the lives of women, children and men through empowerment, education and social change.

Our Staff

Suzanne Smith
Executive Director

Jody Bykerk
Shelter Program Manager

Stacey Lichtenberg
Community Education Coordinator

Jody Koziol
Burt & Washington County
Outreach Coordinator

Jennifer Thomason
Advocacy Program Manager

Kylie Kampschneider
Sexual Assault Services Coordinator
& Youth Support

Luisa Soto
Crisis Intervention & Bilingual Advocate

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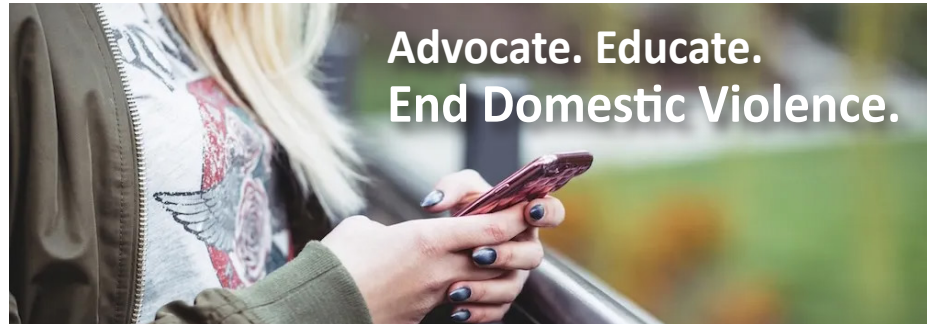
Becky Novacek

Stephanie Scheer

Kylee Stanley, M.D.

Zac Carlisle

Claire Eckhardt



Contact

Serving Burt, Cuming, Dodge, Saunders & Washington Counties

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Fremont, NE 68025

Blair Office
402.533.4411
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Blair, NE 68008

24-Hour Crisis Line
402.727.7777
888.721.4340 (toll free)

 [BridgeFromViolence.com](http://www.BridgeFromViolence.com)

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 TheBridgeFremontNE

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