# Missouri Shores Domestic Violence Center





The case for a new House of Hope.

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### Missouri Shores Domestic Violence Center needs your help, now more than ever.

Our Board of Directors and staff have been working diligently for a year and a half to bring a brand-new House of Hope to Central South Dakota. This safe haven provides emergency shelter to hundreds of families every year, from all across Central South Dakota.

The unfortunate reality is that Missouri Shores provides services – including shelter, help with protection orders, transportation to a safe location, food, clothing, furniture, rental assistance, and more – to **500 individuals annually**. And this issue, which impacts all of us, is only getting worse. Our services only continue to increase, and the violence we are seeing is escalating. This can no longer be viewed as a "family issue," but a community issue. No one deserves to live in fear of a person who is supposed to love, support, and protect them.

### This is why we need your help.

In January 2022, Governor Noem's Office of Economic Development obligated Missouri Shores a \$2,020,000 Community Development Block Grant to start us down the road to a new House of Hope. This grant obligation, combined with other federal grants and contributions from community members, businesses, and organizations helped us reach our original cost estimate - \$4,300,000.

But this isn't the end of the road for us, unfortunately. Inflation during the last year alone has risen 28%. We understand the rising costs affect everyone, not just Missouri Shores. Because of inflation, our building estimate has increased significantly. Despite the hard work and generosity of our communities, our fundraising efforts fell short. \$1,500,000 short. This is not just a capital campaign. This is a gap campaign. Construction is under way and the House of Hope comes closer to reality every day. Your donation not helps us fill this gap, but helps everyone we serve.

### Progress has still been made.

Construction has started for our new House of Hope, which will be over double the space we have now at 13.550 square feet. Here, we will house up to thirteen families, including male victims of abuse. With not only additional rooms, but additional staff offices, we are looking forward to expanding our services in Pierre, Fort Pierre, and the surrounding areas. The support has been overwhelming since we announced our plans for a new House of Hope. and we are hopeful the communities Missouri Shores serves will come together to help us accomplish this incredible need. Our current House of Hope runs at maximum capacity almost constantly. In fact, as I write this plea, we are checking a family into a hotel room because our shelter is full. Dozens of families must seek shelter in hotel rooms or be referred to other agencies because we simply do not have the capacity to assist them during their most vulnerable time. This increases the likelihood of these families returning to unsafe situations to ensure their most basic needs are met.

We want to ensure operations continue after construction is complete. Any funds raised above our gap campaign goal will be placed in our existing endowment fund with the South Dakota Community Foundations. This allows us to plan for the future so Missouri Shores can continuing serving victims for another forty-five years.





## 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men will experience some form of intimate partner violence in their lifetime.

Think of all the people you know – friends, family, co-workers, neighbors – and consider just how many victims and survivors you love, even if you don't know it. Help us help those affected by domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, and stalking.

### Breaking the Cycle of Domestic Violence

IMPACT STORY

Maria\* came to the House of Hope in July 2022. She had been with her husband for five years and they had two young children together. In the beginning, her husband was the most caring, thoughtful, protective man in the world – or so Maria thought. Maria would notice little things during their relationship that would send up a signal – he would get upset if she went out with friends, or would ask her where she was at all hours of the day – but she chalked it up to him caring about her. After Maria found out she was pregnant with their first child, her husband told her she was stupid for getting "knocked up" and denied that he was the father. He told Maria she should just kill herself and the baby.

After the baby was born, the abuse became physical. He would "lose his temper" and slap her for anything he disapproved of. Once, during an explosive episode that lasted several hours, he strangled her until she blacked out. Afterwards, he apologized, told Maria he would not have strangled her if she hadn't made him so angry, and told her no one would ever believe her if she told them what happened.

Her young children eventually began imitating their father's abusive behavior. This is when Maria decided she needed to get out. She stayed for two months at Missouri Shores' House of Hope, where she learned budgeting, meal planning, and other life skills; found employment and child care; received referrals for counseling; and received three months of rental assistance through a program at Missouri Shores. Maria has now been away from her abusive husband for nine months, is still receiving mental health counseling, and has continued employment she enjoys.



This is just one story out of hundreds that walk through our doors every day. You can make a pledge today to our new House of Hope – for Maria and everyone who has come after her, for your friends, family, and loved ones, and for the millions of people who experience violence in their homes every single day.

Sincerely,

Sarah Reinhart, Executive Director LeeAnna Fitzgerald, Board President Dennis Rounds, Committee Member

### Missouri Shores Needs Your Help. Give Today.

MAKE YOUR PLEDGE HERE.

### MISSOURI SHORES DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CENTER

## Preliminary Campaign Goal \$2,000,000

Gift Standards Table

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Number of Gifts	Amount of Gift	Total	Cumulative Total	Total Gifts	Percent of Objective
1	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	1	25%
1	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$750,000	2	
4	\$100,000	\$400,000	\$1,150,000	6	
4	\$50,000	\$200,000	\$1,350,000	10	68%
10	\$25,000	\$250,000	\$1,600,000	20	
12	\$15,000	\$180,000	\$1,780,000	32	
15	\$10,000	\$150,000	\$1,930,000	47	
20	\$5,000	\$100,000	\$2,030,000	67	
Many	\$500+	\$10,000	\$2,040,000	100+	102%

### **Testimonials**





One of my favorite quotes comes from Psalms 4:8, "I will lie down and sleep in peace, for you alone, O Lord, keep me safe." But as another famous quote reminds us, "Safety and security don't just happen." (Nelson Mandela).

When Scott and I recently toured the current Missouri Shores Domestic Violence Center office and shelter, our overwhelming emotions were of dismay that survivors fleeing domestic violence were spending their first nights away from their abusers in such depressing surroundings. Yes, the current building is providing them safety, food, and a caring staff, but it is woefully run down, and inadequate.

Scott and I are grateful for the opportunity to join with our other campaign co-chairs to bring this new building to reality. We firmly believe that the new facility will live up to its name, the House of Hope, as it helps launch survivors into their new lives.

Please, come join us in financially supporting the House of Hope. Be part of making safety and security happen for those who need it most.

Julia & Scott Jones Campaign Co-Chairs



Community is very important to the both of us. Not only because we have a family business, but also because we grew up here. Steve and I have watched our community come together over and over to help those in need, to help our communities of Pierre and Fort Pierre be the best place we can be. It's easy to want to help enhance our communities with projects like a water park, bike trails, and other fun things. But we must never forget our duty to help the entities that serve those in the greatest need. Missouri Shores is one of those and Steve and I are happy to help lead the charge. We believe in their mission and thank them for all they do. We hope you will join us in supporting the Missouri Shores House of Hope.

Jami & Steve Beck Campaign Co-Chairs



Missouri Shores Domestic Violence Center exists to protect and serve victims of domestic violence and sexual assault and to prevent abuse through education.

The current physical structure has proven inadequate to meet the needs of those we serve so a new facility is needed.

A private philanthropic fund-raising effort is underway to help reach the financial goal needed the construction of the new facility.

We hope you will consider a monetary support for this worthy project.

Peggy & Tom Huber Campaign Co-Chairs



### From Client to President

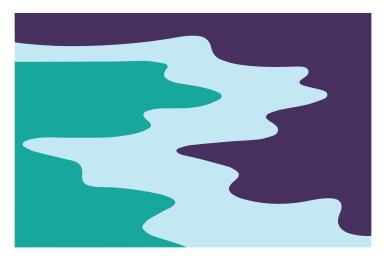
At the age of 18, I walked through the doors of the shelter for the first time. Not as a board member or to give donations, but as a client. I have often said my relationship could be the poster child for abusive relationships. It followed all the beginning signs that are taught in schools now, but I had not heard. He was sweet and devoted, which turned to obsessive and controlling. At first, he seemed to like my friends and family, but slowly started to isolate me. What started as mind games and verbal abuse, turned to physical,

verbal and sexual abuse. After he had hit me once, it escalated so quickly. I tried to leave several times, but he seemed to always find me and convince me to come back. Each time back would only increase the level of violence and control.

As someone seeking safety from an abusive relationship. I needed so much but most importantly, people who understood the trauma I was going through. I got that and so much more when I walked into Missouri Shores 23 years ago. I was given compassion, tools to cope and most importantly hope. The impact they had my life has touched every part of my life. I reached out to the shelter 20 years ago and asked what I could do to help, and I have since had the honor to be an advocate, a spokeswoman and now the Board Chair. Missouri Shores gave me strength to believe in myself and hope for a future I never thought possible and without a doubt helped save my life. I am forever grateful and cannot wait to see the lives they impact for years to come.

LeeAnna Fitzgerald Board President

### **Missouri Shores**



### **Domestic Violence Center**

Serving Haakon, Hughes, Hyde, Jones, Stanley, and Sully counties.

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