



someplace safe

SAFETY. OPTIONS. HOPE.

Crime Victim Advocacy, Parenting Time Centers, and Community Thrift Stores

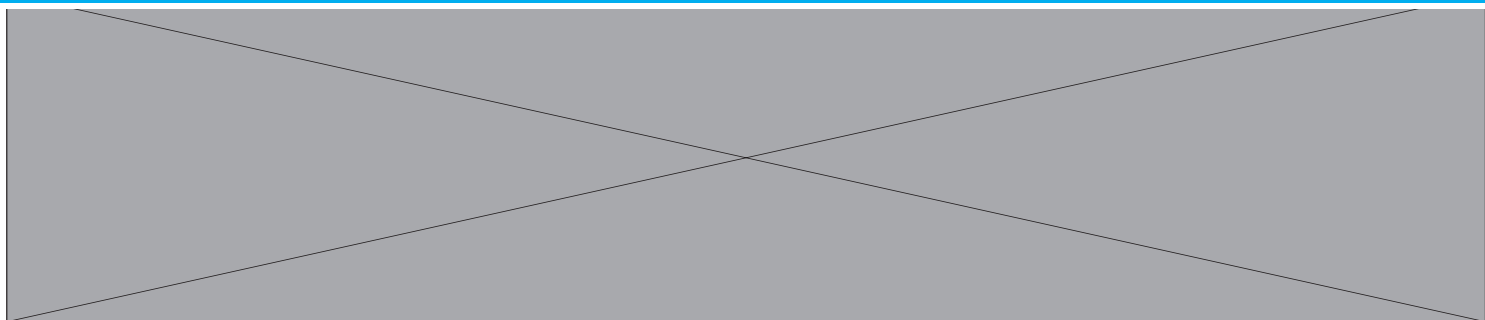


Spring 2020 Newsletter

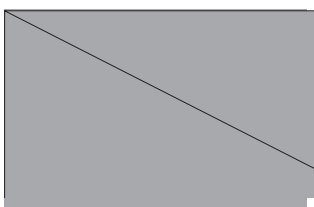
If you or a loved one are in danger or feel unsafe, please contact Someplace Safe at 800.974.3359. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Someplace Safe continues to provide virtual and telephonic services, as well as a limited number of in-person services (by appointment only), to all victims and survivors of crime. Accessible services remain, including live website chat, text messaging, and interpreters. Visit [www.someplacesafe.info](http://www.someplacesafe.info) for more information.

**Someplace Safe works to create safer communities in West Central Minnesota by providing high quality crime victim services.**

*Someplace Safe is a nonprofit agency offering a myriad of services to victims and survivors of crime, families, and communities in a nine-county region of West Central Minnesota. Over 4,000 local victims of crime are provided services each year through ten Advocacy Offices, five Parenting Time Centers, and two Thrift Stores located in Big Stone, Douglas, Grant, Otter Tail, Pope, Stevens, Traverse, Wadena, and Wilkin Counties. Someplace Safe works to assist victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, sex trafficking, labor trafficking, and other crimes (including: stalking, elder abuse, identity theft, robbery, theft, etc.) as they navigate the social, emotional, and economic impacts they face as victims on the path to becoming survivors.*



## Put Consent Into Practice with the "I Ask" Campaign



Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) is about more than just raising awareness each April. It is about coming together, educating communities, and taking action with an ultimate goal of prevention. This year, the theme of SAAM centers around the "I Ask" campaign, with a goal

of empowering each of us to put consent into practice. Consent is both a normal and necessary part of relationships, and is a clear, concrete example of what it takes to end sexual harassment, sexual abuse and sexual assault in our society.

**So how does consent work?** When you want to get close to someone, no matter the length of the relationship, it's important to know how to ask for consent.

### Before asking for consent, take these steps:

1. **ASK YOURSELF** - *How might my actions make someone feel? Am I in a clear state of mind to respect someone's boundaries?*
2. **ASK YOUR PARTNER** - Inquire about things like protection, previous experiences, preferences, and more.

### When Asking for Consent, follow these steps:

1. **ASK YOUR PARTNER** - *What would you like to do? How far would you like to take things?* Be specific about what you're asking.
2. **ASK YOURSELF** - *Am I making it clear from my words, tone, and body language that I'm OK with the answer, no matter what it is?*

### Then, consider the following:

**IF YOUR PARTNER SAYS "NO"** - Accept their answer. Never try to convince or guilt someone to say yes when they've already said no.

**IF YOUR PARTNER SEEMS UNSURE** - Play it safe and don't go further. Instead ask them what they'd like to do.

**IF YOUR PARTNER SAYS "YES"** - You can move forward. Keep checking in to make sure they're enjoying what's happening.

Respecting your partner and practicing consent is the best way to prevent sexual violence. This April, and throughout the year, we invite you to learn more about consent, healthy relationships, and spreading awareness by checking out the "I Ask" campaign at [www.nsvrc.org](http://www.nsvrc.org). For more information visit [www.someplacesafe.info](http://www.someplacesafe.info).

# Survivor Sto-

*\*Identifying details may have been changed to protect the privacy of individuals in this article submission. Someplace Safe is not responsible for any statements and/or the content contained in the following Survivor Story submission. Someplace Safe is not liable for any content which violates copywrites, trademarks, or other intellectual property rights. In addition, Someplace Safe is not responsible for any content which is libelous, defamatory, violates local, state, national, or international law, contains illegal or violent acts, is discriminatory, or misrepresentative.*

I began working at a young age at a fast food restaurant. I worked with a bunch of my friends after school, on weekends, and in the summer. It was a fun job working with my high school friends. It was a flexible job and allowed me to do homework and attend my sporting events. However, there was one aspect of the job that I did not enjoy. That being my boss. When he was around there were uneasy feelings amongst the staff in the restaurant. He would make inappropriate, sexual comments to myself and my-coworkers. I remember many times that he would make us uncomfortable with staring at us while working. I was washing dishes one time and remember his arms coming around my waist, telling me he wanted to feel if I had been "working out". At another time, he told me to come to his house, as he wanted to review the security cameras with me. Being young and naïve, and thinking that I had perhaps made some sort of a mistake with the cash register, I went over to his house to review the tapes. My boss was sitting in the basement with the lights mostly off, with cold beers in hand for each of us. I was 15 years old and this made me super uncomfortable. I left after a few minutes, confused and embarrassed. He was very rude to me for several months after this. I think I was being punished for leaving. The inappropriate touching and comments lasted the entirety of my 2.5 years employed there. Finally, just before I quit to pursue a different part-time job in high school, one of my co-workers (she was older than us) spoke to law enforcement about him. I also heard he received phone calls from state agencies with complaints about his behaviors and business practices. I remember feeling glad that someone finally complained and I was hopeful he was going to be held accountable, at least in some sense.

A few of my co-workers ended up speaking to the Someplace Safe advocate about their experiences, as was recommended by our high school counselor. I attended a couple of the advocate meetings with my friends. We talked about what happened to us while working at the restaurant. We had always shared so many things while working together – weekend plans, high school gossip, etc. But we really didn't speak much about the sexual harassment at work that we had all experienced. It was great to finally express the frustration and stress that we had all been feeling. We left Someplace Safe more educated, equipped with the knowledge of what sexual harassment is and what we can do about it if it happens. I thank my former co-worker who stepped up and finally said something about our treatment at the restaurant. I also thank Someplace Safe for making my friends and me so comfortable during our visits. If you have experienced sexual harassment in your work place, please reach out to Someplace Safe!

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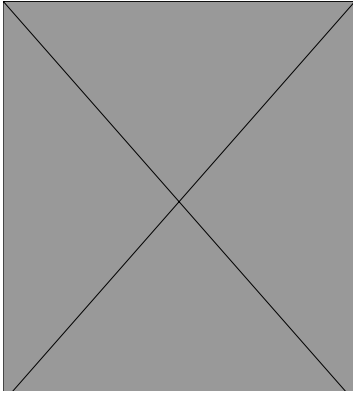
Questions or comments? Please contact [newsletter@someplacesafe.info](mailto:newsletter@someplacesafe.info).

Sign up for our free monthly e-newsletter at: [www.someplacesafe.info/about-us/newsletters](http://www.someplacesafe.info/about-us/newsletters).

# Thank You

*National Volunteer Appreciation Week*  
*April 19<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>, 2020*

This past year, **661** Someplace Safe volunteers  
donated **14,271** hours of their time at a value of **\$362,912.00** to the agency.

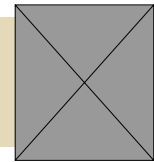


## COVID-19: Impacts of Isolation on Victims of Crime

**Social distancing. Work from home. Avoid public places. Self-isolate.** As the impacts of COVID-19 outbreak spread, these safety measures are meant to protect our health and the health of others. However, for victims of crime and abuse, these measures may place them in significantly greater danger.

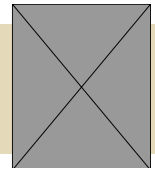
Domestic violence can surge when victims are isolated from the outside world, confined to living spaces with their abuser for long periods of time. During times of isolation, the ability for victims to seek services or flee to safety is hindered greatly. Adding to the stress of isolation are also financial concerns, transportation issues, a lack of access to adequate food or supplies – greatly amplifying the situation and potentially leading to an increase in violence/harm.

Please reach out to Someplace Safe if you have concerns for the safety of yourself or others. Safety planning and access to services are imperative to victims who are living in isolation during the COVID-19 pandemic. The free and confidential advocacy services of Someplace Safe are available throughout the pandemic in a variety of formats, including virtual and telephone services. Accessible services remain, including; live website chat, text, interpreters. You may also contact us via social media if you have questions or need to speak with an advocate.



**24 - Hour Crisis Line: 800-974-3359**  
**[www.someplacesafe.info](http://www.someplacesafe.info)**

Accessible services are available including text, live website chat, and interpreters.



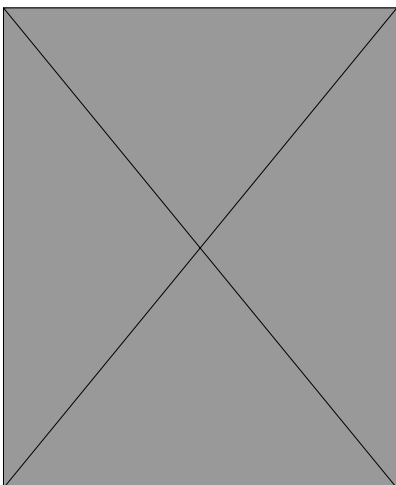
### Spring 2020 Event Update:

The safety of staff, volunteers and community members is of the utmost importance to Someplace Safe. All March and April 2020 in-person events have been cancelled due to concerns surrounding COVID-19. Someplace Safe would like to thank countless volunteers, donors, vendors, and local businesses who have so graciously supported our spring events, and who have understood the need to practice social distancing at this time in light of COVID-19.

There are still a variety of ways that you are able to support Someplace Safe this spring, in lieu of attending your favorite community event. We invite you to check out [www.someplacesafe.info/donate](http://www.someplacesafe.info/donate) and select a Someplace Safe program, your local office or an event of your choice from the dropdown menu when making your contribution. Please call your local Someplace Safe office or check out our website event calendar at [www.someplacesafe.info/calendar](http://www.someplacesafe.info/calendar) for information and updates on virtual events occurring this spring.

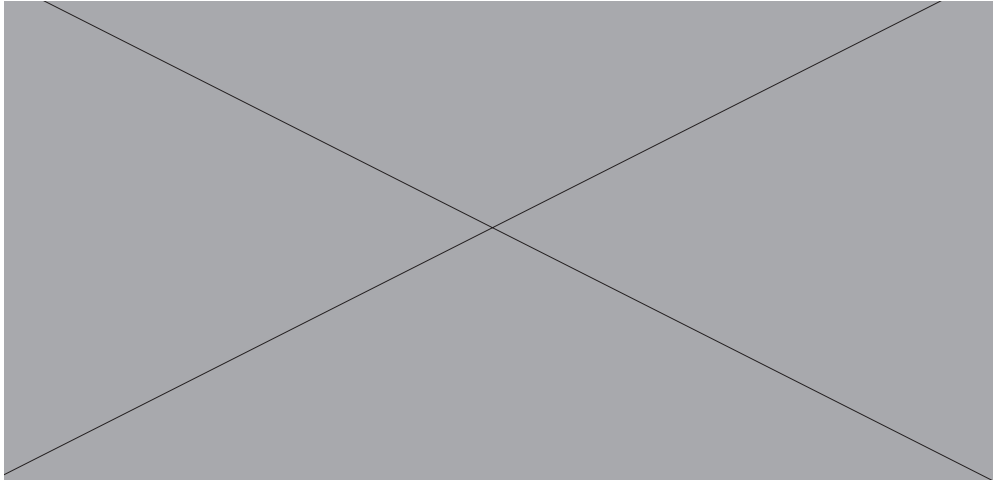
Thank you for supporting Someplace Safe this spring as we navigate this difficult situation.

## EMPLOYEE



In this issue, Someplace Safe is featuring Leigh Nelson as our spotlight employee. Leigh, a Crime Victim Advocate at the Someplace Safe Douglas Advocacy Office, has been with our agency since January 2020. She has been a wonderful addition to our advocacy team. Leigh expressed her appreciation for the support she has received from her co-workers. “I am blown away by our own advocacy community within Someplace Safe. I feel that there is always another advocate available to answer a question, give me advice and offer support. I can’t say how many times I’ve heard ‘call me anytime-day or night’.” Receiving a bear hug from a client after she helped her, as well as having her first protection order signed are of a few of the highlights Leigh has had since she started working at Someplace Safe.

To learn more about Leigh and other Someplace Safe employees and volunteers, visit: [www.someplacesafe.info/about-us/staff-volunteer-spotlight](http://www.someplacesafe.info/about-us/staff-volunteer-spotlight).



## Someplace Safe Thrift Stores

With schools closing, celebrations and events cancelled, and places of business closed down, many people find themselves at home this spring during the COVID-19 pandemic. Now is a GREAT time to get a jump start on spring cleaning! Someplace Safe Thrift stores thrive on your spring cleaning and decluttering. Your donations of gently used clothing and household items help stock the stores, recycle usable good, offer affordable shopping, and provide vouchers for local victims of crime! Make sure to stay posted after March 30th, 2020 for store and donation hours on social media or our website at: [www.someplacesafe.info](http://www.someplacesafe.info).

On Wednesday, April 29, 2020, Someplace Safe, along with thousands of individuals and organizations across the country, will observe Denim Day to honor and support victims and survivors of sexual violence. The campaign was originally triggered after a ruling by the Italian Supreme Court in the 1990's. This ruling overturned a rape conviction due to the justices' belief that since the victim was wearing tight jeans, she must have helped her attacker remove them, thereby implying consent. The following day, the women of the Italian Parliament came to work wearing jeans, in solidarity with the victim.

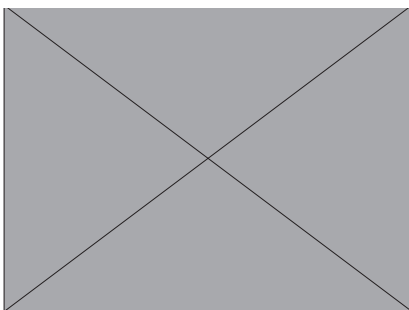
Since then, wearing jeans on Denim Day has become a world-wide symbol against the misconceptions about sexual violence. In fact, anyone can join the annual Denim Day movement and show support for victims of sexualized violence.

### Here is how YOU can participate in Denim Day on April 29th:

- *Wear your favorite pair of jeans on April 29th.*
- *Create awareness for Denim Day on social media by posting your participation photos and using the hashtag #denimday.*
- *Contact your local Someplace Safe office or email [newsletter@someplacesafe.info](mailto:newsletter@someplacesafe.info) to request your free Denim Day materials.*

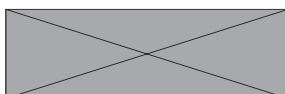
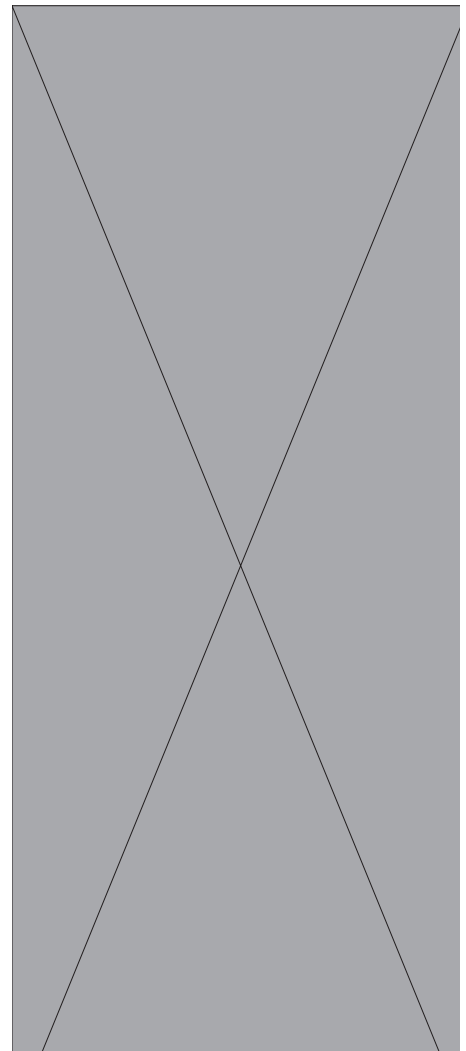
### Participate in the *Dollars for Denim* Campaign:

You may also choose to support Someplace Safe and local survivors by making a *Dollars for Denim* contribution. To donate, simply mail your *Dollars for Denim* gift to your local Someplace Safe office or send to: Someplace Safe, P.O. Box 815, Fergus Falls, MN 56538-0815. Donations may also be made online at [www.someplacesafe.info/donate](http://www.someplacesafe.info/donate) or via text message by sending the text "@sps" to 52014.



Wahpeton Daily News staff participated in Denim Day 2019

Please feel free to contact [newsletter@someplacesafe.info](mailto:newsletter@someplacesafe.info) for more information. To learn more about Denim Day, visit [www.denimday.info](http://www.denimday.info).



**Someplace Safe is funded in part by the MN Department of Public Safety, Office of Justice Programs, Crime Victim Services, Minnesota Department of Health, Safe Harbors Program and United Way.**

**PO Box 815 \* Fergus Falls, MN 56538-0815 \* Phone: 218.739.3486 \* 24-hour Crisis Line: 800.974.3359  
[info@someplacesafe.info](mailto:info@someplacesafe.info) \* [www.someplacesafe.info](http://www.someplacesafe.info)**