Little Bags, Big Lesson

“Do you have to pay to be at WAVI, like a hotel?”
“How many kids stayed there last night?”
“Are moms and kids always there, or are you empty sometimes?”
“Do you have any Legos?”

That last question is asked with extra emphasis, and all of them are genuine. I’m speaking to a room full of kindergarten through 5th-graders at Meadowbrook Elementary. I can’t blame them for wanting to know what kind of toys we have at WAVI. After all, I’ve just told them that their Character Counts Caring Bags project is so important because sometimes moms and kids have to leave all their things at home when they come to WAVI; leaving behind every toy you have isn’t easy to understand when you’re seven. At least a dozen children ask me if they can bring their own toys to give to the kids at the shelter.

It’s not so easy to explain to young ones what WAVI is or why people need our help. How do you make a child understand that sometimes people get hurt by the people they love? What it’s like to stay in a shelter? Why these kids have to leave their home? But kids are smart and perceptive. One girl, probably eight or nine, raises her hand confidently. “I think you should remind everyone that even if someone hurts them, it’s never okay to hurt someone back.” I thank her for sharing that important lesson, and tell them that’s why we’re here to help—to stop people from getting hurt and from hurting others.

What I am able to explain to them easily is how much their project means to us. The kids at Meadowbrook are taking home small paper bags stapled with our wish list, to be filled with toiletries and other items. Hundreds of bags will be returned to WAVI by children who are learning the importance of helping those in need. A little girl raises her hand: “If I ask my mom and dad, can we bring more stuff to WAVI some other time?”

I smile. These paper bags are doing much more than carrying items in need; thanks to the Character Counts program at Meadowbrook, they’re teaching kids that even the littlest members of the community can make a big difference.

Mallory Heutzenroeder, WAVI Development Director
WAVI is proud to present the fifth annual V-Day celebration with two performances of *The Vagina Monologues* by Eve Ensler. This award-winning production highlights the most complex, profound, funny, and poignant aspects of women and womanhood. This outstanding show has been produced in dozens of countries around the world. Each performance benefits an organization working toward safety and empowerment for women and girls around the globe.

Directed by Ashley Kiefer and Vicki Urban, the monologues are performed by local women, many of whom have been a part of the V-Day movement for years. **Performances are February 22nd, 2014 at 2pm and 7pm.** Doors open one hour early for cocktails and silent auction. Don’t miss this incredible celebration!

**Tickets on sale via Rapid City Performing Arts Center, $20. Visit www.performingartscenter.org or at 601 Columbus Street, Tues-Sat. 12pm to 4pm. By phone: 605-394-1786**

One Billion Rising is back! Join us at noon on February 14th in Main Street Square to honor women and end violence worldwide!

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**2014 Spirit of Peace: The Beach Ball!**

Travel back to paradise with WAVI! Dig out your tropical shirts, sundresses, and sandals for a night in the tropics at the Beach Ball!

- Cocktail and Social Hour at the Beach Bum Bar, complete with tropical drink specials!
- A delicious dinner & complimentary wine.
- WAVI Program and Spirit of Peace Award
- Fabulous silent auction throughout the night
- Dancing the night away with summertime tunes by the **DD and the Fayrohs**
- Raffle Drawing for a **Dream Vacation Package**!

This year’s event will be **Saturday, March 29th** at a new location, the **Rushmore Plaza Holiday Inn**.

For tickets or information about sponsorships and silent auction donations, call 341-3292 or visit www.wavi.org

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**Tropical Getaway Vacation Raffle!**

You could win a $3,000 travel voucher! Where will you go on the vacation of your dreams?

Tickets $10 each or 3 for $20 Drawing to be held at the Beach Ball, Saturday, March 29th (need not be present to win) Available from any WAVI Board member or by calling (605) 341-3292
Thank you to everyone who supported WAVI in 2013!

WAVI in the Community

WAVI accepts a grant from RBC Wealth Management

The Power of Purple Campaign helped raise awareness for survivors of domestic violence in October. Pictured top to bottom: LRC Class of 2013, WAVI staff, Pennington County Sheriff’s Office staff

WAVI Case Manager Kelly Smith staffs our Zonta Expo booth

Scheels staff members present WAVI with a donation check just before the holidays

Many of our clients who are not in shelter still need help, especially around the holidays. Thanks to the generosity of Blessed Sacrament Church, many women and children enjoyed a very merry Christmas. The congregation once again collected gifts for families, and put together complete Christmas dinner boxes. We are so grateful to these wonderful supporters for making the holidays bright!

Zonta Member Jan Kirch presents WAVI with a portion of book sale proceeds from Holly Hoffman, Zonta Expo Keynote Speaker 2013
You can give someone in need HOPE

Each year, thousands of people come to WAVI seeking shelter, support, and the means to give themselves and their children a life free from violence. They are our mothers, our sisters, our brothers, coworkers, and friends. Their journeys are never the same, and they are never easy. But one thing never changes: each person who has the courage to seek help still needs hope.

Right now, someone is walking through the door at WAVI. You can ensure that help is always there, 24 hours a day. You can give them the hope they truly needs. You can change a life. Please, join our mission. Together, we can break the cycle of violence.

Become a part of WAVI’s Project HOPE today. Your monthly contribution will change the lives of thousands of victims of domestic violence and sexual assault right here in our community.

Your secure monthly gift will help us transform lives.

With one year of Project HOPE:

$10 per month will give six rape victims fresh clothing after a forensic exam.

$20 per month will guide six people through the court system to get a protection order.

$30 per month will host 20 support group sessions for survivors, with free child care.

$50 per month will give a mother and her children one month of peaceful nights in WAVI’s shelter.

Detach and return with a voided check in the enclosed envelope.

WAVI, 527 Quincy Street, Rapid City, SD 57701

YES! Sign me up for Project HOPE. My contribution is:

___$10 per month ___$20 per month ___$30 per month ___$40 per month ___$50 per month

___Other: $________ per month    My one-time donation is $______________

Please debit my account on the ___1st ___15th of every month.

Name_____________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Telephone number:______________________________________ Email Address_____________________________________________

____I wish to remain anonymous in WAVI’s newsletter   ____Sign me up for WAVI’s email newsletter and updates!

I authorize you and the financial institution listed above to initiate electronic entry from the account listed on the date specified. This authority will remain in effect until I have canceled it in writing.

Signature:__________________________________________________  Date:____________________

Please call us at (605) 341-3292 for information on how to make a monthly contribution via credit card.
Project HOPE Members

Kris McKittrick
Sandy Honke, MD
Sarah and Dustin Morrison
Mary Corbine
Tracy Laher
Sandy Schwan

Join us for the first Project HOPE Open House!
Thursday, February 13th 7:30am to 9:30am
527 Quincy Street

Breakfast Refreshments Provided

Membership Includes...
Invitations to quarterly open houses
Recognition in our newsletter (if desired)
Project HOPE keepsake
Special invites to WAVI events

WAVI PEACE PRO-MOTION 5K!
AND WALK A MILE IN HER SHOES
May 17th, 2014!
Memorial Park

Walk it, bike it, run it, rollerskate it—any way you can make it—we want to see you at the 5K! And if you’re not sure about breaking a sweat so early, you can join our couch potato cheering section!

And we’re calling all men, again! Think you or someone you know can make the mile? Walk the Walk to stand up against gender violence right here in our community with WAVI’s Walk a Mile. (Don’t worry; it’s really only half a mile!)

Check our website and Facebook page for registration information coming soon!
WAVI Wish List

WAVI currently refers furniture and household item donations to our partners:
The Cornerstone Rescue Mission, The Salvation Army, and LOVE, Inc.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Personal Care Items</th>
<th>Office Supplies</th>
<th>Food Donations</th>
<th>Shelter Supplies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(New Items Only Please)</td>
<td>Copy Paper</td>
<td>Family Thrift Center, Target and Wal-Mart Gift Cards</td>
<td>Toilet Paper*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combs/Brushes</td>
<td>Postage Stamps</td>
<td>Fresh Fruits &amp; Veggies</td>
<td>Laundry Soap and Dryer Sheets*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conditioner</td>
<td>Envelopes (#10)</td>
<td>Non-Perishable Foods</td>
<td>Dishwasher Tablets or Gelpaks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hair Spray and/or Gel</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Glass Plus (brand specific)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deodorant*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Clorox Wipes*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feminine Hygiene Products</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Rapid Ride Bus Tickets</td>
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<tr>
<td>Toothbrushes and Toothpaste</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Prepaid Phone Cards</td>
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<tr>
<td>(adult and child)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Towels*</td>
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| Children’s Items | | | Full and Twin Quilts and Sheets* |
|------------------| | | |
| Baby Lotion, Shampoo | | | |
| Diaper Rash Cream | | | |
| Diapers and wipes (sizes 4/5/6)* | | | |
| Movie Tickets | | | |
| Passes to Community Events | | | |
| Single and Double Strollers | | | |

| Clothing | | | |
|----------| | | |
| NEW Underwear, Socks, Bras and Slippers for Women and Children | | | |
| Gently used Pajamas and Sweat Suits for Women and Children | | | |

Please call 341-3292 for further information
*Items of great need.