



Rachel's Light

Rachel's Light News

I hope that you all are finding ways to enjoy some summer "downtime" through rest and relaxation. I always find July to be a wonderful time to step back, recognize, and reflect on the successes and growth of our organization. Here are a few noteworthy accomplishments I'd like to share that have occurred in 2022.

Since January, we have had four families find permanent housing. We have also witnessed and been able to support three mothers reunite with, and obtain full custody of their children. Rachel's Light has served a total of 21 individuals this year.



Amanda Starks

As the housing market continues to have its barriers and challenges, we pursue local organizations and landlords to help and see our guests reach their ultimate goal of permanent housing. Believe me when I say it most definitely takes a village! We are motivated to serve, and continue to utilize the services we have at hand in our county and surrounding areas.

Rachel's Light is proud to announce that we are partnered with the United Way of Steele County. We are honored to be a part of this trusted organization, and look forward to the support, collaboration and thank them for their guidance and opportunity to engage more deeply with the community.

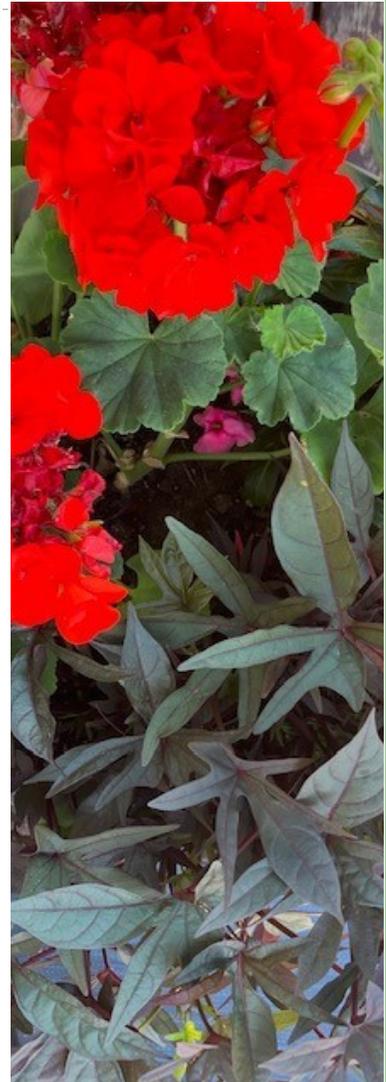
The Rachel's Ride committee had another successful Rachel's Ride in May, and we continue to be amazed at how supportive and generous our community has "shown up" for this incredible event! This group of individuals donated their time and efforts for months to coordinate a successful event, and successful it was! We want to thank Open Arms and their donation of \$1,000! The Rachel's Ride Event netted a grand total of \$4,278.00. Words cannot express the amount of gratitude we have to all that were involved in making this event truly remarkable.

Rachel's Light continues to be in transition and growing. With this emergence, we are looking for new board members and employees. If you have extra time, feel called to be a part of something that is rewarding, and want to give back to the community, I urge you to reach out to see if your passion and gifts would be a good fit for advocacy, volunteering, or a board position.

Again, a huge thank you to all that stand beside us and continue to support our mission and endeavors. Because of you, our work is possible.

Love and Blessings,

Amanda Starks



A Place for Everyone

..... 2

Rachel's Light Info.

Mentor Program 2

Upcoming Events & Fundraisers 3

Staff Feature 4

Get Involved!

July Wish List 5

Disability Pride Month 5

Donations..... 5

SPECIAL QUOTE

"To have courage for whatever comes in life—everything lies in that."

Teresa of Avila

A PLACE FOR EVERYONE... JOIN RACHEL'S LIGHT!

Rachel's Light is blessed to be growing!

With growth comes need...are you called to fill one of these positions?

The following positions are all on an at-will, volunteer basis.

For our board:

- Treasurer
- Communication Coordinators (2)
- Fundraising/Event Coordinator

We are also seeking:

- Part-Time Volunteer Coordinator
- General Volunteers

These positions will take approximately 10 hours per month.

All the job descriptions are posted on our [Facebook page](#), or if you prefer, please reach out to

volunteer4rachelslight@gmail.com.



“Success is walking from failure to failure with no loss of enthusiasm.”
-Winston Churchill

RACHEL'S LIGHT MENTOR PROGRAM

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN MAKING AN ONGOING IMPACT ON A WOMAN'S LIFE?

IF GIVING GUIDANCE, SUPPORT AND INSPIRATION TO OUR GUESTS IS SPEAKING TO YOU... WE'D LOVE TO HAVE YOU AS A MENTOR.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR WOMEN TO SHARE THEIR TALENTS, PATIENCE, KNOWLEDGE, LIFE LESSONS AND THEIR ABILITY TO BE A FRIEND TO SOMEONE IN NEED.

IF YOU CAN GIVE AN HOUR OF YOUR TIME EACH WEEK, YOU WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN A WOMAN'S LIFE AND THE LIFE OF HER CHILD/CHILDREN.

WE OFFER TRAINING AND SUPPORT TO MENTORS.

INTERESTED?! PLEASE CONTACT
LIZ KECK : 507-456-8802



SAVE THE DATES! UPCOMING EVENTS & FUNDRAISERS



Rachel's Light

WE'RE HIRING @ RACHEL'S LIGHT!
PART TIME GUEST ADVOCATE
 WEEKEND / EVENING AVAILABILITY
IMMEDIATE OPENING!

MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN SOMEONE'S LIFE BY SHARING TIME & LIFE EXPERIENCES. GREAT FOR THOSE WORKING TOWARDS A DEGREE IN HUMAN SERVICES, OR RETIRED & SEEKING AN OPTION TO GIVE BACK YOUR COMMUNITY WHILE MAKING EXTRA MONEY.

Required skills & qualifications:
 Compassion, empathy and the ability to respond to individuals who are in crisis
 Ability to work with people of all ages from diverse racial, cultural, religious, social and economic backgrounds and lifestyles
 Excellent communication and organizational skills | Positive attitude a must!
 Ability to solve problems and make decisions individually and within a team
 Experience with computers
 High School diploma or GED necessary. Advanced degree in human services a plus but not required
 Valid driver's license & reliable transportation | Ability to multi-task
 Shifts will include weekdays, some holidays and weekends. Pay depends on experience.
 Starts at \$15/hour.

SUBMIT YOUR COVER LETTER & RESUME TO
 RACHELSLIGHTS5060@GMAIL.COM



2022 "VEHICLE" SHOW
 August 6th 2022 Owatonna VFW 135 Oakdale St
 9AM ~ 2PM
 \$10.00 donation per vehicle entered

Proceeds Benefit Rachel's Light

Special thank you to Owatonna Elks
 And Owatonna VFW

Live entertainment

"Celebrity" Judges

FOOD AND BEVERAGES AVAILABLE FROM VFW CLUB

- Many awarded classes
 Some include:
- ♣Mini mover (125 or less HP)
 - ♣Best Work Truck
 - ♣Best Paint
 - ♣Peoples Choice
 - ♣2/3 Wheels
 - ♣Farthest Traveled



THANK YOU to everyone who attended the **CELEBRATING WOMEN EVERYWHERE EVENT!**

Special appreciation to Speakers **Roxy and Steph**

We  enjoyable music by Rachel, and wonderful food by Torey and staff!



STAFF SPOTLIGHT: Tammy Murphy, Rachel's Light

THANK YOU, Tammy for the many years of dedication and support you graciously give our guests each day! You positively impact everyone around you!

Tammy shared some of her time with us, and the Rachel's Light community is so fortunate to have long-standing employees like Tammy as they're the foundation of our organization! Thank you Tammy...You ROCK!

Tell us about your background, including how long you've been at Rachel's Light:

I had been working in a group home setting for 29 years when I learned of an opportunity with Rachel's Light that was soon to open. I also work for Waseca Public Schools, at an Elementary building, so I felt both backgrounds could be beneficial. I decided to look into it further, and met with Amanda. The prospect of something new and different, as well as Amanda herself, really drew me in. In late summer of 2019, I was offered the position of an overnight guest advocate. It was quite scary to me to leave my current overnight position at the homes after so many years, but I did and have never regretted it! I am proud to say I have been there since the beginning, as we approach our 3rd year Anniversary very soon! My husband Shawn and I live in Waseca with our 2 children, Grady (18) and Remy (15). We have a little hobby farm on the outskirts of town where we keep 2 horses, chickens, a dog and a chinchilla.



How did you become interested in advocacy work? Having worked in a group home and currently still in a school, I think helping others is just something that comes naturally. You tend to want the best for people and look for ways to help them get what they need. It can be something big, like a job or apartment. Or something little such as a compliment or just listening can really make a difference.

Tell us about a memorable moment at RL: While there is rarely a dull moment in the house, I came in one night to find a newer guest sitting at the dining table with a pair of scissors in her hand literally cutting chunks of her hair with no mirror in sight. I was a bit alarmed as I was unsure as to what I was walking in on. After she reassured me she was perfectly fine, she continued on to give herself the most amazing haircut I've ever seen! You just never know what skills they may have!

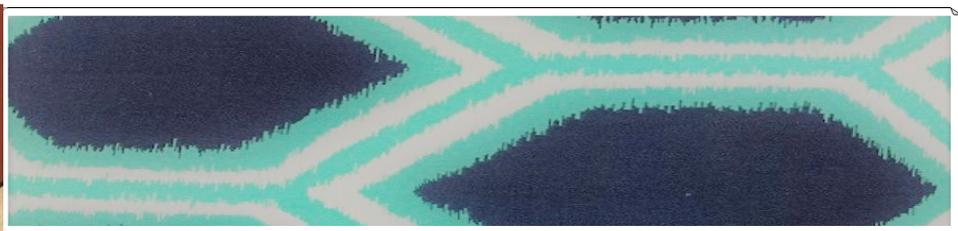
What is the most difficult part about your work? It is difficult for me to see what some of the children have been through. They are so resilient, yet vulnerable at the same time. Most of these families are working hard to make improvements. But then, there are some guests that come through that are not ready to make the changes needed to move forward. You just have to hope they find their best life in their own way.

What is the most rewarding part about your work? On of the biggest surprises for me have been the connections that form with some of our guests! I love the evenings I go in and have the ladies happy to see me or one fo the kids run up to give me a hug. That tells me I have made a difference, and hopefully a positive memory of their stay here. Also, the bonds made amongst those that have met at Rachel's Light. Many have maintained friendships outside the house, which I think helps to aid in their success.

What other things are important to add? I feel Rachel's Light is not just a "shelter" but a home. It is sometimes difficult for the women to get settled initially, but once they do it becomes more of a family atmosphere. We have a small, but amazing group of staff. Add to that the hugely supportive board members, community, and volunteers, you get Rachel's Light! 

THANK YOU to the following organizations for supporting us!





JULY WISH LIST Many generous supporters have asked how to best support Rachel's Light? The list below are general items we use to keep our house running smoothly. Items in bold indicate higher priority items, or something we're currently out of, and as always, *Thanks for asking!*

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| Postage Stamps | Dish soap | AAA batteries |
| Printer Ink Cartridges: #952 Color/#952xl black | Dishwasher pods | Office Supplies (new) white out, scotch tape, notebooks |
| Softener Salt | Affresh cleaner for washing machine | Cork board |
| Baby wipes | Electric can opener | 3 M strips |
| Clear totes w/lids (small) | Pillows (New) | Full size body lotions/bodywash |
| Weather Radio | Gift Cards (Fleet Farm, Walmart, Target) | Full size conditioner |
| Fitted mattress | Gas Gift Cards (Kwik Trip) | Shower curtains (new) |
| Covers (new) | Toilet Paper | 13-gallon trash cans (new) |
| Softener Salt | Paper Towels | |

Please email our donation coordinator to arrange for donations, at donate2rachelslight@gmail.com

JULY IS
DISABILITY PRIDE MONTH

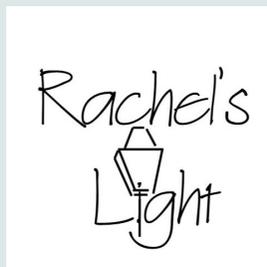
Please keep in mind...

- NOT ALL DISABILITIES ARE VISIBLE
- IF SOMEONE SAYS THEY'RE DISABLED: LISTEN TO THEM. NO ONE SHOULD HAVE TO LAY OUT THEIR ENTIRE MEDICAL HISTORY TO BE LISTENED TO
- NO ONE IS "TOO YOUNG" TO BE DISABLED
- STOP SUGGESTING "CURES" FOR A DISABILITY YOU KNOW NOTHING ABOUT: "HAVE YOU TRIED YOGA?"
- "DISABLED" IS NOT A DIRTY WORD



Thank you to our Rachel's Light Board for all your efforts!

- Deanna Ripka
- Beverly Bremer
- Nicole Vangen
- Julie Summy
- Joann Jones



DONATE TODAY!

Rachel's Light appreciates any and all contributions. **MONETARY DONATIONS HELP WITH RENT, UTILITIES AND STAFFING COSTS.**

MAIL: PO BOX 118 OWATONNA MN 55060
ONLINE: RACHELSLIGHT.COM (CLICK ON DONATE WITH PAYPAL)