



# Rachel's Light

## Rachel's Light News

Greetings,

As the seasons begin to change here in Minnesota, it has me reflecting on all the changes and growth Rachel's Light has encountered.

With a lot of hard work and determination we are excited to announce that we have received grants from Otto Bremer, Mardag Foundation, and we are in the process of becoming an official partnering agency of the United Way of Steele County. Seeing our success and hard work being recognized brings us great pride and gratitude.



Amanda Starks

One phrase that is commonly used throughout the shelter is "compassion and love". We have used this phrase on numerous occasions and within various situations. One

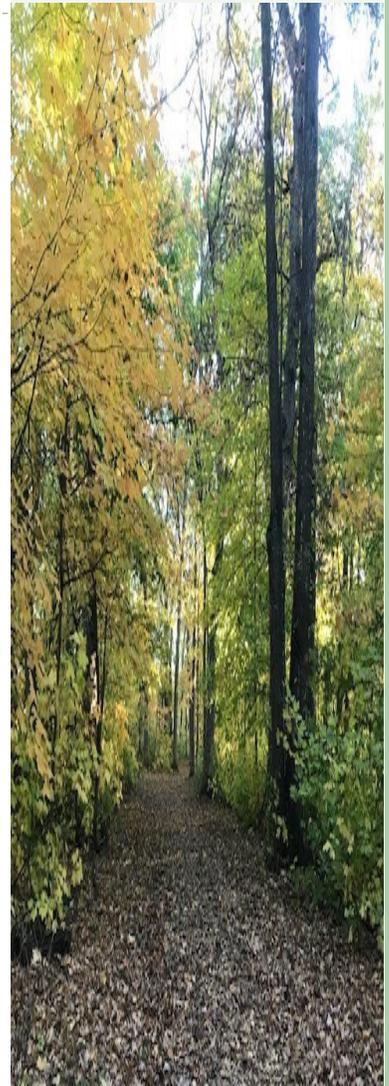
thing we pride ourselves in is the environment we have established within our home. Many times, visitors and our guests comment on how homey, and family oriented our shelter feels. To us, compassion and love reveal a judgement free, come-as-you-are, you belong here, type of feeling. We as staff, and speaking for the board, believe in providing this security to everyone, and where we will continue to see success, experience growth, and the surviving and thriving mentality of our guests. It's a beautiful thing to experience, and to be a part of!

As always, we are honored to be supported by such an amazing community. Without the support and prayers that are continuously provided we would not be who and where we are today.

Thank you!

Love and Blessings,

Amanda Starks



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SPECIAL QUOTE

*"There is only one happiness in this life, to love and to be loved."*

**George Sand**

## MENTORSHIP

...with Jolayne Mohs

***Rachel's Light is blessed to have wonderful mentors.***

***We recently asked one of our mentors, Jolayne Mohs, if she would share her experience with us on being a mentor.***

“Regardless of how my day has started I leave feeling better. If I’m having a tough day-I leave feeling better. If I’m having a great day-I leave feeling better.

It is quite the assumption to walk into Rachel’s Light thinking that people might need you. However, when you see the hard work and grit to overcome life’s obstacles and the dedication the women have to each other to achieve their goals-you quickly realize you might need them a bit more.

There is a fierceness and commitment the women have to each other and to themselves for success-it’s amazing and I love being a part of it.”



***Thank you so much, Jolayne, and to all our spectacular mentors for your commitment to Rachel's Light!***

**We are grateful for you.**

“Among the things you can give and still keep are your word, a smile and a grateful heart.”  
-Zig Ziglar

### **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... LET US KNOW!

WE ARE LOOKING FOR WOMEN WHO WOULD LIKE TO SHARE THEIR TALENTS, PATIENCE, KNOWLEDGE, UNDERSTANDING OF 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 OR EMAIL  
LIZK.RACHELSLIGHT55060@GMAIL.COM



SAVE THE DATES! UPCOMING EVENTS & FUNDRAISERS

**Celebrating Women  
Everywhere ♡  
Mom's Day Brunch 2022**



• **SATURDAY** •  
May 7, 2022  
11 AM – 2 PM

Buffet Meal | Bar Available | Short Program | Music | Fellowship

**TOREY'S restaurant & bar**  
208 N. Cedar Ave. Owatonna MN

\$20 tickets required – to purchase tickets  
email: [Rachelslightevents@gmail.com](mailto:Rachelslightevents@gmail.com)

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Sponsored by Rachel's Light • Proceeds  
benefit Rachel's Light




**SAVE THE DATE!**  
Saturday, August 6th, 2022  
V F W Owatonna MN  
Car and Bike Show!  
Details will be posted on RL Facebook page



**Rachel's Light**

**WE'RE HIRING @ RACHEL'S LIGHT!  
PART TIME GUEST  
ADVOCATE**

**WEEKEND / EVENING AVAILABILITY  
IMMEDIATE OPENING!**

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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  
[RACHELSLIGHT55060@GMAIL.COM](mailto:RACHELSLIGHT55060@GMAIL.COM)



**SATURDAY MAY 21, 2022**  
**2ND ANNUAL RACHEL'S RIDE**

**All proceeds to benefit Rachel's Light**  
Rachel's Ride is an annual motorcycle ride dedicated to raising money  
for Rachel's Light. To learn more about the important work that  
Rachel's Light does, please visit [rachelslight.com](http://rachelslight.com)

Rachel's Light goal is to provide a safe living space for women and  
children experiencing homelessness. It started from a group of  
people in the community who had a vision. Its mission is carried out  
every day, with your support. If you have a donation, and/or donation  
questions, please email: [donate2rachelslight@gmail.com](mailto:donate2rachelslight@gmail.com).



Owatonna VFW  
135 Oakdale St  
Owatonna, MN 55060

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Registration begins at 8 am  
Kickstands up at 10 am

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Continental-style breakfast  
Free coffee

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Meal provided after the  
ride at the VFW

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Auction/Raffle Items  
50/50

**Rachel's  
Light**

<http://rachelslight.com/>

## STAFF SPOTLIGHT: Melissa Wencil, Housing Manager, Rachel's Light

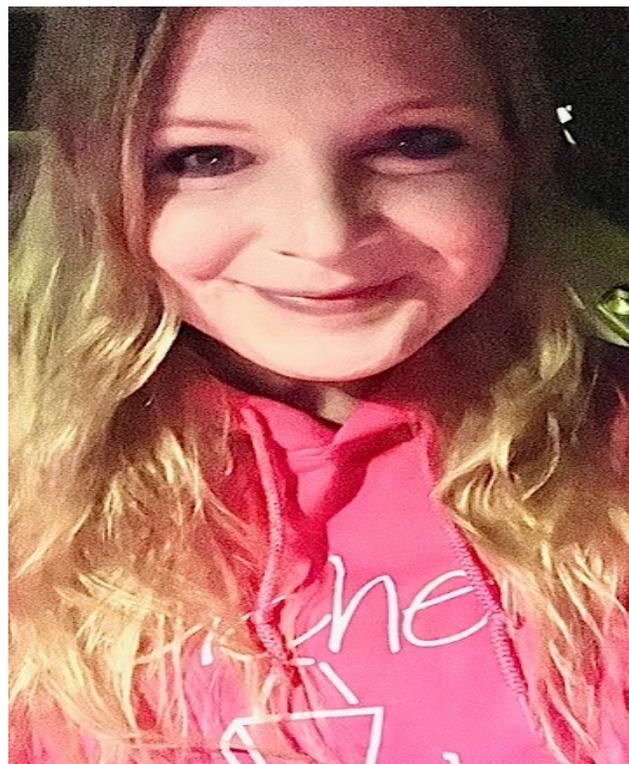
**CONGRATULATIONS** to Melissa Wencil, for her recent promotion to Housing Manager at Rachel's Light!

**THANK YOU**, Melissa, for your dedication and expertise, graciously given each day you positively impact those around you!



We recently caught up with Melissa to get to know her a little better and share the good news with the Rachel's Light community!

**Tell us about your background:** I have an Associate of Science degree in Human Services, and have done many jobs, always something to do with helping people. I grew up in the Ellendale area, and after working both as an aide and then a teacher in the childcare sector went to REM and took care of people with disabilities. My latest career change was in 2016 when I worked at Ruth's House in Fari-bault, and fell in love with the ladies and watching them grow. I came to Rachel's Light in August of 2020, a whole different atmosphere, this shelter was different. The ladies are able to heal much differently here because the shelter is run on the motto of "compassion and grace." My husband and I have been married since 2014 and have three children; 16, 8 and 7. Two dogs, a cat and all the cats outside. We live on my husbands family farm, a special place to all of us considering my husband grew up in our house. My husband runs his own mechanic Shop (Wencil Repair) at our house and I play volleyball with a team of ladies I've known for 15 years.



**How did you become interested in advocacy work?** I have always loved to help others. My dad was an addict for most of my childhood. He was able to get sober in 2001, and I have a close relationship with him, always have. I became interested in learning how the addict brain worked and how trauma plays a role in addictions. Ultimately there is a lot of addiction in my family. I wanted to make a difference in someone's life. Hearing the stories from the ladies, would break my heart and make me think no wonder why they act out the way they do. They don't know any other way. I wanted to be a different option, a new way. They helped me to understand how addiction, trauma, environment and social class all play a role in how life is for them. I want to show the community these women do make a difference and they are able to get sober and succeed.

**Tell us about a memorable moment at RL:** There was an elderly woman (at the home) who didn't speak English, so it was a struggle to communicate. We learned how through translators, picture cards and a whole team of people there to help. We learned about her history and what she had been through. Her story was heartbreaking and unimaginable, yet she was always so humble, kind, had a smile on her face and was always ready for a hug. She was one of the strongest women I've ever met. She called us "angels" when, in reality, she was the angel who taught us all so much. We recently received an update, and she's doing well in her new apartment, with a good church and friends to support her.

**What is the most difficult part about your work?** The most difficult part of my job is watching the ladies succeed and then fall. It's sad but also a reminder that our job never really ends, the ladies need support long after they leave Rachel's Light. I love that we stay in contact with the ladies, they are able to reach out when needed. Knowing their potential and having to let them fall because of their choices. Being able to decipher the difference between helping and enabling.

**What other things are important to add or say?** I appreciate each and every person who is part of Rachel's Light. Without the supporters and everyone involved, we wouldn't be able to keep our doors open. I am really proud of the organization itself. Working along side Amanda is amazing, we make a great team! We are doing amazing things here!

**THANK YOU** to the following organizations for supporting us!





**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.

- |                                    |                                     |                                    |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Postage Stamps                     | Disinfectant Cleaner                | Gift Cards (Fleet Farm, Kwik Trip) |
| Printer Ink Cartridges: #952 Color | Floor Cleaner                       | Gas Gift Cards (Kwik Trip)         |
| Softener Salt                      | Dishwasher pods                     | Toilet Paper                       |
| Light Bulbs (Indoor)               | Affresh cleaner for washing machine | Paper Towels                       |
| Clear Totes (All Sizes)            | Outdoor flowers/Plants for Planters |                                    |
| Hand Soap                          |                                     |                                    |
| Laundry Soap                       |                                     |                                    |

*THANK YOU!*

Please email our donation coordinator to arrange for donations, at [donate2rachelslight@gmail.com](mailto:donate2rachelslight@gmail.com)



### VOLUNTEERS WELCOME

Rachel's Light is in need of helping hands. Ask us how you can make a difference!



Email your interest to: [volunteer4rachelslight@gmail.com](mailto:volunteer4rachelslight@gmail.com)

**WANTED:** Chair members for our board and committee members to help bring our activities (fundraisers, events) to life! We have a spot for you! We are looking for:

- Fundraising and event coordinators (one person)
- Communication coordinators (two people)
- Volunteer Coordinator (one person)
- Treasurer

Each position will take an average of 10 hours of time per month.

Learn more by emailing Rachel's Light at [volunteer4rachelslight@gmail.com](mailto:volunteer4rachelslight@gmail.com)



### 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](http://RACHELSLIGHT.COM) (CLICK ON DONATE WITH PAYPAL)