



"I wouldn't be where I am today if it wasn't for your support. I am so thankful for a second chance at life. I really don't know where I'd be or if I'd even be alive if it wasn't for Embrace."

To Our Embrace Friends:

We're officially in uncharted territory.

If you haven't heard, there have been serious cuts to the federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) that have gutted funding for domestic and sexual violence programs across the country. VOCA funds many of the federal grants domestic and sexual violence programs like Embrace depend on.

The cuts are significant enough that some smaller programs will be forced to shut down entirely. For Embrace, it means **we will lose about 1/3 of our operating budget, at minimum.**

I want to be clear that as severe as the loss of funding is, Embrace is not in danger of closing. We've known the cuts were coming (though not the extent) for the past year and have been preparing. The cuts won't take place until 2024, so we still have a short time to prepare before they take effect.

So what are we going to do?

Unfortunately, our services are going to have to be restructured.

While we thankfully won't have to turn anyone away, the speed in which people will receive help will change. Our office hours are going to be cut back to Monday-Thursday. Most non-emergency services will only be available during those hours.

As you know, barriers to receiving help for domestic violence can lead to tragedy, and having to wait for help is definitely a barrier.

I'm thankful that we're still able to offer help to everyone who needs us but I'm worried that we won't be able to help everyone in time.

What can you do?

You can stand with survivors of domestic and sexual violence, and make sure they can continue to get the help they need when they need it by giving a tax-deductible gift to Embrace today.

One of our most important ways of helping survivors is our Flexible Financial Assistance Program (FFAP). The FFAP allows us to give emergency assistance to survivors in a timely manner that lets them achieve safety and housing stability in situations where our other shelter programs are unable to help in time.

No system is perfect, and there are always some people who may slip through the cracks. **The FFAP is our way of making sure no one slips through the cracks at Embrace.**

For one survivor \$150 from our FFAP allowed her to relocate to a neighboring county where she had secured safe housing. For another, FFAP allowed Embrace to provide secure shelter for a survivor when our own shelter was already at maximum capacity.

As of this moment, our budget for the FFAP is less than half of what it was for 2023. If we can raise \$60,000 we can make sure it's fully funded for 2024.

While we aren't raising funds only for the FFAP, it's an example of how your donation changes – and saves – lives here in Northwestern Wisconsin.



If everyone getting this letter gave \$50, we could fully fund our FFAP and other important support programs in 2024, and make sure that everyone in an emergency crisis situation can receive the help they need when they need it.

In 2022 more survivors reached out to Embrace than ever before: Over 1,300 people reached out for support through our crisis line. Almost 700 relationship and sexual violence survivors received in-depth services. Over 60 families received shelter through our scattered-site housing program. And 28 survivors at high-risk of homicide found safety in our secure shelter.

The numbers are just as high in 2023.

These budget cuts couldn't have come at a worse time for survivors of domestic and sexual violence. But they did come. Survivors in our community are counting on us for help. In many cases, they have no where else to turn.

It will take all of us working together to make sure everyone who needs help gets it.

I'm writing to you today to ask you to make a tax-deductible gift to Embrace.

Every dollar you give matters. For some of our survivors, \$150 has made the difference between long-term safe shelter and being forced to live with the harm-doer.

The more money we raise, the more people we can help through our FFAP and other supplemental programs. If we can raise \$60,000, we can make sure no one slips through the cracks in 2024.

We need you with us.

Gratefully,



Katie Bement, Embrace Executive Director

P.S. If you could share this letter with any friends, family, or even your church congregation – *anyone who believes in the importance of supporting domestic and sexual violence survivors and wants to make a difference*– it would really help.

Embrace's work is only possible through the dedicated support of generous friends like you. If we're going to continue to meet the rising need for services, we need our community to stand with us.

Yes! I want to help create a safe community!

\$100 \$50 \$25 Surprise Us: \$ _____



Scan here to make a quick and easy donation!

GIFT FREQUENCY:

- One Time Monthly
 I wish to remain anonymous

For monthly giving, I authorize Embrace to charge my credit card in accordance with the information above. I understand that this authority will remain in effect until I provide ten days' notification to change or terminate this authorization.

PAYMENT OPTIONS:

Donate online: [Embracewi.org/donate](https://embracewi.org/donate)

- Check Enclosed (Payable to Embrace Services, Inc.)
 Visa Mastercard American Express Discover

Card Number

Expiration Date

CVV