

# 2021 in Review

December 2021

## Reflections of Gratitude

### From the Executive Directors Desk

Dear Friends,

The services Green Gables Haven provides to our community are like no other and we certainly are needed now more than ever. Reports from the Michigan Incident Crime Reporting showed that in 2020 there were 258 reported victims of domestic violence in Barry County and this number doesn't come close to reflecting the children that were involved and/or witnessed this violence in their home. We are more than confident that once the 2021 reports are made available this number will increase significantly. We have all been challenged these past 22 months, while other businesses and non-profits found the need to scale back or shut their doors, Green Gables Haven didn't have that option, we stayed open serving the growing cases of domestic violence.

On behalf of Green Gables Haven, staff, and the victims we serve, I thank you for the incredible support of the work we do. Your backing of Green Gables Haven is what allows us to continue to provide free services to victims. Together, you, our supporters joined forces that allowed for a significant impact to provide safe sanctuary, food, clothing, personal needs items, legal, medical, and social advocacy, emergency transportation, direct services, case management and referrals.

As many of you heard, in September, Green Gables Haven learned that we lost our Grant through the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services for consideration under the Domestic Violence Programming. We had been funded through a Grant since 2017 with an average funding at \$210,000 annually. There was no indication during the process that we would lose this funding. We have followed all rules and policies they required. We were always timely with our reports and felt we were considered a program that was doing all the right things.

With this amount being a significant amount of our Budget, I am extremely fearful of how we will be able to maintain Green Gables Haven. I worry about the victims of domestic violence, our current clients and the ones that will reach out for help going forward. I have had so many people approach me in my 14 years here - saying "I wish you were here when I needed help" or "Green Gables Haven saved my life", "my children are happier than they have ever been since you helped us leave the violence in our home". "You have saved us, you are angels, we can finally smile again". I have a great concern for this community if Green Gables Haven isn't here.

The Grant had been paying for our staff salaries that is often very difficult to get dollars for operating expenses. This Grant allowed staff salaries and fringe benefits. This grant paid for my dedicated staff to be in the shelter 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, including holidays. This Grant allowed us to always be available to help of victims of violence. This grant paid for Legal services saving clients from losing everything, this grant helped pay for essential counseling, this grant paid for so much. It allowed us to help the most vulnerable in our community, hence helping our community to be stronger, safer, and happier.

Thankfully, I am blessed in the knowledge that the great people of Barry County will do all it takes to keep our shelter open. I do believe we will overcome, but I can't lie. I need help in our efforts to keep Green Gables Haven viable and open as I believe we are one of Barry County's greatest resource for safety and healing. Please know, I am seeking all forms of funding assistance from seeking grants, to escalating fundraisings efforts and we will be kicking off an Endowment Campaign that will hopefully raise enough funding that will allow us to be more self-sustaining.

We continue to be the only domestic violence shelter not funded by the State of Michigan and unfortunately, considering the recent grant being cut, we know that this is something that will continue for years to come.

Thanks to you, our loyal, dedicated, and passionate supporters, Green Gables continue assist victims of domestic violence in making life altering changes and find safe, secure solutions that will allow for a violent free future. It is my hope that you will consider working with us as we strive to help save lives and build a stronger community.

If you have further questions, please feel free to contact me at (269) 804-6021 or via email at [janie@greengableshaven.org](mailto:janie@greengableshaven.org).

Happiest of Holidays, to you and yours!

**Janie C. Bergeron**

Executive Director, Green Gables Haven

**Save the Date!**

**Annual Nibbles, Novelists and New Beginnings**

**May 11, 2022**

The night will feature a stellar line up of celebrity and welcome back our Emcee, Terri DeBoer, Meteorologist from WOODTV and Co-Host of eightWest and a new author herself will serve as our Emcee for the evening!

You, your colleagues, and friends will enjoy cocktails, dinner and networking time with each other and fabulous best-selling authors. The event will be held at The Legacy at Hastings and it sure to be an evening to remember.

***“This is a new year.  
A new beginning. And  
things will change.”  
- Taylor Swift***

