

## BUTTE SAFE SPACE

# QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

### 2023 BEGINS

We brought in 2023 with a bang. 2023 is a new beginning for a lot of people and hopefully all the people we are able to help through Safe Space. We implemented quite a few new and fresh ideas and ways to do things. We took our intake from manual to digital and were able to start and are maintaining a complete client database.

Hearts and Handbags ended our quarter and we would all like to thank the hard work of our organizer, Amy Schulte. Long Hours, Long days, and a lot of time and effort was put into making Hearts and Handbags a huge success.

THANK YOU AMY FOR MAKING IT A HUGE SUCCESS!

### OFFICER OF THE YEAR

Congratulations again to Officer Sean Brown for winning the 2022 Safe Space Officer of the Year Award! His dedication to duty and care of our clients as well as his overall good nature made him the highest rated officer on the force among our clients. Keep up the good work and thank you for all you do Officer Brown!



### HEARTS AND HANDBAGS

Our staff here at Safe Space would like to thank the Butte community for coming together again for our third annual Hearts and Handbags Fundraiser put on by Amy Schulte.

The baskets, wine, and live auction items donated to the event by local businesses and community members were the only reason we were able to hold the event, and the community support and donations we received not only warmed our hearts, but allowed us to continue to support our community and the surrounding area. Thank you all again!!!

### IN LOVING MEMORY

This year we were saddened to learn of the passing of three amazing members of our community. These kind and caring souls will live on in the hearts of the staff at Safe Space for their contributions to their community and for always being there when anyone, including the advocate at Safe Space were in need.

Your presence will be missed and your generosity never forgotten. Rest well, Joan Porter, Bev Murphy, and Bev Sloan.

## HOLY SPIRIT HELPS MAKE EASTER A SUCCESS!

Safe Space Staff wants to thank Holy Spirit Catholic Church for making some smiles this Easter 2023! The office received a phone call from Kathleen Taylor on the Monday before Easter asking if Holy Spirit could donate some baskets, and they went above and beyond for our kids. We deeply appreciate that you thought of us and for making their day exceptional. Your sentiment means so much to us. It also made our Easter special to watch them receive their gifts from you guys. Thank you.



## NEW FACES OF SAFE SPACE!

Safe Space staff works incredibly hard to ensure that each client receives the best assistance possible. Thanks to the staff's hard work and dedication, Safe Space is able to continue providing assistance to survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault, but now with new faces...

WINCHESTER KESSLER, Assistant Director

RACHAEL WEAVER, Shelter Manager

RYLIE GONZALEZ, Sexual Assault Specialist

SKEETER LINGLE-SCOTT, Volunteer Coordinator

CHELSEI THRASHER, Weekend Night Advocate

All hired in 2022, they continue forward into 2023 with one thing in mind... SUCCESS! To boldly take this program to new heights its never seen before. Their hard work has been evident each and every day this team has been together. Also, all hand picked by our long time Executive Director, Tonya Geraghty. She has made the new face of Safe Space brighter than it has ever been before. To help guide this new team, they are joined by long timers, Brenda Beardslee, Weekday Night Advocate and Dan Huerta, Maintenance.

Read on to meet the staff!





**CHELSI - WEEKEND ADVOCATE**

Hello! My name is Chelsi and I am the Weekend Night Advocate. I stay at the shelter with our clients on weekend nights as well as help anyone in crisis when needed. I have developed a passion for working with survivors of DV/SA and have been blessed with the best work fam I am a single mom to a beautiful, spunky little girl. We enjoy going on hikes and playing in the yard on nice days as well as reading books and doing puzzles.



**RACHAEL - SHELTER MANAGER**

Hi! I'm Rachael and currently the Shelter Manager at Safe Space, Inc. I think I have found my place to belong. I spent over a decade working with behavioral children and have moved on to help survivors of sexual assault and Domestic Violence. I truly believe everything happens for a reason and this is where I choose to pour my heart and soul into. If I'm not here I'm definitely sporting with my furry babes, "Dr. Jekyll and Mr Hyde", my oh so adorable enormous (100lb and 130lb) German Shepherds, oh and Jack their mentor, (7.5 lb) Jack Russell/Chihuahua mix. And if by chance you catch me on a night of no work and all play, you can find me at a pool table, racked and ready



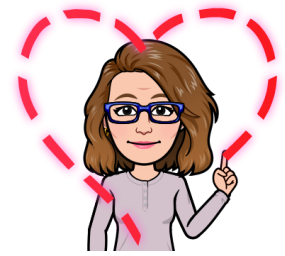
**RYLIE - SEXUAL ASSAULT SPECIALIST**

Hello All! Rylie here & I'm the Sexual Assault Specialist at Safe Space in Butte! I've been working with survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault since 2019 and since then I have developed a passion for helping people in these situations, learning more every day. I am a very empathetic lady, which helps in my work of advocacy at the shelter! When I'm not at the shelter, you can catch me journaling, crafting, streaming TV, and spending time with friends or my dog, Monty! I'm constantly driven to make a difference in myself and in my community. I love a good laugh, along with finding silver-linings. I'm here for you, Butte!



**SKEETER - VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR**

Hello Buttercup! My name's Skeeter & I'm your Volunteer Coordinator at Safe Space in Butte. My job involves reaching out to the community and taking care of the donations needed to keep the shelter up and running. I love working with survivors because I get to care for their needs and provide assistance to those who reach out for support. I'm your go-to when it comes to volunteering in our building. I'm a mom of two awesome kids and three great pups! My passion lies in keeping on and carrying on! I'm a very bright spirit who's always on your side.



**WINCHESTER - ASSISTANT DIRECTOR**

Hey Y'all! I'm Winchester, the Assistant Director here at Butte Safe Space. I try to split my time between assisting our Executive Director with grants and administrative duties, and working as an advocate to assist the survivors that come through our doors. Every Tuesday I get the fun job of leading play therapy with the children of our clients! Outside of work I love to write poetry, work on my novel, paint, and sew my own dresses! I am an avid animal lover and you can often catch me tracking down stray animals in the street to give them love.



**BRENDA - NIGHT ADVOCATE**

Hi! My name is Brenda, and I am the Night Advocate here at the Butte Safe Space. I work the graveyard shift at the shelter and on the crisis line and I am the friendly voice you hear when you call the line at night. I have worked as an advocate for several years now and always keep an open heart to the situations of anyone who comes to the shelter for help. When I'm not at work I spend my time being a grandma for my lovely grandchildren. They are my life! I also love crafts, especially creating something special from something that might be considered plain or broken.

## OUR CHRISTMAS ANGELS

The 2022 Christmas season brought with it an amazing outpouring of good will and blessings. Every year Safe Space and its staff does its best to give our clients and especially their children a Christmas to remember fondly during a time when they are struggling, but we can't do it alone. This past year we were able to bring smiles, tears, and laughter to the homes and hearts of our clients with the generous help of the YMCA giving tree, Montana Precision, and Butte Dodge. These community organizations heard our call for help and sprang into action, going above and beyond to provide for the families in our care and give them a Christmas that will live in their memory, and ours, for years to come. So a big thank you to Butte Dodge, Montana Precision, and the YMCA, you guys rock!



## BUTTE DODGE GENEROSITY

In addition to their amazing donations over Christmas, Butte Dodge has managed to astound us with their kindness and support over and over again. Early last year, our donation box at Glacier Bank had to be removed for their renovations. While this may not seem like a huge issue, for us it was a mess. As we are a confidential location, having no donation drop off spot meant having to aggressively cut off how many donations we could take until a new location was found. Thankfully, Butte Dodge stepped up to the plate and has been our hero, allowing us to place our donation box on their show room floor so that we could still receive donations without revealing our location and compromising our client's safety. Then when our transmission in our company vehicle that we use to transport clients went out, Butte Dodge donated the parts and the labor costs to get us back on the road and back to helping our client's. So a HUGE shout out to Dodge for their assistance and generosity in helping us in so many ways, you guys are amazing and we don't know what we would do without you!



## JOB OPENING

We are looking for a part time housekeeper to join our team. We are requesting that applicants have experience housekeeping and be aware that advocacy will not be a part of your job description. If you are interested in this position find us on Indeed to apply!



## SHOUT OUT TO AN AMAZING MAN

We as a staff here at Safe Space would like to do a shout out to an amazing man in our community, Mike Henrich. Mike has donated a seeming endless stream of necessities to our shelter. From new clothing, winter coats and boots for kits, to toilet-paper, children's activities, and more, Mike always has a smile and a kind word, and some very important donations when he comes to our door. You are amazing Mike, and I hope the universe treats you as kindly as you treat us, you rock!!!

## SAFE SPACE STATS

This past year we have been fortunate enough to continue helping our clients despite the turmoil in the political, financial, and general world. In the past year we served 104 primary victims and 74 secondary victims inside the shelter and 41 primary victims and 40 secondary victims outside the shelter for a total of 259 victims served. We were able to provide 1,372 nights of shelter to our clients, 48 individual instances of financial aid ranging from bus tickets to cell phones, and received 1,348 crisis calls. It was a busy year, but we are always here, 24/7, ready to help anyone in need. If you are in crisis or have any questions, feel free to call us at our crisis line at (406)-782-8511 or at our office line at (406)-782-9807. We are happy to help!

# SEXUAL ASSAULT SUPPORT GROUP

FRIDAY EVENINGS  
BEGINNING MAY 19TH  
AT 5 PM

Women Ages 18 & Up

For more information, please contact  
Safe Space at (406) 782-9807.

## WEEKLY SUPPORT GROUPS

Speaking out about one's abuse or assault can be difficult, especially with such an isolating ordeal. We at Safe Space welcome survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault with compassion and understanding. Every Tuesday from 5pm to 6pm, domestic violence victims are welcome to attend the domestic violence support group. Also at this time, victim's children and children experiencing any secondary victimization can attend the children's support group. If you or you know someone who is a victim of sexual assault, the sexual assault support group takes place on Fridays from 5pm to 6pm.

The groups run by Marci (domestic violence), Rylie (sexual assault), and Winchester (children's) are a safe place to meet people who may understand the ways you're feeling. As the group facilitators meet each member with passion and empathy, this gives survivors room to grow through shared stories and healthy coping mechanisms. It's critical to us that survivors have a supportive and confidential space to share their thoughts and experiences during such a challenging time.

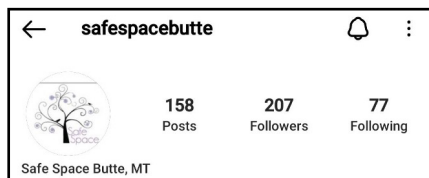
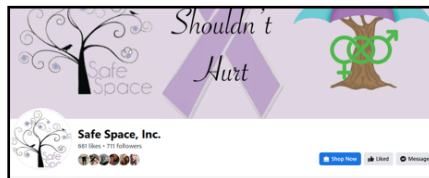
## THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!

A shout out to our amazing volunteers over the past few months! Thank you so much for the time and effort you have put into this program!

Dawna Michel  
Trevor Scott  
Hadley Lingle  
Elizabeth Clark  
Wilson Shiner  
Abigail Van Zandt  
Brooklyn Bliss  
Tammy Evert  
Abriana Knkuk  
Carlyn Lewis  
Stephanie Bentley  
Nicole Davidson  
Jacob Gibson

If you are interested in volunteering to help sort donations and clean the shelter, call Skeeter at our office line (406)-782-9807

If you are interested in volunteering as an advocate, watch our Facebook, Instagram, and Website for information on our upcoming Advocate training in May. We are looking for advocates all around our service area of Silver bow, Deerlodge, Powell, Granite and Jefferson counties to assist us in outreach and advocacy. If you or anyone you know is interested in becoming a volunteer advocate, watch our socials and/or give us a call at (406)-782-9807!



## SAYING GOODBYE

Shawn Borup has recently said goodbye to our Board of Director after 10 years of service to her community. Shawn was an active member of Safe Space's Board, from 2012 to 2022 and, in the process of working for the YMCA, is the reason the YMCA giving tree exists and can help Safe Space make Christmass special for so many people. Shawn also led five members of her church once a week for over a year in sorting donations and cleaning the shelter. Shawn, your contributions made our day here at the shelter and your dedication will never be forgotten. Thank You!

## DONATION SHOUT OUT

Gold Hill Lutherine Church donates to us every month, both monetary and physical donations, and for all their generosity we want to give them a huge shout out!

We would also like to give a shout out to Dancing Rainbow for their physical donations and for also allowing us to temporarily house our donation drop off at their location!

Every bit of donation that comes through our doors, whether it be physical or monetary, goes directly to assisting our clients in finding their new, free, and independent

## CLOSING NOTES

### Thank You to our Board Members:

Dan Murphy	Tim Dick
Amy Schulte	Gretchen Geller
Janet Downey	Jackie Thompson
Theresa Renouard	

### and our Staff:

Tonya Geraghty	Skeeter Lingle-Scott
Winchester Kessler	Chelsi Thrasher
Rachael Weaver	Dan Huerta
Rylie Gonzalez	

### Together we serve:

Silver-Bow County  
Deerlodge County  
Powell County  
Jefferson County  
Granite County