

## 25th Anniversary of Laura Kucera's Story

On October 1, 1994, a tragedy occurred in Dixon County. Nineteen-year-old Laura Kucera was abducted at gunpoint in Wakefield, Nebraska by an ex-boyfriend Brian Anderson, 22, of Concord, Nebraska. The two had dated for several months, but when the relationship turned controlling Laura decided to break it off. Anderson began stalking and harassing her. She had obtained a protection order against him on August 15, and after a police officer witnessed the two together, a violation of the order, Anderson was given 30 days in jail. Two days after his release he ran her car off the road, and two days after that the abduction occurred.



Laura Kucera

After leaving Wakefield heading north, Anderson changed course and began driving through winding country roads for some time, Laura realized she had no idea where she was and most likely no one could hear her scream. After Anderson stopped the truck to convince her to talk with him she attempted to get back in and drive away. Unfortunately, the keys had not been left in the truck and she was once again trapped. When Anderson stopped a second time near a meadow, about 6 miles from Macy, Nebraska on the Omaha Indian reservation, Laura made it clear that she did not want to be friends saying that she would, "rather die." At that point, Anderson replied, "Then I guess you'd better start running." She did run and as she ran Anderson shot her twice and she fell. As Anderson drove back toward Wakefield he learned from the police scanner in his pickup that the Dixon County Sheriff's department had begun a manhunt for him. He decided to turn himself in claiming he had dropped Laura off at a restaurant in South Sioux City and did not know her current whereabouts.

Three days later when Laura was still missing an all-out search began. After an unsuccessful first day, Anderson decided to confess and get a plea bargain for lesser charges by telling authorities where to find the body. An agreement was made and Anderson led police to the body that very night. After two gunshot wounds and nights out in the October cold, Laura was miraculously found alive! She was airlifted to the hospital in Sioux City, Iowa and was released from the hospital on November 19, 1994. On March 3, 1995, she was able to testify about the events that occurred that day back in October. In May of 1995, Brian Anderson was sentenced to no less than 85 years in prison. Sadly, Laura is no longer with us. About a year after this incident she was killed in a tragic car accident.

This story was picked up by Reader's Digest and they ran an article titled, "If I Can't Have You, Nobody Will," in September of 1995. A full copy of the article can be found on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/havenhousene>

Reader's  
Digest

#1 25th anniversary  
story

### ***Inside This Issue***

#2 Continued from p.1; Domestic  
Violence Awareness Month

#3 Area Happenings;  
New Staff

## 25 Anniversary of Laura Kucera's Story: Lessons Learned

### Quotes from the professionals that helped with Laura Kucera's case:

- Doug Johnson was the lead investigator of the case. He is the one who found Laura alive. Johnson has many memories of this case calling it a "miracle case; so unique in so many ways." He remembers Laura being able to testify in court saying, "She didn't bat an eye, and told it like it was." He became friends with Laura throughout this process and remembers her stopping by with friends just to check in with him.
- Leland Miner was and continues to be the County Attorney of Dixon County. He remembers that Brian Anderson was charged in both Dixon County where the abduction occurred and in Thurston County where Laura was shot. He remembers, "the odd thing about it was everyone was convinced she was dead and the case was approached from that perspective." He can still remember seeing her legs move in the lights that night and was astounded at her recovery.

### Statistics:

- Domestic violence and dating violence can happen anywhere, even in small "safe" communities
- The presence of a gun in a domestic violence situation increases risk of homicide by over 500%
- 1 in 3 high school dating relationships involve some form of abuse
- It is difficult to gather statistics on the frequency of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and any


type of abuse, but unfortunately it is much more common than most people realize

## Domestic Violence Awareness Month

October 2019

|   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <p><b>EVERY MINUTE</b></p> <p><b>24 PEOPLE</b></p> <p>BECOME VICTIMS OF PHYSICAL VIOLENCE, RAPE, OR STALKING</p>  | <p><b>1 in 4 MEN</b></p> <p><b>1 in 3 WOMEN</b></p> <p>HAVE BEEN VICTIMS OF PHYSICAL VIOLENCE BY AN INTIMATE PARTNER IN THE UNITED STATES</p>                      | <p><b>HAVEN HOUSE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SERVED 364 PEOPLE LAST YEAR</li> <li>• PROVIDED 1,574 SHELTER STAYS</li> <li>• PROVIDED 4,722 MEALS</li> <li>• CRISIS SUPPORT TO 1,560 CALLERS</li> <li>• 59 VOLUNTEERS CONTRIBUTED 10,223 HOURS</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>IN NEBRASKA</b></p> <p><b>14 DOMESTIC ASSAULTS</b></p> <p>ARE REPORTED EVERY DAY</p> <p><small>THIS NUMBER IS IN NO WAY AN INDICATOR OF HOW MANY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CRIMES ACTUALLY OCCUR IN NE EVERY DAY. THESE ARE ONLY THE ONES REPORTED.</small></p> | <p><b>A VICTIM'S RISK OF GETTING KILLED INCREASES BY 75% WHEN THEY ARE IN THE PROCESS OF LEAVING, HAVE JUST LEFT, OR HAVE FILED A COURT ORDER AGAINST THEM</b></p> | <p><b>THE PRESENCE OF A GUN IN A DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SITUATION INCREASES RISK OF HOMICIDE BY OVER 500%</b></p>   |
| <p><b>3 WOMEN ARE KILLED EACH DAY IN THE U.S. BY A CURRENT OR FORMER PARTNER</b></p>  |  |  |

Sources: National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, National Network to End Domestic Violence, Nebraska Crime Commission  
 Haven House Family Services Center, Wayne Office  
 Support Services for Survivors of Domestic & Sexual Violence  
 24 Hour Crisis Line: 1-800-440-4633 Email: hh@havenhousefsc.org  
 For More Info. Visit: www.havenhousefsc.org



### Domestic Violence Awareness Month Events!

We will be putting displays in local businesses, libraries, and county courthouses as well as spreading the word through social media!

Haven House along with the College Center proudly welcome guest speaker, Robyn Lieber, DV Survivor. Robyn is a Healthy Relationship Coordinator at Her Health Women's Center and will be sharing her story of success and survival on **October 14, from 12-2pm**. Feel free to bring your lunch.

Domestic Violence movie, "The Burning Bed," showing on WSC campus, **October 17 6:30-8:30 pm**

Wayne State College Career Fair, **October 23**

Haven House Trunk or Treat, **October 31**

Wayne State College Non-Profit Fair, **November 20**

# Area Happenings



## In Memory

A hydrangea tree was planted in memory of Dr. Daryl Wilcox recognizing her for her commitment and dedication to Haven House. She was a board member for 14 years. Pictured are Dr. Wilcox's great grand-daughters Skylar and Sierra Mutchler and granddaughter Lexy Messinger.



## National Night Out

South Sioux City Staff attended National Night Out hosted by Dakota County and South Sioux City Law Enforcement. The girls handed out water bottles with Kool-Aid and Aqua Pop popcorn for the kids as prizes for playing corn hole. Amy and Shannon attended the National Night Out in Emerson, Nebraska hosted by area law enforcement. They applied temporary tattoos, had kids participate in a coin drop game, and displayed information about the agency.

## Basics of Advocacy Training

Amy, Shannon, Debbie, Kayla, and Michelle attended the Basics of Advocacy Training put on by the Nebraska Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence at Wesleyan University in Lincoln.

## College Outreach

Shannon attended the WSC Business Expo on August 18 to provide students with information about Haven House as well as to recruit interns and volunteers. Michelle and Amy have had success with outreach to Briar Cliff University as well.

## New Staff



**Kayla Johnson:** Kayla joined our team as the SSC Shelter Advocate on July 29th after completing her internship through Wayne State College. She has one semester left before she graduates. Kayla is excited to start her professional career here and is eager to work with clients.



**Shannon Ridenour:** Shannon is the new part-time Outreach Coordinator for the Wayne office. Shannon has an education background with ten years of teaching experience. She is new to the work of Haven House, but is excited to learn all she can about helping our clients. Shannon lives on an acreage near Concord, Nebraska with her husband, five young children, two dogs, a few cows and calves, and plenty of chickens!

## Staff

|                       |                                   |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Amy Munderloh.....    | Executive Director                |
| Connie Reyes.....     | Shelter Manager                   |
| Debbie Goettsch.....  | DV/SA Supervisor                  |
| Denise Tello.....     | Bilingual Advocate                |
| Lisbeth Ramirez ..... | Enhanced Client Advocate          |
| Kayla Johnson.....    | Shelter Advocate                  |
| Shannon Ridenour..... | Outreach Coordinator Wayne office |

## Board of Directors

|                               |                 |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| Laura Dendinger - President   | Ed Mahon        |
| Pat Browning - Vice President | Susan Koranda   |
| Berenice Vallejo - Secretary  | Domonic Consoli |
| Jeanie Sturm - Treasurer      | Cindy Uthof     |



  
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Family Services Center  
P.O. BOX 44 Wayne, NE 68787

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#### New Intern

Elizabeth Sederburg is the current intern at the Wayne Haven House location. She is majoring in psychology with minors in both art and philosophy. She plans on attending graduate school to work toward a doctorate in counseling psychology.



#### Volunteer

Eli Rendon is a current volunteer. She is a freshman at Wayne State College and from Columbus, Nebraska. Eli is interested in Criminal Justice. She has been helpful with outreach, shelter operations, and much more!



## To Our Donors

June 20th, 2019– Sept. 24th, 2019

### Individual

Louise Jenness  
 Heather Korver  
 Buffany DeBorer  
 Jennifer Johnson  
 Beverly Ruwe  
 Charles Maier  
 Richard and Jan Walz  
 Melissa Miller  
 Sierra Mutchler  
 Joan Marlene Mueller giving fund  
 Deb Dannelly  
 Lee Schneiders  
 Phyllis Rahn  
 Jeanne Brink  
 Dena Garveson  
 Mary Kneifl  
 Cindy Milligan  
 Scott Hasemann  
 Bridget Whitmeier  
 April Heimes  
 Jan Casey  
 Pat Sherry  
 Lila Swanson  
 Dennis Linster  
 Sharon Wagner  
 Bill Meyer  
 Meena Dalal  
 Clifford and Jean Peck  
 Laura and David Dendinger  
 Carl Delperdang  
 Julia Rembert  
 Nanette Day  
 Melissa Nelson  
 Karen Kai  
 Michelle Watson  
 Jan Twiford  
 William and Valerie Koeber

### Business

St. Luke WELCA-Emerson  
 United Lutheran Church, Laurel  
 Farmer's State Bank, Carroll  
 All Saint's Church, Fordyce  
 First Baptist Church, Wayne  
 Cobblestone Hotel, Wayne  
 Our Savior Lutheran Church, Wayne  
 Integrated Life Choices-Wayne  
 Ameritas- Wayne

IHO- In Honor Of  
 IMO-In Memory Of  
 SSC-So.Sioux City

We Apologize if your name was inadvertently omitted or incorrectly listed; please contact us at 402-375-5433



Want to help individuals who have been affected by domestic violence or sexual assault this holiday season?

Contact our main office by calling **402-375-5433** or emailing **connier@havenhousefsc.org** with your interest.

### Why adopt a family?

Many of our clients are restarting their lives after leaving an abusive situation and their resources are very limited. Our adopt-a-family program helps them to still have a special Christmas and continue getting back on their feet.



## HAVEN HOUSE PARTNER PROGRAM

Our partner's program allows us to notify you of immediate client needs, and then you have the option to offer your help or resources for that need.

### How does it work?

1. Sign up for the Partners Program by calling 402-375-5433 or e-mail [hh@havenhousefsc.org](mailto:hh@havenhousefsc.org)
2. We'll add you to our partner's program database.
3. When new needs arise from our clients, we'll notify all of our partners.
4. Respond if you can help with their need
5. The needs of clients are met!

## CAN'T MAKE IT TO THE STORE?

We have a digital wish list where you can shop straight from your phone or computer. It will ship straight to our office when you order.

Shop our digital wish list at [www.havenhousefsc.org/wishlist](http://www.havenhousefsc.org/wishlist)

OR

Flip this page over to our physical wish list and support a local business.



# haven·house

## *Family Services Center*

### WISH LIST

**Due to limited storage, please call before donating any items not on the wish list.**

|                               |                                  |                                     |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Canned Fruits, Vegetables,    | Gas Cards                        | Gift Cards (Walmart/Dollar General) |
| Shampoo/Conditioner           | Garbage Bags (kitchen size)      | Stamps                              |
| Toilet Paper & Paper Towels   | Bottled Water                    | Body Wash                           |
| Dish Soap & Laundry Detergent | Sandwich bags (quart and gallon) | Fabric Softener & Dryer Sheets      |

**\*At this time, we are not accepting stuffed animals, blankets/sheets, or bath towels.**

#### OFFICE LOCATIONS:

P.O. Box 44 -215 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street – Wayne, NE 68787 – 402-375-5433

117 E. 28<sup>th</sup> Street – South Sioux City, NE 68776 – 402-494-7592

[hh@havenhousefsc.org](mailto:hh@havenhousefsc.org)

[www.havenhousefsc.org](http://www.havenhousefsc.org)

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#### HAVEN HOUSE DONATION FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Your gift of \$25 provides one night of safe shelter for an adult & a child. How many nights can you provide?

\_\_\_ \$1000 \_\_\_ \$500 \_\_\_ \$250 \_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_ \$25 \_\_\_ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

This gift is in \_\_\_ honor of or in \_\_\_ memory of \_\_\_\_\_

May we list your name in the newsletter for donor recognition? \_\_\_ YES \_\_\_ NO

Would you like to receive our newsletter by \_\_\_ MAIL or via \_\_\_ E-Mail?

Please make checks payable to Haven House.

Your contributions will support services for survivors of domestic & sexual violence.

Haven House is a nonprofit agency. Gifts are tax-deductible within the extent of law.

Federal Tax ID #47-0611454.