

## LWML Minnesota North District 31<sup>st</sup> Biennial Convention

June 3-5, 2024

Cragun's Resort and Conference Center

11000 Cragun's Drive, Brainerd, MN

## CONVENTION INGATHERING INFORMATION & NEEDS LIST



### ITEMS NEEDED

- Used Cell Phones
- iPhone & Android charging cords
- Diapers Size 3 & up
- Baby wipes and bottles
- Non-latex gloves
- Trash bags
- Tweezers
- Nail clippers
- Unopened allergy medication
- Unopened pain reliever
- Orajel
- Girls leggings, any size
- Fleece blankets
- Quilts
- Toilet Paper
- Paper Towels
- Cleaning Supplies
- Mops/Brooms
- Laundry Detergent Pods
- Shampoo and Conditioner
- Feminine Hygiene Products
- Coffee Maker
- Toaster
- Cookware
- Dishes
- Silverware
- Cups/Glasses
- Dial-A-Ride Passes
- Gas/Retail/Grocery Gift Cards

\*Because we help our residents to set-up their new homes, anything is appreciated. In many cases, they come to us with literally the clothes on their backs.



### **MOST Ministries** Mission Opportunities Short Term

MOST Ministries provides short term mission opportunities for individuals to support Christian ministries throughout the world through witness and service.

#### **Mission Opportunities Short Term**

655 Phoenix Dr  
Ann Arbor, MI 48108  
most@mostministries.org  
734-994-7909

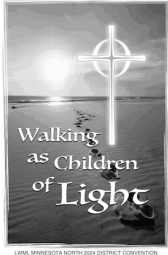
#### **Mission Opportunities Short Term**

**MOST Ministries** is committed to impacting the world for Jesus Christ through short term missions by empowering the found in reaching the lost. Each year, MOST Ministries provides recycled eyeglasses to people living in developing countries around the world. Teams use a combination of finger puppets and witness bracelets in the field during the eyeglass distribution clinics.

#### **ITEMS NEEDED**

- Prescription eyeglasses, no hard cases please
- Sunglasses – not prescription

With every pair of prescription glasses, MOST gives a pair of sunglasses, if available



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### MISSION

Our mission is to save lives by supporting the journey to wellbeing and empowerment of all people exposed to relationship abuse.

Sometimes there is a cloud that comes over our lives. It shadows us and we can't seem to find a place of warmth, safety and support. We need shelter from the torrent—help braving the storm. The Relationship Safety Alliance is the umbrella that covers you. RSA is an alliance of services joining together to help you safely through your journey. The Louise Seliski Shelter provides housing for those in emergency need. The Alex & Brandon Child Safety Center facilitates safe visitations and safe exchanges among families. Simple descriptions of life-saving endeavors. RSA safeguards those whose storm has not yet cleared. The journey is yours, but we intend to hold the umbrella for you as the skies begin to brighten.

Relationship Safety Alliance has three vectors. The Louise Seliski Shelter, the Alex & Brandon Child Safety Center, and weekly community support groups.

### LOUISE SELISKI SHELTER

Founded in 1978 by Louise Seliski, with the support of a grant through the Minnesota Department of Corrections, the Mid-Minnesota Women's Center became the fifth battered women's shelter in the state. Since its beginning, the shelter has provided critical services and a haven to women and children experiencing domestic violence. Louise served as the Executive Director until 2011 when she retired.

Originally a large, old home at 13th and Oak streets in southeast Brainerd, the shelter accepted its first family in August of 1978. The original shelter was intended to house six women and children, though was often over-capacity. In 1995, the existing shelter was built in southeast Brainerd and has a 26-bed capacity in six bedrooms. The shelter operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year and serves about 120 people annually.

Built so it can be divided into two sections, the shelter was able to

expand beyond serving just women and their children to serving all people that suffer relationship abuse and need a place for safety. When the shelter is full, temporary housing in local hotels is provided through the use of special grant funds. Early on in our history, Louise recognized that pets are often also abused and bringing them to the shelter with their families provided meaningful comfort. This organization is unique in that family pets are welcomed and the many benefits of their presence within the shelter are embraced.

### ALEX & BRANDON CHILD SAFETY CENTER

The Brainerd Lakes community was devastated when 5-year-old Alex and 4-year-old Brandon were murdered at the hands of their father in July of 1996. Through the generosity of many, about \$450,000 was raised to build the Alex & Brandon Child Safety Center which opened in Brainerd in 2000 and typically facilitates about 1,200 supervised child visits per year. The Safety Center serves as a place for court-ordered, supervised visitations and safe exchanges of children between parents/caregivers. In recent years we have also seen the need for visitations between parents and their adult children as a result of elder abuse.

### PRESENT AND FUTURE

In 2022, our organization adopted the name Relationship Safety Alliance to better encompass our services and represent the people with which we engage. Our clients have changed over the past 40 years. Being inclusive, equitable and welcoming to those experiencing relationship abuse is crucial to the wellbeing and empowerment of these individuals. Our aim is to be the resource that pulls together survivors and advocates under the safe umbrella of healthy relationships where abuse is not tolerated, and individuals have the resources to succeed.

Relationship Safety Alliance's programs and services are funded in part by the Office of Justice Programs - A Division of the Minnesota Department of Public Safety.

**Relationship Safety Alliance (RSA)**  
1414 Maple Street  
Brainerd MN 56401  
[relationshipsafety.org](http://relationshipsafety.org)