

THE ADVOCATE ASPECT

2021 IN REVIEW



Although the COVID Pandemic has continued, the past year had Rural Resources Victim Services feeling much closer to “normal.” Let’s look at a few highlights of the past year and what is to come in 2022!



Children’s Advocacy Center

The Children’s Advocacy Center (CAC) is a non-profit entity, under the agency of Rural Resources, that provides abused children with a warm environment in which they can feel safe to talk about their abuse. When abused children arrive at the Children’s Advocacy Center, they enter a safe and child-friendly environment.

A local CAC video has been dreamed about for quite some time and was needed for grant and accreditation purposes. With the help of local videographers Carly and Hunter Stewart, who specialize in graphic design and video editing, the CAC was able to complete this task. The video is about seven minutes long and features information on how our local Children’s Advocacy Center operates for Ferry and Stevens Counties. The video features our Director, Client Services Program Manager, Forensic Interviewer/Law Enforcement, Receptionist, Victim Advocate, and Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) Coordinator. They describe their roles at the local CAC, while explaining how it functions. The video also discusses how our local CAC which brings together representatives from many disciplines, including



law enforcement, child protection, prosecution, mental health, medical, and victim advocacy, provides comprehensive services to child victims of abuse. Our team of professionals, or Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT), works collaboratively to provide case management investigation and prosecution of child abuses cases as well as support children and their families through the criminal justice process.

In the latter half of 2021, the CAC supported 28 children with sexual and physical abuse cases. The CAC is looking forward to connecting more with Law Enforcement and medical professionals regarding referrals and strengthening lines of communication between all of the Multi-Disciplinary Team to support our youth in need throughout 2022.





Tribal Program

The Tribal Program of Rural Resources Victim Services is located in Inchelium, Washington on the Colville Indian Reservation. Since launching in the Fall of 2020, the staff has focused on building community relationships, improving client experiences within the Tribal Court system, increasing cultural support, and continuing to renovate the once-abandoned buildings.

Despite the ongoing pandemic, the Tribal Program has seen significant growth within the last 12 months. The staff has held an Honor Walk for residential school survivors, hosted Indigenous youth artists to complete a mural on the grounds, launched a community closet, a client boutique, and fostered relationships with community partners.

We are grateful for our relationship with the Chewelah Casino, which provided our Indigenous youth with the opportunity to create a breathtaking mural at the Casino, and a chance to



showcase their artistry to a larger audience. The Chewelah Casino also partnered with the Tribal Program in December 2021, to complete a “Tree of Sharing” for our clients and their children. This was a labor of love, and it brought holiday cheer and smiles to clients and staff alike.

Another key partnership was formed in 2021 with the Rural Resources Food Systems Program, through which funding was acquired to construct a cultural gathering place at the Inchelium office. Through this program, community members have already planted traditional roots on the grounds of the Inchelium office. This project will continue in the spring of 2022 and will include traditional sweat houses, a meat smoker, sweetgrass for harvesting, and a garden for survivors to sit and enjoy views of the land.



Trauma Workshop

In December 2021, Rural Resources Victim Services worked with the Stevens County Sheriff’s department to host a Vicarious Trauma Training for first responders and their partners.

The training was led by Phoebe Mulligan LICSW and attended by 77 individuals from multiple disciplines. Ms. Mulligan covered a variety of aspects of primary and secondary trauma as experienced by police, fire, victim advocates, and more. This opened the door for much needed conversations in our community about the effects of trauma on our first responders and the need for peer support in these spaces.



Domestic Violence Support Group

Did you know we offer a support group to survivors of domestic violence?

We use positive support and healthy relationship skills to aid survivors in their path forward. We focus on an array of topics such as: self-esteem, self-care, relationship dynamics, parenting and communication styles, boundaries and much more. Our support group is survivor-driven with a facilitator to help build a strong support system.

**Safe. Confidential.
Non-judgmental.**

For more information, call 509-684-3796.





Community Engagement

Rural Resources Community Engagement staff work in many of our local schools and provide advocacy resources to businesses around Stevens, Ferry, and Lincoln counties.

Throughout 2021 Community Engagement has been riding the pandemic waves to work with over 300 student contacts throughout Stevens, Ferry, and Lincoln counties. While following strict safety procedures, our staff was able to continue groups like SPHYR [Students Promoting Healthy Youth Relationships] in Columbia School District, where students led the way in discussing pre-teen/teen interpersonal relationship issues like cyberbullying and teen dating violence awareness.

We were also able to continue classroom Social Emotional Learning [SEL] programs at Columbia Elementary, Lincoln County ECEAP, and Northport High School. These SEL groups are a combination of in-person and take-home programming focusing on arts and crafts projects as well as games that help students and families discuss topics like feelings, coping strategies, emotional regulation, and friendship.

Along with the continuation of these programs, Community Engagement began two new Affinity Groups open to Stevens, Lincoln, and Ferry County high school students. These are social groups for students based on identity. The Reconnecting Native Youth group centers around Native students who might have grown up or go to school off of their reservations, or who otherwise feel disconnected from their cultures. The students learn cultural practices from a local elder, and address topics like harmful stereotypes, all with the end goal of building

community within local schools. A second Affinity Group focuses on self-identified LGBT+ students and works to foster positive identity and address the specific challenges of LGBT+ youth in rural communities. These groups currently meet out of Hunters weekly, but Community Engagement hopes to rotate the location of these meetings to provide further access to students around our service area in 2022, while also expanding our SPHYR and SEL programs.

I deserve someone who respects my culture

DATING VIOLENCE IS NOT TRADITIONAL

MY COUSINS DESERVE RELATIONSHIPS THAT ARE PEACEFUL, SAFE, AND FUN

1/3 OF ALL NATIVE YOUTH EXPERIENCE DATING VIOLENCE

Posters by Columbia High School's Native Affinity Group for Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month



Services We Provide

- › 24-Hour Helpline:
1-844-509-SAFE
- › Safe Shelter
- › Children's Advocacy Center
- › Crisis Intervention
- › Information & Referral
- › Advocacy
- › Help with Court Orders
- › Support Groups
- › Therapy
- › Community Outreach & Prevention
- › Education



2022 RRVS Goals

- 1 To build and strengthen external relationships.
- 2 To expand mental health services and access to services for clients.
- 3 To empower domestic violence and sexual assault clients.
- 4 To provide structural support for staff retention and recruitment.
- 5 To research funding options and obtain fiscal stability.



956 S. Main St. | Colville, WA 99114
1018 Morgan St. | Davenport, WA 99122

90 N. Clark Ave. #C | Republic, WA 99166
3328 Hall Creek Rd. | Inchelium, WA 99138

Every Victim. Everywhere.
No Exceptions.

24-HOUR HELPLINE
1-844-509-SAFE

www.RuralResources.org

RuralVictimHelp