

# WHAT'S UP AT WOMENSAFE

*where we're always working toward a safer community for all*



### COMING SOON!

**Watch our website and social media for info about a gorgeous 2022 photo calendar available to donors!**

*Weybridge designer/ photographer and longtime friend of WomenSafe **Carolyn Crowley** has designed a stunning piece of wall art as a thank you to September donors. She took the photos as she walked the streets of Addison County and tried to capture the beauty of these Vermont towns during the pandemic.*

See more of Carolyn's work:  
[www.ccgraphicdesignstudio.com](http://www.ccgraphicdesignstudio.com)  
@ccdesignnerd on Instagram

## Meet our Interim ED!

WomenSafe Board and staff are delighted to share that Christina Grier will serve as Interim Executive Director while we conduct an extensive national search to replace Kerri Duquette-Hoffman. Following her seven years as our Executive Director and twenty on our staff, Kerri is moving to a position with the State of Vermont.

Christina steps into this role following two decades at WomenSafe, in positions ranging from Advocate to, most recently, Services Director. As Kerri explains, "We are so fortunate Christina is willing to serve our community in this way. Her steady approach and calm confidence will sustain us well, as what has already been a thorough and intentional succession planning process continues. I'm grateful Christina is willing to do this, and appreciate the Board's commitment to overseeing a successful transition."

The Board is working with Christina to assemble a hiring team, prioritize qualifications and skills prized by stakeholders, and outline a thorough process for recruiting and evaluating candidates. Christina's plan to stay on through summer 2022 allows ample overlap time for onboarding before she departs to continue her graduate studies next fall.



## Back to school!

As the weather cools, our prevention programming is ramping up! New COVID protocols allow our educators to grow connections with Addison County youth. Here's a snapshot of our fall plans:

- 1st annual Building Consent Culture Youth Retreat with Mosaic, our sister organization in Washington county
- More in-person Act 1 work
- Our first ever Youth Advisory Board with young people who are passionate about ending gender-based violence
- Creating more affirming, safe spaces for queer youth in Addison County to gather
- Onboarding two motivated high school interns to lead local sexual violence prevention activism
- Continued community-based workshops and professional trainings

We're brimming with excitement about all this and more! Our education team is immensely grateful for your support in making sure Addison County kids have the opportunity to learn about maintaining safe, healthy, joyful relationships.

## Welcoming our new Board Co-Chairs



Changes are afoot on the WomenSafe Board, too! Chelsea Colby (left) and Ellen Whelan-Wuest are transitioning into Co-Chair positions as of September. This is the newest outcome of our deepening organization-wide commitment to shared leadership. The Board has defined clear, collaborative roles for them as they steer oversight and strategy. Chelsea, who was a long-term MidSafe advocate while studying at Middlebury College, is in her fourth year teaching at Cornwall Elementary School. Ellen works remotely as Deputy Program Director for the New York City-based Council of State Governments Justice Center.

Rounding out our leadership team, five-year veteran Becky Strum will continue as Secretary, while newer board member Beth Adreon is our new treasurer. Amy Mason will round out her term by spending her 8th and final year in the role of Immediate Past Chair. Once hiring is completed for Executive Director, likely this spring, the Board will begin recruiting new Directors, with the intention of onboarding two or more recruits in fall 2022. We always welcome inquiries about Board membership, so please reach out if you see a place for yourself within this vibrant, collegial team.



"Now that we talked about our trusted adults, I've recognized mine. Thank you."



- Addison County third grader