



UA 400 Pipe Trades and Mechanical Contractors Association Donate \$3,000 to Harbor House Domestic Abuse Programs on #GivingTuesday

Kaukauna, WI. (December 1, 2020) – December is always the biggest month for donations, and Giving Tuesday is an annual day for charitable giving on the first Tuesday after Thanksgiving. On December 1, 2020, UA 400 Pipe Trades and the Mechanical Contractors Association (MCA) of Wisconsin presented a \$3,000 donation to [Harbor House Domestic Abuse Programs](#), which provides 24/7 safe shelter, legal support, safety planning, and support for adults, teens and children in Outagamie and Calumet counties.

According to experts, the pandemic is a “perfect storm” for domestic violence. The New England Journal of Medicine argues that economic hardship, increased stress, and new barriers to reporting violence all point to a surge in future reports.

“It is important to the members of UA 400 to stay active in their communities during the pandemic,” said Trevor Martin, business manager at UA 400. “Organization's like the Harbor House are relying on our support to keep their vital services going.”

More than 1 in 3 women have experienced domestic violence, sexual assault, and/or stalking by a current or former intimate partner. Nationwide, an average of three women are killed every day at the hands of someone who claimed to love them.

“As the COVID-19 pandemic rages on and economic stress increases, violence in homes is escalating,” said Amber Schroeder, executive director of Harbor House. “This additional funding is helpful as Harbor House continues its efforts to reach all victims of domestic violence where they are and provide them with safe services.”

This year, many charitable organizations are struggling as donations decrease and demand for their services increased amid pandemic-fueled unemployment. The challenge is being felt across a wide range of nonprofits with half of the charities saying in May 2020 that they expected donations to fall by at least 20 percent by next spring according to a [survey](#) by the Charities Aid Foundation of America.

“The Mechanical Contractors Association of North Central Wisconsin believe in the Mission of the Harbor House,” said Jeff Gaecke, vice president of MCA. “Our contractor group understands they need the support of other



community organizations during difficult times to continue to provide the very helpful assistance to those in our community.”

With the recent surge of COVID-19 cases, which is expected to continue through December due to Thanksgiving gatherings, experts say it’s essential to help victims of abuse learn how they can seek help.

The CDC recommends the following advice:

- Create a safety plan to outline ways to remain safe while you are in your current situation, planning to leave, or after you leave.
- Practice self-care as much as possible.
- If it is safe, reach out for help and try to maintain social connections through phone calls, texts, emails and social media platforms.

If you or someone you know is suffering from domestic abuse, you can call the Harbor House 24-hour Crisis Helpline (920) 832-1666.

About UA 400 Pipe Trades

The UA 400 Pipe Trades, headquartered in Kaukauna, Wisconsin with an office in Fond du Lac, is comprised of approximately 2300 members serving eighteen counties in Northeast Wisconsin. The organization is affiliated with the [United Association of Plumber and Pipefitters](#) with an estimated 345,000 membership throughout the United States and Canada. The group’s mission is to be the preferred choice for industries, employers and workers specializing in plumbing, pipefitting, HVACR service and pipe fabrication as well as training for its members and qualified manpower to their 95 signatory contractors. The UA 400 takes pride in their partnerships and contributions to serve local communities with organizations such as [Cerebral Palsy Telethon](#), Special Olympics, [Rebuilding Together](#), Heat’s On Project, [Harbor House](#) and Salvation Army. To keep up with the latest news and to learn more about UA 400, visit <http://www.ua400.org> follow us on Facebook, [Instagram](#) and YouTube.

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