

HOPE SHINING BLUE

A **Denim Day celebration** honoring survivors of sexual and domestic violence
Benefitting Aurora Healing & Advocacy Services and Aurora Abuse Response Programs across Wisconsin
Wednesday, April 24, 2024
Eagles Ballroom in Milwaukee



Thrive Award honoring Kara Kay

Kara credits the services she received at the Aurora Healing Center in 2014, as well as participating as a survivor model during the 2018 Hope Shining Blue, for setting her on a path to major life changes – a relocation to Central Wisconsin, earning a master's degree in counseling and ultimately advocating for all survivors.

After returning to college in 2019, Kara earned a master's degree in clinical mental health counseling and is now a licensed professional counselor working with clients of all ages facing trauma, the loss of a loved one, relationship issues and life transitions.

For several years, Kara and her husband, Scott, have been involved in various organizations that support sexual assault and domestic violence survivors. Since 2015, they have participated in the Battle on Bago, an Oshkosh fishing tournament, where they clean and deliver fish to sexual assault and domestic abuse shelters in Winnebago and Wood counties. And in 2021, Kara established a foundation to support sexual assault survivors and hosted Rockin' Resilience to raise money for sexual assault services in Central Wisconsin. She also participated in the 2023 Hope Shining Blue as an alumni model.

Kara and her husband have four adult children.

The Annual Thrive Award was established in 2014 to recognize a sexual assault survivor who is healing and thriving in life, and whose work in the community benefits survivors and promote awareness of sexual assault issues.



Wind Beneath Our Wings honoring Maryann Clesceri

Maryann, now retired, dedicated her 38-year career working with marginalized communities, primarily those who experienced sexual violence. In 1988 she started the first community program in Milwaukee dedicated to youth who were child sexual abuse victims. The program is still assisting youth today.

In 2006, she joined the Aurora Healing Center as the executive director. A year later, while leading the center, she established their first fund raisers which greatly increased individual donations. Due to the impact she made in the community, Maryann won the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault and the Gwen T. Jackson Award from the United Way of Greater Milwaukee.

Maryann believes in giving back and has donated more than \$20,000 in support of survivors. Most importantly though, Maryann has a passion for providing the highest quality care to survivors and supporting the staff who serve them.

This award was created in 2016 to shine a light on the unique contributions of extremely committed organizations or individuals.



Hope Shining Award honoring Dana World-Patterson

Dana World-Patterson has devoted over 30 years to teaching etiquette and image and has served thousands of individuals through her love to see people be better. Dana has served the community as a founding member of the Milwaukee County Human Trafficking Task Force, Chairperson of the Human Trafficking Task Force of Greater Milwaukee, and a Milwaukee Fire & Police Commissioner.

As the founder and executive director of Foundations for Freedom, Inc., Dana works tirelessly strengthening women and girls to reduce ignorance and vulnerabilities through advocacy, awareness, education, housing and prevention to end human sex trafficking. As a volunteer, Dana serves in various roles with organizations such as the Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Commission, Politique, Black Women's Network, Pearls for Teen Girls, YWCA of Milwaukee, Female African American Round Table and African American Leadership of Alliance

Dana World-Patterson wears many hats, including author, teacher, creative, mother, wife and friend. She earned a master's degree in educational leadership from University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, a bachelor's degree in speech pathology from Jackson State University and is pursuing a master's degree in clinical mental health counseling.

On occasion, Aurora Abuse Response programs presents the Hope Shining Award to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the local community that directly benefits survivors of sexual violence or elevates awareness of the issue.