

# Safety for All:



**Our Lives  
Depend On It!**

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### ***Fund Crime Victims Services***

#### **Rice County: Brandi's Hope**

*Years of marital rape and domestic abuse left Brandi hopeless.*

December 24th, 2005 was the night my life changed. My husband demanded sex; I said no. His response: he threw me onto the bed, smashed my face into the comforter and tore off my clothes. He brutally raped me. I begged him to stop. I struggled to get away. My 115 pound body could not win against his 210 pounds. I finally gave up. The pain was so overwhelming that my legs went completely numb.

I was so humiliated. It was in that moment that all hope was lost. I became nothing. Afterwards, I made my way to our living room and sat in my rocking chair staring at the lights of our Christmas tree. I sat there in silence for 6 hours. That was my Christmas.

I did not go to the doctor or police. I could not bear the thought of having to talk with a man about this or to be examined.

Over the next two years, I was raped by my husband three more times. I attempted suicide twice. Finally, after 13 years of marriage, I divorced.

After the divorce my ex-husband began to stalk me, follow me, wait outside of my apartment. This time I did contact police. One day at a court hearing, an advocate from the Hope Center in Faribault appeared standing beside the prosecutor. It was as though an angel had been watching my life and was now offering someone. Someone who could offer me the support and safety I needed. Someone who could allow me to finally move forward with my new life and allow for closure to the old one. Someone who actually cared.

That moment changed everything, again. I was offered hope that was lost so many years ago. I am now a survivor.

**Domestic violence and sexual assault victim services, an essential government function, helped Brandi find hope again—her life depended on it.**

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**men's action network**  
Alliance to Prevent Sexual & Domestic Violence

Sacred Hoop Coalition