

# Hope Alliance set to expand presence in Wilco

## WOMEN HELPING OTHERS

Anne Marshall

Members of Women Helping Others in March met Myra Kamihara-Pablo, assistant director of resource development of Hope Alliance.

Hope Alliance is a resource center and emergency shelter for those affected by family and sexual violence. The mission of Hope Alliance is to provide resources and services to help victims and survivors rebuild their lives. The Alliance works to develop partnerships that lead to hope, healing and prevention.

The organization was founded as a rape crisis center in 1984 and has been servicing the community for 39 years. According to Hope Alliance, it is the only agency in Williamson County dedicated to providing both emergency shelter services for victims of family violence and/or sexual abuse and ongoing trauma-informed coun-

seling services.

Types of family and sexual abuse: physical abuse, emotional abuse, financial abuse, stalking, digital abuse, sexual violence.

Their emergency shelter in Williamson County has 30 beds and operates at full capacity nearly every night.

Williamson County Commissioners Court recently granted Hope Alliance the use of a county facility in Hutto as a temporary auxiliary shelter, which will have 14 beds and will begin operating on April 12.

"Due to Williamson County's significant concern for public safety, Hope Alliance is proud to announce the opening of another temporary, auxiliary Emergency Shelter with a Hutto mailing address," the organization wrote in a news release last week. "We are forever grateful to the Commissioners of Williamson County



Myra Kamihara-Pablo, Hope Alliance's assistant director of resource development, stands with Women Helping Others Vice President Maria Tolfeson.

who made our new Emergency Shelter possible.

"Very appropriately, the new Shelter will open in April [during Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month] and operate with bed space for 14 clients, thus increasing our capacity to provide Sheltered Nights of Safety by almost 50 percent. Our new emergency shelter, with support from the commissioners of Williamson County will enable us to provide more services for more victims of

abuse."

Hope Alliance has also purchased 11.5 acres of land for its new building located on San Gabriel Parkway near Glenn High School, which will sit on 8 acres of land. Security at the new facility will include fences, cameras and law enforcement on-site 24/7.

The target date for completion is the fall of 2024 and the cost of the new facility is \$20.3 million.

"In the last 5 years of operation, Hope Alliance has fielded over

15,400 calls to our 24/7 Hotline [800-460-7233] and provided direct services for over 5,000 victims with more than 104,000, one-hour face-to-face, counseling and advocacy sessions," the press release states.

### Upcoming fundraising event

Opportunities for Williamson and Burnet Counties and Meigs on Wheels is having its annual 5 & Shop Style Show event from a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday May 13 in Marble Falls.

This is the Saturday before Mother's Day. Mothers and daughters at the event will be honored.

Tickets are \$50; however, if you purchase a table of eight, the tickets are \$45. Go to <http://www.me-tx.org>, click on "Sip & Shop" at the top of the screen and follow directions. So, get your friends together or your family and join them while helping feed Seniors in our community.