



They all look different.  
*They all can fly.*

# Why Voluntary Services

Red Wind Consulting, Inc.  
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## Sovereignty

At the very heart of voluntary services is the sovereignty of survivors. Sovereignty refers to Nations but also to the people as well. Native women were considered sovereign and self-governing. Historically, Native women had the right to their own children, the right to divorce, and their own possessions. (Artichoker, 2000)

A survivor holds her own unique path in life; without fear, but with freedom. She owns her own self-governance, maintaining the ability to make her own decisions. She can and is supported to speak freely for herself, in her own way defining her own reality and her own direction in life. (Sacred Circle, 2001)



This does not mean we are not offering services, we in fact are offering the full range of services and the approach is that we will build engagement between the program staff and participants, so they realize we are there to be helpful as they envision their lives.

- Creating an environment with dialogue.
- Open communication takes place.
- Working in partnership with the survivor to support the direction the survivor has chosen.

**The Voluntary Services approach is based on the notion that participation in services should be voluntary and not a condition of housing or receiving other services. This approach emphasizes respectful and welcoming behavior in all aspects of the work. Services are driven by the needs, wants, and individual goals of survivors.**

## Our work with survivors

We can work through a full range of trauma services. We work in a way that recognizes that everyone is carrying an impact from the violence they experienced, as well as may also be carrying an impact from historical and multigenerational trauma.

### *Envisioning a life without violence*

We work from an approach that recognizes that each person has a right moment for creating change in their lives. We help facilitate a means for each person to engage in examining their lives and creating a new vision living without violence and imagining the possibilities of where they want their life to go. As advocates, we will support them as they walk forward in seeing their possibilities and helping them to recognize the options available to them. We help them to see themselves. Helping the survivor to recognize what their barriers are while building their sense of personal safety.