

# Stories of Strength



United Way  
St. Croix Valley



On the last day of the **Turningpoint** 2016 Wellness Initiative, staff and volunteers brought domestic violence survivors to Fantastic Sams for a haircut and style, then returned to the Second Chances building to offer them a makeup session and a gift certificate for clothing at Second Chances.

After applying makeup, "Kayla" shared, "I can't stop looking at myself. This is the first time I have done my hair and makeup in about three years. He wouldn't let me wear makeup or let my hair down. He always accused me of cheating on him when I did anything to look nice. My hair has been back in a ponytail for as long as I can remember. This is the first time I've allowed myself to dress up and feel pretty in at least three years."

The makeover session was about so much more than feeling beautiful for these women, though they said they DID feel beautiful. It was about them taking their power back. It was about not letting their former abusers dictate how they looked or how they chose to live their lives. *It was truly about empowerment.*

*Partner Agency:*



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