

A message from our Executive Director:

Since our inception in 1989, The Shelter for Abused Women & Children has grown from a 20 bed shelter to a 60 bed state-of-the-art domestic violence center providing sanctuary and services to more than 50,000 victims of domestic violence and their children through our emergency shelter and outreach programs. Recently listed among Charity Navigator's top 14-rated domestic violence centers in the country, The Shelter's innovative programs and services benefit residents throughout Collier County including Naples, Marco Island, Everglades City, Immokalee, Bonita Springs and all points in between.

Domestic violence is an epidemic across the nation and in our local communities that The Shelter is committed to addressing. According to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the cost of intimate partner violence exceeds \$5.8 billion dollars in our country each year; and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) details 115,150 reported cases of domestic violence and 189 domestic violence related homicides in the state of Florida in 2007. Closer to home, Collier County had more than 2,100 domestic violence related offenses in 2007.

At The Shelter, we believe that it's possible to have a community without domestic violence so that every home is a safe haven for the family it shelters. At The Shelter, we are committed to helping adult and child victims and survivors of domestic violence through safety, intervention and support; educating the public about domestic violence; and advocating for social change against domestic violence. We are committed to addressing this issue through new progressive programs and partnerships that address community need, stress continuum of services and reflect successful national trends in prevention, education and intervention.

The growth and loyalty of our supporters over the years is a testament to the quality of programs and services offered at The Shelter. Thanks to your support, we have continued to expand our services this past year to meet the needs of victim families in our community including the expansion of our outreach efforts to include women of means, elder victims of domestic violence and education programs for boys and young men. In the upcoming year, The Shelter for Abused Women & Children looks forward to increasing our emphasis on prevention efforts to further address the root causes of domestic violence and break the cycle of abuse. We welcome your continued support as we work toward changing attitudes and creating solutions to promote peace in our community.

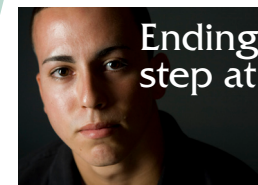
Linda

Linda Oberhaus  
Executive Director



During the past year, your generous support of The Shelter has allowed us to:

- Develop a Transitional Living Program including four cottages for individuals and families who seek to further develop life skills while working and/or going to school, all with The Shelter's support close at-hand.
- Launch the **'Gentlemen Against Domestic Violence'** luncheon in support of the GADV program designed to teach boys that strength never equals violence.
- Present our **Hands Are for Helping** prevention program to more than 2,300 children in elementary schools throughout Collier County.
- Open **Another Option Thrift Shoppe** to help raise awareness in the Golden Gate area of Naples about our life-transforming programs and services.
- Provide monthly access to the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile helping secure medical and dental services for all children living in our 60-bed residential shelter.
- Add two support groups to our wide-array of programs and services: **Wise Women** support group for elders and **Empowerment Lunch Group** started by our Women of Means program.
- Provide in excess of 14,070 days of shelter.
- Offer a happy holiday to more than 825 children, women and teens rebuilding their lives free from domestic violence.



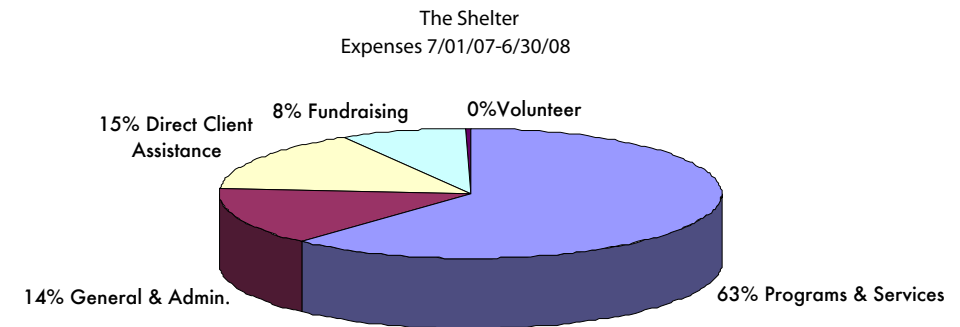
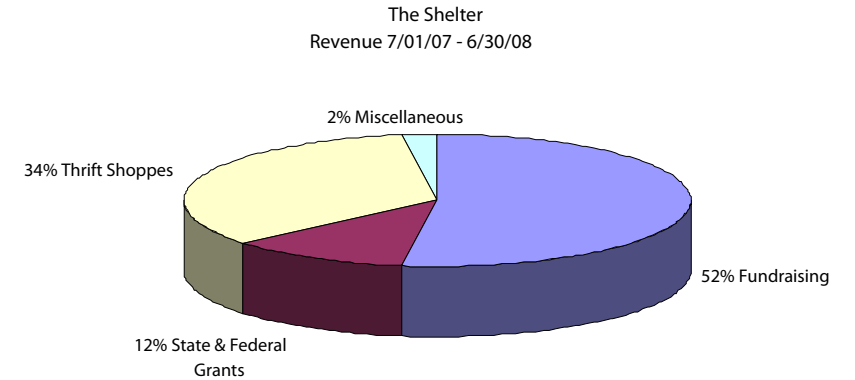
Ending domestic violence one step at a time...

Working together we are able to protect victims, prevent abuse and prevail over domestic violence in the lives of individuals, neighborhoods and communities throughout Southwest Florida by:

- Answering 4,652 crisis hotline calls (239-775-1101) this past fiscal year.
- Developing 6,459 safety plans with adult and child victims of domestic violence last year alone.
- Educating 8,689 individuals through one or more of The Shelter's community education programs during the past fiscal year.



To Protect. To Prevent. To Prevail.



24-hour crisis hotline: 239-775-1101 / [www.naplesshelter.org](http://www.naplesshelter.org) / To Protect. To Prevent. To Prevail.