

Transforming Lives

The Shelter's Quarterly Program Update 12/2012



Did You Know?

The Shelter serves all of Collier County, FL, the second largest county in the State, providing services to children, women, men and their pets from Naples, Immokalee, Marco Island, Bonita Springs and all points in-between.

For the second quarter of fiscal year 2012-2013, your support has helped The Shelter:

- Assist 816 unduplicated children, women and men
- Provide 3,826 shelter bed-nights in our Beau Venturi Home residential shelter
- Offer 1,503 nights of safety for 6 pets in our on-site kennel
- Provide 7,408 hours of counseling to children and adults
- Answer 557 calls to our confidential 24-hour crisis line (239.775.1101/TTY 239.775.4265)
- Develop 7,613 safety plans
- Offer 890 bed-nights in our four Transitional Housing cottages

In an effort to **prevent** abuse before it begins, to **protect** victims of domestic violence and to **prevail** over violence in our homes, neighborhoods and community, The Shelter offers an array of life-transforming programs including:

Emergency Shelter

Victims of family violence and their pets find safety in our progressive 60-bed residential shelter complete with on-site kennel. While residing in our highly-secure Beau Venturi Home, survivors work at establishing personal empowerment through an array of life-transforming programs and services, such as safety planning, service management, counseling and more.

This quarter, 141 individuals were sheltered, including 77 adults and 64 children... and their 6 pets.

Transitional Housing Program (THP)

The THP features four cottages that opened in 2008. The program was designed to provide a more thorough evolutionary experience from victim to survivor for adults and children who meet the requirements for participating in this innovative program. By helping program participants develop real world skills (paying bills, driving the kids to school and taking care of a house) while having The Shelter's support close at hand, we help reduce the risk of victims returning to their abusers.

During the second quarter of fiscal year 2012 – 2013, four adults and six children were living in the four cottages and transitioning back into lives of freedom from abuse.

Allstate Financial Literacy & Economic Justice



The classes offered in this innovative program include: Introduction & Purpose, Financial Abuse, Budgeting & Saving, Finance Management, Banking Options, Credit Basics, Building Financial Foundations, Investment and Insurance Options, Computer Education, Education Opportunities, Job Readiness, Getting the Job, and a final exam to practice the topics covered during the classes.



NNEDV

Emergency shelter and Naples Outreach participants continued to meet with Advocates regularly to track their savings goals and rework budgets. Those who met their goals created new ones while others established employment, created resumes, searched for new employment and several obtained higher wage positions.

Emergency shelter Advocates conducted financial abuse groups with adult residents while children learned about the importance of saving, financial safety planning, establishing financial goals and received their own piggy banks to start them on the path to financial freedom.

Immokalee Outreach Office participants participated in a financial presentation hosted by Suncoast Schools Federal Credit Union and staff in Immokalee facilitated financial empowerment groups in Spanish.

In October, the first advanced financial classes, *Managing Your Portfolio I*, were presented for participants who had completed the Allstate Financial Literacy Program. Additionally, the Women of Means Advocate coordinated with a volunteer on the creation of a second set of advanced classes to be offered in 2013.

Our Haitian Initiative Advocate and Economic Empowerment Advocate participated in a Haitian radio show in December, explaining about financial abuse and its consequences; the Allstate Financial Literacy Program and success stories.

Finally, three Women of Business micro-loan participants received individual business coaching and made their micro-loan payments.

Partners for the Allstate program include: Allstate; Brooks Insurance Services; Barnes and Noble Bookseller; Legal Aid; Iberia Bank; Bank of America; Collier County Housing, Human and Veteran Services; Empowerment Parties/Purpose Journey, Inc.; FGCU Small Business Development Center; Empowerment Alliance of Southwest Florida; Sandler Training Southwest Florida; SunTrust Bank; South Regional Library; University of Florida.

C'MON

Through a partnership with the Golisano Children's Museum of Naples (C'MON), children from both our emergency shelter and our Outreach programs enjoy interactive, educational programs hosted by C'MON staff.

During October, C'MON staff came to The Shelter twice. The first class featured the children making shell picture frames, discussing what can be found at the beach and an activity where they divided living and non-living things into buckets. Followed by a shell matching game, the children rounded out the day by using microscopes to view sand from various areas around the world.

In November, Shelter children went to C'MON and made their own color wheels, mixed colors from primary colors and created new colors using color paddles and reflections of glass.

December featured an open-house to emergency shelter residents and Outreach participants at C'MON. Participants enjoyed holiday activities and dinner.

Primary Prevention Hands Are for Helping

This program, delivered to elementary school children in Collier County, teaches non-violence and conflict-resolution skills to youngsters through interactive 'play' with a Shelter Advocate (blowing bubbles, playing instruments, etc.).

The "Hands" program curriculum focuses on the positive things children can do with their hands and how to stay safe with each child creating their own individualized safety plan and pledging to use his or her hands for helping.

October through December, Shelter Advocates provided 63 "Hands" classes with 2,410 children pledging to use their hands for helping, not hitting.

L.E.G.I.T. (Love, Education to Guide and Inform Teens) – Healthy Relationships

Designed to help teens identify the characteristics of healthy relationships in an effort to prevent dating violence, this program reaches out to middle and high school students in Collier County.

Advocates presented 67 Teen Healthy Relationships classes to 1,917 attendees during the second quarter of the year.

A similar Healthy Relationships educational series, available through our Speaker's Bureau, is offered to adults of all ages. For more information, please call 239.775.3862.

Expect Respect

Based out of our Immokalee Outreach Office, this interactive program helps middle and high school students to change social norms about dating relationships to help create a respectful environment.

This quarter, Shelter Advocates offered 26 presentations to 232 students in Immokalee.

Gentle'men Against Domestic Violence (GADV)

This primary prevention initiative helps stop violence before it begins by offering boys and young men insight into their attitudes, beliefs and behaviors about what it means to be a 'man' in today's society.

Our GADV Advocate facilitated 52 events this quarter, reaching 594 attendees with the message of what it means to be a true gentle'man and how they can contribute to ending violence. The program continues to expand and Staff offers services in new venues.

YAC

The Youth Advisory Council (YAC) is a group of Collier County youth between the ages of 12-20 focused on targeting and engaging their peers in social change to end dating violence. The group's mission is: To inspire social change by providing education, empowerment, advocacy and support to the community; to broaden and increase prevention of unhealthy relationships and break the cycle of violence.

During this quarter members of YAC participated in National Domestic Violence Awareness Month activities in October and hosted two meetings.

DV Taskforce

The Task Force is comprised of the following collaborating entities: The Aesthetic Surgery Center, Collier County Family Law Attorney's, Collier County EMS, Collier County Men of Character, Children's Advocacy Center, The Collier County School District, Collier County Sherriff's Office, David Lawrence Center, Department of Children & Families, The Face Spa, FGCU School of Criminal Justice, the Haitian Leadership Network, Legal Aid, Marco Island Police Department, Mother Perry Foundation, Naples Community Hospital, Naples Police Department, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Office of the Attorney General, the State Attorney's Office, The Shelter and The Shelter's Youth Advisory Council (YAC).

The PSA taped last quarter was distributed to local media for running on TV. Additionally, through a generous donation by Chico's FAS, Inc., The Shelter was able to collaborate with WGCU-TV to schedule the PSA to air through April/May on the Public Broadcasting Station.

The Task Force also began planning for the January event to roll-out "A Coordinated Community Response" – the Collier County community-wide plan; as well as air the 30 second PSA.

Enhanced Service Programs



Intimate Violence Enhanced Services Team (InVEST)



Launched in the summer of 2009, The Intimate Violence Enhanced Services Team (InVEST) is a unique program designed to provide intensive service management and assistance to individuals identified to be in potentially lethal situations.

InVEST's unique model allows CCSO, Naples Police Department, Marco Island Police Department, Department of Children & Families (DCF), State Attorney's Office and The Shelter to work together to identify victims at high risk for domestic violence homicide and to enhance their possibility of receiving safety from further victimization. Together, we work with the survivor to share information, provide safety planning and possible aid in relocation.

InVEST participants receive services and advocacy throughout civil and/or criminal processes until their situations become safe or they choose to exit the program. These services are provided free of charge.

For the second quarter of the fiscal year, the InVEST Team reviewed 254 police reports, referring the individuals most at-risk for domestic violence homicide (murder by a current or former partner/spouse) to the program.

Legal Services

The objective of The Shelter's legal services is to support or provide direct legal services on behalf of victims of domestic violence in civil matters directly related to domestic violence. This program provides support through Legal Aid Services of Collier County and Shelter Advocates. These services enable us to empower Shelter families, promote self-sufficiency and create a safer community by helping victims secure, modify and enforce protection orders; handle immigration issues; obtain a divorce or separation; obtain spousal and child support; and resolve custody and visitation issues.

For the second quarter of the fiscal year, The Shelter assisted with 18 Injunctions for Protection (IFP or restraining orders/orders for protection) and our Advocates provided Court assistance to 38 individuals; assisted with 91 criminal justice issues; 90 immigration cases and 68 other legal issues.

Violence Against Women Linguistically and Culturally Specific Victim Services



FCADV
Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence

An alliance with The Department of Children & Families, Family Preservation Services, Redlands Christian Migrant Association, The Shelter's Immokalee Outreach Office and other community partners, this initiative is designed to reduce the number of children being removed from the homes of migrant farm workers who are survivors of domestic violence and involved in child abuse investigations based on the family history of domestic abuse. The ultimate goal is to keep the child safe and together with the non-offending parent.



During this quarter, Shelter Advocates distributed 50 Fotonovelas, 300 brochures/palm cards/resource guides and 10 educational videos, as well as developed 185 safety plans.

During National Domestic Violence Awareness Month (October) Adan Labra, Immokalee representative of the Florida Farm Worker's Association, participated in the annual Children's Fair and Peace March.

Additionally, staff met with the Farm Worker's Association from Apopka, Homestead and Fellsmere to plan for training in Immokalee within the next three months.

The Shelter also maintained a full-time, bi-lingual domestic violence Advocate co-located onsite at the local DCF office and staff met with the RCMA Area Office Manager and the Florida Farm Workers Association Immokalee Manager.

The Shelter for Abused Women & Children is *leading the community to prevent, protect and prevail over domestic violence through advocacy, empowerment and social change.*

To learn more about these pioneering programs and services, please call The Shelter at 239.775.3862/TTY 239.775.4265. For more information on supporting the life-transforming work of The Shelter, please call 239.775.3862, ext. 205.

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