

The Shelter providing domestic violence victims hope, a 'second chance at life'



MAKING A DIFFERENCE
JOE LANDON

While we will never be able to know just where The Shelter for Abused Women and Children is located, or its actual physical location or street address, we should appreciate the difference The Shelter is making in the lives of those it serves – perhaps a life or death difference in some instances.

“If it were not for this shelter, I wouldn’t be alive today” says Alex, a 17-year-old male survivor of domestic violence. Alex is extremely grateful to The Shelter for giving him “a second chance at life. You took my mother and I in even when our own family rejected us. You gave us clothing, food and shelter, but most of all, hope for the future.”

“The Shelter offers help and healing to countless survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking,” said Linda Oberhaus, the executive director. “Our services are transformational, offering survivors an opportunity to break the cycle of violence and restore peace in their lives.”

Oberhaus emphasizes that The Shelter exists as a safe haven for those being abused, but the vision of The Shelter for Abused Women and Children is a community without domestic violence, one in which each and every home is a safe haven. “And our mission is to prevent, protect and prevail over domestic violence through advocacy, empowerment and social change,” Oberhaus stresses.

Let’s put the problem in perspective by sharing some numbers. Nationwide, one in four women will fall victim to domestic violence in their lifetime. And in Collier County, there were 1,539 incidents of some form of domestic violence reported this past year. In addition, The Shelter has served 38 victims of human trafficking since 2014.

Since it was founded in the 1980’s, The Shelter has helped more than 68,000 men, women and children. Last year alone, Oberhaus tells us they answered 2,403 calls to their 24-hour cri-

sis line. “And we provided emergency shelter to 265 adults and 205 children and created safety plans for many others.”

They even have an on-site kennel which provided safety for 36 pets. Ellen, a 52-year-old shelter resident, says “I would never have left my abuser if The Shelter did not have a kennel.” And Ellen, who says she’s learning so much about herself, now has boundaries in place in her life. “I’m also learning fear is contagious, but courage is not. You can sit back and let someone put chains on you, or you can refuse and take courage. I’m taking courage.”

Alex credits The Shelter with helping him realize domestic violence is not the norm. “It’s wrong and can be prevented.” And he thanks The Shelter for changing his life. “You gave me confidence in myself as a human being.”

Lise Descoteaux, residential manager at The Shelter, recognizes that all forms of abuse – physical, sexual and psychological – always hurt. “Abuse is insidious and it affects you mentally, emotionally, physically and spiritually, and it leaves you depleted of all self-esteem.”

Lorena, 34, felt worthless as an abuse victim. “But thanks to help received at The Shelter, I now know I’m worth a lot and I believe that anything’s possible.”

If you’d like to help Alex, Ellen, Lorena and all of the others being served by The Shelter, there are several ways to become involved.

Volunteers are always needed, or you may make a monetary donation by visiting www.naplesshelter.org. Or you may attend any of The Shelter’s fundraising events like some really fun ones taking place this month, Domestic Violence Awareness Month. There’s a masquerade party, a 5K fun run and a flash mob dance planned.

And if you need help, or know someone who does, call the confidential 24-hour crisis line at 239-775-1101.

Joe Landon is a communications consultant having retired as executive director of communications for the Collier County School District. Please send suggestions for future columns to JoeLandon@Outlook.com.



GUEST COLUMNIST

Boats and hurricane prep

JAY FERNANDES

MARCO ISLAND SAIL AND POWER
SQUADRON SAFETY OFFICER

Hurricane season remains in force and we are all watching weather maps to be ready and prepared.

Much of the knowledge and information we acquire is accumulated from years of experience and listening to others. Most of us have assets at risk which are exposed to wind and sea.

Our Marco boating citizens have been challenged by the forces of Mother Nature and prepared in advance on numerous occasions. There is not a better resource when you need ideas on how to better prepare for severe storms than listening to others who have successfully weathered them. Wouldn’t it be helpful to solicit input from our neighbors?

The first week in September we had a close call with Hurricane Hermine. Many of us had to anticipate an unknown path and taken necessary precautions to protect our prop-

erty. Depending on our confidence we can either leave the boat in the water or have it removed. If the boat is small enough, we simply put it on our trailer and park it in a safe place. Once the boat is out of the water make sure the drain plug is removed so the boat doesn’t fill with water which can cause severe damage to the boat and trailer. Leaving the vessel in the water is an option but also has greater risk.

Typically, Coast Guard Cutters and Navy ships leave Port when a storm is imminent because heavy winds and extreme tides and surges are too dangerous. When in Port double up bow and stern lines, also spring lines must be adjusted to compensate for extreme tides. All lines must have fair leads so they don’t get tangled or chafed. Frequently it is not your vessel which is the problem but someone else who hasn’t been as cautious and their boat causes damage to others. Double check the automatic bilge pump. Remember, if a hurricane had an attitude it might be: “Whatever isn’t tied down is mine for the taking and if I can pry it lose, it wasn’t tied down.”

marco eagle Obituaries



Lorraine M. Lolli

Marco Island, FL
October 07, 1929 - October 04, 2016

Lorraine M. (Mullan) Lolli, of Marco Island, Florida and formerly of Leominster, MA, passed away quietly on October 4th, 2016. She was born October 7, 1929 to John Mullan and Agnes (Hurtubise). She leaves behind her

husband of 65 years, Ralph Lolli Jr.; their two children: son David Lolli of Leominster and his wife, Linda, and daughter Elizabeth Burton of Sherborn and her husband Stephen; four grandchildren, Michael Lolli and his wife Ashley, and Matthew, Peter and Virginia Burton; two great-grandchildren, Lucas & Juliana; her brothers, Edward Mullan and Barney Mullan, his wife Clara; and sister Arlene Logan. She was predeceased by her brother John Mullan; and sisters, Rita Deady, Geraldine Colcord, and Patricia Harrington. Mrs. Lolli was a past member of Oak Hill Country Club and Orchard Hills Tennis Club. She was also a member of The Cape Marco Tennis Association of Marco Island, FL. She was a past board member of the Leominster Hospital Guild, where she was very involved in fundraising and charitable work. She was a member of St. Anna’s Church in Leominster and The San Marco Catholic Church of Marco Island.

Besides being both an avid tennis player and tennis fan, she enjoyed going to the US Open in New York. She enjoyed traveling abroad with her husband and dear friends and in more recent years with her grandchildren to Italy and Ireland.

Mrs. Lolli’s funeral was held Friday, October 7, 2016 from Wright-Roy Funeral Home, Inc., 109 West St., Leominster, with a Mass of Christian Burial at 9:00 a.m. in St. Anna’s Church, 199 Lancaster Street, Leominster. Burial was private in Massachusetts Veterans Memorial Cemetery, 111 Glenallen Street, Winchendon, MA. Calling hours were held Thursday, October 6th from 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. in the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to: HealthAlliance Home Health Hospice, 60 Hospital Road, Leominster, MA 01453. To Light A Candle, Sign her Guestbook, or Leave A Message of Condolence, please visit www.wrightroyfuneralhome.com



Marco Island VOLUNTEER & CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARDS 2016

Nominations Due October 21

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2016 Marco Island Volunteer and Citizen of the Year awards. The awards will be presented to a volunteer and a citizen who have demonstrated an outstanding commitment to the betterment of Marco Island during the past year.

All nominations must include:

- Nominee name and home address (nominee must currently reside in Collier County)
- Nominee phone, email address, business name and contact (nominees can be employed or retired)
- Brief description of the civic accomplishments and contributions of the nominee during the past year
- Statement on why the nominee should be the 2016 Marco Island Volunteer or Citizen of the Year
- Contact information for the person submitting the nomination

Submit nominations:

Online: www.marconews.com/marcovolunteercitizen/

Mail: Marco Island Volunteer/Citizen of the Year 2016 – Attn. Marketing Dept.
1100 Immokalee Rd. Naples, FL 34110

Questions: NDNMarketing@NaplesNews.com

The awards will be presented at the
Marco Island Chamber of Commerce Gala on December 4

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