

# Transforming Lives

The Shelter's Quarterly Program Update 6/2011



## 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, Bonita Springs and all points in-between.

From **April 1 – June 30, 2011**, your support has helped The Shelter:

- Assist 3,678 unduplicated children, women and men
- Provide 8,592 hours of counseling to children and adults
- Answer 652 calls to our confidential 24-hour crisis line (239.775.1101)
- Develop 8,017 safety plans
- Offer 1,076 bed-nights through the 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, case management, counseling and more.

In the third quarter of this fiscal year, The Shelter offered safe-haven to 97 children, 94 adults and 9 pets.

### Transitional Living Program (TLP)

The TLP 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 fourth quarter of fiscal year 2010-2011, 4 adults and 9 children were living in the four cottages and transitioning back into lives of freedom from abuse.

### Allstate Financial Literacy & Economic Justice



**Allstate**

Foundation



NATIONAL NETWORK  
TO END DOMESTIC  
VIOLENCE

NNEDV



**FCAD**  
Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence

During the months of April, May and June, 78 individuals were enrolled in and completed the job readiness/job training program; 62 were enrolled in and completed the economic empowerment program and 16 individuals enrolled in the matched savings program.

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.

Additionally, in April, The Shelter hosted our first Allstate Financial Literacy Program Workshop at Hodges University with 32 attendees exploring Financial Abuse, Financial Management, Budgeting & Saving, and Paper Organizing.

Graduates with entrepreneurial aspirations from previous classes participated in the small business associations Women of Business Microloan classes. Classes were held in Immokalee from April through June. The sessions provided by Florida Gulf Coast University's (FGCU) Small Business Department aimed to give participants the basics of business ownership and development of a business plan.

Partners for the Allstate program include: Allstate, Bank of America, Barnes & Noble, CBA, Collier County Sheriff's Office, FGCU's Small Business Department, Hodges University, Iberia Bank, Legal Aid, McDonalds, Naples Sailing & Yacht Club, Pelican Bay Country Club, WIN Group of Florida and Zonta Club of Bonita Springs.

## **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 at The Shelter by C'MON staff.

In April, C'MON staff provided an educational and fun activity about green construction to our kids. Everyone read *The Lorax* by Dr. Seuss; learned about a variety of green materials that are being used to build the museum and how wind generates electricity using a hairdryer. The children also created solar powered ovens to take home with them.

May brought an educational activity about trees. Our children learned about the different parts of trees, the purpose of each part and counted the rings on "tree cookies" to determine the tree's age. Each child then made their own tree and put a special wish inside their tree's trunk.

Animals were the theme of the June activity with C'MON. The children discussed the many needs that pets have and how to care for them. In addition to reading a fun book called *An Octopus Followed Me Home* by Pan Yaccarino, the kids also played a game to increase their knowledge about a variety of animal habitats. During the game they guessed which animals live in which habitats and enjoyed an "adaptation experience" where they practiced some animal behaviors to see how well they could adapt. Lastly, they made their own paper bag pets to take home.

## **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.

From April through June 2011, Shelter Advocates provided 22 "Hands" classes with 1,529 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 45 Teen Healthy Relationships classes to 922 attendees the fourth quarter of this fiscal year.

In Immokalee, our Youth Advocate offered the teen dating healthy relationship program to 45 TAPP (Teenage Parenting Program) Groups serving 17 unduplicated girls; providing 24 hours of support.

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 33 presentations to 242 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 34 events this quarter, reaching 312 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 offer 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.

YAC is currently working on a brochure about teen dating violence/healthy relationships, teen safety planning materials and posters that speak to the experience of our youth while providing them with resources, information and referrals. The team met once during this quarter.

## DV Taskforce

The Task Force is comprised of fifteen collaborating entities: Collier County Civil Domestic Violence Court Judges, Collier County Family Law Attorney's, David Lawrence Center, Naples Community Hospital, The Collier County School District, Children's Advocacy Center, Department of Children & Families, Legal Aid, Collier County Sherriff's Office, the State's Attorney's Office, Office of the Attorney General, The Shelter's Youth Advisory Council (YAC), Marco Island Police Department and the Haitian Leadership Network.

This Task Force is creating a comprehensive community-wide plan to heighten awareness about domestic violence in an innovative way that changes attitudes, beliefs and behaviors to stop domestic violence before it starts. The focus for the community wide plan is education with youth in the schools and the community-at-large. YAC plays a critical role in the implementation of the plan. The team convened once during the quarter. One small group planning session was also held.

## 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, Department of Children & Families (DCF) 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. CCSO works to maintain batterer accountability through injunctions, monitoring and follow up while DCF and The Shelter 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 last quarter of the fiscal year, the InVEST Team reviewed more than 376 police reports, referring the 279 individuals most at-risk for domestic violence homicide (murder by a partner or spouse) to the program.

### Legal Services

The objective of Shelter 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 onsite attorneys, legal support staff and an emergency shelter legal advocate. These services enable us to empower Shelter families, promote self-sufficiency and create a safer community. These service help 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 fourth quarter of the fiscal year, the Legal Services team served 37 new participants, followed up with 83 individuals and notarized 59 documents.

Attorney's Kirby and Cavanaugh provided a total of 97.5 hours of service to program participants from across Collier County during this same timeframe.

### Violence Against Women Linguistically and Culturally Specific Victim Services



An alliance with The Department of Children & Families, 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.



This quarter, The Shelter participated in 12 Technical Assistance sessions; 25 survivors were referred from the Department of Children and Families (DCF); 24 referrals were made to survivors in the project; 516 brochures, palm cards and posters were distributed as well as 3,590 fotonovelas. One hundred and twenty total survivors were served by this project.

Our fotonovela is a small photo-book showing a farm worker woman transversing the path from victim to survivor utilizing The Shelter's services. Featuring staff as actors, the photos were taken in various scenes throughout Immokalee. The interactive booklet is used to raise awareness about The Shelter's life-transforming programs and services.

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. For more information on supporting the life-transforming work of The Shelter, please call 239.775.3862, ext. 205.

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