

Transforming Lives

The Shelter's Quarterly Program Update 03/2013



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 fourth quarter of fiscal year 2012-2013, your support has helped The Shelter:

- Assist 1,023 unduplicated children, women and men
- Provide 4,219 shelter bed-nights in our Beau Venturi Home residential shelter
- Offer 1,445 nights of safety for 19 pets in our on-site kennel
- Provide 8,130 hours of counseling to children and adults
- Answer 479 calls to our confidential 24-hour crisis line (239.775.1101/TTY 239.775.4265)
- Develop 7,214 safety plans
- Offer 903 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, 156 individuals were sheltered, including 91 adults and 65 children... and their 19 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 fourth quarter of fiscal year 2012 – 2013, five adults and seven children were living in the four cottages and transitioning back into lives of freedom from abuse.

Allstate Financial Literacy & Economic Justice



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.



This quarter, 53 individuals participated in the Economic Empowerment classes in our emergency facility and 10 participated in our Immokalee office. In our emergency shelter, participants learned to recognize financial abuse and learned how to safety plan around finances. Advocate conducted financial groups with children in residence. The children learned about the importance of saving and safety planning, and also learned how to establish financial goals. Piggy banks were provided to the children who participated in these groups for them to start working on their own financial goals.

In our Immokalee office an Advocate held financial empowerment groups and participants learned about job readiness, credit, and financial topics from the Moving Ahead through Financial Management curriculum. Participants were provided with calculators, note pads, and other materials to better facilitate understanding of the new concepts being introduced to them. Additionally, an Advocate worked individually with women to create resumes and search for employment.

In April, The Shelter began onsite computer classes. 15 participants learned the basics about computer usage and also covered computer parts, part functions, Microsoft Word, how to use email, and how to create part invitations. The end result, working knowlegde of how to use technology to furthur their ambitions and goals of finding new jobs and attending school.

Advocates also provided workshops on resume writing and housing to 15 participatns. The housing workshop was taught by an agent from the Empowerment Alliance of Southwest Florida who offered in depth information about determining the price you can afford, managing your money, understanding credit, budgeting for a home, and managing your finances. At the end of the workshop all attendees received certification for the course as well as home buying brochures and handouts. Participants also took part in resume coaching from a volunteer who also offered job readiness training. They were provided USBs to save copies of their resumes and other important employment documents. One of the participants even created business cards with volunteer assistance.

Partners for the Allstate program include: Allstate; Brooks Insurance Services; Barnes and Noble Bookseller; CCSO Financial Crimes Bureau; Junior Achievement of SW Florida, Inc.; 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; 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.

For all three months, C'MON offered two programs to The Shelter's youngest participants with one being an activity and the other being an evening at the Museum complete with pizza dinner!

In April the children were able to learn about construction and made their own structures with KEVA planks. May focused on history with our younger residents making their own fossils and participating in their very own fossil dig.

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.

This quarter, Shelter Advocates provided six "Hands" classes with 503 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. 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.

Advocates presented 26 Teen Healthy Relationships classes to 1,099 attendees during the fourth quarter of the year.

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 8 presentations to 56 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 13 events this quarter, reaching 194 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.

While the Council didn't meet during this quarter, the members were active in the community.

DV Taskforce

The work of the Domestic Violence Task Force heightens awareness and brings about the social change necessary to make sure that no one is ever a victim or perpetrator of domestic violence. The Task Force includes The Aesthetic Surgery Center, Children's Advocacy Center, Collier County EMS, Collier County Family Law Attorneys, Collier County Men of Character, Collier County School District, Collier County Sheriff's Office, The David Lawrence Center, The Division of Children & Families, Florida Gulf Coast School of Criminal Justice, Haitian Leadership Network, Legal Aid, Marco Island Police Department, Mother Perry Foundation, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Naples Community Hospital, Naples Fire Department, Naples Police Department, Office of the Attorney General, Physicians Regional Medical Center, State Attorney's Office, The Youth Advisory Council and The Shelter for Abused Women & Children.

This Task Force united several components and created a comprehensive plan and coordinated community response for Collier County. During the fourth quarter the Task Force held 66 meetings, continuing to identify the best ways to address our community response to domestic violence, and work in concert to change the social norms that allow this global problem to exist.

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 fourth quarter of the fiscal year, the InVEST Team reviewed 276 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 fourth quarter of the fiscal year, The Shelter assisted with 10 Injunctions for Protection (IFP or restraining orders/orders for protection) and our Advocates provided Court assistance to 44 individuals; assisted with 77 criminal justice issues; 92 immigration cases and 27 other legal issues.

Violence Against Women Linguistically and Culturally Specific Victim Services

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 60 Fotonovelas, 121 brochures/palm cards/resource guides and 1 educational video, as well as developed 94 safety plans.

Additionally, Shelter staff met with a child welfare partner in June to discuss services, barriers, and collaboration efforts and provided training to five individuals about the dynamics of domestic violence, child abuse, safety planning, and the unique challenges in working with Immokalee's migrant community.

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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