

Transforming Lives

The Shelter's Quarterly Program Update 3/2011



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 **January 1 – March 31, 2011**, your support has helped The Shelter to:

- Shelter 172 individuals, including 85 adults, 87 children, as well as 12 pets
- Provide 10,104 hours of counseling to children and adults
- Answer 634 calls to our confidential 24-hour crisis line (239.775.1101)
- Develop 10,363 safety plans
- Offer 897 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 87 children, 85 adults and 12 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 third quarter of fiscal year 2010, 3 adults and 6 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. Each individual came to class dressed for an interview and practiced their skills. The program ended with a Graduation Ceremony for participants and volunteers.

During the months of January, February and March 2011, 12 classes were held in Naples and Immokalee. Divided into two groups running from January 4 to March 22 in Naples and January 5 to March 23 in Immokalee, the groups participated in the Individual Development Account (IDA) provided by the Allstate Foundation. Both groups banked with IBERIA and had the opportunity to receive individualized assistance from a bank ambassador.

This quarter, five classes were taught by volunteers from IBERIA Bank, our partnering Allstate agency, Lorenzo Walker Institute of Technology, author of *Extra-Ordinary Image*, and an independent real-estate agent.

Partners for the Allstate program include: Allstate, Barnes & Noble, Collier County Sheriff's Office, 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 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.

During this quarter C'MON provided an activity on pets for children from in our Outreach and Emergency Shelter departments. Additionally, in January they provided their Space Kidettes program, exploring the Earth's rotation and revolution around the Sun by creating a 'live' solar system. This was followed by construction and launching of alka-seltzer rockets by each young participant!

Also during this quarter, the children participated in an activity called "Destination Moon." Everyone read a book called, *Papa, Please Get the Moon for Me* by Eric Carle. The children learned about the moon, satellites, orbits, moon phases, and astronomers. They also played a game where they selected items they would take on a trip to the moon. Lastly, the children made their own telescopes that really worked!

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, how to stay safe, makes their own individualized safety plan and each pledges to only use his or her hands for helping.

From January to March, 2011, Shelter Advocates provided 28 "Hands" classes with 502 children pledging to use their hands for helping, not hitting.

Teen Dating 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 55 Teen Healthy Relationships classes to 3,891 attendees the third quarter of this fiscal year.

Additionally, our Youth Advocates in Immokalee offered 11 TAPP (Teenage Parenting Program) Groups serving 27 unduplicated girls, providing 91 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 38 presentations to 270 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 alternatives to their attitudes, beliefs and behaviors about what it means to be a 'man' in today's society.

Our GADV Advocate facilitated 40 events this quarter, reaching 460 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.

Members of the YAC have been working diligently in developing materials such as lanyards, wrist bands and banners. Part of this process has motivated the group to develop their own group logo to coincide with Shelter materials while maintaining a teen friendly focus. Members of the YAC have met and are in the process of developing their own rack cards, brochures, teen safety planning materials and posters that speak to the experience of our youth while providing them with resources, information and referrals.

The YAC was also pivotal in presenting The Shelter's Healthy Relationships Curriculum to over 3000 students during Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month, February, in Collier County Schools.

DV Taskforce

The Task Force is comprised of thirteen 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, Kirby & Cavanaugh Law Firm, Collier County Sherriff's Office, the State's Attorney's Office, Office of the Attorney General and our Youth Advisory Council.

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 three during the quarter.

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 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 this quarter of the fiscal year, the InVEST Team reviewed more than 497 police reports, referring the 374 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. We are able to better serve low to moderate income level victims of domestic violence who need our help in securing, modifying and enforcing protection orders; handling immigration issues; obtaining a divorce or separation; obtaining spousal and child support; and resolving custody and visitation issues.

For the third quarter of the fiscal year, the Legal Services team served 43 new participants, followed up with 61 individuals and notarized 47 documents.

Attorney's Kirby and Cavanaugh provided a total of 100 hours of service to program participants from across Collier County during this same timeframe.

STOP Victim Services Advocate in Immokalee

This quarter, 42 victims received counseling, advocacy and services at the State Attorney's Office while another 43 individuals were assisted by the STOP Advocate at our Immokalee Outreach Office.

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.



This quarter, The Shelter received 12 Technical Assistance sessions; 58 survivors were referred from the Department of Children and Families (DCF); 94 total survivors were served by this project; 13 referrals were made to survivors in the project; 1,620 brochures, palm cards and posters were distributed as well as 22 educational videos.

Additionally, staff developed a fotonovela – 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.

The Shelter is grateful for funding from Department of Children & Families (Domestic Violence Trust Fund), Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence, United Way of Collier County and private contributors.

