

# Transforming Lives

## The Shelter's Quarterly Program Update 10/2010



### 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 July 1<sup>st</sup> through September 30, 2010, your support has helped The Shelter to:

- Shelter 165 children and adults in our 60-bed emergency safe-haven
- Shelter 30 pets (14 dogs, 6 cats & 10 birds) in our on-site kennel, offering 780 nights of safety
- Provide 8,488 total counseling hours to adults and children in our shelter and through Outreach programs
- Provide 8,813 safety plans to help keep children, men, women and their pets safe
- Answer 574 calls to the confidential 24-hour crisis line: 239.775.1101
- Serve an un-duplicated 1,751 individuals in this quarter alone

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:

### 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 first quarter of fiscal year 2010, three children and six adults 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 this quarter

22 un-duplicated participants used journaling, developing personal budgets, maintaining personal savings accounts, and other skills from the Allstate Curriculum, during 8 groups in an effort to gain financial freedom.

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 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.

For the July through September 2010 period, program participants ages 5 to 12 years read *Behind the Mask*, learned about masks from different religions and crafted two masks each, as well as explored how food gets from the farm to the table starting with a pumpkin seed and ending with pumpkin pie through Green Florida Farms program.

## **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 July through September 2010, Shelter Advocates provided 31 "Hands" classes and 596 children took the pledge 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 six Teen Healthy Relationships classes to 51 attendees the first quarter of the fiscal year.

Additionally, our Youth Advocates offered a TAPP (Teenage Parenting Program) Group with 13 girls in Immokalee.

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 facilitated five Expect Respect classes, helping transform the lives of some 41 young participants.

### **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.

In July, a new GADV Advocate was hired and during the first quarter of the year, he facilitated two GADV classes reaching out to seven boys and young men with the message of what it means to be a true 'gentle'man and how they can contribute to ending violence.

### **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.

The team has participated in 6 meetings this quarter, laced-up with The Shelter Striders for September's *Walk for the Way*, received training on crisis intervention and safety planning to assist their peers and named the new Healthy Relationships curriculum L.E.G.I.T. Healthy Relationships Curriculum: Love Education to Grow Informed Teens.

Moreover, two of the YAC members participated in a competitive Underserved Teen Victims Initiative Grant program this summer in Washington, DC, learning how to develop and implement a plan for social change in our community.

Most recently, the YAC FaceBook page went live, complete with a link to The Shelter's website. Stay tuned for PSAs and additional awareness raising efforts by this dynamic group.

## 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 Sheriff'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 met three times this 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 the first quarter of the fiscal year, the InVEST Team reviewed more than 389 police reports, referring the 238 individuals most at-risk for domestic violence homicide (murder by a partner or spouse) to the program. Fifteen of those contacted chose to participate in InVEST service management.

### 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 will enable us to empower Shelter families, promote self-sufficiency and create a safer community. We will be 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 first quarter of the fiscal year, the Legal Services team served 125 new participants, followed up with 25 individuals and notarized 32 documents.

Attorney's Kirby and Cavanaugh provided a total of 145 hours of service to program participants from across Collier County during this same timeframe.

### STOP Victim Services Advocate in Immokalee



As a result of this program, we now have a full-time Legal Advocate in the State's Attorney's Office three days a week and in Immokalee two days a week.

This quarter, 467 victims received counseling, advocacy and services at the State Attorney's Office while another 29 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, staff provided 13 Technical Assistance sessions; 30 survivors were referred to the Department of Children and Families (DCF); 98 total survivors were served by this project; 30 referrals were made to survivors in the project; 410 brochures, palm cards and posters were distributed as well as 14 educational videos.

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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