

Transforming Lives

The Shelter's Quarterly Program Update 09/2012



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

- Assist 1,013 unduplicated children, women and men
- Provide 3,965 shelter bed-nights in our Beau Venturi Home residential shelter
- Offer 1,197 nights of safety for 15 pets in our on-site kennel
- Provide 8,640 hours of counseling to children and adults
- Answer 562 calls to our confidential 24-hour crisis line (239.775.1101/TTY 239.775.4265)
- Develop 8,183 safety plans
- Offer 951 bed-nights in our four Transitional Living 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, 185 individuals were sheltered, including 104 adults and 81 children... and their 15 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 first quarter of fiscal year 2012 – 2013, four adults and six 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.



NNEDV

Emergency shelter and Naples Outreach participants continued to meet with Advocates regularly to track their savings goals and rework budgets. Those who met their goals created new ones while others established employment, created resumes, searched for new employment and several obtained higher wage positions.

In addition to English classes, participants took advantage of Basic Computer Skills Workshops, learning the fundamentals of Microsoft applications, surfing the net, setting-up and using email accounts, job searches and more.

Twenty-four financial abuse support groups were held with 64 children and 129 adults in-shelter. Residents also benefited from financial abuse support groups while children in-shelter learned the importance of saving money, safety planning and establishing financial goals. Each received a piggy bank to get them started on savings!

The Economic Empowerment Advocate and Women of Means Advocate held meetings with representatives from a local bank to plan upcoming advanced financial classes and our Economic Empowerment Team coordinated with a business analyst from FGCU's Small Business Development Center to facilitate the Allstate Women of Business classes to six Outreach participants. By September, the class was meeting with small business leaders for a Q&A session and enjoyed individual business coaching.

Three microloans were applied for and obtained by Women of Business program participants and 15 participants from the IDA Matched Savings Program made their last monthly deposits to meet their financial goals to receive a dollar-to-dollar match totaling \$1,000.

Partners for the Allstate program include: Allstate; Brooks Insurance Services; Barnes and Noble Bookseller; 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; Sandler Training 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.

In both July and September, C'MON staff provided free access to the museum complete with dinner for all attendees. August saw the C'MON staff at The Shelter with an Olympic theme. First, children made Olympic medals using Shrinky Dink paper. Then, they created paper chains in the Olympic ring colors, as well as a paper torch to take home. All this fun was followed by the opportunity to participate in a mini-version of the Olympics!

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.

July through September, Shelter Advocates provided 14 "Hands" classes with 227 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 23 Teen Healthy Relationships classes to 936 attendees during the first quarter of the year.

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 seven presentations to 64 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 seven events this quarter, reaching 56 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.

During this quarter members of YAC planned a kick-off and re-enrollment event, held August 13, and discussed fundraising, Domestic Violence Awareness Month (October) and Teen Dating Awareness & Prevention Month during the August 20 meeting.

The group also decided to make meetings official and encourage more interaction so that by the September 1st meeting, new recruitment, goals and officer assignments were determined.

DV Taskforce

The Task Force is comprised of 20 collaborating entities: Collier County Family Law Attorney's, Collier County EMS, Collier County Men of Character, Children's Advocacy Center, The Collier County School District, Collier County Sheriff's Office, David Lawrence Center, Department of Children & Families, FGCU School of Criminal Justice, the Haitian Leadership Network, Legal Aid, Marco Island Police Department, Mother Perry Foundation, Naples Community Hospital, Naples Police Department, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Office of the Attorney General, the State Attorney's Office, The Shelter and The Shelter's Youth Advisory Council (YAC).

This quarter the Taskforce met once as a meeting was cancelled due to tropical storm Isaac. During the September 25th meeting, representatives from CCSO, NPD, EMS, DCF, Legal Aid, CAC, YAC, SAO, NCH and The Shelter filmed a 30 second TV spot that will be distributed to local media and partner agencies.

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 first quarter of fiscal year 2012 – 2013, the InVEST Team reviewed 243 police reports, referring the individuals most at-risk for domestic violence homicide (murder by a partner or 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 first quarter of the fiscal year, The Shelter assisted with 19 Injunctions for Protection (IFP or restraining orders/orders for protection) and our Advocate provided Court assistance to 29 individuals.

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 230 Fotonovelas, 288 brochures/palm cards/resource guides and 53 educational videos, as well as developed 162 safety plans.

Additionally, our Immokalee Outreach Office Manager completed the final technical assistance visit for Lee Conlee house in May and provided training for 12 women attending the Rural Women’s Health Project in Crescent City.

The Shelter 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.

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, Verizon Foundation and private contributors.

