

## LINDA OBERHAUS

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SHELTER FOR  
ABUSED WOMEN & CHILDREN**

After a decade at the helm of the Shelter for Abused Women & Children in Naples, Linda Oberhaus is more passionate than ever about protecting the one in four women who will be a victim of domestic or sexual violence in their lifetime.

With a laser focus on the growing needs for the center's services in the rural areas of Collier County, she is working with the nonprofit's board on a capital campaign to raise nearly \$16 million to build and endow the Shelly Stayer Shelter for Victims of Human Trafficking & Domestic Violence. The 32-bed facility, to be constructed on more than 5 acres, will shelter domestic abuse victims, conduct outreach in Immokalee, and offer long-term therapeutic help to human trafficking victims.

Her drive to serve others also dovetails with her dedication to law enforcement. Oberhaus is an auxiliary deputy for the Collier County Sheriff's Office and serves on CCSO's Special Enforcement and Aggressive Criminal Enforcement teams to help reduce crime.

Through it all, her 21-year-old daughter Brooke, who speaks out on her college campus about domestic violence, remains her inspiration. "Just last week, while paying for her food at a drive-through, Brooke also paid for the lunch of the law enforcement officer behind her," Oberhaus says. "I have probably learned far more from Brooke than she has from me. If all mothers could be so lucky." —T.E.

