

# Transforming Lives

## The Shelter's Quarterly Program Update April - June 2021

### 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 and all points in-between.

For the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2020-2021, your support has helped The Shelter:

- Provide 4,269 shelter bed-nights in our Beau Venturi Home & Shelly Stayer Shelter
- Offer 157 nights of safety for 10 pets in our on-site kennel
- Provide 6,115 hours of supportive services to children and adults through agency-wide programming
- Answer 273 calls to our confidential 24-hour crisis line (239.775.1101/TTY 239.775.4265)
- Develop 3,125 safety plans
- Offer 2,457 bed-nights in our four Transitional Living cottages

In an effort to **prevent** abuse before it begins, to **protect** victims of domestic violence and human trafficking, 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 human trafficking along with their pets, find safety in our progressive 60-bed residential shelters complete with on-site kennels. While residing in our highly-secure Beau Venturi Home or Shelly Stayer Shelter, 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 81 adults, 75 children, and their 10 pets.

### Transitional Living Program (TLP)

The TLP currently features seven cottages that opened (with four cottages) 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 this quarter, 8 adults and 19 children lived in the seven Transitional Living cottages.

### Economic Justice Program

Research reveals that economic dependency is the strongest predictor of a survivor's decision to remain, leave, or return to an abusive relationship. For this reason, The Shelter for Abused Women & Children is committed to providing economic empowerment services that aim to help survivors reach their financial goals.

This quarter, 77 adult participants registering for service in Emergency Shelter, Naples Outreach, or Immokalee Outreach reviewed financial safety.

Partners for the Economic Empowerment program include: Allstate, CareerSource SWFL, Dress for Success SW Florida, Fresh Start, Iberia Bank, Goodwill Industries of SWFL Inc. – SWFL Micro Enterprise, Lorenzo Walker Technical College, Merrill Lynch, Morgan Stanley, Collier County Public Library, Collier County Public Schools, MicroGrants of SWFL, ProLiteracy.

## **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, The Shelter provided 36 Primary Prevention presentations to 957 elementary school students in Collier County.

### **L.E.G.I.T. (Love, Education to Guide and Inform Teens) – Teen 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 is offered to adults of all ages. For more information, please call 239.775.3862.

This quarter, The Shelter provided 43 "Teen Healthy Relationships" presentations to 1,235 high school students in Collier County.

### **Healthy Friendships Program**

Healthy Friendships is a Primary Prevention curriculum aimed at middle school students. The curriculum is targeted to address the early development of relationships, trust, rapport, healthy communication, boundaries, and conflict resolution skills. These basic principles assist youth in developing healthy friendships and a healthy self-image. This group addresses the dynamics of the building blocks of relationships and friendships so that youth are better equipped to move forward in their social and educational environments.

This quarter, The Shelter provided 74 "Healthy Friendships" presentations to 2,198 middle school students in Collier County.

### **Raising Gentle'men**

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. This quarter, The Shelter's Raising Gentle'men's Advocates provided one-on-one counseling sessions to boys and young men in need.

Additionally this quarter, The Shelter provided 3 "Raising Gentle'men" presentations to Collier County community partners.

### **Social Media Initiatives**

Additionally, this quarter The Shelter's Primary Prevention Program pioneered the implementation of social media outlets to better reach Generation Z adolescents. The Primary Prevention Program has recognized that vastly utilized applications such as Tick-Tock and Instagram are effective platforms to share vital content. The primary prevention advocates will create, film, and post approachable and highly relatable content to these platforms in order to raise youth awareness and inspire peer-to-peer kindness. Postings might include subject matter about how to identify a toxic relationship, developing healthy boundaries, and how to seek help. The Primary Prevention Program currently holds the leading social media influence in the topic of primary domestic violence prevention geared towards children and adolescents in Southwest Florida.

## Enhanced Service Programs

### DV Taskforce

The Task Force includes Children's Advocacy Center, Collier Clerk of Courts, Collier County EMS, Collier County Probation, Collier County School District, Collier County Sheriff's Office, The David Lawrence Center, The Department of Children & Families, Florida Gulf Coast School of Criminal Justice, Legal Aid Services, Marco Island Police Department, Collier County Sheriff's Office, Naples Community Hospital, Naples Police Department, North Naples Fire Department, Project Help, State Attorney's Office, NAACP, DCF, Pathways, Counseling of SWFL, NAACP, The Youth Advisory Council and The Shelter for Abused Women & Children. During the past quarter, the DV Taskforce met to continue to work toward ending domestic violence in Collier County.



### 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 609 police reports, referring the individuals most at-risk for domestic violence homicide (murder by a current or former partner/spouse) to the program.

### Legal Advocacy

The objective of The Shelter's legal advocacy is to support victims of domestic violence in matters directly related to domestic violence. This program provides support through an onsite IFP Attorney, 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, and handle immigration issues. During this quarter The Shelter's onsite IFP Attorney provided legal services to 240 new individuals.

### Child Welfare Related Victim Services

An alliance with The Department of Children & Families, Camelot, Redlands Christian Migrant Association, The Shelter, and other community partners, this initiative is designed to reduce the number of children being removed from the homes of survivors of domestic violence who are 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. The Shelter maintained a full-time, bi-lingual domestic violence Advocate co-located onsite at the Immokalee DCF office and a full-time domestic violence Advocate co-located onsite at the Naples DCF office.

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.