



Newsletter

www.shelterhousenwfl.org
24 Hour Hotline: 1-800-44-ABUSE
Administrative Office
102 Buck Drive
Ft. Walton Beach, FL 32548

Summer 2010

WAM! Economic Empowerment Classes Continue

Financial abuse can have serious and long term effects on women and children experiencing it. Women and children can become trapped in a cycle of poverty, they can experience physical and psychological ill health, isolation and feeling that they can't escape from the abusive relationship.

Thanks to a grant from the Allstate Foundation, Shelter House has been able to offer WAM! (Women and Money) Economic Empowerment courses to women in Okaloosa and Walton counties since October 2009.

These classes cover basic financial fundamentals that equip women to move forward on their financial plan to recovery and help break a cycle of financial abuse. Topics covered are basic checking and savings accounts, credit, investments, loans, bankruptcy, budgeting, insurance, taxes and more.

Women who attend the classes are provided with immeasurable resources and tools to help prepare them for financial success. Additionally, financial experts serve as guest speakers who give advice on these topics and answer questions that attendees may have.

The motive behind the Economic Empowerment curriculum is that by understanding how to manage money, credit and budget, a person feels empowered to move towards financial freedom.

"The fact that someone believes that I can accomplish my objective is worth more than money itself," shared a survivor of Domestic Violence. "This grant is going to help me improve my life for myself and my children and that is the best gift of all."

Shelter House has offered several rounds of classes to participants and women in the community. These classes have been held throughout Okaloosa and Walton Counties with the goal of reaching women in all four of our service corners. Classes have taken



place at the Northwest Florida State College campuses, churches, Troy University and Shelter House offices.

Women of all ages and walks of life have attended these classes. Some have been in abusive relationships, while others just want a refresher on how to handle their finances.

One participant from the first round of community classes in DeFuniak Springs shared, "The instructors were very informative and made sure all the questions were answered. I've learned I have several financial options."

Two more rounds of classes will be offered before this fiscal year ends at the end of June. These classes are open to the public and are free of charge.

Individuals interested in attending these six-week workshops or being a guest speaker should call the Shelter House Administration Office at 850-243-1201 or email info@shelterhousenwfl.org.

Shelter House Walton County Office
78 Lynn Drive—Santa Rosa Beach
Wednesdays, May 19—June 23
5:30—7:00 pm

NWFSC—Niceville Campus
100 College Blvd.—LRC 128
Thursdays, May 20—June 24
5:30—7:00 pm



Allstate
FOUNDATION

Celebrating 25 Years

Shelter House is celebrating 25 years of service to survivors of Domestic Violence in Okaloosa and Walton counties. Join us as the celebrating continues throughout 2010. Stay tuned for upcoming events in Domestic Violence Awareness Month which is October. We will be having vigils to honor those who have been touched by Domestic Violence. Make sure to stay tuned for a big celebratory event on our actual 25th birthday—December 15, 2010! If you aren't following us on Facebook and Twitter, make sure you become a fan to stay up to date on all things Shelter House!

Destin Charity Wine Auction Foundation

Shelter House is a benefiting charity for the 2009-2010 Destin Charity Wine Auction Foundation. The most recent fundraising event that the DCWAF put on was Wine and Dine in Paradise—a two-day event that took place at the Linkside Center in Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort on April 23 & 24. Our volunteers joined forces to put on a beautiful event that helped Shelter House and other charities.



Executive Director's Report

The past few months have been very busy with Shelter House public awareness and fundraising events. I would like to extend a personal thank you to all the individuals and businesses who were involved with the Purple Passion Gala, Every 9 Seconds, Destin Charity Wine Auction Foundation, Bringing Down the House, Purses with a Purpose and The Little Black Dress Party. Thank you for all your hard work and support for Shelter House!

Our activities are not the only domestic violence related items we have seen in the media lately. There have been several horrific crimes committed that have brought domestic violence into the light as a community issue. Major networks and shows have covered stories about domestic violence in the past three months. The cases covered by the media remind us that domestic violence can happen

anywhere: suburban homes, college campuses and even in Hollywood.

We're at a point where society needs to rethink how we regard domestic violence. Sometimes, we fall into a "culture of silence" that continues to oppress victims. The culture of silence is a very pervasive one; it says domestic violence is not something to be discussed or dealt with. It is one that says, "If I was in her shoes I would just leave," or "There is something mentally wrong with him, which is why he abuses her." The only way to stop domestic violence is to start breaking the silence. We need to continue to educate people about the signs of an abusive relationship. We need to continue to speak to our youth about preventing domestic violence. We need to continue to speak about dating violence, mental abuse, financial abuse, emotional abuse.

Shelter House receives over 1,000 crisis hotline calls a year from men and women in Okaloosa and Walton counties. Many are breaking their silence for the very first time. Some have been too ashamed to tell their friends and family what had been happening. It is very important that we continue to break down this culture of silence so that we can keep people safe. I urge you to talk to your friends and family about domestic violence. Tell them why you support Shelter House. You never know when you'll meet someone who faces the horror of abuse daily, and without your words may not have the courage to get out.

Thank you from all the staff at Shelter House; without your support, we would not be able to serve the women and children in Okaloosa and Walton counties. We wouldn't be able to help them add their voices to movement.

Domestic Violence Census

These are the incredible results of the fourth annual Domestic Violence Counts: an annual noninvasive, unduplicated count of adults and children who seek services from U.S. domestic violence shelter programs during a single 24-hour survey period. In just one day, 1,648 participating local domestic violence programs:

- Assisted 65,321 adults and children through shelter, transitional housing, and advocacy
- Answered 23,045 hotline calls, over 16 calls every minute
- Trained 30,735 attendees at 1,468 community education sessions
- 9,280 requests for services went unmet because of a lack of resources or staffing. 60% of the unmet requests were for emergency shelter or transitional housing and 40% of the unmet requests were for non-residential services.
- 17,445 children under 18 spent the night of September 15, 2009 in a domestic violence shelter or transitional housing program - far more than the 11,000 children who are born every day across the U.S.

2010 Gala Sponsors

Humanitarian Sponsors for the 7th Annual Purple Passion Gala & Auction



WACHOVIA
A Wells Fargo Company

Online Community

Join us on Facebook and Twitter to stay up-to-date on events, volunteer opportunities and much more as our online community of supporters continues to grow! Also, send your email addresses to info@shelterhousenwfl.org to get monthly eBlasts sent to your inbox!



Search Shelter House on Facebook and be our fan!



Search ShelterHouseNWF on Twitter to follow our tweets!

Purses With A Purpose

Our second Purses With A Purpose event was held in May at the Destin Commons. Thank you to everyone who donated purses, volunteered at the event and those who purchased and bid on purses! We appreciate the support!

We had more than 400 purses donated and raised more than \$4,100 to be divided among Shelter House and Ronald McDonald House.



Our next Purses With A Purpose event will be held this fall! Join Ronald McDonald House and Shelter House at Silver Sands Factory Stores for a whole new season of purses!



Getting to Know Board Member, Roberta Holloway

Shelter House would like to introduce Roberta Holloway, a recent addition to our Board of Directors. Since her start as the Domestic Violence Investigator for the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office, Roberta has been a part of the Okaloosa Walton Domestic Violence Coordinating Council and several subcommittees including the Okaloosa Walton Sexual Assault Interagency Council. Roberta was also invited to be part of a state-wide advisory council for the department of sexual assault response teams.

Roberta says that while working in her career field, she noticed Domestic Violence is probably one of the highest

volume calls that law enforcement receives, and she knew it was something she wanted to dedicate her time to help fix. She works every day to help those who are involved in dangerous situations both on a working and personal level.

"By supporting agencies who provide assistance to these victims, like Shelter House, I feel I am helping to make a difference," says Roberta.

Roberta has lived all over the world thanks to her upbringing in an Air Force family. Before settling down in Okaloosa County over 20 years ago, she lived in California, Nebraska, Hawaii, Okinawa,

Japan, Korea, and Italy.

Roberta received her Bachelors and Masters degrees from the University of West Florida and she continued on to the Police Academy of OW and has incurred over 1,000 hours of additional training in various fields of investigation, mostly focusing on domestic violence and sexual assault.

Roberta's goal for Shelter House is to see an expansion in the future. She enjoys being a law enforcement liaison to other agencies and organizations and feels that she can bring a different perspective to some of the issues that the Board of Directors faces.

Launching Our Volunteer Program

Shelter House is re-vamping our Volunteer Program and we want to keep you in the loop about what kind of meetings are going on, what volunteers mean to us, how you can help Shelter House, and what you get for doing it!

Shelter House will be holding two Volunteer Orientations annually. One will take place every January, and the second will be half way through the year, in May. Orientations allow new volunteers to learn about Shelter House and understand the different ways in which volunteers can help.

Quarterly Volunteer Meetings will be held to allow volunteers, new and recurring, to gather together, meet one another, hear about all that is happening at Shelter House that quarter, and sign up for volunteer opportunities. These meetings will be in March, June, September and December. All meetings and orientations will take place on the first Thursday of the month at 5:30 pm. Locations will be announced prior to the meetings.

Each month, we will send out a Volunteer e-newsletter as a way to keep you informed between meetings. If you wish to join this mailing list, contact the administration office.

Each quarter, Shelter House will announce a Volunteer of the Quarter. These are individuals who have earned this title by the amount of hours

donated or the length of time they have assisted Shelter House. These individuals will be acknowledged in the quarterly newsletters, monthly e-newsletters and at the quarterly volunteer meetings.

This quarter, Shelter House acknowledges Cindy Launch. Cindy has been a member of the Board since February 2007. In the past, she's served as the Fundraising Chair, Chair of the Purple Passion Gala and is currently the Board Secretary. She put in an immeasurable amount of time and effort to make this year's Purple Passion Gala & Auction a success.

For her service, Cindy received a gift certificate from Kitchenique in Destin.

Different community partners will sponsor volunteer incentives. As a way to say thank you each month you volunteer, you will receive a token of our appreciation! Thank you to the following organizations who've helped us out so far: Arby's, Big Kahuna's, Helen Back Café, Florida's Gulfarium, D'Wons Bayou Buffet, Chick-fil-a, Fud-pucker's, Jim-N-Nick's BBQ, Tropical Smoothie, Wendy's and Southern Star Dolphin Cruises.

Stay tuned for announcements of upcoming volunteer opportunities, fundraisers and events and free goodies on Facebook, Twitter, and our monthly e-newsletters.

Calendar of Events

June:

WAM! (Santa Rosa Beach Shelter House office): Wed., May 19—June 23, 5:30-7:00 pm

WAM! (NWFSC—Niceville Campus): Thurs., May 20—June 24, 5:30-7:00 pm

Volunteer Meeting (O'Charley's—Destin): Thurs., June 3, 5:30 pm

July:

Have your organization/group sign up for a Group Volunteer Day!

August:

Core Competency Training: Wed., Aug. 11—Fri., Aug. 13, 8 am—5 pm

September:

Volunteer Meeting (Fish Lipz, Fort Walton Beach): Thurs., Sept. 2, 5:30 pm

October:

Domestic Violence Awareness Month Vigil: TBD

November:

Evening of Giving (Silver Sands Factory Stores): Sun., Nov. 21, 3—8 pm

December:

Volunteer Appreciation Potluck: Thurs., Dec. 2, 5:30 pm

25th Birthday Celebration: Wed., Dec. 15

What We've Been Up To



Some of our volunteers at Destin Charity Wine Auction Foundation's "Wine and Dine in Paradise"
Photo by Cody Jordan



Amanda Short, Michelle Sperzel, Cindy Launch, Wendy Clines, Rosalyn Wik and Gili Halperin at "Brining Down the House" presented by Destin Hype
Photo by Amanda King



Auction tables at Purses With A Purpose at Destin Commons
Photo by Michelle Sperzel



Roberta Holloway, Michelle Sperzel, Cari Lewis, Cindy Launch and Wendy Clines at the 7th Annual Purple Passion Gala
Photo by Lori Hutzler Eckert



Mrs. La Pee's K4 class at Calvary Christian Preschool. They collected items on the Wish List in order to learn about giving.



Okaloosa-Walton Domestic Violence Coordinating Council's "Promote Peace, Prevent Intimate Partner Violence" Luncheon.
Photo by Kellie Plemons

WISH LIST

Immediate Needs:

Macaroni and Cheese
New Pillows
Laundry Detergent

Monetary:

Gift cards to gas and grocery stores (WalMart, Kmart, Target, Publix)

Paper goods:

Toilet Paper
Paper Towels
Zip-lock/Trash bags

Food:

Non-perishable/Canned food & fruits
Frozen Foods
Cold food items (meat, milk, eggs, etc.)

Cleaning Supplies:

Laundry soap
Dryer sheets
Disinfectants (e.g. Lysol)
Dishwashing Soap

Personal Care Items (Unopened):

Shampoo/Conditioner (Family Size)
Women's deodorant
Feminine Hygiene Products

Hairbrushes

Full Size Mouthwash
Sponges/Wash cloths
Ethnic hair product

Baby Items:

Diapers
Pull-ups/Training Pants
Wipes

Linens:

Bath Mats
Bath Towels
Twin and Queen Size Sheets
Pillow Cases
New pillows

Future Needs: Please call or email Michelle and ask how you can help Shelter House purchase these items:

New Vacuum Cleaner
New Portable Cribs

If your organization or place of work would like a cell phone drop off box, call the office at 243-1201 or email info@shelterhousenwfl.org.

Board of Directors

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Cindy Launch, *Secretary*
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