



Newsletter

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

Winter 2010

SHBC Transitional Housing Program

As Shelter House continues to grow as an agency, diverse partnerships are created and opportunities and programs continue to expand. In October 2009, Shelter House, in partnership with Bridgeway Center, Inc. was awarded a highly competitive federal grant from the Office for Victims of Crime to begin the SHBC Transitional Housing Program. This program will place victims of Domestic Violence into a fully-furnished apartment and on a plan to recovery with a two year timeline.

This program offers a screening process that applicants will go through to determine whether or not they qualify for transitional housing. Once they pass the screening process, they are put into an apartment and are offered resources that will allow participants to begin their journey to life void of violence. Additionally, Shelter House will offer outreach, advocacy, safety planning and other resources to help get participants on their feet.



The Workforce Development Board will assist participants with their employment needs as an integral part of this effort will be to improve the employability of participants through access to job training, resume building and educational opportunities. Progressive Management will assist with meeting housing needs.

Currently, there are three participants already in apartments, with another three currently going through the move in process. The first participant was placed in an apartment the week before Christmas. She and her nine-year-old daughter had

been moving from place to place to escape their abuser, and were finally able to settle down in their own living space just in time for the holidays.



Shelter House believes that the transitional housing program is the perfect example of what the agency strives for and what Shelter House has been working towards in Okaloosa and Walton counties for 25 years. This program gives survivors of Domestic Violence a second chance to re-start their lives in a healthy environment for themselves and their children.

We are thankful for the community partnerships that have been created that allow this program to become a reality.

Housewarming packages

Housewarming packages are being accepted for transitional housing participants. We are looking for laundry baskets to be filled with laundry detergent, dryer sheets, cleaning supplies, pillows, candles, air fresheners, kitchen towels, bath mats and towels, hot pads, paper products such as paper towels and toilet paper, light bulbs, hand soap, sponges, wash cloths and gift cards to Home Depot for household fix-it items. If you have items that you would like to donate to the SHBC Transitional Housing program, please call Shelter House at (850) 243-1201.

Celebrating 25 Years!

This year marks 25 years since Shelter House began serving survivors of domestic violence in Okaloosa and Walton Counties. In 1985, Shelter House was birthed out of the need for services available to victims of Domestic Violence in this area. Seven years later, in 1992, a house was purchased that serves as the emergency shelter where women and children can stay for up to eight weeks to escape their abuser. Many other programs emerged over the years. Shelter House's award-winning Primary Prevention program began in 2002 and just this past year the transitional housing program began. In addition, a 24-hour crisis hotline, safety planning, peer counseling, support groups and court advocacy are available to victims to help stop Domestic Violence and create a violence free world. Please join us this year as we celebrate 25 years of service. Stay tuned for information on celebratory events.

Walton County Office

We are expanding services in Walton County and have opened a new office in Santa Rosa Beach that is now open for business! Hours of operation will be:

Monday—Friday, 8 am—5 pm.

Please join us for an open house on **Monday, March 1, 2010 10 am—6 pm.**

78 Lynn Drive
Santa Rosa Beach, FL 32459
Phone: (850) 622-5411
Fax: (850) 622-0625

South Walton group schedule:

Intake groups: Thursdays, 9—10 am
Support Groups: Thursdays, 12:30—2:00 pm

DeFuniak Springs group schedule:

Intake: Tuesdays, 10:30—11:30 am
Support: Tuesdays, 12:30—2:00 pm

Executive Director's Report

The past two years have been infused with change, updates, collaborations and other agency milestones. This year is no exception; Shelter House, Inc. is turning 25 years old. It is amazing to think that the agency started in 1985 as a thought and a community need and has grown into an amazing multi-program Domestic Violence Center. As we move through this silver year, Shelter House will be celebrating with many small fundraising and awareness events. Be sure to look for us on Facebook or Twitter for all the exciting announcements.

This is an exciting time to be a part of Shelter House. Not only are we celebrating 25 years assisting women and children in Okaloosa and Walton Counties, we are opening a new office in South Walton. I am very excited that we are going to be offering Domestic Violence Services to both ends of Walton County. The office opened on February 1st and we will be holding our open house on Monday, March 1st. I hope you are able to stop by and check out our newest location.

The end of 2009 marked the starting of our Transitional Housing program with Bridge-way, Jobsplus, and Progressive Management. I am so grateful that we are able to offer this much-needed service to our community. So far we have been able to provide three homes to women and children that desperately needed a new beginning and several more are moving in. I am very hopeful that with our help, and the help of our collaborators, we will be able to assist more families!

Currently, we are knee deep in our Economic Empowerment program – WAM! or Women and Money. While more women today are taking charge of their financial future, many leave money management to their partner or ignore it altogether. As a result, far too many women stay on the sidelines of the money game or stay in a financially abusive relationship. Our hope is that the women who attend the workshops take charge of their financial future. We started the program in November and have since ran 17 sessions. Each session covers one or two basic financial topics such as

Banking, Savings, Loans, Investing, Insurance and Bankruptcy. The program has been made possible due to a grant from the Allstate Foundation. The classes are a collaboration between staff members and community partners who help co-facilitate the class. A big thank you to Dawn Hoffman, loan officer from Beach Community Mortgage and Roberta Holloway with the Okaloosa Sheriff's Department. They both volunteered their time and expertise for our first run of classes. Please let us know if you, your business or church is interested in co-facilitating a WAM! session.

I know the next few months will be packed full with other exciting program advancements and success stories. I look forward to sharing them with you via eBlasts, Facebook or even Twitter.

As always, thank you for being a Shelter House supporter. We wouldn't have made the impact in the community without your continued assistance.

- Michelle

A Look Ahead



Shelter House and community partner, Youth Village, Inc. are teaming up to bring a Valentines spaghetti dinner to the community. Tickets are

\$10 and may be reserved by calling Shelter House at 243-1201. Money will be collected at the event held at the Youth Village at 312 Pelham Drive in Fort Walton Beach. The event will be **Friday, February 12 from 6:30—8:30 pm**. Dessert and beverages are included.

ANNIKA
Foundation

Shelter House will be helping with the **Annika**

Experience at Watersound, Feb. 19 and 20. If you are interested in volunteering, please call 243-1201 or email ghalperin@shelterhousenwfl.org. For more information about this event, visit www.annikafoundation.org/watersound.html.

The 7th Annual Purple Passion Gala & Auction will be held at the Linkside Center at the Sandestin Golf & Beach Resort on **Sat., March 20 from 7—11 pm**. Tickets are \$75 and include dinner, musical entertainment from Jones & Company, and a guest speaker. Volunteers are needed, sponsorship opportunities are available and auction items are being collected. Call the office to become a volunteer or sponsor, to purchase tickets or to donate auction items. Tickets may be purchased on our website www.shelterhousenwfl.org.



Charity Wine Auction Foundation benefiting charities. We are looking for volunteers for the upcoming **Wine and Dine in Paradise** event that will be held on **April 23 & 24**. For more information about the event, visit www.dcwaf.org.

Shelter House and the Ronald McDonald House will host the second **Purses with a Purpose** event at the Destin Commons **Thursday, May 6**. Donations for new and slightly used designer purses are now being collected at the Shelter House administration building at 102 Buck Drive in Fort Walton Beach and also the Walton County office located at 78 Lynn Drive in Santa Rosa Beach.



Allstate
FOUNDATION

The first set of community WAM! (Women and Money!) classes are coming to an end. To sign up for the next set of classes call the administration office.

Thursdays (Crestview): Feb. 18—Mar. 25, 5:30—7pm.

Tuesdays (Ft. Walton Beach): Mar. 2—Apr. 6, 5:30—7 pm.

Wednesdays (South Walton): May 19—June 23, 5:30—7pm

Shelter House is one of the Destin

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 gshalperin@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!

Gulf Coast Bingo

Shelter House is one of 15 local charities that will benefit from the Gulf Coast's newest Bingo facility, Gulf Coast Bingo Charity. Profits will be distributed evenly between the 15 participating charities on a monthly basis. Stop by Gulf Coast Bingo Charity to raise money for local charities!

109-H Racetrack Road, Ft. Walton Beach
Monday through Sunday, 9 a.m. until...
(850) 243-1110

In Memory

A donation was made in December in memory of Burt Lopez, an Okaloosa Deputy. Lopez lost his life in an attempt to put a stop to Domestic Violence. His service and dedication will be remembered.

Getting to Know Outreach & Prevention Manager, Aimee Tabb

Aimee Tabb is the Prevention and Outreach Manager for Shelter House. She has been with Shelter House since July 2009. This is Aimee's first non-profit career experience.

When asked why she wanted to work for a non-profit, specifically Shelter House, Aimee said, "I have worked closely with Shelter House in the past as a community partner and I have a deep respect for the work. When the opportunity arose, I knew it would be an awesome experience, one I could not pass up. I feel Shelter House is growing and it is exhilarating to be part of the change."

Aimee moved to the Fort Walton Beach area

in 1982 with her family. Aimee received her B.A. in Psychology from the University of West Florida and is currently working on her M.S. in Counseling and Psychology from Troy University with the goal of graduating in 2010.

Aimee says her most memorable moment thus far at Shelter House was finding out that Shelter House received the Transitional Housing Grant. "The excitement shared among the staff was awesome to see. For me, it confirmed I had made the right decision to come work here," Aimee said.

In the future, Aimee wishes to see the

Prevention and Outreach programs strengthen their service opportunities in Walton County. She also wants to continue streamlining and strengthening Shelter House's group processes in both counties. Aimee said, "I am excited about the opportunities that will come with extending services into South Walton with the new office opening up!"

Aimee said, "Every person I work with is so passionate about the work they do that it inspires me every day. I work with strong, amazing individuals that consistently challenge me to be a better person. I can't ask for more than that!"

Holiday Thank You

Now that the holidays are officially over, Shelter House would like to sincerely thank all the volunteers, donors and community partners who helped make the 2009 holiday season a huge success for our agency and participants!

To kick the holiday season off, Shelter House partnered with Michael Kors for Silver Sands Factory Stores' Evening of Giving in November. Shelter House benefited from ticket sales and raffle tickets, raising a total of \$600 for the event. We look forward to working with Michael Kors and Silver Sands Factory Stores again in 2010!

Shelter House collected Thanksgiving and Christmas food items to create Holiday Meal Baskets. Countless donors and 45 volunteers helped make this a huge success by creating 35 holiday meals for participants and their children.



A big thank you goes out to a group at Eglin Air Force Base for donating funds that allowed us to put a new, much-needed stove in the Shelter kitchen!

Thank you to the many donors who contributed gift cards over the holiday season. We believe in empowering women and these gift cards allowed our participants to purchase gifts and food for their families. Thank you to Santa Rosa Beach Community Church, and many other churches and community groups.

Thank you so much to the Northwest Florida State College AmeriCorps English Coaches who volunteered at the Shelter last month painting, cleaning and organizing! We appreciate you!



To close out the holidays with a bang, we had the Carrabba's Cooking Class which was a great fundraiser that allowed Shelter House supporters to kick back, drink some wine and enjoy learning how to cook some of Carrabba's original recipes. Paul Schreiner of Carrabba's Italian Grill in Sandestin hosted this exciting fundraiser to 60 attendees who learned to cook mussels in their lemon butter sauce and the Chicken Bryan, a chicken recipe with goat cheese, sun-dried tomatoes and basil. The event raised approximately \$2,100 for Shelter House. Thanks to all who attended and a big thank you to Carrabba's Italian Grill for your support!

Our final event of January was the Howl at the Moon "Fun"draiser. Thanks to all who attended this fun event full of musical entertainment and comedy! A big thank you to the staff and management at Howl at the Moon! We appreciate your support!

Stay tuned on Facebook, Twitter and our monthly eBlasts for more upcoming fundraising and awareness events this year to celebrate our 25th Anniversary!

Upcoming Events

Valentines Dinner—Feb. 12 @ 6:30 pm (Youth Village)

Annika Experience—Feb. 19-20 (Watersound)

Purple Passion Gala & Auction—March 20 @ 7—11 pm (Linkside at Sandestin Golf & Beach Resort)

Wine and Dine in Paradise (Destin Charity Wine Auction Foundation)—April 23-24

Purses with a Purpose—May 6 (Destin Commons)

Volunteer Meetings:

February 3 @ 5:30 pm (O'Charley's)

March 4 @ 5:30 pm (Children's Advocacy Center)

April 1 @ 5:30 pm (Fish Lipz)

Volunteer Orientation:

May 13 @ 5:30 pm (Shelter House Office)

If you are interested in volunteering for any events, call 243-1201 or email gshalperin@shelterhousenwfl.org.

Group Schedules

Fort Walton Beach: 243-1201

Intake: Thurs., 11am—12pm

Support Group: Tues., 10:30 am—12pm

Crestview: 683-0845

Intake: Mon. 10—11 am

Support Group: Tues., 1-2:30 pm & Thurs., 2-3:30 pm

DeFuniak Springs: Held at 1st Assembly of God, 461 Van Buren Ave., call 622-5411

Intake: Tues., 10:30—11:30 am

Support Groups: Tues., 12:30—2:00 pm

Santa Rosa Beach: 622-5411

Intake: Thurs., 9—10 am

Support Groups: Thurs., 2:30—2:00 pm

(Please call an advocate to sign up for these appointments).



P.O. Box 220
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit #268

WISH LIST

Board of Directors

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
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
Mouthwash (not travel size)
Hairbrushes
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
Pillows

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

New Vacuum Cleaner
New Bunk Beds
New Mattresses
New Washers and Dryers
New Portable Cribs
New Refrigerator

Cell Phones:

Our cell phone campaign is still going on.
Donate your old cell phones to Shelter
House and we will recycle them!

Wendy Clines, *President*
Bob Launch, *Treasurer*
Cindy Launch, *Secretary*
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