

Shelter House, Inc.



P.O. Box 220, FWB, FL 32549
850-243-1201 or 850-863-4777
www.shelterhousenwfl.org

A Shelter House Christmas

Shelter House would like to take a moment to thank all those individuals, companies and other organizations who helped make our holidays special again this year. Thanks to the generous donations made, we were able to provide Christmas gifts to over 45 Outreach families in both Okaloosa and Walton counties, which included over 90 children, 43 women and 2 men, as well as the 5 families currently residing in our emergency shelter. This year's donations exceeded our expectations.

Through the support of our generous donors, more than \$15,500 was donated through toys, cash, gift cards and other items.

We would also like to thank

all of the volunteers that helped with organizing and sorting all the gifts, and making sure every family got what they wanted this holiday season.

The following is a list of sponsors who donated to this year's Christmas Program.

- 16 SOS Spouse's Group
- American Legions of Fort Walton Beach, Niceville and Crestview
- Angela Shonk
- APEX
- Bay Elementary School
- Children's Home Society
- Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
- First Church of the Nazarene
- Frank Walker State Farm
- Flying Needles Quilting Guild
- Eglon Golf Club
- Golden Almond Health Food
- Grace Lutheran Church
- Hurlburt Field Public Health Clinic
- Jim and Christy Murphy
- Lauraline Congleton
- Linda Jones
- Longhorn's of Destin
- Medtronic
- Patti Gonzo
- Riviera Fitness Center (FWB)
- Santa Rosa Beach Community Church
- Stein Mart
- Vickie Bradt
- Victoria's Secret #618 (FWB)
- Victoria's Secret Sandestin
- Wal-Mart in Destin

Thank you all so much for your continued support of our organization.

A Shelter House Christmas Story

My husband made it impossible for me to be in my home another day. So, three days before Thanksgiving, I packed up my things and went into shelter along with my children. I did not know what to expect at the shelter and I was so scared. I felt fortunate that the staff at the shelter were warm and welcoming, and were able to provide me with everything I needed to prepare Thanksgiving dinner for my children and myself.

Between work, the children, and trying to figure out how I was going to support us, I lost track of time, and the fact that Christmas was around the corner. At the shelter, I learned about the Angel Tree from the Salvation Army, but never managed to sign up for it.

The week before Christmas, my children asked me

if Santa would know that we were at the shelter and not at home. I did not know what to tell them. I had nothing, and frankly had not even thought about Santa since my mind was preoccupied with other things. I went to the staff with my problem and I was assured that my children would be taken care of. Three days before Christmas, I received an envelope filled with gift cards to Wal-mart, Target and Winn-Dixie that had been provided by Santa Rosa Beach Community Church. I cried because now I could tell my children that Santa definitely knew where they were. I went shopping and bought exactly what the kids asked for. I am forever grateful to the church and the staff for making this Christmas special.

Submitted by a Shelter Resident

Mission

Supporting victims of domestic violence by providing services and shelter while promoting prevention through education and advocacy.

Vision Statement

**"All Relationships
Violence Free"**

Board of Directors

Geoff Layne, President
Laura Creighton, Vice President
Bob Launch, Treasurer
Stacey McGilvray, Secretary

Mike Anderson
Sue Bargeron
Rose Berry
Wendy Clines
Patricia Franklin
Chris Guy
Karen Lauer
Cindy Launch
Kaye McKinley

Executive Director

Michelle Sperzel

msperzel@shelterhousenwfl.org

5th Annual Sweetheart Gala and Auction

to benefit Shelter House, Inc.



**The Palms of Destin Resort and
Conference Center**

Saturday February 9, 2008 - 7pm-11pm

with Master of Ceremony

Ted Corcoran

&

Musical Sensation

JONES & CO.



The perfect chance to get unique gifts and have a great time.

Join us for an evening of heavy hors d'oeuvres, dancing, and auction items while supporting the campaign to keep our community safe and free of domestic violence.

Business/Cocktail attire

ADVANCED TICKETS \$50 each · \$75 per couple

Tickets at the door \$65 each · \$100 per couple

Corporate tables \$400

For overnight accommodations at the Henderson Park Inn Bed & Breakfast, call 866-398-4432 and ask for the "Sweetheart Rate", or call Jeff Davis at The Palms at 850-351-0515 for a special 1 night room rate.

- *Tickets available for purchase at : Warm Fuzzies (FWB), Skin Deep Clinic (Destin), Bayou Books (Niceville), Kitchenique (Sandestin), Crestview Chamber of Commerce and Hammock Bay Welcome Center (Freeport). Also available in our office in Fort Walton Beach.*
- *Event sponsored by: Vanguard Bank, Dixielectricar of Destin, Bryan Pest Control, PMS Moving, Regions Bank, Verizon Wireless, Beach Community Bank, Crystal Beach Development, Bancorp South Bank, SunQuest Cruises and Owl's Head Development.*
- *For more information, contact Shea Barnes at Shelter House 243-1201, (f)243-6756, or shea@shelterhousenwfl.org.*

Frequently Asked Questions

“Are my donations to Shelter House tax deductible?”

Yes, donors can deduct their contributions of money or items to Shelter House on their income tax returns. If items are donated, the amount of the deductions should equal the fair market value of the items at the time of the donation. In cases where the donor receives some kind of benefit in return for their contribution, only the amount of the contribution that is more than the benefit received can be deducted. An example would be if a donor

buys tickets to a Shelter House benefit which costs \$50, and the event includes a dinner costing \$20, only \$30 can be deducted (IRS Publication 526, Charitable contributions).

If you have donated items to Shelter House in 2007, and are unsure of the amount to claim on your taxes, please consult with a tax professional.

“What is the difference between shelter and outreach programs?”

The only significant difference between the shelter and outreach programs is that the victims receiving services through shelter actually reside at the facility, while victims receiving services through outreach are still living at home. Both programs offer peer counseling, assistance with safety planning, court accompaniment, support groups, information, referrals and advocacy with other

agencies for services that Shelter House is unable to provide. The focus of both programs is to provide victims the opportunity to explore the dynamics of domestic violence and the achievement of self-sufficiency.

Please e-mail questions to info@shelterhousenwfl.org if you have a question that you would like answered.

Donations to Shelter House

“I would like to donate items to Shelter House, what should I do?”

Shelter House is fortunate to receive an overwhelming amount of in-kind donations such as food, clothing, furniture, appliances, electronics, baby items, kitchen items, paper products, cleaning products and many other things ranging from the common to the unique and sometimes even bizarre.

In fact, last fiscal year, Shelter House received in-kind donations worth over \$88,000. These types of donations benefit the agency in many ways. Most of the items go

directly to the victims that are assisted through our various programs. Most of the government grants that Shelter House receives have a match requirement. Match refers to a specified percentage, which is usually 20%, of program costs that must be contributed by the grantee in order to be eligible for funding. Match can be either in-kind or cash. In-kind refers to donations other than cash. All items donated assist Shelter House in meeting the match requirements and ensure that Shelter House will continue to be eligible for funding.

Along with the benefits of in-kind donations there are challenges.

Shelter House lacks the storage space and staff requirements to accommodate the numerous items that are donated. Some items donated are of no use to Shelter House, which means that it becomes our responsibility to take these items to another agency that can use them. This becomes quite a daunting task.

In an effort to meet the challenges, a partnership has been established with the Fort Walton Beach Goodwill, located on Racetrack Road. When you drop items off there in Shelter House's name, mention the Good Samaritan Program, which then allows Goodwill to give Shelter House a credit in the form of vouchers. These vouchers are then given out to victims as

needed. This is a great program because it allows Shelter House and the people served to still benefit from the donations, but eliminates the challenges that often come with them.

Donors are encouraged to call Shelter House at 850-243-1201 and discuss their donations with a staff member. If the items are needed, the donor will be instructed to drop them off at the administrative office.

If the items are not needed, alternatives will be discussed with the donor that include Goodwill and other local charities to ensure that the items will go to where they are most needed.

Welcome to the new Executive Director of Shelter House

Michelle Sperzel, MBA comes to us by way of Birmingham, Alabama and Phoenix, Arizona. She is pleased to now call Fort Walton Beach her home. Michelle has worked in health related non-profits for over twelve years and is very excited to be stepping into the role of Executive Director of Shelter House, Inc. Michelle is looking forward to working with the Board of Directors to develop a strategic plan that will include fundraising goals, increasing access to services and offering comprehensive services and programs.

At Shelter House, we will continue to work toward empowering the increasing number of victims and their families that enter our doors by helping them gain the tools to break the cycle of domestic violence. We recognize the impact of

domestic violence on all of our lives, and will continue our work to increase community awareness and understanding of this problem.

Domestic violence occurs among all types of people. It cuts across cultural, economic and social boundaries. It can involve the person you've worked with for 10 years, your best friend who married her childhood sweetheart, your teenage daughter who just met someone new and exciting, or your next door neighbor. Together, we can prevent domestic violence. We must work together towards the common goal of ensuring the safety of victims, and holding offenders accountable and responsible for their behavior. We must and will continue to take action in our community.

High Risk Pregnancy: Intimate Partner Violence

(Part 2 in a Series)

Article written and researched by Marilyn Arthur, Lead Advocate for Shelter House, Inc.

As the numbers of pregnant women murdered every year are revealed, so, too, are their murderers. Homicide is the fourth leading cause of death among all American women of child-bearing age. One-third of all female murder victims, each year, are killed by an intimate partner. As pioneering medical researchers reexamine death reports of murdered women, looking for signs that the victim was pregnant, they are, more often, beginning to conclude that the killer of a pregnant woman is the partner or spouse of the mother-to-be.

It's only been recently that studies are being done to find exclusive reasons why intimate partners are killing pregnant women whose

child they are carrying. Juley Fletcher believes that hurting the fetus is the most effective way for a batterer to "get to" his wife or girlfriend. "It's what she cares about the most, and that's what abusers focus on," she says. "They are so obsessed with control and power that they will do anything. It's extraordinarily common for men to threaten to hurt or kill a woman's pets, or threaten or hurt the children."

Stephen Dale Barbee, 37, of Fort Worth, said he suffocated Lisa Underwood, and her 7-year-old son, Jayden, because he feared she would tell his wife about their affair, according to an affidavit. Officials said he led police to a makeshift

grave containing the bodies of Underwood, 34, and her son, who has been reported missing one Saturday after they failed to show up at her baby shower.

Underwood was seven months pregnant, and Barbee was the father of the unborn child. According to an affidavit in the case, Barbee, who was married in December, told police he killed Underwood as the two argued about whether he would leave his wife. Barbee also said he killed Jayden because the boy walked in on them.

What about the Scott Peterson persona's, who have been found guilty, and the alleged murderer, Bobby Cutts, of Jesse Davis? What commonality has been

associated with their cases?

Dr. Jeffrey Edelson believes that stress brought on by the pregnancy itself - such as anxiety over finances - can lead to increased violence. Or, he says, it may be triggered by simple jealousy. "Suddenly, attention is focused on the woman, and she may pay less attention to the man," he says. "Perhaps she is tired and doesn't make the kinds of dinner he likes, perhaps she doesn't want to have sex."

Other psychological profiler's think it comes down to narcissism. Why should these men have a dream life spoiled that they have concocted for themselves?

Part 3 in our next newsletter.

Santa Rosa Beach Community Church to Raise \$100,000 for Shelter House Kitchen Renovation

Since the time the shelter opened its doors in 1992, it has been obvious that the kitchen is in serious need of an upgrade. The cabinets, plumbing and electrical wiring are as old as the house itself, which was built in 1960. Aside from being old, the kitchen is not functional and does not accommodate for more than one person cooking at a time, which is especially a challenge when there is a full house. Over 300 women and children come through the shelter each year and the kitchen see a lot more

wear and tear than the average single-family home.

Shelter House has applied for several capital improvement grants over the years, but the answer is always the same - "we regret to inform you that your grant was not selected for funding".

Santa Rosa Beach Community Church member Dottie Azzarello is determined to raise \$100,000 towards this daunting project. Under the new layout, a number of improvements will

be made. One kitchen will become two, which will allow for more than one woman cooking at the same time. Also, new industrial type appliances, which will withstand the high usage, along with upgraded wiring, plumbing and a larger pantry are all part of this plan.

Those wishing to contribute to the Shelter House Kitchen Fund can do so by contacting Regions Bank and referring to account #3401014323 or by calling Alma Banks at 243-1201. Help us make this dream a reality.

Recent Events in the Community

Bouldercrest Church of Christ Ladies Retreat Program

“Women of Purpose, Privilege and Power”

Written by Marilyn Arthur, Lead Advocate of Shelter House, Inc,

On October 6th, 2007, Shelter House, Inc. was chosen to receive a donation from the Bouldercrest Church of Christ Ladies Retreat Program from Atlanta, Georgia. The donation was presented by Ms. Maria White. Advocates, Marilyn Arthur and Mary Horwell were honored to accept the donation on behalf of Shelter House, Inc.

Both advocates had the opportunity of hearing the opening “Welcome Rally”, by Gloria Parks, and that the women she spoke to are, in her words, “Women of Purpose, Privilege and Power.”

Marilyn Arthur said, “This was a powerful challenge and reminder, not only for myself, but also for those who work in the domestic violence field, that-

as advocates - we have Purpose and Privilege in serving victims and survivors of domestic violence. Our Purpose is to initiate change within social justice, community awareness and zero tolerance against domestic violence. We have the Privilege to encourage empowerment for individuals through strength, support and hope. We have the Power to help others achieve personal growth and realize self-worth.”

The donation received will be used to purchase food for the women and children utilizing Shelter House’s emergency domestic violence shelter. Shelter House, Inc. extends a very special Thank You to this wonderful group of women, and to Ms. Dia Johnson, who coordinated the event to make this donation possible.



Dia Johnson, Program Coordinator and Marilyn Arthur, Lead Advocate of Shelter House



Maria White accepting gift from children in shelter.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month Vigils and Remembrance Ceremonies



Fort Walton Beach Vigil, Uptown Station

Sandra Bean (Victim Services Provider), Shea Barnes (Administrative Assistant), Stephanie Carroll (Prevention Coordinator) and Kristin Atkins (Prevention Assistant)

Our 2007 Domestic Violence Awareness Month Candlelight Vigils were a success in raising awareness concerning domestic violence in our community. This year, we opened up the microphone to invite any one who wished to share their story the opportunity to do so. We had four vigils, Fort Walton Beach at Uptown Station, Crestview at the courthouse, DeFuniak Springs at the Lake and South Walton at Sacred Heart Hospital.



Stephanie Carroll (Prevention Coordinator) and Kristin Atkins (Prevention Assistant) at Shalimar Baptist Church

The 2007 Remembrance Ceremonies were performed in four places of worship throughout Okaloosa and Walton Counties. Our sincere appreciation goes out to all of those who participated in our second annual Remembrance Ceremonies. We hope to have more next year in order to spread the word about domestic violence.

An Indian Summer Soiree

By: Cindy Launch, Board Member



Mike and Doris Beam, hosts of the event and Cindy Launch, Board Member

On October 3, 2007, Shelter House held its inaugural 125 Club event, “An Indian Summer Soiree”. The soiree was held at the beautiful waterfront home of Mike and Doris Beam of Santa Rosa Beach. Forty-five people were in attendance, each making a \$125 contribution. Guests enjoyed an evening of friends, laughter, music, hors d’oeuvres and open bar. Chef Phillip McDonald of Table Five Services catered the soiree. Many Shelter House friends who were invited but were unable to attend made monetary donations, all of which were tax deductible. The goal of \$5,000 was surpassed, with over \$7,530 in the coffers by the end of the evening!

Shelter House would like to offer our sincerest thanks to Mike and Doris Beam for so generously hosting this event, and thanks to those who attended and contributed.

With the success and enjoyment of the Indian Summer Soiree, a springtime soiree is currently in the planning stages. This one will probably be held in Niceville or Crestview.

If you’d like to be on the invitation list, please e-mail Cindy Launch at launching-pad1967@yahoo.com.



Geoff Layne, Board.



P.O. Box 220
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32549

850-243-1201
850-863-4777 or 1-800-442-2873

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

We're on the web!
www.shelterhousenwfl.org



Shelter House Needs:

<p>Cash Donations... To offset operating expenses.</p> <p>Gift Cards... for Groceries and Gas/Phone Cards</p> <p>Household Items...</p> <p><u>Paper Supplies</u> toilet paper, paper towels</p> <p><u>Personal Care Items</u> shampoo/conditioner (full-size), soap, deodorant, tampons, pads, toothbrushes, toothpaste, hair-brushes</p>	<p><u>Food</u> canned foods, cereal, children's snacks, pasta, rice, bread, cold items (meat, eggs, cheese, etc.), frozen foods</p> <p><u>Baby Items</u> diapers (larger sizes), pull-ups, formula, baby food, wipes</p> <p><u>Cleaning and Household Products</u> laundry soap, bleach, dryer sheets, sponges, disinfectants, dishwashing soap, towels, washcloths, cotton balls, Q-tips, latex/non-latex gloves, foil, trash bags, etc.</p> <p><u>Children's Items</u> school supplies, socks, coloring books, new books, etc.</p>
--	--

Mary Kay Grant

In support of agencies that provide services to victims of domestic violence, the Mary Kay Ash Charitable Foundation has awarded grants to 150 such agencies throughout the United States. Shelter House is happy to report that it was the recipient of one such grant in the amount of \$20,000.

The Mary Kay Ash Charitable Foundation was created in 1996 to fund research of cancer affecting women, and in 2000, expanded its mission to include prevention of violence against women. Since that time, the foundation has awarded more than \$11 million in grants to women's shelters around the country. Shelter House is thrilled and very thankful to have received this grant, which will help heighten the awareness of the insidious problem of domestic violence against women as well as provide the much-needed financial support to Shelter House.