

Women Are Safe, Inc.

Women Are Safe, Inc. is a domestic violence program serving Dickson, Hickman, Humphreys, and Perry counties.

Fall 2008



Changes

Main Office

131 West End Ave.
Centerville, TN 37033
Phone: 931-729-9885
Helpline: 931-729-5730 or
1-800-470-1117
Fax: 931-729-0556

Dickson Co. Satellite Office

100 N Main St
Second Floor
Dickson, TN 37055

Humphreys Co. Satellite Office

3343 Hwy 70 E
Waverly, TN 37185

Shop 'til It Stops

102 South Public Square
Centerville, TN 37033
931-729-7737

Shop Hours:

Tue-Fri 10am-5pm
Sat 10am-2pm
Closed Sun & Mon

WAS 2008

Board of Directors:

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Jane Gilbert

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Machelle Davidson

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June Daily

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As Fall approaches and the leaves begin to turn, I am reminded of change—how it is sometimes planned but most often is unplanned; how it can be gradual or abrupt, easy to accept or hard to get through. All change invites us to grow. This invitation is a challenge to expand our boundaries, to reach out for support, and at times to reinvent ourselves. Women

Are Safe has undergone many recent changes especially within our staff. Some changes have been more challenging than others but through it all we have learned to embrace the moment and give ourselves room to grow.

As our staff has changed, so have our goals and visions for the future. In this issue you will find information about a variety of new endeavors such as our Dickson County Outreach Office, our Lending Circle program, and our 2008 Dinner to Remember awards banquet and silent auction. You will also find updates on our Boys Against Violence and HAVEN projects. None of these programs would be successful without the hard work and dedication of our volunteers or the ongoing support we receive from individuals in the communities we serve.

To our community supporters, Thank you for becoming volunteers, attending our events, spreading the word about our new programs, helping collect

items on our wish list and shopping at Shop 'til It Stops. Your continued participation is an invaluable asset to those we serve.

“Some changes have been more challenging than others but through it all we have learned to embrace the moment and give ourselves room to grow.”

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Women Are Safe, Inc. will be sponsoring several domestic violence awareness events during the month of October. The first of which is called Pass the Potty. If you live in Centerville,

this is a great opportunity for you to help us flush away domestic violence by participating in this unique fund raising and awareness campaign. Be on the look out for flyers and newspaper articles or check with Korie at Shop 'til It Stops for more information. Our annual Dinner to Remember will be hosted on Thursday, October 23 from 6:00pm-9:30pm. Awards will be presented along with a silent auction and a fabulous meal. Robin Kimbrough Esq. from the Tennessee Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, will be speaking during this event about engaging the faith community in our work with domestic violence survivors. We look forward to this special evening with much anticipation. Enclosed with this newsletter you will find a 2008 Dinner to Remember invitation with all the details. Finally, I encourage you to visit our website www.WomenAreSafe.org as there are many new updates. While you're there be sure to check out our Virtual Tea Party!

Warmest Greetings,

—Vanessa Davis, Executive Director

Meet Our Staff

Vanessa Davis, Executive Director

wastn@bellsouth.net

Vanessa received her B.A. in Psychology from Georgia State University. Vanessa joined the staff in August 2006 as Office Manager then moved into direct services as Children's Program Coordinator in February 2007. She became Executive Director in December 2007.

Vanessa is primarily responsible for securing funding, community relations and management of the program. She is currently a member of the Hickman County Domestic Violence Coalition.

Shannon Tays, Youth Program Coordinator

shannon@womensafe.org

Shannon received her B.S. in Psychology from Middle Tennessee State University. She is a mom and foster-mom for a total of 7 children. She first joined WAS as a volunteer in 2006 and was hired as the Youth Program Coordinator in December 2007. She provides for the physical and psychological needs of children in shelter, facilitates children's support groups, coordinates community education presentations, and networks with local organizations to secure services for children. Shannon serves on the East Hickman Family Resource Center Advisory Committee and is the WAS Adopt-a-Class representative.

Korie Cochran, Community Outreach Coordinator

korie@womensafe.org

Korie is a graduate of Middle Tennessee State University with a B.S. in Child Development/Family Studies. She began working in the domestic violence field in 1995. Korie currently oversees the operations of Shop 'til It Stops, Thrifty Boutique. She works closely with volunteers and with the community ensuring awareness of ongoing domestic violence issues. Korie serves on the Hickman County Coalition Against Domestic Violence, and is the Chair of the Hickman County Health Council.

Mary Jo Leaver, Court Advocate/HAVEN Coordinator

maryjo@womensafe.org

Mary Jo received her B.A. in Liberal Arts from Ambassador University in Bricklet Wood, England. As Court Advocate, Mary Jo is available to assist victims in filing for Orders of Protection and providing support

before or during hearings. As Transitional Housing Coordinator, she manages financial assistance to survivors, facilitates financial planning sessions and helps clients achieve new levels of independence. Mary Jo has been affiliated with WAS for over 10 years. She is a member of the Hickman County Domestic Violence Coalition.

Rhoni McCollum, Shelter Coordinator

rhoni@womensafe.org

Rhoni is a founding member of the Women Are Safe program having provided service to victims as a volunteer beginning in 1989 and joining the staff in 1991. As Shelter Coordinator, Rhoni makes sure the shelter is maintained, orients new residents to shelter, is responsible for documentation in client case files, and handles donations. As Volunteer Coordinator, Rhoni recruits, trains and coordinates volunteer services including the hotline. Rhoni is a member of the Hickman County Suicide Prevention Task Force.

Robin White, Program Assistant

program@womensafe.org

Robin joined Women Are Safe, Inc. in April 2008. She is responsible for general office duties that help the program run smoothly from day to day. In addition to answering the phone, Robin assists with book keeping, personal relations, and event planning. She studied digital media at Trident Technical College in Charleston, SC and is a member of the Lavender Sisterhood speech forum promoting awareness of domestic violence and its survivors.

Amy Warren, Dickson County Outreach Coordinator

dickson@womensafe.org

Amy received her associate's degree of applied science in paralegal studies from Southeastern Career College. She is the newest member of our staff having joined us July 1st of 2008. As Dickson Outreach Coordinator, Amy's duties include court advocacy for Dickson and Humphreys Counties. She is also available in our new Dickson County Outreach Office to provide information, support group services, and advocacy to clients in that area. In addition, Amy is providing awareness of our program and services we offer through her membership in the TNNcep and Health Councils of Dickson County.



Parnell is our Feline Outreach Coordinator. He provides pet therapy for our clients young and old. He also reminds us of the link between animal abuse and domestic violence. From time to time WAS needs to find foster homes for a client's pet. If you would like to volunteer to foster these animals, call Rhoni at 931-729-9885.

"The most important thing to remember is this: To be ready at any moment to give up what you are for what you might become."

-W.E.B. Du Bois

Remembering Paula Fisher

Courage, perseverance, and determination – words that only begin to describe Paula Fisher, the former Court Advocacy Program Director for Women Are Safe.

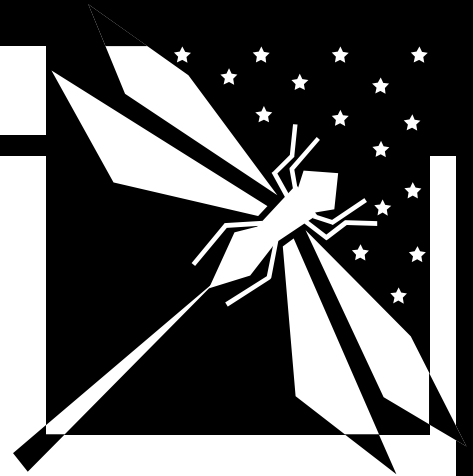
She became a volunteer in March 1995 and joined the staff in December 1998 as the Rural Outreach Worker at the Perry County Satellite Office. She was a member of the Perry County Health Council and served on the Perry County 3-Star program. She was very active in bringing awareness of domestic violence to the community – especially in her community of Perry County.

A little less than two years ago, Paula was diagnosed with lung cancer. She took chemo and lost her hair but she kept on attending court - encouraging women to be strong and stand against the abuse they were experiencing. She filled her days helping people in crisis – even when her own life was in crisis -- always determined to beat the cancer. May 7, 2008, Paula, age 44, died leaving behind her husband, George, her daughter, Jessica, and her precious 2 ½ year old grandson, Nathan – the joys of her life!

She worked with Women Are Safe for 13 years. And during those years we as co-workers could always depend on her in any emergency. Night or day, rain or shine Paula was available. Her cell phone was almost a part of her body. I shared an office with Paula and things could get a bit confusing – as I would often answer her questions not realizing she was talking on the phone.

She was very spiritually aware and attuned to nature. All of us knew the gifts Paula appreciated most – angels & dragonflies. Even before she got sick her e-mail tag read – Today is a blessing, tomorrow is a gift. Those words have meant more to us all during these last couple of years -- especially coming from Paula. She was truly a gift and a blessing to the staff of Women Are Safe and will be greatly missed. However, we know her strength and courage will live on in the lives of the many women she has helped through the years.

—Mary Jo, Court Advocate



In Memorial

The following people made donations to Women Are Safe, Inc. in memory of Paula Fisher:

*Pat Vanden Boche
Cedar Grove Baptist Church
Korie Cochran
Machelle Davidson
Janice Duncan
Tommy Fesmire
Jo Anne C. Lord
Linden United Methodist Church
Dorthy Morris
Saratyn Morris
Robert Specht Jr.
Mike and Barbara Spann*

Project Updates

Go Green!

Volunteers help prevent electronic waste while simultaneously raising funds for Women Are Safe Inc.

Women Are Safe Inc is embarking on a mutually beneficial partnership with Think Recycle, a community based, environmental fundraising program, created by Greentec. Volunteers simply gather used print cartridges and cell phones from their community and bring them to Women Are Safe Inc to be collected. There will also be collection boxes located at Pamida and the library in Centerville as well as the Dickson library. In return, Greentec donates money for every qualifying cartridge and cell phone collected, so the volunteers earn valuable funds for Women Are Safe Inc. Think Recycle has been responsible for the diversion of more than 1 million cartridges from landfills and has provided nearly 3 million in funding to its participants.

Another added bonus is that Greentec donates one tree to either the Tree Canada Foundation, or American Forests for every 12 qualifying cartridges or cell phones that Women Are Safe Inc collects. The Think Recycle program has been responsible for planting over 31,000 trees to date, removing 5400 tons of carbon from the atmosphere.

Over 300 million empty printer cartridges are generated in North America every year. That's 900,000 pounds of waste that potentially goes into landfills every year! Please do your part in the effort to make the environment a little cleaner and stop domestic violence at the same time.

For more information, please contact:
Robin White, *Program Assistant*

HAVEN

Women Are Safe, Inc. was recently invited to give a presentation about our HAVEN transitional housing project to attendees of the Tennessee Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence annual conference. Mary Jo, our HAVEN Coordinator, spoke on the successes and challenges she has experienced during the first 8 months of the project. Highlights include helping a client obtain her driver's license and helping another survivor enroll in college. Challenges for our clients have been maintaining steady employment and keeping their cars in good running condition. This project has been a great learning experience for all of us and has led us to develop our new financial mentoring and Lending Circle programs.

Boys Against Violence

Women Are Safe's Boys Against Violence project in conjunction with the Tennessee Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence (TCADSV) and the Baptist Healing Trust is entering its second year.

This year, we will find pilot locations for the curriculum and implement it with at least 25 middle school aged boys. The curriculum, entitled *Promoting Gender Respect* is designed to enhance the leadership skills of middle school boys to respond to and prevent bullying and sexual and dating violence. The voices and active involvement of our youth advisors have strengthened and shaped this curriculum.

The curriculum is composed of eight session guides, intended to span over an eight week period. The sessions address issues of bullying, gender respect and healthy relationships. These topics were chosen with the goal of presenting information to middle school boys in a developmentally appropriate manner, and guiding them towards becoming allies.

—Shannon Tays, *Youth Program Coordinator*

*Women Are Safe, Inc. congratulates
Shannon Tays
our Youth Program Coordinator,
for receiving her
BS in Psychology from MTSU on
August. 9, 2008 !*

WAS has a Dickson County Outreach Office located at 100 North Main Street on the second floor. Appointments and donations are welcome. In addition to our new outreach location, we have expanded our services in Dickson County to include weekly support groups for victims and their children.
Call Amy at 931-729-9885 to make arrangements.

Lending Circle News

Some of the proceeds from Shop 'til It Stops are being used in our new Lending Circle program. The Lending Circle is designed to provide Women Are Safe clients with interest free loans and financial mentoring. These loans have helped survivors in ways that we were unable to before. We thank everyone who has worked with us as we navigate our way through these uncharted waters, especially our volunteer financial mentors. If you would like to become a mentor please call Rhoni at 931-729-9885.

Shop 'til It Stops Weekly Specials

- Tuesday** - Men's Clothing 1/2 price
- Wednesday** - Women's Tops \$1.00
- Thursday** - Dresses, Skirts, Dressy Pants Suits 1/2 price
- Fridays** - Infants - Teens Clothing 1/2 price
- Saturday** - Manager's Choice

Wish List

- 60 minute prepaid calling cards
- prepaid gas cards
- household cleaning supplies
- laundry detergent
- personal care items
- zip-top freezer/storage bags
- paper towels
- toilet paper
- trash bags
- white copy paper

Volunteers Needed

- hotline
- support group
- landscaping
- Shop 'til It Stops
- community education
- multilingual translators
- court advocacy
- financial mentoring
- pet fostering

“Become the change you want to be.” —Oprah Winfrey

Impact of Volunteering

As advocates for domestic violence survivors, we often hear reports that abusive partners use money as a tool to assert control over their victims. It is common for victims to have limited or no access to financial resources such as checking account information and titles to jointly owned property. Many victims are kept under lock and key, forbidden to hold a job and never allowed to own anything for themselves. Less extreme forms of financial abuse include tactics such as “taking care of her money” by having the victim hand over her pay check each week in exchange for an allowance, or expecting the victim to account for every penny she spends. As a result, when they are finally able to escape the abuse, victims often struggle to maintain financial independence. In some unfortunate cases, victims return to the abuse due to financial hardships.

Over the years Women Are Safe has helped many survivors rebuild their lives. When money is needed for security deposits and utility bills, we help our clients network with community organizations and churches to raise those funds. We apply for grants on their behalf through state and national coalitions. In short, we are constantly coming up with new and creative ways to help survivors make ends meet. At times this can be very rewarding but there are those disappointments when victims are simply overwhelmed by the responsibilities of daily life and feel like they have no other choice but to return to what is familiar to them. Such cases remind us that money is only a band-aid. Sometimes, money *is* the key. Sometimes all she needs is a few dollars to get her through a tough spot and she’s on her way to a free and independent life. But most victims need more than that. They often need guidance, support and encouragement.

Recently, WAS has collaborated with several agencies to discuss and implement new ways to help survivors make the transition from crisis to safety and *beyond* safety to economic independence and empowerment.

We have discovered other programs are using financial mentors to assist victims with money related planning and challenges. What a great way to bring in new volunteers and to help survivors *maintain* their independence!

“Mentors are helping survivors with basic financial practices such as creating a budget and getting bills paid on time.”

With the success of Shop 'til It Stops, Women Are Safe, Inc. has started a new volunteer mentoring program that will help victims to get back on track financially. Mentors are helping survivors

with basic financial practices such as creating a budget and getting bills paid on time. If you are interested in joining this new project as a volunteer financial mentor, WAS will train you in a few short sessions and there will be plenty of opportunities for you to use your own skills and resources to make the experience even more beneficial for the person you are serving. Our goal is to match two mentors for each “mentee” so that time, knowledge and resources can be shared and/or multiplied - bringing about the best results possible. This experience is sure to be rewarding and fun...especially if you recruit a friend to do it with you!

If you are interested or would like more information about the program, please call Rhoni at 931-729-9885 or Korie at 931-729-7737.

More Ways to Help

- Adopt a room at our shelter
- Donate wish list items
- Attend our Dinner to Remember
- Contribute to our silent auction
- Support **Shop 'til It Stops**
- Promote gender equality
- Encourage others to get involved

“We are the ones we have been waiting for.”
-June Jordan

Partners for Peace 2007- 2008 Volunteers

Amanda Aydelott, *Shop*
Cindy Bailey, *Financial Mentor & Shop*
*Molly Bates, *Shop*
Kendra Beard, *Shop*
*Joyous Bey, *Shop*
Phil Bittle, *Maintenance & Repairs*
*Linn Blanchard, *Court*
*Linda Brewer, *Shop*
Harriet Bruce, *Shop*
Ruth Ann Carathers, *Shop*
David Cole, *Skit*
****Beverly Davis, *Hotline*
*Brenda Fly, *Shop*
Mary Fox, *Shop*
Richard Fox, *Maintenance & Repairs*
Howie Gaft, *Maintenance & Repairs*
**Christina Gaza, *Shop*
Amy Gossett, *Financial Mentor*
Steve Hannah, *Maintenance & Repairs*
*Jackie Hood, *Cleaning & Landscaping*
Trista Hopkins, *Youth Program*
Tamara James, *Financial Mentor*
Beatrice Jobe, *Financial Mentor*
Mike Kelley, *Skit*
***Joyce Kelty, *Shop*

****Betty Lampley, *Shop & Office*
***Donna Lubore, *Hotline*
Janie McClannahan, *Shop*
Georgia Moss, *Shop*
**Samantha Pace, *Shop*
Judy Parker, *Shop*
Devin Pickard, *Skit*
****Mary Pickard, *Shop*
Amy Puckett, *Financial Mentor*
Brian Qualls, *Skit*
Tracy Ramos, *Shop*
Linda Rollins, *Shop & Financial Mentor*
*Teresa Sawyer, *Shop*
*Connie Sharp, *Shop*
****Rae Ann Stutzman, *Hotline & Shop*
Peggy Sullivan, *Financial Mentor & Support Group*
Clara Wright, *Shop*

*50 or more hours
**100 or more hours
***200 or more hours
****500 or more hours

Total Hours: 4,644

Many thanks to everyone who provides sponsorship and support through cash donations, donated items and fundraising events!



Remember to use www.GoodSearch.com each time you search the internet. Enter WAS as your charity of choice and each time you search, GoodSearch will make a donation to us!

We make every effort to acknowledge all of our supporters. Please accept our sincere apology if your name was inadvertently left out or misspelled.

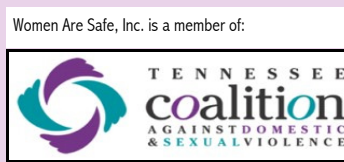
2007-2008 Fiscal Year Statistics

Categories	Dickson	Hickman	Humphreys	Perry	Other	Total
Total Served Unduplicated	253	195	82	0	64	638
% of total served	40%	30%	13%	7%	10%	
Safe Bed Nights	371	117	145	0	174	807
% bed nights	46%	14%	18%	0%	22%	
Court Advocacy/Outreach	125	105	38	23	9	300
% Court by County	42%	35%	12%	8%	3%	
Hotline Calls	101	82	41	21	40	285
% by county	36%	29%	14%	7%	14%	
Funding provided	3%	6%	7%	1%	83%*	

*Includes funds from state, national, and foundation grants, fundraisers, and donations from individuals who reside outside the service area.

Mission Statement

Women Are Safe, Inc. is here to serve the immediate needs of victims of domestic violence in Hickman, Dickson, Humphreys, and Perry counties in TN through core services: 24 hour hotline, safe, temporary shelter, court advocacy, transportation, education about the dynamics of domestic violence, support groups, referrals to community resources, and advocacy; and to support change through legislation that will end domestic violence toward women and their dependent children in Tennessee and nationwide. Furthermore, Women Are Safe, Inc. will work diligently to change social attitudes which condone violence toward women through public education programs.



Women Are Safe, Inc., does not discriminate in regard to sex, race, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, age, or marital status. All of our services are free. The program receives funding from United Way. This program is partially funded under an agreement with the State of Tennessee, Department of Finance and Administration and Office of Criminal Justice Programs. Points of view or opinions contained within this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the Department of Justice.

Far away there in the sunshine are my highest aspirations. I may not reach them, but I can look up and see their beauty, believe in them, and try to follow where they lead."

-Louisa May Alcott