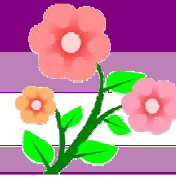


# Women Are Safe, Inc.

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



Spring 2011

## Youth Poster Contest was a Winning Collaboration!

During February, in honor of Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month, Women Are Safe, Inc. teamed up with the students and faculty at East Hickman Middle School to raise awareness through a school-wide poster contest. Contestants were instructed to submit posters featuring original artwork aimed at raising awareness around the issue of teen dating violence. Nineteen 6-8<sup>th</sup> graders entered the contest. The posters were judged by faculty volunteers on content, style and originality. Artistic merit was also taken into consideration for one of the winning categories.

First Place was awarded to 8<sup>th</sup> grader Kaitlyn Campbell. Our Second Place winner was 7<sup>th</sup> grader Angele Latham. And Third Place went to 8<sup>th</sup> grader Ashley Sartain. 7<sup>th</sup> grader Lexi Wilson received the Artistic Merit Award. Lexi's poster features the slogan "Stop the Violence. Start the Love".

Sponsorship from the following businesses provided prizes for the contest winners as well as increased awareness in the greater community: Logan's Roadhouse in Dickson, O'Charley's in Dickson, Pamida in Centerville, Snappy's Pizza in Lyles, Thunder Alley in Dickson, and The Roxie Movie Theatre in Dickson. Donzella Bowins, the Guidance Counselor at East Hickman Middle School worked closely with Trina, the WAS Youth Program Coordinator, to help make this event a success. All of us are looking forward to a collaboration again next year. In fact Ms. Bowins says the students are already planning their post-

ers and inquiring about the prizes.

Get the facts about Dating Violence in Our Community:

### Is dating violence an issue for us?

There are some national statistics dealing with the issue of dating abuse. For instance, according to the US Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics: females ages 16-24 are almost 3 times more likely to be a victim of intimate partner violence than any other age group; and according to the Family Violence Prevention Fund: nationally, 8.9% of high school students have been physically hurt on purpose by a boyfriend or girlfriend. We have often wondered who they surveyed to get these national statistics, and how our rural service area compares. In order to learn more about what is going on in the teen dating relationships in our service area, Women Are Safe did a survey of 251 high school students prior to dating violence presentations. We asked many questions which when put together raise concern about our rural, small town, youth.

Through this survey, we learned that our youth are above the national average on the amount of reported dating violence. Our results showed that 10.8% of the teens surveyed had been physically hurt by a dating partner. That's almost 2% higher than the national average. 76.5% of the students surveyed had been in a dating relationship since in high school. Over half of the students (66.1%) felt that emotional abuse was a

*(Continued on page 5)*

### Hickman Co. 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. Office

719 E. College St.  
Suite 400  
Dickson, TN 37055  
615-446-4300

### Humphreys Co. Office

3343 Hwy 70 E  
Waverly, TN 37185  
931-296-0911

### 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 2010-2011

#### Board of Directors:

##### Chair

Patti Flores-Pugh

##### Vice Chair

David Spencer

##### Treasurer

Mary Beth Pruett

##### Secretary

Molly Bates

##### Directors

June Daily

Jane Gilbert

Bill Lovett

Eva Rushton

Linda Shelton

Sue Smith



## Meet Our Staff

### Vanessa Davis, Executive Director

[wastn@bellsouth.net](mailto: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 a member of the Hickman County Domestic Violence Coalition and Chair of the 23rd Judicial District Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

### Trina Qualls, Youth Program Coordinator

[trina@womenaresafe.org](mailto:trina@womenaresafe.org)

Trina is a graduate of Middle Tennessee State University with a B.S. in Mass Communications. Trina joined us in April 2009. 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, including the Hickman County Health Council, to secure services for children. Trina serves on the East Hickman Family Resource Center Advisory Committee and is the WAS Adopt-a-Class representative.

### Glenda Lovell, Community Outreach Coordinator

[glenda@womenaresafe.org](mailto:glenda@womenaresafe.org)

Glenda grew up and graduated high school in Hickman County. In 2008, she was hired by Shop 'Til It Stops through The National Council of Aging and became a regular volunteer shortly after the conclusion of her paid employment. This hands on experience with the Shop and her being raised in the local area gives her that little something extra to handle the many tasks involved in overseeing Shop 'Til it Stops. She works closely with the volunteers and with the community ensuring awareness of ongoing domestic violence issues, along with managing the day to day operation of the Shop. Glenda invites all to come in and have a look around; you never know what will be for sale next. Remember, every little purchase helps!

### Mary Jo Leaver, Court Advocate

[maryjo@womenaresafe.org](mailto:maryjo@womenaresafe.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. She also helps to facilitate weekly support groups in Hickman County. Mary Jo has been affiliated with WAS for over 10 years. She is a member of the Hickman County Domestic Violence Coalition and the Perry County Health Council.

### Rhoni McCollum, Shelter Coordinator

[rhoni@womenaresafe.org](mailto:rhoni@womenaresafe.org)

Rhoni is a founding member of the Women Are Safe program having provided services 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. Rhoni is a member of the Hickman County Suicide Prevention Task Force, the Hickman County Domestic Violence Coalition and represents WAS on the Homeless No More Steering Committee.

### Robin White, Program Assistant

[program@womenaresafe.org](mailto:program@womenaresafe.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 bookkeeping, personal relations, and event planning. She studied digital media at Trident Technical College in Charleston, SC, is a member of the Lavender Sisterhood speech forum promoting awareness of domestic violence and its survivors, and provides awareness of our program and services we offer through her acceptance into Leadership Hickman.

### Amy Warren, Dickson County Outreach Coordinator

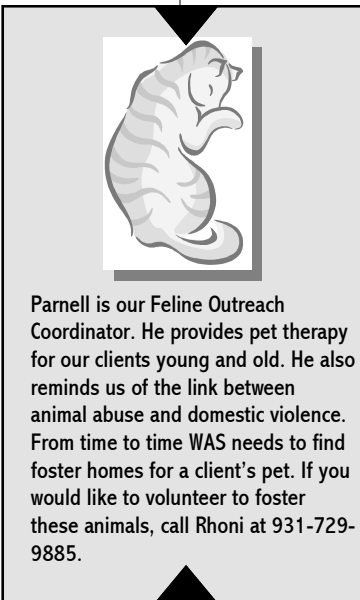
[Dickson@womenaresafe.org](mailto:Dickson@womenaresafe.org)

Amy received her associate's degree of applied science in paralegal studies from Southeastern Career College. As Dickson Outreach Coordinator, Amy's duties include court advocacy for Dickson and Humphreys Counties. She is also available in our 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 TNCep and Health Councils of Dickson County. As Volunteer Coordinator, Amy also recruits, trains and coordinates volunteer services, including the hotline.

### Deb Adams, Humphreys County Outreach Coordinator

[Humphreys@womenaresafe.org](mailto:Humphreys@womenaresafe.org)

Deb served as a WAS volunteer for 13 years before joining the staff in December 2004 as Administrative Assistant. After an attempt at retirement, she is back on staff and serves as the Humphreys County Outreach Coordinator. Deb is a cultural competence consultant registered with the National Center for Cultural Competence, and is a member of the National Network to End Violence Against Immigrant Women and the Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition. Deb is also a member of the Humphreys County Health Council and the Humphreys County Community Advisory Board.



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.



**"Individual commitment to a group effort - that is what makes a team work, a company work, a society work, a civilization work."**  
~ Vince Lombardi

### Think Recycle

Women are Safe joined ThinkRecycle.com in an effort to not only raise funds to assist victims of domestic violence but to also do our part to help the environment. They offer cash rebates on over 2,000 makes and models in 6 different product lines – the most in the industry! Since our collaboration with ThinkRecycle.com, Women Are Safe, has been able to divert 1768.28 pounds of electronic waste from landfills with the help of all in the community putting forth the effort to collect and deliver recyclable items to designated locations. We began our collection efforts in October of 2008 and over the last few months ThinkRecycle.com has added even more items to the things they will accept. This creates more opportunity to raise much needed funds for the victims of domestic violence. This list includes; cell phones, ink cartridges, toner cartridges, digital cameras, iPods/MP3 Players and laptops. Not only have we been able to raise \$1252.70 (breaking down to an average of \$44.00 per month since the beginning of our collaboration) which directly impacts the lives of our clients, ThinkRecycle.com also plants trees in the American and Canadian National Forests for every 24 refurbished electronics received by our efforts in the name of Women Are Safe. In total there have been 43 trees planted due to all of those who have so graciously taken the time to collect and deliver these recyclable items to our drop off locations.

#### **Collection Sites:**

Women Are Safe Offices in Centerville, Dickson and Humphreys Counties  
Shop Til It Stops on the Centerville Square  
Hickman County Library  
Waverly's First Federal Bank & First Bank

If interested in learning more about the ThinkRecycle.com program please do not hesitate to visit their website or call the Program assistant, Robin at 931-729-9885.

~Robin  
Program Assistant



### Pull the Power; Stop the Violence Law Enforcement Collaboration

The Sheriff's Department is seeking a three-year federal grant that will create a division to deal specifically with domestic violence. As proposed to the U.S. Office on Violence Against Women, the "Pull the Power, Stop the Violence" grant would create two new law enforcement positions, both of them dedicated to domestic violence investigation.

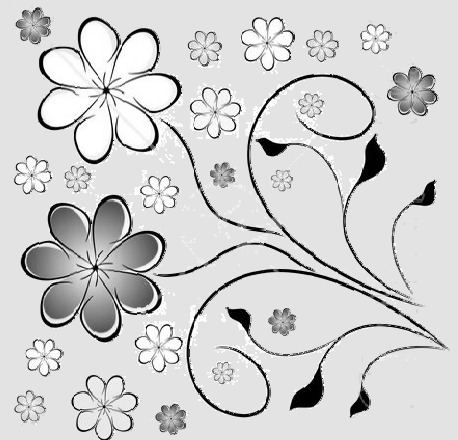
Those officers would follow up on reports as well as work with Women Are Safe to provide services to women and children who are victims of domestic violence. The investigators would work with the court system and other agencies that provide victim services, devoting more attention to the crime.

"This is one of our most dangerous calls," Sheriff Randal Ward said.

Over the three years, the \$573,591 project also would create a full-time program administrator and a part-time administrative assistant, purchase vehicles, computers and other supplies. About \$69,000 of the grant would go to Women Are Safe, to serve domestic violence victims in rural Middle Tennessee.

The grant would pay the total cost of the program, with no local contribution involved, Ward told the Hickman County Legislative Body. Commissioners' gave unanimous approval to the application.

~ Patricia Vanburgen, Hickman  
County Sheriff's Department



## Project Updates

### TAKE YOUR PICK!

Spring has sprung and WAS is springing into action with new ways to educate and collaborate with our community. We are excited to be able to offer three new interactive programs that will educate and help you understand how to help friends in domestic abuse situations. We also have two new and exciting videos. One teaches simple self defense moves and the other one is a very interesting presentation by Ted Bunch entitled A Call To Men. Let me briefly explain what each program has to offer.

**RADAR** is directed specifically toward the workplace and how bosses and co-workers can help a victim stay safe as well as help in the prosecution of batterers even before anything ever goes to court.

**IN HER SHOES** is an interactive exercise that takes the participants through the decision making process many victims experience while planning and deciding to leave their abusive situation.

**THE "EDU/PRIZE" WHEEL** is a fun way to learn facts about your local program and some interesting statistics about domestic violence and dating violence. The Wheel not only educates but gives you the opportunity to win some tasty treats and useful prizes. We have found this to be very effective with young people.

#### **SELF-DEFENSE VIDEO: JUST YELL FIRE**

Led by martial arts expert Dallas Jessup (18 yrs old), Just Yell Fire empowers women with stay-safe information, danger avoidance strategies, and quick-learn street fighting skills that enable a woman to get away from an attacker twice her size every time. Dallas started out just trying to help her friends stay safe and her program has now grown to be influential not only in the USA but 49 other countries.

#### **VIDEO: A CALL TO MEN**

"A Call To Men" believes that preventing domestic and sexual violence is primarily the responsibility of men. Although historically it has been almost entirely women who have been at the forefront addressing this issue, we think it is essential that well-meaning men...men who, for the most part don't see themselves as part of the problem...need to get involved.

We have more to offer than ever before! So just TAKE YOUR PICK and then spring into action by contacting Women Are Safe at 931-729-9885. We will be happy to come to your church, youth group, club, class or other group or organization at a time that is convenient for you. Thank you for helping our community be a safe place for all.

~Mary Jo, Court Advocate

#### **Batter's Intervention Classes** **available in our area:**

##### **Main Street Interventions:**

Facilitated by Patti Flores-Pugh  
(615) 740-7100  
100 N. Main Street  
Dickson, TN 37055

##### **Time for a Change:**

Facilitated by Kelly Connison  
(931) 840-4940  
502 N. Garden Street, Suite 204  
Columbia, TN 38401

### **Shop 'til It Stops**

#### **Weekly Specials**

**Tuesday** - Men's Clothing 1/2 price  
and Senior Citizens Discount Day  
10% off

**Wednesday** - Women's Tops \$1.00  
and belts and sleepwear 1/2 price

**Thursday** - Dresses, Skirts, Dressy  
Pants Suits and Bras 1/2 price

**Fridays** - Infants - Teens Clothing and  
Purses 1/2 price

**Saturday** - Manager's Choice

*(Continued from page 1)*

serious issue for their age group. One student commented on the survey, "Teenagers really need more knowledge of the real world and of what is really going on. Even if it has(n't) happened to them, it could one day. Teenagers should also know the consequences of having a sexual relationship at such a young age." When asked if they had been in a relationship involving sex in any form, 33.9% said yes. Our youth are becoming sexually active at a very young age, on average at age 14. This means that some are having sex before the age of 14. Most teens don't fully understand the consequences of having sex as a teenager and how that changes their relationship until it is too late. One student commented on the survey, "Having sex at about 15-16 was the biggest mistake of my life! If I could take it back I most def. would." According to our survey there seems to be a correlation between being sexually active and the amount of violence in a relationship. 23.5% of those who were sexually active reported being forced to have sex by a dating partner. 13.3% of the males surveyed reported having forced someone to have sex or had sex with someone who was unable to give their consent. Of the females who reported being sexually active with a dating partner, 30% also reported having been physically hurt by a dating partner; that's 18.2% higher than the total population surveyed and 21.1% higher than the national average.

Witnessing Domestic Violence in the home is also a factor in the healthiness of a relationship. 23.5% of those surveyed reported having witnessed domestic violence in their home. Over half (57.6%) of those reporting witnessing domestic violence also reported being in a relationship that involved sex. That's 23.7% higher than the total surveyed reported. 27% of those who reported witnessing domestic violence in their home also reported being physically hurt by their dating partner. That's 16.2% higher than the total surveyed and 18.1% higher than the national average. Also, 27% of those who reported witnessing domestic violence in their home also reported being forced to have sex by a dating partner. That is 18.2% higher than the total surveyed. There seems to be a clear correlation between growing up in a home with domestic violence and experiencing violence in a dating relationship.

Also threatening violence or self-harm seems to be a big issue with our youth. When asked have you had a partner who threatened violence or self-harm if you were to break up, 23.1% said yes. The % went to 40.7 for those who also reported witnessing domestic violence in their home, and to 36.6 for those who also reported being in a dating relationship involving sex.

If you think this does not affect your child, think again. Even if they are not one in the percentages who have been abused or who have abused, they are most likely friends with someone who has been abused or who has abused, and they are definitely in class or on a sports team with someone who has been abused or who has abused someone. Almost half (40.2%) of those surveyed reported knowing someone who had been physically hurt by a dating partner. 22.3% reported knowing someone who had been forced to have sex by a dating partner.

These are all serious statistics which affect our youth in our community directly. It seems from these statistics that if we can eliminate domestic violence then we can lower the risk of another generation of abuse in relationships. But for those who have already witnessed abuse we need to teach them and show them examples of healthy relationships in order to combat the generational cycle that seems to be occurring. If nothing changes, history will repeat itself. It also seems that if we can educate our youth not just about safe sex, but about how sex changes a relationship. If we can teach our youth to wait until they are more mature to begin having sex, let them practice a little more at just being in a relationship then that could help keep them from mistaking sex for love and getting too serious too fast at too young of an age. It also seems that if we can teach our youth both males and females to be allies for victims of abuse and stand together against all forms of abuse then we will empower our youth to become leaders and be a stronger future generation. Let's work together to educate our youth and help end dating violence and in turn end the domestic violence of the future. We need to teach all of our youth how to spot unhealthy relationships and what it is to have a healthy relationship. If we don't educate our youth we can be sure that their friends, and the media will do the job for us. *Please call me at 931-729-9885 for more information about WAS teen dating violence presentations.*



~Trina, Children's Outreach Coordinator

## Partners for Peace 2010-2011 Volunteers

### WAS Volunteers

Molly Bates\*  
Kendra Beard  
Linda Brewer  
Harriet Bruce\*\*  
Martha Chandler\*\*  
Jenelle Clay\*  
Dana Cook  
Brenda Fly\*\*  
Bobbie Gann\*\*  
Judy Gaureau\*  
Christina Gaza  
Judith Harris  
Phyllis Harshfield  
Joyce Kelty\*\*\*  
Judy Lemoine\*\*  
Rubye Loveless\*\*  
Bill Lovett  
Crystal Luna  
Barbara Mayberry  
Janie McClannahan\*  
Rose Myatt\*\*  
Mary Pickard\*\*\*\*  
Abigail Price\*  
Jessica Rawls  
Linda Rollins  
Connie Sharp\*  
Tammy Stone  
Rae Ann Stutzman\*  
Peggy Sullivan\*\*\*\*  
Dottie Threadgill  
Freida Totty\*\*\*  
Christian Vanatta  
Barbara Wood\*\*

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

~  
**Total Hours: 3,692**

### Wish List

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Prepaid calling cards</li><li>• Prepaid gas cards</li><li>• Household cleaning supplies</li><li>• Laundry detergent</li><li>• Personal care items</li><li>• Zip-top freezer/storage bags</li><li>• Paper towels</li><li>• Toilet paper</li><li>• Trash bags</li><li>• White copy paper</li><li>• Wal-Mart Gift Cards</li><li>• Packaging Tape</li></ul> | <p><b><u>Volunteers Needed</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hotline</li><li>• Support group</li><li>• Landscaping</li><li>• Shop 'til It Stops</li><li>• Community education</li><li>• Court advocacy</li><li>• Financial mentoring</li><li>• Pet fostering</li></ul> |
|---|--|

**"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."  
~Helen Keller**

Many thanks to everyone who provides sponsorship and support through cash

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

2010 Calendar Year Statistics

Categories	Dickson	Hickman	Humphreys	Perry	Other	Total
Total Served	696	1143	588	28	65	2520
Victims Receiving Direct Services	203	166	69	28	65	531
% Of total served	38%	32%	13%	5%	12%	100%
Safe Bed Nights	153	428	44	0	102	727
% Bed nights	21%	59%	6%	0%	14%	100%
Court Advocacy/ Outreach	105	95	39	21	12	272
% Court by County	39%	35%	14%	8%	4%	100%
Hotline Calls	87	57	28	7	49	228
% Hotline by county	38%	25%	12%	3%	22%	100%
Community Education	493	977	519	173	0	2162
% Community Education	25%	49%	26%	8%	0%	100%

WAS Partnering with Legal Aid Society

The staff at Women Are Safe, Inc. is pleased to announce a new collaboration we are participating in with the Legal Aid Society of Clarksville. On the second Monday of each month Ms. Ashley Graham, an attorney from legal aid, will be in the WAS Dickson (10 am – 12 pm) and Humphreys (1 pm – 3 pm) County offices to answer legal questions concerning domestic violence and other related issues such as child support, divorce and housing. This free service is confidential and is available to WAS clients as well as any other members of these communities with limited means in need of legal advice in these areas. We are excited by the partnership and feel that this service will be a huge asset for our clients in their journey to reclaim their independence. It is very empowering for victims of domestic violence to know they can speak candidly to an attorney in person and not be criticized for choices made in the past. We are very grateful to the Legal Aid Society of Clarksville for offering Ms. Graham’s expertise and we hope this will be a long lasting affiliation.

If you have any questions or would like more information regarding this or other services offered by Women Are Safe, Inc. or The Legal Aid Society of Clarksville you may contact WAS business office (931)729-9885.

~Amy, Dickson County Outreach Coordinator/  
Volunteer Coordinator

“No bird soars too high if he soars on his own wings.” – William Blake



131 West End Ave.  
Centerville, Tn 37033

# Women Are Safe, Inc.

## 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. is a member of:

