

Women Are Safe, Inc.

Newsletter



a domestic violence program serving Dickson, Hickman, Humphreys and Perry Counties
Summer 2006

Love Doesn't Have To Hurt...

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 26
Perry County
CCRTeam Meeting
Career Center
Linden
Noon

August 3
23rd Judicial District
Coalition to End DV
Main Street
Intervention Center
Dickson
Noon

August 5
Women Celebrating
Life
Waverly Jr High
Waverly
10-2

August 15
Hickman County DV
Coalition
Women Are Safe
Centerville
Noon

October 19
A Dinner to
Remember
Caesar's LaDolce
Villa
Bon Aqua
6:30 p.m.
Reservations only

October
Domestic Violence
Awareness Month
Wear a purple ribbon

From the Executive Director

When spider webs unite, they can tie up a lion.

Ethiopian Proverb

Quotes such as the one above can provide inspiration, but where I find more inspiration is in the action of the volunteers of Women Are Safe, Inc. Let me tell you about some of our volunteers.

- Hotline volunteers answer the phones in the middle of the night then relay necessary messages to staff.
- A woman bakes goodies for the women and children who attend support group.
- Volunteers work in the clothes closet, keeping things in order and sorting through what we can and cannot use.
- A man helps us handle the donations of furniture and large appliances, picking them up, storing them and then moving them to a client's home when they leave shelter.
- Youth groups do yard work, pick up trash, and wash windows. Volunteers paint, make repairs, sew curtains, decorate and do all kinds of maintenance.
- A man makes wooden cars for children who come to shelter and the outreach center.
- Volunteers assist with fundraisers – selling tickets, making baked goods, working in the concession stands, and just doing whatever needs to be done.
- Volunteers help with support group, provide transportation and childcare.
- Others help with community education, serving as actors in our interactive skit.
- Volunteers provide foster care for cats and dogs who cannot accompany their families into shelter.
- Another volunteer started out doing doll makeovers –rescuing dolls which were badly worn and transforming them into wonderful playmates for the little girls who visit our outreach center or come to shelter. Now this volunteer also assists clients in the courtroom, explaining the court process and simply providing support and encouragement.

There are many more tasks that volunteers assist with as our needs and the needs of those we serve change. What doesn't change is the volunteers' commitment to service. Each one wants to touch a life to help make a change for the better. They may never see the child clutch the reworked doll and smile with joy. They may never get a word of thanks from the panic stricken woman in court for the first time, although she feels like her life was saved by the quiet woman beside her. They may never hear from the family whose gas money to leave town was bought from money raised from the pie they cooked for the bake sale.

So this Summer 2006 newsletter is dedicated to all the volunteers who have been a part of Women Are Safe, Inc. for the past twenty years, supporting victims behind the scenes.

Thank you.
Mary Fox



What the Community is Saying...

“WAS is a wonderful program that assists this community and the surrounding communities in so many ways. The staff do a wonderful job in providing, unfortunately, a much needed service.”

“You have always been very helpful to us when we were seeking help for a client. We appreciate your willingness to help other agencies and provide resources to those less fortunate.”

“I believe WAS is a wonderful organization. Keep up the good work.”

Donate your deactivated cell phones and used ink cartridges to



Women Are Safe, Inc.

Boxes are set up for collection at your local library. If you are leaving ink cartridges, please put them in a plastic bag.

Congratulations



Our Director, Mary Fox, has been elected Chair of the Tennessee Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence Board of Directors and will take office in July.

“If you find in your heart to care for somebody else, you will have succeeded.”

Maya Angelou

Board of Directors

Jane Gilbert, Chair	Linda Shelton, Vice Chair	
Kim Adkins, Secretary	Mary Beth Pruett, Treasurer	
Brenda Jacobs, Parliamentarian		
Elizabeth Coombe	Katherine Herzog	Susan Maxwell
David Spencer	Peggy Thompson	

Women Are Safe, Inc.

P.O. Box 2

Centerville, TN 37033

or Email: wastn@bellsouth.net

Visit our website: www.womenaresafe.org

Office Number: (931) 729-9885

Fax Number: (931) 729-0556

Mission Statement

Women Are Safe, Inc. (WAS) is here to serve the immediate needs of victims of domestic violence in Hickman, Dickson, Humphreys and Perry Counties in Tennessee 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 societal attitudes which condone violence toward women through public education programs.



Women Are Safe, Inc. is a 501 (c)(3) tax-deductible nonprofit agency partially funded by United Way of Dickson and Humphreys Counties
“This project is partially funded under an agreement with the State of Tennessee,
Department of Finance and Administration, 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.”

Volunteer Opportunities

In order to challenge our society, our organization must reflect the world in which we want to live. To fulfill our mission, we must create collaborations that cultivate our strengths, knowledge, talents and services.

Women Are Safe, Inc. understands that it takes the whole community to respond to the needs of battered women and their children, and to create a world free of violence and fear. When they hold hands with each other, the Women Are Safe, Inc. staff and our volunteers, weave a strong web of support and care around victims of family violence, sending a clear message that domestic abuse is not acceptable in our community.

Take a moment and review some of the volunteer opportunities available with Women Are Safe, Inc. If you would like to help in any of these areas, please call the office at (931)729-9885.

- **Hotline Volunteers** assist victims of domestic violence and their children by answering calls to Women Are Safe, Inc.'s 24-hour hotline from their own homes, and often serve as the first, critical link to Women Are Safe, Inc. services and to living without abuse.
- **Children's Volunteers** provide child care and therapeutic play during regular support group meetings for adult clients. By offering their time and care, children's volunteers show the youngest victims of domestic violence that everyone deserves to be nurtured and loved.
- **Assistant Court Advocates** provide support to victims of domestic violence who are pursuing criminal action against their abusers or civil remedies to domestic violence. Court advocates improve the success rate of clients as they move through what can be a confusing and intimidating court system.
- **House and Grounds Helpers** ensure that Women Are Safe, Inc.'s emergency

shelter is a safe, attractive space for women and children. By nurturing Women Are Safe, Inc.'s environment, the house and grounds helpers create a home for healing.

- **Special Events Volunteers** support Women Are Safe, Inc. by working with the Board's Fundraising and Development Committee to develop and carry out Women Are Safe, Inc.'s fundraising events. Special events volunteers are not just Women Are Safe, Inc.'s fundraisers—they are our fundraisers!

- **Community Education Volunteers** provide support in the community by teaching students, churches and community organizations about the dynamics of domestic violence. Their aim is to stop the cycle of abuse at the grass roots level.

- **Multicultural and/or**

Multilingual Volunteers help the staff meet the needs of victims who are from a variety of cultures and speak languages other than English. What a great opportunity to reach out in the community and help provide a safe place for multicultural victims of abuse and to ease their fears.

Women Are Safe, Inc. volunteers bring a variety of talents and skills to their work in eliminating domestic violence, and the success of our mission depends on these different talents and skills.

Judy, Office Manager



Volunteers

Essential for the growth and survival of our program.

You may not know that we owe the birth of today's domestic violence programs to survivors of domestic violence who **VOLUNTEERED** to start safe homes and become advocates for other victims. These volunteers are responsible for the "grass roots" organizations that are today federally funded, professionally run programs. Together these programs have changed how the system deals with domestic violence and they continue to influence positive change for victims and survivors.

Women Are Safe, Inc was also started by volunteers - two very smart and diligent women, Sister Eileen Schulenburg and Michelle Flynn. I was fortunate enough to be around when they saw the need and began to build our program. They were very inspiring, but I must be honest - I was skeptical,

not to mention ignorant about domestic violence. I had no idea what I was getting into when a friend "guilted" me into going to a training/meeting. I had no excuse for not becoming a volunteer. I had the time and the ability. So after 8 to 10 hours of training, I became a hotline volunteer. Along with 4 or 5 others we had the hotline available 3 or 4 days each week and we transported victims to other shelters. To my amazement, within the next year we had enough volunteers to answer the hotline 7 days a week. This made us eligible to apply for grants to pay staff and purchase the shelter.

Today, almost 20 years later, we still have wonderful volunteer support and I continue to be amazed by all that is accomplished by the very special people who volunteer. I am privileged to know and work with them. Thank You All, for all you do.

Rhoni, Volunteer Coordinator

"Maybe she is being helped when I answer the hotline and I am doing something worthwhile"

A Hotline Volunteer

GivingMatters.com

Check it out!!

You can find us on this website.

www.givingmatters.com



Volunteers are a key that can help unlock a world of opportunity for victims of domestic violence.

Partners Against Domestic Violence

Donations
January 1- June 30, 2006

Orchids

Cash Donations \$500 & Up
Verizon
Highland Corporation



Wisteria

Cash Donations \$100-499
Patricia Phair
Waverly Women's Club
Daughters of the King
Shady Grove Church of Christ
Ellis Grove Presbyterian
Kendron UMC
McEwen UMC Women
Hickman County Ministerial Association
Likewise Pty Ltd.
Native American Earth & Spirit Council



Iris

Cash Donations \$50-99
K Nine Kountry
First UMC Linden
Fairfield Baptist Church
Bon Aqua UMC
Grinders Switch FCE Club
Fashion Bug in Dickson
Janie Betty



Violets

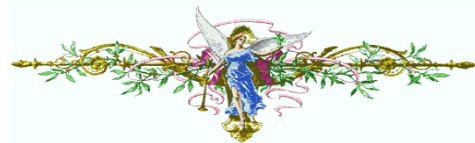
Cash Donations \$25-49
NaCoMe
Peggy Owen



Many thanks to everyone who provides sponsorship and support through fundraising events.

Other Supporters

Trace Creek Baptist Church (New Johnsonville)
New Spring Creek Church of Christ
Fairfield Church of Christ
Patty Sisk
The Farm Bureau Women (Centerville)
Fairfield Baptist Church
Fairview Baptist Church
Girl Scout Troop (McEwen)
Christine McClanahan
Beauty Express
Edie Parish
Marcy Gignilliat
Donna Moore
Ruth Ann Carruthers
First Baptist Church Women (Centerville)
Daughters of the King (Dickson)
Waverly United Methodist Church
Mary Smith
Nan Malone
Walmart (Dickson)
Waverly Elementary 2nd Grade Class
First Baptist Church (Pinewood)
Pamida
Dickson County FCE Ladies
Main Street Intervention
Owens Corner Mart



Memorials and Honorariums

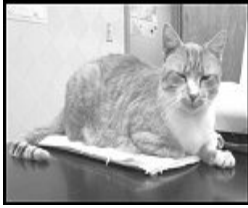
Since January 1, 2006

What a wonderful way to honor a loved one!

The gift that honors one's life is one that keeps on giving...

Charles and Nell Moody made a special donation in memory of Deb's father **Kenneth Smith**
Megan Bladen-Blinkoff gave a special donation in memory of Deb's father **Kenneth Smith**

USB Matching Funds program gave a donation in memory of Marci Harris's son **Trent Harris**



Feline Outreach Advocate

When I joined the staff of Women Are Safe, Inc. in 2005, I knew a lot about issues that affect animals -- the importance of spay and neuter programs, the worldwide need for

appropriate scratching posts, and the etiquette of human-animal communication (i.e. let the humans think they're in charge). During my orientation training, however, I became aware that humans exhibit an abnormal behavior that causes them to commit arbitrary acts of violence against others of their own kind! Worse, this aberrant behavior often spills over onto the animal companions, who may receive the same type of abuse from these cruel humans.

Below is some information I found on the HSUS website. Please purr-use it, then share it with your littermates and with your humans. As the superior species, we have a responsibility to help those with only two legs put an end to violence and create safer, healthier lives for their offspring.

Remember, animal abuse IS family violence.

Purrs, Parnell parnell@womenaresafe.org

Why do batterers threaten, abuse, or kill animals?

- To demonstrate and confirm power and control over the family.
- To isolate the victim and children.
- To eliminate competition for attention.
- To force the family to keep violence a secret.
- To teach submission.
- To retaliate for acts of independence and self-determination.
- To perpetuate the context of terror.
- To prevent the victim from leaving to coerce her/him to return.
- To punish the victim for leaving.
- To degrade the victim through involvement in the abuse.

Why should we recognize animal abuse as a form of battering?

- Animal abuse exposes the deliberateness of battering rather than loss of control.
- Animal abuse and child abuse are closely related.
- Animal abuse is often a tool used by batterers to emotionally control or coerce victims.
- Threatening, injuring, or killing animals can indicate the potential for increased violence or lethality.
- Victims may postpone leaving out of fear for their pets' safety.
- Identifying animal abusers can help identify other victims of violence within the family.

From the Humane Society of the United States

Partners Against Domestic Violence

We appreciate all the volunteers who steadily work behind the scenes helping out where they are needed.

Volunteers

Phil Bittle
Linn Blanchard
Officer David Cole
Officer Ken Daron
Jessica Froberg
Steve Hannah
Mike Kelley
Officer Brandon Matlock
Dr. Louise Merritt
Pat Sanders
Rae Ann Stutzman
Shannon Tays
Wanda, Cathy & Tracey Wilkes
Rick Bruno
Ruth Ann Caruthers
Sandra Cannon
Teri Burton
Donna Bradley's 4-H Group
Joel Liggins
Jason Brazzle
Troy Dugger
David Dansby
Senior Cosmetology Students
Trinia Qualls
Diane Avril
Gary Groves
Melody Wherry
Cassidy Wherry
Maria Casto
Wendy Hahn
Lindsay Rochelle
Soldiers of the Cross
Lawrence Harris

We make every effort to include all of the volunteers who have help us out. We apologize if we have overlooked anyone.

Helping Victims in Court

We often hear from people who are interested in volunteering but are not confident in their ability to work directly with victims of domestic violence. Fortunately there are a few who know that working directly with clients is exactly what they want to do and complete the 16 hours of training to provide direct services. Volunteer court advocates are some of those few. In recent years there has been an increase in arrests related to domestic violence. With this increase comes an increase in victims/survivors needing our services in court. Our Volunteer Court Advocates, or Assistant Court Advocates, have helped Women Are Safe, Inc. staff members deal with this increase and continue to provide quality services to victims.

As Court Advocacy Program Director, I know that court volunteers are a valuable addition to our program. Volunteer Court Advocates provide an additional presence in our courtrooms to help our staff advocates provide client services. Their services range from giving victims of domestic violence information about Women Are Safe, Inc. services, sitting with someone to provide quiet support, watching children

while a mother goes before the judge, to making sure a victim has a safe place to wait until her batterer leaves the courthouse. Some interested candidates have asked if a law degree is needed. The answer is no! Our court advocates and volunteers are not attorneys and do not give legal advice. They do provide basic information on the court process, help a victim navigate the system and ensure that she understands her options and her rights. Women Are Safe, Inc. provides the necessary training for free. Because of reduced funding for staff salaries we are in need of more Volunteer Court Advocates. Do you have what it takes?

When I asked a volunteer why she chose Court Advocacy, she responded, "Since I *can* do it, I *must* do it. Giving back was instilled in me by my parents. Being there is serving."

We appreciate all our volunteers, but those who work with us in court hold a special place in **my** heart. Thank you for all you do.

Paula

Court Advocacy Program Director

"SINCE I CAN DO IT, I MUST DO IT. GIVING BACK WAS INSTILLED IN ME BY MY PARENTS. BEING THERE IS SERVING."

With Your Help We Are Making a Difference

"To everyone at WAS, I want to extend a special thank you for all you've done for me, the help, the listening, caring, sharing, advice, gifts, shelter, for each of you being who you are, and being there for me. I can't say how much it means to me or how much it's done for me."

"Thank you to everyone for everything that all of you did for me to get back to this healthy point in my life. Because of everyone of your special hearts, I have FULLY taken back my life and found that whole joyful and peaceful person again. I know everyone of you are special and go beyond, because I experienced it, and I thank God everyday for WAS and everyone of you for being there for me. Love, a SURVIVOR"

"To those who helped me get back on the right track. Thank you forever"



Korie's Korner

On Wednesday, May 24th, Greg, Korie and Garrett welcomed the newest member of their family. Her name is Daveigh Grace. Daveigh was 20 inches long and weighed 7 pounds and 10 ounces. According to Korie, Garrett is doing a great job of being a big brother. Korie is on maternity leave until August.

Paper and printing supplied by Fairfield Church of Christ

Volunteers Needed

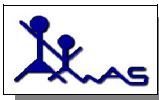
Hotline
Assist with support group
Pet fostering
Landscaping
Maintenance & repairs
Painting
Sorting and stocking
Multilingual translators
Community education

Wish List

Pre-paid phone cards
Hygiene products
Household items
Diapers (Pull ups Size 4)
Cleaning and laundry supplies
Hair Brushes (not combs)
Over the counter medicines
Dishwasher soap
Paper towels
Donated office space for Perry and Humphreys Counties
Postage stamps
Large kitchen trash bags
AA, AAA, C, & D batteries
Small tools
Light bulbs (60 watt)
Heavy duty shelving
New Toddler Car Seats
Towels/washcloths
Toilet paper



Hotline: Local 729-5730
Toll Free: 1-800-470-1117



WOMEN ARE SAFE, INC.
PO BOX 2
CENTERVILLE, TN 37033
Office: 931-729-9885
Fax: 931-729-0556