

# The Stepping Stone

Spring 2008

*The Stepping Stone* is a newsletter published quarterly by Someplace Safe, Inc. We are a non-profit social service agency, committed to serving survivors of Domestic Violence.

Among our services are:

24-Hour Crisis Line  
Emergency Shelter  
Crisis Intervention  
Legal Advocacy

Women's Individual & Group Support Services  
Children's Individual & Group Support Services  
Community & School  
Education Programs



All services are accessible by calling:

**Someplace Safe, Inc.**  
330-393-3003 or  
**CONTACT'S 24 – hr hotline**  
330-393-1565 or 2-1-1

[www.someplacesafe.org](http://www.someplacesafe.org)

Someplace Safe, Inc. is funded by the State of Ohio (Marriage License Bureau), VOCA, VAWA, United Way, Family Violence and Prevention, Trumbull County Department of Jobs and Family Services, and private donations.

**Someplace Safe  
Garage Sale  
St. William Parish  
May 9&10**



Someplace Safe will be holding a garage sale as a fundraiser on Friday, May 9<sup>th</sup> from 9am-7pm and Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup> from 9am-3pm at St. William Parish, 5431 Mahoning Ave., NW in Champion. On Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup> from 12-3 we will have a \$1 Bag Sale.

Clean out your closets because we will be accepting donations from the public!!! Please drop your donations off at St. William's Monday May 5<sup>th</sup> – Thursday, May 8<sup>th</sup> between the hours of 8:30am-7pm.

Thursday, May 8<sup>th</sup> we will have a preview sale from 5pm-7pm. Shopping passes for the preview sale are \$5 and can be purchased in advance at Someplace Safe or at the door.

We are unable to accept hazardous materials such as rubber tires, paint, and oil.

We will be accepting clothes, toys, kitchen items, furniture, appliances, decorations, household items, outdoor items, books, videotapes, etc.

If you have any questions please feel free to call Someplace Safe at 330-393-3003.

Thank you for your support!

## 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Just Dessert Fundraiser

On Friday, February 8, 2008 Someplace Safe held its 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Just Dessert Fundraiser at Leo's Ristorante. The event was a tremendous success! We raised over \$25,000!!!



A special thanks to our dessert vendors Carrie's Cookie Company, Cortland & Lordstown Dairy Queens, Ellegant Delights Specialty Cakes, French Street Café, Fun Flavored Fudge, JD's Post House on the Avenue, Joanna's Greek Treats, and Just Pizzelles, These are all very generous and giving people. Please remember them the next time you are choosing a lunch or dinner spot or are in the mood for a sweet treat.

Susan DeLeo from TV 21 WFMJ was kind enough to host the event again this year and did a fabulous job. Thanks Susan! Your support means so much!

Our Corporate Sponsors for the evening were Humility of Mary Health Partners, First Place Bank, Paige & Byrnes Insurance, The Home Savings & Loan Co., Farmers National Bank and Merrill Lynch. Thank you for helping to make Just Dessert a success!

We would also like to thank Take II, Dr. Bob Walton and Ella Kovel for providing the entertainment for the evening. We are also grateful to Auctions by Ulrich, L.L.C., for providing their professional auctioneer services to us for our live auction. They did a wonderful job and helped to raise a lot of money.

Thank you to all the local businesses and individuals who donated items for the silent auction. We hope to see everyone next year!

### PICTURES OF OUR VENDORS



**Carrie's Cookie Company**



**Lordstown & Cortland  
Dairy Queens**





**Ellegant Delights Specialty Cakes**



**French Street Cafe**



**Fun Flavored Fudge**



**Joanna's Greek Treats**



**JD's Post House on the Avenue**



**Just Pizzelles**

# Empowered Women

Women are usually told by their abusers that they are old, ugly, stupid, fat, can't do anything, or they are useless. We've decided to do some articles about early, amazing women who attempted or succeeded to do things before they were "allowed."

People are all talking about Hillary Clinton being the first female president. Through the years a few women have attempted it. The first female to run for president was Victoria C. Woodhull who was selected by the Equal Rights Party in 1872 to be its candidate.

Born in 1838 in Homer, Ohio she witnessed the abolition of slavery and the birth of the dream of racial and sexual equality in America.

"Woodhull worked under the assumption that a "woman's ability to earn money is better protection against the tyranny and brutality of men than her ability to vote". She and her younger sister, Tennessee Claflin, went to Wall Street to fulfill their economic independence. "Woodhull, Claflin & Co., Bankers and Brokers, opened with the silent backing of America's wealthiest financier, railroad magnate Cornelius Vanderbilt. Newspapers called them "The Queens of Finance" and "The Bewitching Brokers", "Susan B. Anthony hailed the women of Wall Street in 1870 as "a new phase of the woman's rights question."

Using her earnings, she bankrolled her campaign and helped finance a newspaper. Woodhull & Claflin's Weekly was initially published as a campaign sheet but soon became something bigger. The paper became Woodhull's forum for her reform crusade. It had 20,000 subscribers and ran for six years.

"The Queen of the Quills" published exposes on stock swindles, insurance frauds, and corrupt Congressional land deals. Above all, it addressed issues that concerned women. "It advanced the editor's shared vision that women could live as men's equals in the work place, political arena, church, family circles, and the bedroom. The words and deeds of ordinary and extra ordinary women filled the *Weekly's* columns."

Woodhull was the second woman to petition Congress in person and became catapulted to the leadership circle of the suffrage movement. She became the movement's most articulate speaker. With the Constitution in hand, Woodhull attempted to vote in the 1871 elections but was turned away from the polls inspiring her even more. Her suffrage lecture marked the beginning of a public speaking career. Speaking about women's rights, labor and capital, spiritualism, and sexual relations she continued speaking for several decades.

Her message struck a chord in many. Large crowds in New York and Boston listened to her. "The Pittsburgh Dispatch called her "the most prominent woman of our time." Two months later, Woodhull presented the keynote speech at a national suffrage convention.

While doing this, she pursued her Presidential campaign having been chosen by the Equal Rights Party to be their candidate. Publishing a collection of essays she spelled out her positions on the problems facing our nation. She was challenging Ulysses S. Grant and Horace Greeley. Her "support came from suffragists, land and labor reformers, peace and temperance people, Internationalists, and spiritualists. The Equal Rights Party platform supported women's right to vote, work, and love freely; nationalization of land; cost based pricing to reduce excessive profits. A fairer division of earnings between labor and capital; the elimination of exorbitant interest rates; and free speech and a free press."

Her "impending revolution" was stopped soon after the convention. "Unforeseen reprisals devastated her personal life, business and reform activities." Unable to find housing in Manhattan, she and her family spent weeks sleeping on the floor of her newspaper office. Her daughter had a hard time going to school and money difficulties suspended the publishing of her paper for four months. When the paper resumed publication, two articles were printed renewing the crusade against hypocrisy in high places with explicit exposes causing a national sensation.

Unfortunately through an ironic twist of fate, the first woman to run for President spent election eve behind bars. One of the exposes had to do with Reverend Henry Ward Beecher's extramarital



affairs. The other focused on another stockbroker, Luther Challis, who boasted about his conquests of innocent young girls. They were arrested and charged with “using the U.S. mails to “utter obscene publication” especially with the Challis article. She described her arrest as an attempt by the government to “establish a precedent for the suppression of recalcitrant Journals.”

The Queens of Quills became the target of many censorship campaigns. They spent weeks in various New York jails, paying more bail, \$60,000 for a misdemeanor, than Tammany Hall’s corrupt “Boss Tweed and faced charges for the “scandalous” issue for almost two years. The sisters were found innocent on the obscenity charges in 1873 and innocent of libel in the Challis article in 1874.

The sisters went to England never to return to the States a few years later. Both married wealthy men and lived into the twentieth century continuing to occasionally lecture and publish but never with the zeal of before the scandals.

“Victoria Woodhull promoted changes that frightened, embarrassed, or in some cases delighted her contemporaries. She challenged several male-dominated organizations and institutions. She attempted to change society’s views about sexuality and family structure. She tried to use existing law and the political system to achieve a more egalitarian society, and felt the brunt of the establishment when she overstepped propriety and subjected social relations to the same kind of muckraking she used to expose unethical business practices.

Women who threaten patriarchal institutions are particularly vulnerable to being obscured and misunderstood. Her opponents discredited Woodhull and the issues she raised about sexual politics in nineteenth-century America. With few exceptions, historians ignore Woodhull or question her sincerity. Most writers emphasize her notoriety to the point of overshadowing her serious abilities, her notable accomplishments, and her provocative dreams. <http://feministgeek.com/teaching-learning/woodhull/>



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## National Crime Victims’ Rights Week April 13-19, 2008

Crime captures headlines. Whether it is a theft at a local store or a brutal attack in a home invasion, crimes of all types make headlines – on television, in newspapers, on the radio, or online. Yet how many Americans really understand the overall impact of crime and the importance of victims’ rights to every citizen?

National Crime Victims’ Rights Week offers a chance to look beyond the headlines – to show that crimes affects not only victims but everyone.

This year’s theme, “Justice for Victims, Justice for All.,” evokes the ideals that support our nation’s equity. It declares that justice for all cannot be achieved without justice for victims of crime.

Two known victims of crime have stated:

“In giving rights to others which belong to them, we give rights to ourselves and to our country.” John Fitzgerald Kennedy (1917-1963)

“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.” Martin Luther King (1929 – 1968)

**How did these crimes affect you?**



# CDC Warns of “The Choking Game” After 82 Youths Die

The “Choking Game” is a game that children and adolescents play to get a brief high. They either choke each other or use a noose. They pass out which could lead to strangulation or hanging especially if they are alone.

The CDC started research after receiving a letter from a Tacoma, Wash., physician who said her 13-year-old son died from playing the game in 2005. “At the time I had never heard of this,” said Dr. Patricia Russell, whose son was found hanging in a closet, but she later learned that he had talked to a friend about it. The number of 82 is much smaller than the suspected number (probably around 100 per year) because some coroners label the deaths as suicide due to hanging. Many of the students who died from the game were described, as bright, athletic students who were intrigued by getting high that didn’t include drugs and alcohol.

Nearly all of the victims (87%) have been boys. Eighty-nine percent of the children who died were 11 –16 years old. Nearly all the children were alone when they died. This is a fad known nationwide and deaths have occurred all over the U.S.

Some warning signs that parents, teachers, health-care providers, babysitters, and peers may observe:

- Discussion of the game or its aliases
- Bloodshot eyes
- Marks on the neck
- Wearing high-necked shirts, even in warm weather
- Frequent, severe headaches
- Disorientation after spending time alone
- Increased and uncharacteristic irritability or hostility
- Ropes, scarves, and belts tied to bedroom furniture or doorknobs or found knotted on the floor
- The unexplained presence of dog leashes, choke collars, bungee cords, etc.
- Petechiae (pinpoint bleeding spots) under the skin of the face, especially the eyelids, or the conjunctiva (the lining of the eyelids and eyes)

Some of the other names or aliases for the game:

- Pass-out game
- Apace monkey
- Suffocation roulette
- Scarf game
- The American dream
- Fainting game
- Something dreaming game
- Purple hazing
- Blacking out/blackout
- Dream game
- Flat liner
- California choke
- Space cowboy
- Airplaning
- Purple dragon
- Cloud nine

You can become unconscious in a matter of seconds. Within three minutes of continued strangulation (i.e. hanging), basic functions such as memory, balance, and the central nervous system start to fail. Death occurs shortly after.

Non-fatal long-term consequences of the game include:

- Loss of consciousness and death of brain cells due to oxygen deprivation in the brain; coma and seizures may occur in severe cases
- Concussions or broken bones (including jaws) from falls associated with “The Choking Game”
- Hemorrhages of the eye

Read the complete article: [www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5706a1.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5706a1.htm)

## Children's Support Group at Someplace Safe Inc.

The purpose of this group is to provide children with the opportunity to process and understand the violence and abuse that they have witnessed. This group helps children identify and express emotions surrounding violence, separation, shame, guilt and/or loss. The children learn to recognize their feelings and understand that their feelings are very important. The children are given the opportunity to deal with their feelings constructively.

Support groups are also directed toward dispelling destructive myths regarding violence. Discussions about power and control in relationships and responsibility help children understand who is responsible for violence. Positive conflict resolution through role modeling and play helps children learn new ways of solving problems. Group guidelines help to create a safe predictable environment for children to disclose personal information. Safety Planning in the event of further violence helps children to make safe choices for personal protection. Strategies to enhance esteem are consistently reinforced and ongoing throughout the program.

The goals of support group are to provide an adequate opportunity for children to tell their stories and be heard, believed and validated. We ensure that the children know how to protect themselves emotionally and physically by practicing safety plans. We convey the message that all types of violence and abuse are unacceptable. We convey the message that abusive behavior is a choice and responsibility lies with the person perpetrating the violence and abuse. We explore the alternative ways of conflict resolution and provide a positive environment where all the activities are learning centered and esteem building. Typical group size is between six and ten children.

The children were involved in the process of deciding what the rules in-group should be. They suggested that they wanted their group members to maintain confidentiality (what is shared in group is not to be discussed outside of group with others), not to display any physical or verbal violence, to respect other's opinions, feelings, and personal space and, to listen while others were talking.

In addition a Token Economy was devised to positively reinforce appropriate behaviors. The guidelines for the Token Economy include the following: each group member starts off with one token for coming to group. One warning will be given before a token is taken away in most cases. Each group member must have four tokens by the end of group to choose from the reward box. Tokens are gained for: manners, sharing supplies, showing respect to others, not complaining, participating in group activities, and following directions. Tokens are lost for: name-calling, disrespecting others, interrupting others, inattentiveness, complaining, not following directions, and refusing to participate.

The empowerment of young people is a vital part of our mission at Someplace Safe Inc. We state that each person, male or female, regardless of their cultural background and/or their special needs has the inherent right to equality, respect, and freedom to make their own personal choices.

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## Thank You

A big thank you goes out to the Trumbull County's Auditor's office family and friends who donated hand made hats, scarves and a baby sweater. Also a crocheted quilt was made square by square by various women and put together with help from the talented Janice Kuzmaul. The following ladies made the squares Connie Stevens, Minnie Pytlik, Marie Woloszyn, Kathi Hollenbank, and Kathy Wilster. Some of the yarn used for the quilt was donated from the estate of Ann Markusic. Elaine Zirkle contributed by making scarves and a beautiful baby sweater.

They said they were honored to be able to help in any way to make the lives of the residents of the shelter a little bit better.



# THE STEPPING STONE



**Someplace Safe, Inc.  
1540 Tod Ave. NW  
Warren, Ohio 44485**

**Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
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**IF YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO IS IN A DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CRISIS  
PLEASE ENCOURAGE THEM TO CALL “CONTACT” FOR 24-HR  
CRISIS INFORMATION AT 330-393-1565 or 2-1-1.**

Someplace Safe’s Crisis Line & Shelter is Staffed 24-hours a Day.

All services that Someplace Safe provides are free of charge.

If you need assistance in obtaining a Civil Protection Order or need Court Accompaniment; please call 330-393-3003 for an appointment with one of our Legal Advocates.

**We believe in the philosophy that everyone is entitled to a life  
free of violence!**