

The Stepping Stone

Spring 2011

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

AVAILABLE SERVICES

24-HOUR Crisis Hotline
Emergency Shelter
Crisis Intervention
Legal Advocacy
Women's Individual &
Group Support Services
Children's Individual &
Group Support Services
Community & School
Teen Dating Violence Hotline
Education Programs



All services are accessible by calling:

Someplace Safe, Inc.
330-393-3003 or the
24-Hour Crisis Hotline
330-393-3005
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.

APRIL IS NATIONAL VOLUNTEER MONTH



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We are always in need of volunteers here at Someplace Safe, but the following specialized volunteers are needed ASAP:

1. Handyman (several) – General handy folks needed to help with regular building maintenance and repair, both inside and out.
2. Hauler – Strong able bodies with pickup trucks to assist with the pick up of donations.
3. Data entry – Accurate computer data entry skills. Able to work office hours.
4. Donation sorter – Help process and organize donations of all kinds.

All ongoing volunteers will be asked to attend two hour training. Volunteers with client contact will need additional training hours.

If you can share any of these talents with Someplace Safe, please call 330-393-3003 ask for Darlene.

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

*Message from Cheryl Tarantino,
Executive Director, Someplace Safe Inc.*



We survived the winter months at Someplace Safe and so look forward to the spring. Unfortunately, the police departments have told us that domestic violence calls increase as the weather gets warmer. With a new Shelter Manager, new programs and new resources for women, we stand poised to be ready for victims when they need us.

We have forged ahead with new pilot programs with the Niles and Howland Police Departments. The Lethality Assessment Project is giving officers a tool to assess victim risks and giving victims the opportunity to get on the phone with Crisis Hotline staff. We are making sure that victims know they have safe options and that we are here for them today, tomorrow or next month—whenever they need to seek safe haven.

Just Desserts was a great success, netting over \$14,000 in proceeds. Packed House Productions produced an excellent charity concert for Someplace Safe at Packard Music Hall featuring 38 Special on St Patrick's Day. Grants, foundations and donors are being contacted to help us hedge the anticipated budget cuts. Each week a new opportunity presents itself, and we are going down every possible funding avenue.

We are in need of some specialized volunteers who have some time to share their talents. These include data entry, donation sorting, handyman to help with repairs, and strong able bodies with trucks to help pick up donations. If you can help in one of these areas, please let me know.

Thanks once again for all the kindness and support that we are blessed to receive. Happy Spring!



LOOKING FOR STORAGE SPACE

Someplace Safe is in need of a local storage facility to house furniture donations for women transitioning into independent living situations. If you have a clean space available in downtown Warren that you would like to donate rent free, please contact Cheryl at 330.393.3003.

“HE CHOKED ME - BUT THERE ARE NO MARKS.”



Strangulation is one of the most lethal forms of violence used by men against their female intimate partners. Strangulation is largely a crime of passion, a crime that takes place between two people within a close relationship, a domestic relationship. Strangulation has only recently been identified as one of the most lethal forms of domestic violence. When perpetrators use strangulation to silence their victims, this is a form of power and control that has a devastating psychological effect on victims and a potentially fatal outcome. The act strangulation symbolizes the power and control that the abuser has over the victim. The victim is completely overwhelmed by the abuser; she vigorously struggles for air, and is at the mercy of the abuser for her life. This is exactly where he wants her. Just think – the person who has their hands around your throat is looking straight into your eyes watching you come within a breath of dying or actually dying. He is saying to you, “I can decide if you live or die.” How terrifying and painful. The abuser that strangles his victims will eventually kill them.

Domestic violence laws vary dramatically from state to state. Strangling was rarely prosecuted as a serious offense because victims minimize the level of violence and police and medical personnel fail to recognize it. Also, marks on the neck may or may not darken to become a bruise. Bruises may not appear for hours or even days. In a study of police records of 300 strangulation cases, victims did not have any visible injury in 50% of the cases and in 35% of the cases the injuries were too minor for the police photograph. In the past, in cases lacking physical evidence as obvious as a bruise, authorities were forced to lower charges against the perpetrator to a non-criminal court of harassment. Currently there are 29 states that have some sort of strangulation law on the books, laws that are most often applied in domestic cases. The latest state to pass a felony strangulation law is New York. In the first 15 weeks since the law took effect already 2,000 people have been arrested. Under the new strangulation law, anyone convicted of either felony or misdemeanor counts must submit a DNA sample to authorities – not usually required in misdemeanor cases.

Strangulation is defined as a form of asphyxia (loss of oxygen) in which blood vessels and air passages are closed as a result of external pressure on the neck. Strangulation by ligature is done with a cord like object that can include anything from a rope or telephone cord to an article of clothing. Manual strangulation is done by the hands, forearms (as in a chokehold), or standing or kneeling on the victim's throat. Clinically, a victim who is being strangled first experiences severe pain, followed by unconsciousness, and then brain death. The victim will lose consciousness by any one or more of the following: blocking of the carotid arteries (depriving the brain of oxygen), blocking of the jugular veins (preventing deoxygenated blood from exiting the brain), and/or closing off the airway, causing the victim to be unable to breathe.

George McClane, a forensic medical examiner, and Gael Strack, a former assistant district attorney, published results of a study done by a team of law enforcement officers in San Diego. They had reviewed the medical examinations of 300 strangulation survivors to identify common symptoms. These symptoms include faint pressure behind the ears, a raspy voice, bloodshot eyes from burst vessels, involuntary urination or defecation and difficulty breathing or swallowing. Equipment can be used to look for bruising or swelling of the throat and for bleeding in the eyes if the physical evidence is absent or barely detected.

According to Dr. McClane, criminal strangulation is sometimes downplayed and worse, an unrecognized act in domestic violence settings. McClane notes that strangulation is a serious, intentional act and should not be mistaken for “choking” “an accident that happens when food sticks in the windpipe.” Strangulation accounts for ten per cent of violent deaths with six female victims to every male. The pressure to render someone unconscious is only 11 pounds for 10 to 30 seconds. Strangulation kills either immediately or hours later and can cause brain damage.

Sources:

“How to Improve Your Investigation and Prosecution of Strangulation Cases by Gael B. Strack, San Diego Assistant City Attorney and Dr. George McClane, Emergency Physician. Specialized Training on Preventing Domestic Violence with Anne O'Dell. Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence, NY. Choking Laws: Many States Have Separate Criminal Laws for Strangulation. New Felony Strangulation Law Results in 2,000 Arrests, Reuters.

An evening of “Just Desserts”

An evening of indulging in just desserts was enjoyed by over 250 in attendance at the 8th annual Just Desserts fundraiser for Someplace Safe. Guests had an array of choices for their evening indulgence. There was a chocolate fountain with many choices for dipping. Assorted pastries were endless. A chocolate candy buffet, cookies, cakes, pizzelle flavors beyond imagination, caramels that couldn't be any fresher and wine were some of the desserts provided by our vendors this year. Vendors included Carries Cookies, Chocolate Lady, Cold Stone Creamery, Cookies to Go, Joanna's Greed Treats, JD's Post House, Just Pizzelles, Karamels, PMG Chocolatier, Starbucks Coffee, The Cake Boutique and Wine Styles.

Guests had the opportunity to take a chance on over 100 basket raffles and silent auction items along with live auction items. Guest took home with them from the auction and raffle: a Honora chocolate fresh water pearl bracelet, landscaping, framed Norman Rockwell Reproduction art work, wine, wine accessories, jewelry, golf balls, golf lessons, books, tickets to events, fondue sets, crock pots, gift certificates and many more items. All of this was possible due to many area supporters and establishments in the community. During the evening Take II provided the entertainment. Guests also had the opportunity to get their photo taken to keep as a memento to remember their fun and elegant evening.

I would like to thank vendors, sponsors, board members, staff, area business for their donations and the community at large. With the combined effort from all, we have made this year's fundraiser a great success.

Thank you,
Theresa Lyden
Development Specialist



Meet Our Newest Staff Member



Vanessa Vince is our newest edition to Someplace Safe as she is the new Shelter Manager. Vanessa comes to us with a variety of experiences and education. She has been a licensed Social Worker since 1994. She graduated from Youngstown State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Social work in 1994 and then with a Master's Degree in Special Education with a focus in Community Counseling in 2008. Since then, she has been working on her Doctorate of Education in Counseling Psychology through Argosy University, and is anticipating graduating in late 2012.

Her experiences include crisis intervention, case management, counseling, sexually traumatized victims, sex offender treatment, and medical social work, including chronic and terminally ill individuals and their families. She states that she has a passion for being an advocate for those who cannot find their own voice, and hopes to be able to help empower others to be free from violence and oppression.

Vanessa is a single mother of a 12 year old son, Michael Stanley, who is the joy of her life. They are active in clowning for charities, theater and drama (where Michael is a budding star and she just has dabbled), and enjoy many outdoor activities and concerts. She looks forward to working with the women and families from Someplace Safe and providing case management and guidance to increase self-esteem and confidence, and to empower women to take a stand for themselves and their children.

2010 Domestic Violence Counts

On September 15, 2010, all 70 local domestic violence programs in Ohio participated in the 2010 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. 2,007 Victims were served on that day. Here are the numbers:

- 1,070** Domestic violence victims found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence shelters
- 937** Adults and children received non-residential assistance and services, including individual counseling, legal advocacy, and children's support groups.
- 769** Hotline Calls Answered
- 935** Educated in Prevention and Education trainings
- 244** Unmet requests for services due to shortage of funds. Of these unmet requests, 178 (73%) were from victims seeking emergency shelter or transitional housing.



Remember we are still collecting cell phones. Please help us out and bring your old cell phones to Someplace Safe at 1540 Tod Ave NW Warren. We use these phones for 911 emergency phones for the clients and also to raise money. Thank you.

NEW PROGRAMS FOR SPRING AT THE SHELTER

HELPING HANDS



Someplace Safe, Inc. Domestic Violence Shelter is experiencing some positive change. Under the vision of the Executive Director, Cheryl Tarantino, services at the shelter are blossoming. There is an increase in Children's Programming and Services, called Helping Hands and **CHIPS**. These programs will run together, criteria for funding is the only difference— Helping Hands is funded by the Ohio Children's Trust Fund and **CHIPS** is funded through OCJS Family Violence Grant. The Children's Program, headed up by the Children's Program Coordinator Jennifer Cecil, will offer Children's Support Group twice a week for children in the shelter, as well as in the community that have been affected by domestic violence. In the groups, the children will work on increasing self-esteem, distinguishing between feelings and emotions, learning appropriate boundaries, and prevention of abuse and violence. She will also be providing individual sessions to meet one on one with the children to develop safety plans, establishing rapport with an adult, and working on communication skills and increasing self-esteem.

In conjunction with the Children's Program, Jennifer and Shelter Manager, Vanessa Vince, will hold a group with the moms of the children who participate in the program, both from within the shelter as well as within the community who have been affected by domestic violence. This group is called **Moms' Café** and will include support, as well as various different training and educating in regards to positive parenting, appropriate discipline models, and discussion of the work being done with the children. During this time, Vanessa and Jen will serve coffee, tea, juice, and some treats for the women to enjoy themselves, relax, and fellowship.

Vanessa will also be working with the women in the shelter on an individual basis, to ensure that needs are being met, linking with community resources, such as counseling, housing, education, employment, financial planning, and many other areas of need. Someplace Safe is developing alliances and partnering with other agencies to provide services to women and children.

There is also a Women's Support Group open to women in the community as well as in the shelter that is run by Valerie Flannigan.

Helping Hands and **CHIPS**

Monday from 7:00 pm until 8:30 pm

Wednesday from 4:00 pm until 5:30 pm

Moms' Café on Friday from 9:00 am until 10:30 am

Women's Support Group

Monday from 7:00 pm until 8:30 pm

Saturday from 10:30 am until 12:00 pm

WE'RE IN NEED OF THE FOLLOWING:

***LAUNDRY DETERGENT, BLEACH, FABRIC SOFTENER**

***DISPOSABLE DIAPERS: SIZE 4 & 5, *BABY WIPES**

**SPAGHETTI & SPAGHETTI SAUCE,
CANS OF RAVIOLI, SPAGHETTI-O'S, SOUP, &
SLOPPY JOE**

***MACARONI & CHEESE, HAMBURGER HELPER,
TUNA HELPER, & BOXED MEALS**

***CANNED FRUIT, JUICES, MEATS, & TUNA**

***CEREALS, PEANUT BUTTER AND JELLY**

***PRESWEETENED DRINKS, COFFEE, TEA, AND SUGAR AND
CREAMER**

CONDIMENTS – MAYONNAISE, KETCHUP, MUSTARD

***PASTAS OF ALL KINDS & INSTANT POTATOES**

HAND SANITIZER, AND WIPES

**ALUMINUM FOIL AND FOOD STORAGE BAGS OF ALL SIZES AND
FREEZER BAGS, TRASH BAGS TALL KITCHEN AND LARGE SIZES**

***WE ALSO NEED WOMEN AND CHILDREN'S UNDERWEAR AND
SOCKS. ALL SIZES, WE HAVE CHILDREN HERE FROM BIRTH TO AGE
18, GIRLS AND BOYS. ALSO ALL SIZES OF WOMEN.**

***WOMEN'S FEMININE HYGIENE PRODUCTS ALL KINDS**

BED PILLOWS

BATTERIES OF ALL SIZES

***CHILDREN'S AND ADULTS COUGH MEDICINES, ASPIRINS, AND
BANDAIDS**

***DENOTES IMMEDIATE NEED**

**DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE, SO PLEASE ASK FOR OUR TAX I.D. NUMBER FOR YOUR
RECORDS.**



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Someplace Safe, Inc.
1540 Tod Ave NW
Warren, OH 44485

**Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
Paid
Permit No. 871
Youngstown, OH**

Current Resident or

**IF YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO IS IN A DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CRISIS
PLEASE ENCOURAGE THEM TO CALL 330-393-3005 FOR
24-HOUR CRISIS INFORMATION.**

Someplace Safe's Crisis Line & Shelter is staffed 24-hours a day.

All services that Someplace Safe, Inc. 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!**