

# WOMENSAFE, INC.

# The Window

*I n s i d e :*

- Shayna says ..... 2
- Congratulations ... 3
- Fund-raisers ..... 4
- Save the date.....4
- Friends news .....5
- Donation spotlight..5



*The Green House is scheduled to open this summer!  
A roof, windows and electric were only a portion of the  
completed projects in the 26th week of construction.*

## The truth may hurt...

by Renee Petro

The nightly news is rarely upbeat: stories of war, climbing death tolls, natural disasters and crime repeat with regularity. Reminders about sadness and loss going on around us, to people who are just like us, are unsettling.

Domestic violence crimes do not usually make the news unless the circumstances are particularly grizzly or bizarre. Recently, the story of 37-year-old Stephen Grant, who admitted to strangling his wife Tara while their young children slept in the next room, made the news. Her dismembered body parts were found strewn about the local park. Similarly, an Associated Press story about Eric Johnson, who chose an airplane as his murder weapon, made the second page of the paper. Securing his 8-year-old daughter in the passenger seat, he flew the aircraft into his former mother-in-

law's home, and left ex-wife Beth the message: "I've got her and you're not going to get her." Their daughter could be heard in the background calling out to her mom for help. The restraining order issued against him could not prevent his murder/suicide mission.

While it would be easier to just turn off the television, awareness about current events, both positive and negative, serves an important purpose. People are naturally inclined to unite, solve problems and generate solutions when issues are put in front of them. For example, groups small and large from all 50 states rallied in support of victims of Hurricane Katrina, providing a massive outpouring of aid.

Locally too, information breeds action. Press releases, news articles and awareness programs educate people about WomenSafe and its work

*Continued on page 3*

*Providing Resources for Victims of Domestic Violence*

*The Chardon police prosecutor's victim assistance program, Geauga County juvenile court, Geauga County prosecutor's victim assistance program, Geauga County sheriff's victim services program and WomenSafe will host a presentation to observe National Crime Victims' Rights Week.*

**Please Join Us!**

**Thurs., April 26**

**12-1 p.m.**

**Chardon Square**

**Log Cabin**

Contact Andrea Gutka  
for more information,  
440-285-8752 or  
agutka@womensafe.org



# Shayna says...

*“We’re making a difference and starting a new chapter together.”*



Dear Friends of WomenSafe,

Anyone who has driven down Route 44 in Munson Township these past few months has been witness to the most ambitious project in WomenSafe’s history – the 14,000 square foot, state-of-the-art facility that is the Green House, the agency’s future home! WomenSafe is just two seasons away from moving in to the new building. The shelter, counseling programs, administration offices and the donations center will at last be in one convenient location.

The Green House is the result of a tremendous effort by the Geauga County community and surrounding areas. **The \$2.6 million project is just \$113,000 from completion!** The \$1 million challenge grant from Ms. Roe Green, a northeast Ohio philanthropist, is only **1.1 percent** from being completely matched!

Hundreds of individuals, families, churches, scout troops, schools, clubs, and companies will be represented on the grounds of the facility by engraved pavers throughout the walkways, and by dedicated trees, benches and rooms. So many people have donated funds in amounts large and small, in order to be a part of this project dedicated to serving families affected by domestic violence.

Our most recent gift comes from The Hershey Foundation in Lake County, which has granted \$100,000 to sponsor the children’s counseling and therapy areas of the building. The Hershey Foundation has a long-standing reputation as an organization dedicated to improving the lives of children in northeast Ohio. WomenSafe is extremely grateful for its support, and proud to partner in this endeavor.

If you have not yet decided on a gift for that most important woman in your life for Mother’s Day, may we suggest a donation in her name to the Green House? What better way to show her you appreciate all she has done for you than by giving some of that good fortune to others in need. Some donors have chosen to have their names listed on the bricks. Others have commemorated a birthday, anniversary, wedding or the memory of loved ones. Still other donors have requested that inspirational quotes such as *“To Your Future”* and *“Your Courage Will Bring You Peace”* and *“Today is the First Day...”* be engraved into the bricks and plaques.

Daily, the women and children who come to the Green House will see these gentle reminders that they are NOT alone. Families will gain strength and hope through your support.

A great celebration is being planned to commemorate the opening of the Green House this summer – keep a look out for further information as we draw closer. Plan to join us to tour the facility that you helped build, and find where you left your mark amongst the many others who made this project possible.

Sincerely,

*Shayna*

Shayna L. Jackson, MSSA, LISW  
Executive Director

## WomenSafe, Inc. Board of Trustees

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### On the web at:

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





# Congratulations to our extended family by Andrea Gutka

**Jane Burt** and **James Tierney** have been elected to the WomenSafe Board of Trustees.



Jane is a retired kindergarten teacher and long-time respected member of the community. She believes in the mission of WomenSafe and the need for its services.

For 20 years, Jim has worked for Tremco Inc. in Beachwood and currently serves as the vice president, general counsel and assistant secretary. According to Jim, he chose to serve WomenSafe because of the agency's excellent reputation for assisting families affected by domestic violence.



**Andy Kabat**, a WomenSafe volunteer for the past seven years, was recognized as the "Spotlight Volunteer" for United Way Services of Greater Cleveland in March 2007. Andy's invaluable gifts of time, financial support and professional expertise have benefited WomenSafe in a multitude of ways. WomenSafe is forever grateful for all of the work he continues to do to help survivors of domestic violence.

In April 2007, WomenSafe was pleased to recognize long-time volunteer **Nancy Zamrzla** as the "Spotlight Volunteer" for United Way Services of Geauga County. Nancy's "behind the scenes" effort and dedication assists WomenSafe in providing services to those in need.

**Thank you for everything!**



WomenSafe would like to welcome the newest addition to our family! Mitchell Troy was born on Feb. 20, 2007. The proud mother of this healthy, bouncing baby boy is **Vikki Williams**, WomenSafe's court advocate.

***Mommy and baby  
are doing  
GREAT!***

## ...but the truth also helps

to help victims of domestic violence. Those individuals, in turn, have supported thousands of others who have come through the shelter doors during the past 27 years. Future residents of the soon-to-be-opened Green House, a \$2.6 million domestic violence facility and resource center (built entirely with contributions from area individuals, companies, organizations and foundations) may take comfort in knowing they are fully supported by a community that collectively invested in their personal safety.

"Breaking the Silence" is a common refrain in discussions about domestic violence. Dangerous euphemisms that describe the crime as "a family problem" have begun to slowly disappear from vocabulary, due in part to real life situations like those previously mentioned.

WomenSafe has been visiting local middle and high schools for more than 10

years to educate teens about the prevalence of dating violence and how to get help. One in five teenage girls are physically assaulted while on a date. It has not always been easy to convince school districts about the need for this type of prevention education. The recent plight of 18-year-old Johanna Orozco of Cleveland has opened up the discussion. Ms. Orozco was shot in the face with a sawed off shotgun by her ex-boyfriend, who was already under house arrest awaiting trial for raping her at knifepoint. Even as Johanna begins the long road to recovery, which will include multiple surgeries, unfathomable medical costs and a lifetime of emotional scars, her family issued a statement saying they hoped getting her story out to the public would do some good for others in similar situations. It appears to be doing just that. Local media have printed news articles and taped segments on teen

*Cover Story Continued*

dating violence. WomenSafe phones have been ringing with increased requests for high school dating violence presentations. One young woman's horrific ordeal has opened the eyes of a community about an often taboo subject.

***Intimate partner abuse claims the lives of an average of four women every day in the United States.*** Almost 1,500 women are killed annually at the hands of a "loved" one - a fact that too often goes unreported, unacknowledged, and unaddressed. Domestic violence is this country's greatest - and most curable - social disease. Its devastating effects must be reported more often at local and national levels. The more this family tragedy is acknowledged publicly, the less likely we all are to become victims of abusers counting on our silence.

# Puttin' on the Ritz *by Andrea Gutka*

WomenSafe was "Puttin' On The Ritz" Feb. 3 at Berkshire Hills Country Club in Chesterland. This event, co-sponsored by Huntington National Bank and Fairmount Minerals, was enjoyed by more than 200 attendees.

The evening featured a variety of casino games, over 100 silent auction items, a grand prize raffle, music, hors d'oeuvres, desserts, and a 50/50 raffle with a payout of over \$1,150! The sixth annual Casino Royale raised over \$22,000 for WomenSafe. Proceeds from the event assure that all shelter services and programs remain 100 percent free to those who need them.

Next year's event is scheduled for Feb. 2.

WomenSafe would like to thank all of its sponsors including, Target Construction, Damon Morgan Corporation, AG Edwards (Terry Campbell), table sponsors, slot sponsors, and over 150 in-kind donors.



A bank invested in people.



*Members of the Leadership Geauga Class of 2006 show their cards at Casino Night 2007 "Puttin' on the Ritz." Pictured L-R: Nancy Chartrand, Chris Steigerwald, Carlye Bruno, Marilyn Pickett, Heidi Marshall, Vicki Dailey, and Jan Vondrasek*

## We're online:

Go to [womensafe.org](http://womensafe.org) to check on upcoming events, make a donation, learn more about how to get involved, request a speaker for your organization or see the progress of the Green House.

# A beautiful night *by Renee Petro*

Friday, Feb. 9 was great fun for 30 attendees, who in return for their generous support of WomenSafe, received an evening of pampering, delicious food and great company. The "ladies only" Glamour Night fund-raiser was put together by area businesses and WomenSafe friends, Full Spectrum Art Studio, A Garden's Way Gallery, Kathy Allyn Photography, LLC, Marci's Hair on the Square, Photography by Phil Prosser, Kirsten Quick, ACS, Renee Rowe, LMT and Michelle Scacchi, Arbonne Consultant.

Held at A Garden's Way Gallery in Burton, guests sipped champagne, dined on delicious appetizers and decadent desserts from local restaurants, and received massages, mini-facials, makeovers



*The photographers who captured the evening's festivities, Kathy Allen and Phil Prosser.*

and hairstyles. Each then enjoyed a professional photo session with local photographers Kathy Allen or event host Phil Prosser and left the soiree with an 8"x10" portrait to commemorate the evening. When it was all over, more than \$1,300 was raised to support shelter efforts. What a beautiful way to spend an evening.

## Save the date!

**Wed., May 9**  
**Annual Luncheon**

**Summer 2007**  
**GRAND OPENING**  
**the Green House**

**Wed., September 12**  
**14th Annual Golf Outing**

**Thur., October 22**  
**WomenSafe Annual Meeting**

**Sat., February 2, 2008**  
**Seventh Annual Casino Royale**

**For more information about these special events, contact Renee Petro, development director at 440-285-8764.**



**Smiling faces,  
(wo)man-power, trucks  
and dollies wanted**

Would you and/or your group be willing to assist WomenSafe with the upcoming move to the Green House this summer?

*If so, please contact Andrea Gutka, public relations coordinator, 440-285-8752 or [agutka@womensafe.org](mailto:agutka@womensafe.org).  
Thank you*

***Top 5 most  
needed items  
at shelter***

1. Baby items (food & gates)
2. Non perishable foods
3. Plastic storage containers
4. Paper products
5. Gift cards (grocery, gas, discount stores, pharmacy)

**For more information,  
contact the  
WomenSafe donation line  
440-286-6502**

**Prefer to receive your  
newsletter  
electronically?**

You can download *The Window* as a PDF file at:  
[www.womensafe.org/headlines.html](http://www.womensafe.org/headlines.html)  
OR send an email with the subject: "newsletter mailing list" to:  
[agutka@womensafe.org](mailto:agutka@womensafe.org) to sign up for our e-mail distribution list.

**Friends of WomenSafe  
becomes a reality** *by Nancy Temple*

It is with great pleasure that WomenSafe announces the formation of a new 501(c)(3) non-profit entity: Friends of WomenSafe, Inc. The sole mission of this group is to generate unrestricted funds for WomenSafe.

The first two projects have already begun. The Friends of WomenSafe is conducting a quilt raffle and needs help selling tickets at various locations throughout the year. "If you have a few hours to donate, please call me," said **Nancy Zamrzla**, chair of the quilt raffle. Nancy may be reached at 440-285-2285.

The plans for the spring luncheon are also well underway. Mark your calendar for Wednesday, May 9, and bring your friends to enjoy a delicious meal, hear an interesting speaker and take a chance on beautiful auction prizes. **Sheila Heller** and **Nancy Temple** are co-chairing the luncheon. Sheila can be reached at 440-635-0450.

If you are interested in being part of an enthusiastic group who emphasize the *fun* in fund-raising, contact **Nancy Temple** at 440-564-9635 or via email at [gtemple@alltel.net](mailto:gtemple@alltel.net) for more information.

*Watch for more news about the Friends of WomenSafe.*

**Donation spotlight**



*Terra Thorpe, shelter manager, sits at the wheel of WomenSafe's new shelter van. This purchase was made possible by a generous grant from the Ohio Attorney General's Office.*

**THANK YOU**

**Questions...Comments...about *The Window*?**

Please call, write or email the editor, Andrea Gutka, at WomenSafe, Inc.  
Phone: 440-285-8752, or Email: [agutka@womensafe.org](mailto:agutka@womensafe.org)



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*Providing Resources for Victims of Domestic Violence*

*Want to show your support for WomenSafe and the Green House? Fill out the form below and mail to:  
WomenSafe, P.O. Box 656, Chardon, OH 44024*

**In support of WomenSafe Inc., the Green House, I would like to purchase the following commemorative gift:**

<b>Room Sponsorship</b>	<b>\$5,000-\$100,000</b>	_____	<b>Teak Bench</b>	<b>\$500</b>	<u>Sold Out</u>
<b>Gold Leaf</b>	<b>\$2,500</b>	_____	<b>Tree</b>	<b>\$250</b>	_____
<b>Silver Leaf</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>	_____	<b>Brick</b>	<b>\$100</b>	_____
<b>Perennial Garden</b>	<b>\$500-\$2,000</b>	_____			

*All items will have inscription. Please print clearly (in black ink) on spaces provided in 3 lines below.  
Each line is limited to 14 characters including spaces and punctuation.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**I would like to make a contribution to the Green House:**

My contribution to the Green House is: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
I will make (#) \_\_\_\_\_ payments of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (circle one) quarterly / monthly / annually (up to 2 years)  
beginning on the following date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please use the information below to process my commemorative gift and/or contribution:**

Donor Name:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Preferred Mailing Address & Phone:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Total amount by check (made out to WomenSafe, Inc.)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Total amount by credit card (circle one) MC VISA AX DISC  
Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

*All gifts are 100% tax deductible. Questions?? Call 440-285-8764*