The Road Not Taken
by Robert Frost

TWO roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveler, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth;

Then took the other, as just as fair,
And having perhaps the better claim,
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;

Though as for that the passing there
Had worn them really about the same,
And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had trodden black.
Oh, I kept the first for another day!
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,
I doubted if I should ever come back.

I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.

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A Message From The Executive Director:

As I reflect on Fiscal Year 2011, I remember the many journeys of clients, but also the agency’s journey.

As WomenSafe was beginning a new fiscal year, I knew that funding would be difficult. I knew that the demand for services was going to continue to be high. To respond effectively to these challenges, the agency would need to examine how it was doing business and get creative on how to provide life-saving services to those affected by domestic violence. Government funding was anticipated to be drastically reduced and charitable giving was only slowly beginning to recover. *What was going to be the solution to this problem?*

I reflected on a quote from one of the charitable donors of fiscal year 2011, Mary Kay Ash:

“When you come to a roadblock, take a detour.”

*And that is what WomenSafe did...*

We began to explore partnerships, collaborations and social enterprise opportunities. We realized there was a need to develop a responsive referral system for victims of domestic abuse. As a result, we established stronger relationships with other service providers in the community. This allowed those we serve to quickly access partner agencies for vital services needed to aid in their healing. We looked at the services WomenSafe provides and reflected on how we could enhance our programs to be more responsive to the community we serve. Some examples of these enhancements are the Tina Project and the addition of a teen trauma support group.

WomenSafe became a founding member of the “Tina Project”, an Ohio collaborative that represents over ten counties that came together to focus on best practices in providing teen dating violence information to our schools. This collaborative was in direct response to House Bill 19, which mandated this education in the school systems. As a result, WomenSafe has visited over 1500 students annually, and has enhanced its programs that have been in place over the past decade.

WomenSafe has been providing an adult peer support group since the mid 1990’s. Participants have always rated this program as highly beneficial to them in their healing process. However, WomenSafe did not have a complementary service for the teens that the agency serves. Teenagers are one of the hidden victims of domestic abuse in so many cases as they rarely talk with others about their experiences even though statistics indicate that there are 15.5 million children in the United States who witness domestic violence. To become more responsive to these individuals, WomenSafe developed a teen trauma support group to provide a venue for participants to develop new coping skills and receive support from others who have “been where they are.”

During this year, WomenSafe embarked on an aggressive expansion of its Board of Trustees to allow the agency to bring additional talent and expertise to the table to assist in developing creative solutions to the funding challenges of the current economy. One such solution was the exploration of the need for a Resale Shop to replace lost revenue due to the struggling economy. WomenSafe is pleased to announce that with the generous support of the Lake-Geauga Fund of the Cleveland Foundation, it will be opening a resale shop in Fiscal Year 2012. The revenue generated will go directly to assisting victims of domestic violence and ensuring that a full continuum of care is available to them in the years to come.

I look forward the road that lies ahead in continuing to make WomenSafe an established and premier provider of domestic violence services to survivors throughout Northeast Ohio and welcome you to take this journey with us.

Thank You,

Shayna L. Jackson, MSSA, LISW-S
Executive Director
Overcoming domestic violence is not a road to be traveled alone; the following programs are offered to anyone needing assistance free of charge:

**Emergency Shelter** – A safe shelter is provided for victims fleeing violence in their homes and offers a comforting environment where victims begin to heal. All basic necessities are provided to residents.
- On average, meals to feed adults and children shelter (based on 2200 bed days in SFY 2011) total over $10,000.
- In an effort to contain these expenses, WomenSafe has developed relationships within the local community and food pantries throughout Northeast Ohio. In addition, volunteers assisted with maintenance of a garden to provide fresh vegetables for residents.

**COPEline (888-285-5665)** – 24-hour support and crisis management is readily accessible for victims and family and friends to receive support and immediate access to shelter and service.
- Five to six crisis calls are handled by trained advocates on a daily basis.
- WomenSafe has been able to secure funding for a midnight worker to remain on site to provide 24-hour intake and assessment.
- WomenSafe continues to utilize volunteers to also assist with call management.

**Clinical Programming** – Domestic violence professionals complete assessments and assist client with developing and accomplishing personal goals and life skills. Counseling and additional supports are available to all regardless of whether they have utilized shelter services.
- Over 800 clients receive counseling services annually. This includes clients both in and out of shelter.
- As a result of the constant demand for clinical programming, WomenSafe has hired on Licensed Clinical Staff to work on an as needed basis in order to maintain immediate access to counselor with minimal wait.
- WomenSafe also recognizes clinical limits and works with community mental health and chemical dependency agencies to compliment services a client is receiving at WomenSafe.

**Peer Support Groups** – Support groups, supervised by a licensed mental health professional, offers survivors of violence a safe place to gain strength and support from others in similar situations.
- In order to reduce barriers, volunteers are utilized to provide babysitting services for adult group participants needing childcare while they participate in group.
- WomenSafe has seen the demand for services to children grow over the last fiscal year. Over 300 children received shelter or counseling programming in SFY 2011. As a result, WomenSafe developed two Trauma Groups for youth aged 7-10 and 11-14.
Art Therapy – Art therapy allows survivors to express a range of emotions through creative self-expression. The art therapist offers this service to adults and children ages five and older.
- Over 250 hours were provided to WomenSafe clients in SFY 2011.
- The agency continues to write grants and secure dollars for this program that has seen much growth over the past decade.

Advocacy Services – Courts and hospital emergency rooms are primary ways in which victims of domestic violence are identified. Presence and immediate support are often required. Court advocates accompany survivors of domestic violence through the court process, explaining legal entitlements and implications of legal proceedings. Resident Care Workers are also able to provide face-to-face support and crisis intervention is available to hospital patients who have experienced domestic violence.
- Over 200 adults have utilized court advocacy services in SFY 2011. This equates to over 600 hours of support provided in our local court systems.
- Through collaborations with attorneys, advocates, police departments, local hospitals, and trained volunteers WomenSafe has been able to support victims during the most difficult hours following an alteration.

Aftercare Services – After addressing the immediate needs of clients, WomenSafe staff continue to provide survivors with long-term support in living a life free from violence.
- Donations offered by community supporters make this program thrive. This includes donations of hygiene products, household goods, bedding, clothing, school supplies, food, office supplies and furniture.
- Through stimulus money allocated during the fiscal year, an Aftercare Worker was hired in order to make home visits and often deliver many items to clients who may not have transportation readily available.
- A Donation Alliance has been created in order for other organizations to “share the wealth” of items with others. This is also an opportunity for agencies in need of items to utilize other organizations that may be able to provide items in return.
- WomenSafe explored social enterprise ventures in SFY 2011 and will be opening a resale shop in SFY 2012. The moneys gained from the resale shop will go directly back to the agency to support the demand for domestic violence services and individual client needs.

Community Education – To build community awareness, WomenSafe offers presentations to the general public, businesses, agencies, churches, and senior and youth organizations.
- In particular, outreach to schools have seen higher request for programming in SFY 2011 and is anticipated to grow in future years. Over 55 hours of face-to-face time has been given in local Geauga County Schools which ultimately reached over 1500 youth.
- WomenSafe is a founding member of “The Tina Project,” an Ohio collaborative of over ten participating counties with a focus on prevention and education in schools. This response was fostered by the passage of Ohio House Bill 19 in March 2010. The group is focused on providing best practices to reach youth age 11-21.
Preliminary numbers, audit to be completed by December 31, 2011
WomenSafe, Inc., the Green House would like to thank our fiscal year 2011 donors (July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011).
We value every gift (in-kind and monetary).

A thank you is best shared by those who did receive. Samples within are from clients who benefitted from your generous gifts during Fiscal Year 2011.

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There are not enough words in Webster's Unabridged Dictionary for me to find the words to show the appreciations of family for the courteous and compassionate manner that they used in guiding through the judicial labyrinth of the Domestic Violence procedure.

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Suzanne Offerle
Dr. James Oh
Jerome & Vicki O’Hara
Ohio Attorney General
Ohio Concrete Resurfacing
Ohio Department of Development
Ohio Highway Patrol
Ohio Office of Criminal Justice
Old South Church - Youth Mission
Ryan Olds
Olive & The Grape, The
George & Kimberly Oliver
Olympic Steel
Order of the Eastern Star - Clover Chapter #201
Michael & Lisa Orlandi
James & Ruth Orr
Oscar Giovanni Hair Salon & Spa
Kathleen O’Shea
Carol Owens
George & Sue Padavick
Linda Page
Catherine Pagels
Christy & A.J. Palfy
Joy Pallotta
Evelyn Palsa
William Papenbrock
Cynthia Pappas
Kim Paranish
Paris & Paris
Barbara & T Parkinson
Pamela Parobek
Party Extremes
Daniel & Mona Pascavage
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Paschall
Passalacqua Family, The
Dale & Vicki Pate
Jeanne Patellis
Janice Patterson
Patterson’s Fruit Farm
Payne & Payne Management Co.
Tanya & Nyrisha Pearcy
Harry & Margurite Peets
Penny Bridge Group
Pastor & Robert Penrod
Pentair Water Treatment
Heidi Perry
Persistance of Vision (POV)
Linda Peterlin
Edward & Amie Peters
Kelly Peterson
Renee & Frank Petro
Julie Petrowski
Mr. & Mrs. William Phelan
Philips
Robert & Annette Phillips
Joseph & Paula Piazza
Marilyn Pickett
Pickle Bill’s on the Waterfront

Dear WomenSafe Staff,

It seems like we just arrived, scared, unsure, our lives totally disrupted and yet, it also seems we’ve been here a long time! Since the day we arrived, the staff has encouraged, listened, sympathized, held our hands, showed us respect, accepted, and even cried with us. I want you to know what a profound impact you all have had on me, my family. We are forever grateful for your help and support. The fact that you all cared about us and made a big difference in our lives.

You have all had a part in preparing us for a new and better life. The work you do here is remarkable! My family and I just wanted to take a moment to say thank you and let you know that we are one family forever changed for the better because of you. We will miss you all, but we are so excited to be starting fresh together.

Pickwick & Frolic Restaurantand Club
Pieces of Eight
Marilyn Pienzik
Pigtails & Crewcuts
Lenore & Vanni Pikus
Pilgrim Christian Church of Chardon
Rajasekharan & Latha Pillai
James & Christine Pintchuck
Richard Pitcher
Theresa Pilarczyk

Dara Pischel
Plain Dealer Charities - Holiday Spirit
Playaway Toy Company
Playground World
Plumbing Source, The
Genie Podojil
Kim Poff
Pamela Pohorence
Jeff Pollack
Kim Polley
Daniel & Andrea Pollock

Ernest & Anna May Pollock
David Porter
Porthouse Theatre
Michael & Connie Powell
Virginia Powers
Lois Prijatel
Pro Football Hall of Fame
Progressive Insurance
Foundation
Phil Prosser
Rea & Associates, Inc.
John Reagan
Red Maple Inn
Redding Resources, Inc.
Jennifer Reed
Kathleen Regan
Reinberger Foundation, The
Relaxation Station, The
Remaxx Choices
Michael & Susan Renda
Dina Rendinell
Dorothy Reynolds
Barbara Rhodes
Gail Ribelli
Joe & Karen Ricci
Susan Rice
Richard J. & Kathryn A.
Manfredi Foundation, The
Arleen Richardson
Alice Rickel
Ristorante Giovanni’s
Ritz-Carlton Cleveland
Judy Rivera
Diane Robbinson
Robert C. Lindsey Elementary School
Mandy Robertson
Phillip & Kathryn Robinson
Darcy Robison
Marilynn Rock
Rodika Enterprises
Nancy Ross
Herman & Virginia Roth
Jackie Rothstein
Mariel Rouru
Dr. Nicole Rousseau
Peter A. Rowe
Eric & Patricia Rubin
James & Laura Rudary
Richard Rudnay
Keith Ruffner
Janet Ruh
Kristi Runser
Russell Rabbit Raisers
Michael Russi
Marybeth Russo
Betty Rutti
S.A.M. Landscaping, Inc.
Sue Salisbury
Cristina Salminen
Donna Salminen
Salon Glow
Terese Salvatore
Tracy Salvia
Marcia Samp
Dyana Sankovich
Marilyn Sauer
Walter & Lila Sauerteig
Rolland & Karen Savage
Susan Savage
Lauren Sayre
Jennifer Scerbo
Joseph & Sandra Schaab
Becky Scheiman
Brandon Scheiring
Joseph & Shirley Schellentrager
Mary Schellentrager
James & Lenore Schilling
Jeffrey & Mary Schinko
Victoria Schleich
Sharon Schmelzer
Kristina Schmid
Judy Schmidt
Pamela Schmidt
Robert & Virginia Schmidt
Patricia Schmitt
Laura Zick Schneeberger
Diane Schneider
Dawn Schultz
Diane Schumaker
Lisa M. Schura
Mary Schwendeman
John & Rosalind Sciano
John & Debra Sciano
Linda Seaman
Jo Ann Seckel
Brady Seere
R. D. & L. M. Sedivy
Richard & Cheryl Seifritz
Nancy Seitz
Cheryl Sekura
Jeremiah Sentten
Septic Tank Cleaning Company
Carla Serra
Phyllis Sever
Sheila Sexton
Rebecca Shankman
Thomas Shano
Amy Shaper
Amanda Sharp
Susan Sharp
Vicki Sharpe
Stacey Shaver
Joyce Shaw
Maryann Shephard
Janet Sherman
Craig Shimizu, D.D.S.
Karen Shisila
Hank & Sandra Sibley
Michael & Anita Siegal
Mary Siegle
Ron & Gloria Sieloff
Lina Silvestro
Annie Simmons
Claire Simms
Simply Sweet Cookies & More
Mechelle Simpson
Margaret E. Simpson
Timothy & Judith Singer
Bonnie Sipos
Thomas & Susan Sipos
James Sislo
Sisters of Notre Dame
Ed & Kathy Six
Richard & Cynthia Six
David & Patricia Skrabec
Carol Slater
Mr. & Mrs. Jon Slaybaugh
Diane Sloan
Pamela Sluga
Small Hands Big Dreams
Learning Center
Theresa Smalley
Smart Shape Design Corp.
Holly Smigelski
William & Linda Smiley
Holly Smiley
Smiling Forever Foundation, The
Kathlyn Smith
Barbara Smith
Len & Sue Smith
Neil & Linda Smith
Dr. Vivian Smith
Al & Suzanne Smrcina
Traci Snope
Gabrielle Snyder
Maura Snyder
Mary Sobeecks
Sandy Sojka
Andrea Solak
Solon Women’s Club
Dear WomenSafe,

Last month you sent me a thank-you for my donation. There was a very good reason for my donation. You see, I am a survivor of domestic violence. I was married to an abusive man for 26 years. In fact, I lived most of those years in Geauga County.

I would like to let all those women in your shelter know that there is hope for them. I know the fear they feel after they leave the abuser. I now live in a world of peace...Please let these women know that there is light at the end of the tunnel. Don’t let them give up.

Jacque Soltis
Patricia King Sommer
Loren Sonkin
Sophie’s Treasures & Antiques
Cathy Sorine
South Russell Family Practice
Southeast Mothers of Twins Club
Hannah Spainhower
Van & Rosemary Speers
Megan Speirs
Maria Spisak
SS & G Financial Services, Inc.
St. Christopher’s Women’s Guild
St. Christopher’s-By-The-River
St. Hubert’s Episcopal Church
Elizabeth St. James
St. Luke Episcopal Church
St. Martin’s Episcopal Church
St. Mary’s Catholic Church
St. Mary’s School
St. Vincent DePaul Society
Carol Stafford
Dawn Stamberger
Angelo & Susan Stames
Robin Stanton
Dr. David Starr
State of Ohio - Social Services Program
Staybridge Suites
John & Christine Steigerwald
Kate Stein
Katherine Steinbeck
Claudine Steinfurther
Nancy Stemmock
George & June Stephens
Ron & Cheryl Sterling
Robert & Janice Sternot
Tom & Jackie Stimac
Renée Street
Jean Strojan
Mary Ellen Strong
Fred Stuble
Sandra Lee Stumpf
Suburban Temple - Kol Ami
Elaine Sullivan
Rebecca Sulzer
Sunshine Shop
Super Shopper
Cheryl Suscha
Amy Sustin
Mary Svoboda
Karen Swan
Rachel Swartz
Jane Sweeney
Victor & Lisa Swint
Roslyn Szego
Kelly L. Szekely
Terry Szucs
Sally Taft
Z.D. & C.N. Taylor
Lydia Taylor
Tameka Taylor
Nancy Temple
Frank & Barb Tercek
Betty Terhune
Ted & Nancy Theofrastous
James & Katherine Tierney
Maureen Tilly
Matt & Jeannette Timmons
Carole Tisdale
Julie Tisdale
Dr. Sharon Tkacz
Michelle Tobin
Melanie Tomicar
Polly & Ken Tomlinson
Tommy’s Jerky Outlet
Elmer & Alice Tope
Judith Torzok
Ernest & Nancy Toth
Denny Toth
Claudia Toth
Cindy Toth
Gilberta Towne
Karen Towne
Jean Towne
Tremco Incorporated
Linda Treleven
Dr. Joan Trey
TriPoint Wellness Institute
Truseal Technologies, Inc.
David & Eve Tschantz
Tuesday Club of Burton
Sharon Lynne Tufts
Robert & Terry Tupa
Beth & Eriyne Turbett
Debbie Turek
Pam Turko
Anna Tyrell
UHHS - Geauga Medical Center
Sara Unger
United Methodist Church of CF
United Methodist Women of CF
United Way
US Bank
Michael & Tracy Vajskop
Suzanne Valentine
Christine Valigore
Valley Lutheran Church
Valley Presbyterian Church
Valley Presbyterian Church - Mission Commission
David & Jane Vance
Deborah Vasko
Roxann Vasko
Roman Vaynshtok
Vector Aviation, LLC
Annie Verbic
Dennis Verdi
Cynthia Verduin
Gloria Veri
You are now at a crossroads. This is your opportunity to make the most important decision you will ever make.
Who are you now? Make this decision consciously.
Make it carefully.
Make it powerfully.
Make it...together.

- Adapted from a quote by Anthony Robbins

All bold names are WomenSafe volunteers.
In addition to monetary and in-kind contributions, these individuals give the gift of their time.

Our sincere apologies for any omissions or errors.