WomenSafe, Inc. the Green House

Annual Report

State Fiscal Year 2012
July 1, 2011-June 30, 2012

Providing Resources for Survivors of Domestic Violence

WomenSafe, Inc., the Green House § 12041 Ravenna Road § Chardon, Ohio 44024 § Phone (440) 285-2222, ext. 5680 § Fax (440) 286-1037 § www.womensafe.org
Who Is The Battered Woman?

She is 20. She is 50. She is wealthy. She is on welfare. She is White. She is Black. She is Hispanic. She is Asian. She is single. She is married. She has a Masters Degree. She never finished high school. She is your sister, your best friend, your daughter, your neighbor.

No Matter What... We Are Here To Help...

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Next survey date: Summer 2015

Domestic Violence Hurts Everyone
A Message From The Executive Director:

The news anchor told two separate but related stories: a woman in an Ohio suburb saw her neighbors, a husband and wife, in a physical altercation in their front yard. Her instincts took over and she ran toward them to attempt to stop the violence—she was shot to death by the husband in their driveway. Over in suburban Milwaukee, a 42-year-old beautician went to work at a local spa. Her life had been repeatedly threatened by her estranged husband, and she had taken out a restraining order to protect herself. Before lunchtime, she and two of her co-workers were dead of gunshot wounds from her husband’s firing rampage throughout the salon. If you think domestic violence can’t affect you, these two stories provide solid proof that when one of us is at risk, we are all at risk.

WomenSafe has just concluded its 33rd year providing the critical support and resources to women whose daily lives are filled with fear. With increasing clarity, we are learning that domestic abuse is NOT a women’s issue, but a societal issue that demands all of our attention and commitment. Over the last year, with the help of a very generous community, more than 160 adults and children are safer today than they were before they fled to the emergency shelter at the Green House. An additional 2,850 individuals received free counseling, art therapy, legal advocacy and education aimed at helping them heal and rebuild lives worth living.

“Founding Fathers.” “A Call to Men.” “Your Voice Counts...”

In this election year, one might assume these slogans are aimed at getting voters to the polls. They are, in fact, slogans to publicize programs throughout the United States that are designed to engage men and boys in the fight against domestic violence.

In the coming year, WomenSafe will also focus its efforts on that population, those too often overlooked in the discussion regarding domestic violence—the overwhelming majority of men and boys in our community who are respectful partners, caring fathers, and solid citizens. So many assist WomenSafe every day. This became evident to me during this last year when we undertook the agency’s first social enterprise endeavor, The Resale Shoppe. With generous funds from The Lake-Geauga Fund of The Cleveland Foundation and Fairmount Minerals, the store opened in December 2011. It has been a resounding success in every way—raising more than $65,000 in its first six months to support the shelter, providing a venue for the overflow of donated goods received and offering job experience to WomenSafe clients in need of developing skills for employment. It has also brought together a new group of supporters from all walks of life who give, sort, display, price and continually raise the bar on customer service. I was surprised by the high percentage of men who showed interest in the project: from the retiree who came in during the store’s opening week to donate his gold watch, received for 35 years of service from his employer, to the men at the auction house next door, who regularly provide us with goods and the much needed muscle to move them, to men shopping when a heavy piece of furniture needs to be moved who volunteer: “I’ve got a truck—where do you need it to go?” to Bill, our regular store volunteer who repairs, repaints, and replaces parts on donated items so that they may be sold—their enthusiasm has been uplifting and heartwarming.

In the next year WomenSafe will initiate its own “Engaging Men” program, designed to get more men and boys involved in ending domestic violence. The project will encourage those who are interested to develop initiatives and networks with other men and boys in the community toward the goal of raising awareness about the topic and educating the next generation of men about healthy relationships. We look forward to sharing more stories about the many supportive men behind the mission of WomenSafe. It is good for us all to remember that for every perpetrator who leaves behind a victim, there are dozens of others who take a stand, lend a hand, and teach respect for all. Thank you to all the men and women who have supported WomenSafe in the last year. We look forward to sharing our upcoming successes.

Most Sincerely,

Shayna L. Jackson, MSSA, LISW-S
Executive Director

The Resale Shoppe is made possible due to generous gifts from:
The mission of WomenSafe is to provide emergency shelter and support services to survivors of domestic violence throughout Northeast Ohio.

The following programs are offered free of charge to anyone needing assistance:

Emergency Shelter – A safe shelter is provided for adults and children fleeing violence in their homes and offers a comforting environment where victims begin to heal. All basic necessities are provided to residents.
- More than 3300 bed days were provided to victims in shelter during SFY 2012. This is an increase of 1000 days when compared to SFY 2011.
- Nearly 100 children called shelter “home” in SFY 2012.
- 90% of clients stated that the shelter staff was effective in helping them get what they needed from the community. (Agency Goal: 90%)

COPEline (888-285-5665) – 24-hour support and crisis management is readily accessible for victims, family and friends to receive support and immediate access to shelter and programming.
- Nearly 2200 calls were handled by trained advocates and volunteers during SFY 2012.

Clinical Programming – Domestic violence professionals complete assessments and assist clients with developing and accomplishing personal goals and life skills. Counseling and additional supports are available to everyone whether or not shelter services have been utilized.
- 90% of clients stated that through counseling, they understood their problems well enough to manage them in the future. (Agency Goal: 80%)
- 100% of children had plans for staying safe if the violence happened again. (Agency Goal: 90%)

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.
- Nancy Bruch, WomenSafe’s long time dedicated Art Therapist retired at the end of SFY 2012. During Nancy’s tenure, she provided over 5000 hours of therapy and helped thousands to heal.
- 94% of clients stated that art therapy assisted them in the healing process. (Agency Goal: 80%)

Advocacy Services – Through collaborations with attorneys, advocates, police departments, local hospitals, and trained volunteers, WomenSafe supports victims during the difficult hours following an altercation. Court Advocates accompany survivors of domestic violence through the court process, providing support through the legal process. Resident Care Workers are on call 24 hours a day to provide immediate support and crisis intervention to victims who present at local medical facilities.
- 98% of the clients requesting an advocate to appear with them during a protection order process were granted the order. (Agency Goal: 85%)
Aftercare Services – WomenSafe continues to provide clients with long-term support for up to two years after their shelter stay. Donations offered by community supporters make this program thrive. This includes donations of furniture, household goods, clothing, school supplies, food, and toiletries. An Aftercare Worker makes home visits and delivers household and grocery items to clients who may not have direct access to transportation.

- The Aftercare Worker was able to assist 103 clients re-establish a safe home during SFY 2012.
- 90% of Aftercare clients stated that the program was beneficial during their transition.
  (Agency Goal: 80%)

Peer Support Groups – Support groups, supervised by a licensed mental health professional, offer survivors of violence a safe meeting place to gain knowledge, strength and mutual support from other victims.

- WomenSafe established a trauma-focused group for children and young adults who have witnessed violence in their home.

Community Education – To build community awareness, WomenSafe offers presentations to the general public, schools, businesses, agencies, churches, and senior and youth organizations.

- Outreach to schools increased in SFY 2012 and is anticipated to grow in the future. Over 85 hours of classroom time educated more than 1500 students in Geauga County schools.
- In response to the passage of Ohio House Bill 19 in March 2010, WomenSafe was a founding member of The Tina Project, an Ohio collaborative of eleven participating counties focusing on teen violence prevention and education in schools.

New Protocols

Traumatic events impact body, spirit and brain. Research has demonstrated biological as well as psychological effects of traumatic events. The type of trauma as well as the developmental stage of the person and their brain also makes a difference in terms of how a traumatic event may manifest in the person’s experience. The field of mental health has moved towards a more sophisticated understanding of how traumatic events can influence a person’s experience. WomenSafe staff is trained on the effects of trauma and the impact on a victim of domestic violence, otherwise known as Trauma Informed Care.
Thank you to the Gilberts for making the FIRST OFFICIAL PURCHASE at the Resale Shoppe!
Thank You Supporters

WomenSafe, Inc., the Green House would like to thank our Fiscal Year 2012 donors (July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012). We value all gifts, in-kind and monetary.

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Daniel Rustchak, II  

Betty Ruddy  
Jacelynn Rychel  
Angela & Michael Rzeszotarski  
Sage’s Apples  
Scott & Cristina Salminen  
Donna Salminen  

Shelly Wallens (WomenSafe Fashion Show Sponsor) stands with daughter, Emily (WomenSafe’s Donation Coordinator) at fundraiser.

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Dan Rodia  
Rodika Enterprises  
Kathleen T. Rodriguez  

Nancy Rodway, MD  
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Rolling Green Golf Course  
Ronald McDonald House  
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Sandra Lee Stumpf
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Mary Svirsky
Mary Svoboda
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Janice Thomas
Penny Thomas
Maria Thompson
Hester Thorpe
The Thorpe Family
Christyn Tibaldi

We thank the many shoppers who frequent the Resale Shoppe in Chesterland!

Joan Springer
Linda & Jim Squire
SS & G Financial Services, Inc.
St. Christopher’s Women’s Guild
St. Gregory of Narek Armenian
Church Women’s Guild
St. Luke Episcopal Church

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The Baker ladies volunteer at the WomenSafe Resale Shoppe. Great for mother-daughter bonding time!

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William & Kathy Tilker
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Maureen Tilly
Noelle Ott-Uhl
Noelle Ott-Uhl
Noelle Ott-Uhl
Noelle Ott-Uhl
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Susan Wittler
WKYC-TV 3
Providing Resources for Survivors of Domestic Violence
For 24 hour crisis support, call COPEline 1-888-285-5665

Thank you for your support!

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.

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Rita Wolfgang
David & Barbara Wolfert
The Wolfert Family Foundation
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