

SHARED BLESSINGS

SPRING 2009 NEWS *from* SHELTERING WINGS

SHELTERING WINGS
+
HAVEN • HOME • HOPE



Cover Story | We will never forget.

Yvonne came to us in June of 2008. As is often the case with domestic violence survivors, they are a shell of what they once were. Prior to her life with her abuser she loved being a child advocate and a great mom to her son. Upon entering our shelter doors, we were immediately drawn to Yvonne. She had such a gentle spirit and was so kind hearted. She never complained and made others feel good about them selves, and was always encouraging. She often made us laugh and enjoyed being with the children. Unfortunately, after three years of abuse her soul and body could take no more. She suffered traumatic brain injuries which caused seizures that culminated in her death on December 20. Yvonne's death has had a significant impact on our residents, board and staff. We will never forget her love of life and will to survive.

Employees of Sheltering Wings remember:

While I didn't know Yvonne that well, since her death I have become more concerned each time one of our residents leaves us to return to their abuser. Yvonne's story, even though it is sad, needs to be shared with every new resident that we take in. We need to make sure we never stop telling her story to our residents and the public, so all will come to realize how serious even one beating can be to a woman! *Linda, Executive Assistant*

As a new employee of the shelter, it struck me how courageous all the women of the shelter were and how supportive and understanding they and the staff were with each other during this tragic period. On the one hand, all were mourning Yvonne's death and how each person was personally impacted, yet all were preparing for the celebration of Christmas to come, just a few days later. A tragic death – a joyful birth." *Mike, Chief Development Officer*

Yvonne's death has opened my eyes to the realization of how broken our society and justice system are. We need God in a great way! We need God to help us move forward; in the protection of women and children, by holding their abusers accountable, low-cost no-cost legal help, and to continue expanding our programs to include the resources and programs our women and children need. *Amy – Volunteer Services Coordinator*



Yvonne's death has reminded me how our important time is with our ladies. It has angered me that someone so loving had to suffer like she did. It has made me more determined to make a difference and share Yvonne's story. I will never forget her. *Carla, Lead Mentor*

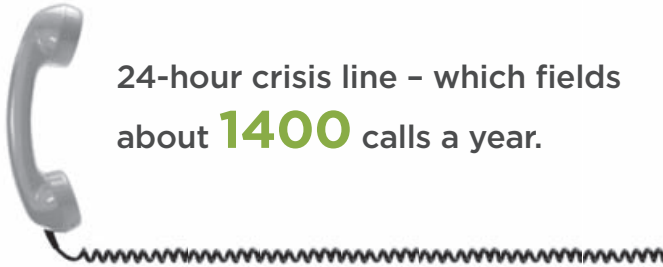
Intentionality.....that's how Yvonne's death has affected my work at Sheltering Wings. I often question why God has called me to serve him thru Sheltering Wings. He speaks thru scripture on feeding those who are hungry, quenching thirsty people, clothing the naked and inviting those in need to come in. So his answer to my question is found in Mt 25:40 "...I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine you did for me." Yvonne's death reminds me that even more important than feeding, sheltering and clothing the women and children of Sheltering Wings is to introduce them to the restorer of lives....Jesus. *Brenda, 2nd Shift Mentor*

Yvonne's passing affirms the seriousness and sometimes tragic affects of domestic violence. For me personally, this once again brings to light the importance of reaching out and educating our community on this issue, with the main objective being to save others from this horrible way of life. *Mary, Director of Marketing and Business Development*

Dealing with the tragedy of Yvonne's death has been very difficult. I am angry that this kind of violence is still an issue. We will continue to be the voice for victims of family violence, but I wonder when citizens in our communities will rise up and voice their disgust at such acts of violence. Her death gave me a resolve to do even more to reach every victim of violence with the message that there is help. *Maria, CEO*

Residential Services | Linda Wells

Helping those in need.



24-hour crisis line – which fields about **1400** calls a year.

Facts about our services:

- Our services are provided free of charge
- Residents can stay up to two years
- Our services do not discriminate – any faith, sexual orientation or race are treated with dignity, compassion and unconditional love
- Evaluation and safety planning are done within 24 hours of entrance
- Case Management services are provided within 72 hours of entrance
- We have a 24-hour crisis line – which fields about 1400 calls a year

Classes offered:

- Parenting
- Healthy relationships
- Computer
- Resume writing
- Career counseling
- Stress management
- Health & nutrition
- Internet safety
- Substance abuse counseling
- AIDS/STD education
- Budgeting
- Basic car maintenance
- Self-defense
- Mentoring

In addition the residents participate in quarterly community service projects.

Children's Services | Andrea Crozier

Learning life skills.



Classes offered:

- Safety Group
- Healthy Relationships - 3 age groups
- Life skills programming that deals with basic cooking, laundry, internet safety, health and nutrition, budgeting
- Tutoring
- Crafts and storytime for toddlers
- Summer camp - swimming, cookouts, fishing and other fun activities
- Mentoring

QUESTION CORNER

Do you have men volunteer?

Yes, we do. Our children need to see good role models. Men can be mentors for our children. If they are gifted in car repair or maintenance those are also areas of need.

Thank you to the Title Sponsors of the 2009 Sertoma Dinner Dance event.



Reflections | Maria Larrison

New beginnings require tremendous courage.



Survivors of domestic violence are often told by their abuser, if they leave no one will believe their allegations of abuse, they will have nothing, their children will be taken away, and they will live on welfare and food stamps. When someone chooses to leave a violent home, they are taking

one of the most courageous steps of their lives. As a survivor takes this first step it is important that we as a society support them. Whether you are someone in the criminal justice system, a physician, an attorney, a boss, a co-worker, a neighbor, a friend, or a relative I would urge you to be understanding and supportive.

Should you need information, resources, or wish to speak to someone about a loved one in an abusive relationship, please feel free to call day or night, we can help. All calls are confidential. We are a resource for you.

I would also urge you to come out for a tour of the shelter. We would love to show you the miracles that happen each day.

Blessings to you,

Maria Larrison, CEO

Dates To Remember:



VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Contact Amy at 718-0735

April 18 - 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Contact Amy at 718-0735

June 27 - 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.