



Communities

Overcoming

Violent

Encounters

Summer Newsletter

August 2007

Volume 7 No. 1

Marie Waite Executive Director



My name is **Marie Waite**. I am a Ludington resident, married with three wonderful children. I received my bachelor's degree in Social Work from Ferris State

University, and my master's degree in Social Work from Grand Valley State University. I volunteered at C.O.V.E., then known as Region Four Community Services for a number of years in the early 1990's. I saw C.O.V.E. as cause, as a mission and I still do. I enjoy working with our staff, volunteers, community partners,

and funders. I would like to thank you for your generous support of C.O.V.E.

I have met many of you and look forward to meeting those of you that I have not had the good fortune to meet yet.

Volunteer Coordinator



Hello, my name is **Amanda Genta** and I am the new Volunteer Coordinator for C.O.V.E. I started with C.O.V.E. as an intern through Baker College, where I recently earned my

associate's degree of Applied Science in Human Services. I was an intern for about a month and a half before obtaining my current position in May. I am 22 years old, recently married in April, and am in the process of building my first home with my husband. I enjoy working in the human service field. -See page 2

Volunteer's Corner
C.O.V.E. is blessed with over 40 volunteers. Each newsletter we will be featuring some. So...meet Dolly Del Zoppo. Dolly has been a volunteer since 1993, and during her time with us she has accomplished so much and helped us in so many ways. Her current volunteer position is answering the crisis phone at the women's shelter.

Who We Are

C.O.V.E. is the safety net for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in Mason, Lake and Oceana Counties beginning in 1979. Services provided include:

- Safe, emergency shelter -The Shelter for women and children. For male victims other arrangements are made.
- Walk-in or by appointment: individual advocacy for those who have experienced homelessness, violence, rape, or incest
- 24-hour crisis line
- Help in finding financial, legal, medical, transportation or information and referral services.
- Support, by request, through the crisis, with the police, the courts, the Department of Human Services or anyone else
- Weekly support groups

The Women's Shelter

The Shelter is constantly stretched to capacity. The fourteen beds are always filled and then cribs and cots can sometimes increase the number of women and children to 18. During the last year we had 4,249 shelter nights which included 2,345 nights for children. It is a shelter of last resort for them. During this time almost 13,000 meals were served and approximately 10 loads of laundry are done daily. The wear and tear on the appliances and the shelter is immense

In the last month, the dishwasher (less than a year old) both refrigerators, and the clothes dryer have died. Thankfully C.O.V.E. was successful in two grant applications. The Community Foundation for Oceana County, The Community Foundation for Mason County, and it's Five Friends Fund granted a total of

\$6,000 to purchase new appliances. We are thankful for this provision which arrived at the precise time that the finances were needed. Often that is not true and occasionally the shelter has had to limp along without even a washer and dryer for as long as 3 weeks. So our thanks go out to our Community Foundations for their support.

Women and children come to the Shelter usually with few possessions and in need of protection and support. Our desire is to truly make the Shelter a safe haven in the midst of the storm. Our Staff and faithful volunteers are there for them. Many donations come in the form of clothing, and other essentials. See page 3 for the monthly needs of the Shelter and C.O.V.E.

Meeting Needs with Very Limited Resources

With the variety of needs that have to be met, usually during crisis, C.O.V.E. is continually stretched financially and staff wise. The goal of the Board for C.O.V.E. is to support the staff and help to secure funds and in-kind materials to continue this essential service for our three county area. As our clients are in crisis, so too, is C.O.V.E. at times, when our limited funds sometimes can't meet our obligations.

Through fund raisers, grants, donations, faithful volunteers and lots of compassionate tireless work of our staff we service our three county area 7 days a week 24 hours a day.

Donations and Fund Raisers

Journey High School constructed a play house for the children at the Shelter. It was immediately put to much use and brings great joy. A special thank you goes to all the staff and students who built and painted this wonderful gift.



The May Fundraiser at Jamesport Brewing Co. with music by Kevin Kimes & Friends, tastings of wine by Caswell-Latocha, Inc., A.H.D. Vintners, & Elite Brands, beer & delicious food by the Brewing Co. was a great success. More than 150 people enjoyed this evening out. A special thank you to Jamesport Brewing Co. and to all those who made the evening possible.



Volunteer's Corner (continued from p.1)

It's volunteers like Dolly that make working for C.O.V.E. such a special treat. So we would like to say thanks and we have always appreciated the work you do. Thanks Dolly!

Cove would also like to recognize is Brenda Reeber. Brenda is a retired Registered Nurse who worked in a rehabilitation and health center. She has been with C.O.V.E. as a volunteer since 2000. Brenda is a volunteer at the shelter, she answers crisis calls, assists clients, helps with paperwork, and a multitude of other things. Brenda is a very special volunteer, so we would like to say thank you to her for all of her hard work and dedication over the years! Thanks Brenda! Between Brenda and Dolly they provide over 625 volunteer hours a year.

Volunteer Coordinator (continued from p. 1)

and my job here at C.O.V.E., and I also enjoy camping, reading, and spending time with family and friends. I am going to continue my education in the fall at Baker College of Muskegon to obtain my Bachelors degree in Human Services with hopes of someday becoming a child advocate.

I also want to thank everyone at C.O.V.E. and the Women's Shelter for making me feel so welcomed. I'm sure this will be a great experience for me and I hope to give back to C.O.V.E. and the community as much as I can. Thank you!

Legal Advocate Beatrice (Bea)

Rosalez has been an employee with the agency since 1993. She started here as a volunteer, and was volunteer of the year in



1983. She started working with children who had been sexually assaulted, and then working with all rape and sexual assault survivors. After that she became the Oceana Outreach worker for the agency, and then she became the Program Supervisor for a number of years. As the Legal Advocate, her job is to work with women to educate them on the resources available to them, to empower them to make decisions,

support them through the legal system regarding victim rights, Personal Protection Orders, or legal paper work, and help with finding housing, employment, other information and referrals to other agencies, if needed.

Bea has lived in Oceana County her entire life and will be married for 30 years this October. She is a very hard-working advocate and dedicated to helping the victims of domestic and sexual violence in the three counties that we serve.

Happenings in Oceana County.

Working closely with West Michigan Migrant Resource Council C.O.V.E. is reaching out to migrant women and children in Oceana County.

The Oceana Auxiliary Fund Raising Group has been formed to raise awareness and funds for C.O.V.E.. They were very successful with a booth at both the Pentwater and Mears Art Fairs this summer raising over \$800 for C.O.V.E.. If anyone would like to join this creative, energetic group, please call Sylvia Shrauger at 869-4808.

Happenings in Mason County.

Over the summer C.O.V.E. has participated in two Friday Night Lives. Much fun was had by all, particularly the children who enjoyed face painting, snow cones and cotton candy - along with jewelry & crafts we raised over \$800.

This fall C.O.V.E. will go into Mason County High schools as part of TEAM with the Ludington Police Department and Mason County Sheriff's Department to talk about Domestic Violence and C.O.V.E.

Happenings in Lake County.

C.O.V.E. awarded Certificate of Appreciation from Lake County

On April 25, 2007, C.O.V.E. received a Certificate of Appreciation for outstanding service from the Lake County Victims Rights Services for the 2007 National Crime Victims' Rights Week, which was the week of April 22-28th. This award is presented on behalf of victims of crime.

National Crime Victims' Rights Week is an opportunity to underscore our commitment to protecting the rights of crime victims and to recognize those who bring hope and healing to these individuals and their families.

Receiving this award was definitely an honor for C.O.V.E. and we thank the Lake County Victims Rights Services for their recognition.

**THE GIFTS THAT IMPACT
SO MANY LIVES**

How to be part of bringing hope to those in crisis and the least protected. Get involved. Be part of giving sanctuary.

Adopt the Shelter for a Project, for a Day, a Week or a Month

Whatever your organization is, both your group and C.O.V.E. will greatly benefit. You can be part of assisting women and children in crisis who have no other place to turn for security and hope. As a community it is important to come together to provide support and safe haven in whatever capacity each group feels they are able.

- Provide food or meals. Prepare a dinner at the Shelter with the women.
- Do a day of clean up at the Shelter
- Assist a woman who is leaving the shelter with her move.

- Find out the pressing needs of the Shelter and donate diapers & baby wipes, toilet paper, kleenex, paper towels, laundry Soap, dryer sheets, shampoo, soap, deodorant, feminine products
- Come teach a craft
- Be a listening ear.
- Provide transportation
- Do some childcare or read stories

Volunteering

Get a Volunteer Application which also has job descriptions of volunteer positions

- Shelter maintenance volunteers
- C.O.V.E. historian - clip & maintain newspaper articles about C.O.V.E. and sexual assault & domestic violence
- Fund Raising Committee
- Office help
- Shelter support volunteers
- On-call volunteers
- Transporting people & donations

Opportunities for Giving

If Too busy to volunteer - be involved by giving

- Money
- Alarm clocks
- Dial-a-Ride tokens
- Women & children's underwear
- Women and children's socks
- Tall dressers for bedrooms
- Packages of pens & pencils & holders
- White copy paper (regular & legal)
- Office chairs
- Computer/office desks
- Phone cards
- Gas cards
- Pillows/sheets, blankets
- Cleaning supplies
- Plastic storage containers(any size w/ or without wheels)
- Twin mattresses & frames

Please Become Part of Our Community by Supporting C.O.V.E.

Communities Overcoming Violent Encounters

Your support will help save lives now and provide direction and support long into the future.

___ I am willing to give \$_____ for this vital work

___ I have of food and clothing I would like to donate.

___ I would like to volunteer for C.O.V.E.

___ I would like to give \$ _____ in _____ Honor _____ Memory of _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Name _____ Occasion of gift: Birthday, Anniversary,
 Address _____ Special Occasion, Thank You, Death
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone Number _____ e-mail _____

Please make checks payable to **C.O.V.E.**, 906 E. Ludington Ave., Ludington, MI. 49431 - or contact Amanda Genta at (231)843-2541.

Thank You

An acknowledgment of your gift will be sent to the person being honored or family of the memorial. No amounts will be mentioned. Thank you for your gift. Your gift is a tax deductible contribution that will help provide *a shelter in the storm.*

Who's Who at C.O.V.E.

Staff: Executive Director-Marie Waite, Financial Director-Kathy Griffith, Volunteer Coordinator-Amanda Genta, Grant Support-Frances Elkin, Outreach Advocate-Angela Mendez, Outreach Advocate-Sophia Ruiz, Legal Advocate- Bea Rosalez, STOP Coordinator-Chrysal Patton , Shelter Manager-Judy Goff, Shelter Support Staff- Malanie Fournier, Karen Parsons, Ruth Chauvez, Connie Reece, Bethany Latham

Board of Directors: President-Kristin Bantle, Vice President-Susan Bradford Tripp, Secretary-Shareen McBride-Wicklund, Treasurer-Matt Jastrzembski, Dave Gibbs, Norma Gilbert, Betty Ligon, Jean Russell, Kerry Schafer, Robert Shrauger, Sylvia Shrauger

Thank You to Those Businesses, Churches and Organizations who have supported C.O.V.E. in 2007

A.H.D.Vintners
 Arby's
 Baldwin Congregational Church
 Bulldog Construction
 Burger King
 Caswell Latocha, Inc.
 Centenary United Methodist Church Women
 Charter Cable
 Community Church
 Community Foundation of Lake County
 Community Foundation of Mason County
 CFMC- Five Friends Fund
 Community Foundation of Oceana County
 Cornerstone Church
 ECT Day Spa
 Elite Brands
 Emmanuel Lutheran Church
 Epworth Assembly
 Family Independence Agency WIC Office
 Gunberg Appliances

Hart United Methodist Church
 House of Flavors / Ludington
 Jamesport Brewing Co.
 Journey High School
 Kwik Print Plus
 Lake County Prosecutors Office
 Larson's Moving & Storage
 Lenz & Associates
 Lindsay's Furniture
 Lowe's
 Ludington Daily News
 Ludington Elks Club
 Ludington Senior Center
 Lundquist's Furniture
 M & M Associates
 Mary Kay Ash Foundation
 Oceana Herald
 Optimist Club / Ludington

People's Church
 Salvation Army
 STS Computers
 Summit Church of Christ
 Taco Bell
 T-1 Internet
 United Way of the Lakeshore
 United Way of Mason County
 VFW / Pentwater Post
 Wal-Mart
 Wesco
 West Michigan Fair Association
 West Shore Bank
 WMOM

2007 Events

Sept. 22-23 Pentwater Harvest Festival
 Scottville Harvest Festival
 October Domestic Violence Month
 Oct. 11 Walk against Domestic Violence
 Gathering to Remember
 Oct. 23 C.O.V.E. Annual Meeting
 Nov. 29 'Tis *The* Party before Christmas

Support Group Meetings

Lake County - Thursday Morning Group
 Advocate phone (231)745-8122
 Mason County - Tuesday Evening Group
 Advocate Phone (231)843-2541
 Oceana County - Monday Morning Group
 Advocate Phone (231)861-0794

C.O.V.E.
 906 E. Ludington Avenue
 Ludington, MI 49431