



HAPPY 30th BIRTHDAY C.O.V.E.



PROVIDING 30 YEARS OF SHELTER IN THE STORM

May 2009 Newsletter

Volume 9 • Issue 1



Happy Birthday C.O.V.E.

In May 1979, a small group of volunteers incorporated Region Four Community Services later to become C.O.V.E. Initially it was the need to advocate for rape survivors in Oceana County. For three years this dedicated group used safe homes to provide shelter to those in need. In 1981, they purchased a tiny 3 bedroom house and later moved to a 4 bedroom home still in Hart. In 1985, a part-time office was opened in Ludington. In 1987, it was determined to move the shelter to Mason County. That shelter is still in use today. At the time Region Four was serving Mason, Lake, Oceana and Newaygo. Services continued to expand; providing client advocacy, counsel and shelter to those experiencing domestic violence and sexual assault in the four county area. Throughout the next few years state and federal granting organizations structured and restructured services and service areas. It was in 1993 that the defined regions and services for Region Four/C.O.V.E became what they are today - Lake, Mason and Oceana Counties. In 2004, wanting to clarify and define the mission the Board of Directors changed the name to Communities Overcoming Violent Encounters (C.O.V.E).

From small beginnings C.O.V.E. grew and expanded its services to meet the ever present needs of survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence and also the homeless. Through Federal and State grants along with the United Way, the Salvation Army, other grants and the generosity of the communities served, C.O.V.E. expanded programming and services at every level going from a two part-time employees in 1979 to 13 employees today. Currently, we have a full time crisis line, client advocates, an outreach advocate, a legal advocate, women's support groups, a volunteer coordinator, volunteer legal clinic, and a 14-bed shelter, a shelter manager and helpers providing essential services for our three county area.

None of this would have been possible without the tireless and visionary work of our Board of Directors and Executive Directors over the years. It is because of them and all the devoted volunteers and the committed dedicated professionalism of the support staff we have been able to continue to provide this **need based service** to Lake, Mason and Oceana Counties

We are thankful that the Federal and State governments have taken proactive leads by funding to help protect those who are at risk and without help. In addition to the governments' funds our tight budget is only possible because:

see page 2

30 Years • \$30,000 • Sept. 30th

Surviving to Thriving...

There are many facets to the services and support COVE gives to those who come to us. Many times all we can do is to help people learn to survive. One of our goals that you could join in, is to move to the next level by providing transitional housing for a family coming out of the Shelter. *Moving from Surviving to Thriving.* We have a house on our property where the office is that could be converted into transitional housing. Join our dream of rehabbing the house to accommodate a family in transition as we look to the future. \$30,000 will accomplish that dream. Please consider partnering in that dream and donate.

Communities Overcoming Violent Encounters Did you know?

1. ANYONE - man, woman or child could find themselves sexually assaulted or battered regardless of socioeconomic status. It happens at our colleges, our stores, in our parks, in our towns and in our **homes**.
2. Almost every person in Lake, Mason, Oceana Counties has had or will know an acquaintance, friend, family member or even oneself who has or will need the services provided by COVE due to domestic violence, sexual assault and/or homelessness.
3. In our 30 years we have served 5,240 local residents and their children (8% of the population in our 3 counties).
4. 1 in 5 people live in domestic violence.
5. Battering is the single major cause of injury to women in the U.S.
6. Every 7.5 seconds a woman is battered by an intimate partner.
7. Nationally every second 20 children witness domestic violence in their homes.
8. 1/3 of all children who witness battering have significant behavioral and emotional problems.
9. Abusive behavior is learned. It will continue into the next generation unless we stop the cycle.
10. C.O.V.E.'s 24-hour Crisis Hot Line has been in service for 262,800 hours.
11. The Women's Shelter has housed more than 3,300 women and 3,000 children during the last 22 years.
12. Purple is the color for domestic violence. Teal is the color for sexual assault.

Continued from page 1

- of our mission based salaries and the dedication of our staff to keep costs low.
- financial support from grants given by area organizations, businesses and foundations;
- food, supplies and clothing given by churches, businesses, organizations and individuals;
- and the generous financial giving of individuals.

Many things have changed over the years. But unfortunately the need has not diminished. It has always been our hope to work ourselves out of a job. That has not happened. In fact as we look to the next 10 years more has to be done because we still witness the deaths of women and children from a spouse or significant other despite valid restraining orders in place. We see it as it goes into the next generation. COVE can't change our society but we can educate and bring awareness. We will continue to help protect, guide and support those who are abused, assaulted or homeless. So we turn to our communities and to each individual in our communities - teaching and believing that these cycles will only be reduced as each person strives to bring peace into their home, their workplace and themselves.

Wanted: Willing Volunteers with social work skills.

June 26 - C.O.V.E. Benefit Golf Scramble at Golden Sands Golf Course in Mears. Join the fun & sign up.

Calendar of Events 2009

- May 14 - **30th Birthday Party**
Jameson Brewing Co.
- June 26 - **C.O.V.E. Benefit Golf Scramble**
Golden Sands Golf Course- Mears.
- Sept. 12 - **Run/Walk** in Mears State Park
- October Domestic Violence Month
- Oct. 10 - **Tour of Homes**-Pentwater 10-4
- Oct. 28 - C.O.V.E. Annual Meeting
- Nov.19 - **30 Years of Birthday Magic** -
Live & Silent Auction

During the summer COVE will be at the Arts & Crafts Shows, Friday Night Live, and Music Festival in Pentwater, Hart, Ludington and Idlewild. Stop by and visit or even volunteer to work a booth. It is our opportunity to be more visible in the communities we serve and to celebrate our Birthday.

Supporting Each Other

COVE has always offered support groups for women. During this past year the Mason County Group has grown immensely.

This group is offered to women and children who have suffered domestic and/or sexual violence.

Having outgrown C.O.V.E.'s office space, People's Church was kind enough to allow the group to move into their facility. Usually 25 -30 women and children attend.

A meal is shared together and there are 2 advocates who work with the children. Children from all ages are able to do a brief lesson, play games and meet with other children going through similar issues. This time provides space where women come together to learn about domestic and sexual violence, share their stories and start new friendships that many times leads to supporting and helping each other as they start their new lives in the community. The group is open ended so the women may come as long as they want and are always welcomed back. It is a safe space where confidentiality is respected, and women can process, heal and celebrate their strengths.

The group also has become active in several projects. They make bracelets and key chains, which are sold by Bookmark and at the COVE office. The proceeds from these sales are used to purchase gifts for women and children who are in the Shelter at Christmas and also, limited assistance to group members who have an emergency assistance need. The women and children also create a piece of art which they donate in a Silent Art Auction. The second annual auction was on March 28th. Andy from the Artist's Market matted all the prints and The Ludington Arts Council sponsored the space. All proceeds from the auction go to COVE.



There are groups in Mason, Lake and Oceana Counties. If anyone is interested in attending please call 800-950-5808 or 843-2539.

Opportunities for Giving

Whether it's time, money or supplies your help is always needed. Here are some ideas, but don't limit your giving to this partial list.

Supplies

- Money - support client needs & supplies
 - Dial-a Ride tokens
 - Gas Cards- to defray cost of driving
 - Phone Cards- long distant calling
 - Baby wipes/diapers/pull-ups
 - Children & women's socks & underwear
 - Laundry soap/ dryer sheets- for the 70 to 90 loads of wash done weekly at the Shelter
 - Shampoo/conditioner/feminine hygiene products
 - Pillows, sheets/blankets
 - Cleaning supplies, paper towels/toilet paper
 - Plastic storage containers(any size)
 - Canned good/cereal/etc.
- ### Volunteer your time
- Transport clients & donations
 - Help in the office
 - Work on special events
 - Answer crisis hot line

What Do We Do?

C.O.V.E. is the safety net for those experiencing domestic violence, sexual assault and homelessness in Mason, Lake and Oceana Counties since 1979. In the last 5 years on average 655 families and individuals have been served yearly.

Emergency Shelter Program:

The Shelter is a 14-bed facility that provides room, board and counseling free of charge for those who have experienced domestic violence, sexual assault or homelessness. During the past year 220 women and 180 children were housed at the Shelter for a total of 3,479 nights & 10,428 meals. The Shelter was full or over capacity 140 nights. Men were provided with appropriate accommodations off premise.

Community Outreach Programs:

Counseling, legal and medical advocacy, legal clinic, child advocacy, financial assistance, housing assistance, 24-hour crisis hot line, transportation assistance, support groups and safety planning are some of the services we provide. More than 300 individuals in addition to those who stayed in the Shelter were assisted through our Outreach Programs.

Winter Giving is Hot in Pentwater for COVE

When the cold winds blow in February a lot happens in Pentwater. Etc..Salon & Spa sponsored Spa-a-thon for all those women who want pampering for the day. Mary Shumaker and co-workers; Becky Van Nortwick, Marty Wilson, Vonda Sillman, Robin Wells and Back Mechanics donated all the proceeds from that day. Pentwater's Winterfest Beer Tasting was organized by Jim & Lynn Durand of Durand Wine Co. Participating local bars were The Antler, The Boathouse,

Brown Bear, Gull Landing and Village Pub & Cafe. Between these two events almost \$4,000 was raised this year for COVE.



Mary Shumaker
Etc..Salon & Spa



Jim & Lynn Durand
Durand Wine Co.

C.O.V.E.

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Ludington, MI 49431
Phone: 231- 843-2541
www.callcove.com

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Thank You to all our Donors and Supporters • Nov. 08 - April 09

In Memory of Dorothy Belland

Dorell Funeral Home

In Honor of Dave & Sandy Gibbs

Evan & Cathy Sedlock
Chris & Mark Stewart
Marianne Gibbs Smith

Donations

D.R. King & C.E. Aloe
Dawn Ames
Jean Anderson
Robert Andrews
The Antler
Artists Market-Ludington
Back Mechanics, LLC
Sue & Bill Bainton
Philip Barrons
Boathouse-Pentwater
Bookmark-Ludington
Helen Bradford
Carl & Grace Braun
Brown Bear-Pentwater
Randy Butters
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CFMA-Grand Rapids

Calvin & Mary Jane Crimp
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Congregational Women's

Fellowship-Shelby

BJ Bannen & SM Craig

Domingo & Cynthia Cruz

Durand Wine Co.

Pat Early

Etc..Salon and Day Spa

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First Congregational Church -

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Diane Gibbs

Norma Gilbert

Geoffrey & Linda Gill

James & Connie Gillette

The Greenery

Gull Landing

J Hedberg

Sean & Carolyn Henne

Home Depot

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House of Flavors

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Charles & Elizabeth Kiefer

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Indians

Kenneth & Charlotte

Lindtrom

Ludington Senior Center

Child Study Club

Norman & Sandra Lyon

Robert & Janet Manglitz

Ione Myers

Our Lady of Assumption

Alter Society-Rothbury

Pentwater Junior Women's

Club

Pentwater Women's Club

People's Church

Russell & Ann Plummer

Don & Stacy Quinn

Budde & Sheryl Reed II

David & Carol Rodwell

David & Joan Roseman

Robert Childers & Jean

Russell

Vonda Sillman

Norman & Rhonda Shotwell

Bob & Sylvia Shrauger

Mary Shumaker

South Riverton Helping

Hands

St James Episcopal Church

Women-Pentwater

David & Phyllis Stites

Patric & Marilyn Sullivan

United Methodist Women -

Ludington

United Way of the West

Rebecca VanNortwick

Village Pub & Cafe

John & Gloria Waite

West MI Community Mental

Health Systems

Robin Wells

Patricia Willick

Priscilla Wirt

Women's Fellowship Baldwin

Bert Zeller

Zonta Club of Ludington

Give a 30th Birthday Present to 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 want to give to the 30th Birthday Fund ___ \$30 ___ \$60 ___ \$90 ___ \$300 ___ \$3,000

___ I would like to volunteer for C.O.V.E., (at the Shelter), (on a committee), (providing rides) (other)

___ I would like to give \$ _____ in ___ Honor ___ Memory of

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

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____

e-mail _____

___ I would like the newsletter by e-mail.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Occasion of Gift: Birthday, Anniversary,
Special Occasion, Thank You, Death.

An acknowledgement of your gift will be sent to the person being honored or family of the memorial. No amount will be mentioned

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

To donate by credit card you may use the following credit cards:

Type of Card (circle one) MC or Visa \$ _____

Credit Card # _____ Expiration Date _____ CVC# _____

Signature _____ Today's Date _____

Thank You for Helping to Provide Shelter in the Storm

Your contribution to C.O.V.E. will qualify as a charitable deduction on your Federal Income Tax Return and also as a Homeless Shelter tax credit on your Michigan Income Tax Return to the extent permitted by law.



C.O.V.E.
 906 E. Ludington Avenue
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Celebrating 30 years of Volunteers



Long time Volunteers honored.
 Norma Gilbert- 29 years,
 Christine Warne- 30 years,
 Kerry Schafer- Volunteer Coordinator

During COVE's 30 year history over 15,000 men, women and children have volunteered their time and talents to meet the needs of this essential organization as it reaches out to those who have been abused, assaulted and homeless. They do this by helping with the crisis hot line, office support, legal services, special events, child care, maintenance, shelter support, transportation, serving on the Board and committees and many other places.

Thank You



Some of the Volunteers honored at the April Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

HAPPY BIRTHDAY - FACELIFT Thanks to Team Depot

from Home Depot



Everyone could use a facelift sometime, particularly if one is 90 years old and for the last 20 years has had almost 6,000 women and children call one home. With the help of Elke Wallace, Home Depot's assistant manager, C.O.V.E. submitted a grant request for \$8,000 and received it. In addition, 9 Home Depot employees donated their time to install the new windows, doors, flooring, paint, blinds and more. This was a lifesaver helping to make the house more energy efficient and making it more welcoming to those who come to stay. A special thanks to Team Depot: Wayne Goerbig, Bernard Bromley, Rich Siemion, Brian Hawes, Brandon Dunblazer, Tami Viers, Rich Story, Shirley Chauvin, Marsha Warren, Corina Lynn, Will Spencer, Lori Biers, Jolene Grace, Assistant Store Manager Elke Wallace and husband James Wallace.



JEFF KIESSEL | DAILY

Home Depot employee, Tami Viers puts in a new pantry door and volunteer James Wallace caulks the outside of a new window.