

COMMUNITIES OVERCOMING VIOLENT ENCOUNTERS

November • December 2008 Newsletter

Volume 8 No. 3



★ Volunteer Corner ★

C.O.V.E. is blest with many faithful volunteers donating hours at The Shelter, answering the crisis line, providing legal assistance, transportation, helping where ever needed, working on committees and doing special events.

This fall we want to honor two outstanding individuals for their generous giving of their time and talents to C.O.V.E.

★ Robert Waite is a volunteer with many talents which he unselfishly gives to C.O.V.E. Not only can he do roofing, painting, countless repairs to the shelter, lay flooring, and any other tasks that are asked of him, but he does it with a smile and good humor after working a full day at his real job. He is the number one supporter of his wife, Marie, C.O.V.E.'s Executive Director, and loves doing things with his three great kids. Having the heart for the mission of C.O.V.E. he has given endless time and energy to lighten the load of staff and make things safe for the residents. We appreciate everything he does.



★ It is wonderful for someone to find their niche and use their talents while having fun and working with great people. When

Lynne Cavazos moved to Pentwater from California this year she not only connected with a new community but with C.O.V.E. Lynne chaired the Golf Outing, the 5 & 10K Walk/Run and Tea to the Hexagon House. She attended all possible C.O.V.E. events, as well as spent hours cutting and sewing book covers, working tables at art shows and fulfilling any other need she is able to meet.



See page 2

ECONOMY TAKES TOLL ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS

The ripple effect of an economic crisis touches each and every American. This is particularly true for victims of domestic violence who are seeking help to rebuild lives that have been shattered by an abuser. At a time when more and more victims are reaching out for support and services, domestic violence programs throughout the country are struggling to meet the increasing requests for help.

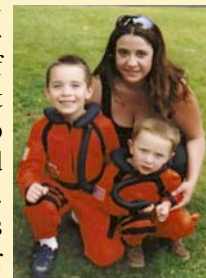
During stressful economic times, there is always a significant upswing in requests for services by victims. This includes increased crisis calls to hotlines, and requests for shelter, counseling, legal services, transitional housing and services for children. Victims of domestic violence often experience escalations of abuse by their partners as economic stresses increase. Rhode Island, for example, has recently seen a 25% increase in felony-level domestic violence crimes.

Domestic violence programs and shelters play a critical role in helping victims find safety and refuge from violence in the home. They are a safe haven for millions of families who have no other place to go when their lives are in danger. But the current reality of our nation's economy has severely affected domestic violence programs and shelters— forcing draconian cuts in services and staff lay-offs at a time when more victims are coming forward for assistance. For the first time in decades, many shelters may have to close their doors by years' end.

Domestic violence programs and shelters are being affected – See page 2

October Domestic Violence Awareness Month

On October 21st in Hart, there was a walk Against Domestic Violence in Memory of Jessica Monroe-Mead. It was a beautiful fall afternoon, the sun was shining, the air was cool and 54 people were gathered - a sharp contrast to the grieving and woundedness carried by so many of those present. After the walk some people shared, including Jessica's Mother and Father. The rawness of their daughter's murder just 3 months ago touched our hearts, as we listened and caught a glimpse of their anguish, their frustration and sense of helplessness in the fact that no one was able to prevent this horrific end to their daughter's life. Jessica was 28 years old, a loving daughter and a mother of two



wonderful boys when she was killed by her estranged husband on her youngest son's third birthday. Her sons will grow up without their mother, but they will know how much she loved them. They will always miss her and never quite understand why she was taken from them.

Domestic Violence is a serious preventable public health problem that affects more than 32 million American, about 10% of the U.S. population. 10 million children in the US witness domestic violence each year. It occurs in all cultures, regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, gender and class. In Michigan in 2007 there were 50 murder victims as a result of domestic violence. Between 2000-2005

see page 2

Annual Report

FISCAL 2008

COMPLETED SUCCESSFULLY

With September 30 the end of our fiscal year, the C.O.V.E. Staff and Board are pleased to report that we served 343 adults and 43 children during the year and continue to be on sound financial footing. The Shelter provided 4,331 "shelter nights" during the year with 35 nights full and 90 nights over capacity. 12,993 meals were prepared at the Shelter.

Our 2008 revenues were \$538,600 and our expenses were \$517,993 including \$17,440 of interest expense. Fundraising and contribution revenue included in the revenues amount totaled \$43,463 up from \$25,873 in fiscal 2007. The balance sheet continues to be strong with amounts due vendors and suppliers being paid on a timely basis. The budget for 2009 continues to grow because of the rise in utility, transportation and food costs etc., thus increasing our fundraising goal to \$50,000. The Board thanks Marie Waite and her staff for their very careful management of our very limited resources. Also, we thank Kathy Griffith, our Financial Director, for her job of managing all the financial areas of C.O.V.E. including the complex reporting to our funding agencies.

October Domestic Violence Month p.1

there were 2,036 incidents of domestic violence reported to law enforcement for Lake, Mason and Oceana counties. This number is increasing.

It is the responsibility of all of us to do our part to end domestic violence and make our communities safer for all who live here. Here are a couple ways you can help. Learn the facts about domestic violence, many myths are still out there and they hinder getting help for victim, their family, and friends. C.O.V.E. will come to your organization and do a presentation for free. Get involved, volunteer some of your time to C.O.V.E., with the assistance of dedicated volunteers, we are able to extend our funds and provide much needed services for all victims of domestic/sexual violence. C.O.V.E. provides free training for a variety of positions. If you have 4 hours a month to give and a desire to stand up against domestic/sexual violence, please call (231)843-2541 Ext 26 and speak with Kerry, Volunteer Coordinator.

Economy & Domestic Violence p.1

by a trio of economic factors cuts in federal funding, increased demands for services and decreased private donations as so many Americans lose their jobs or see a downturn in their personal finances. As all Americans share in the effects of the recent crash of the housing market and total meltdown of Wall Street, times of economic downturn disproportionately affect battered women and the programs they turn to for help.

In 2007, the National Network to End Domestic Violence conducted its second annual 24-hour census of domestic violence shelters and programs across the nation. The Census report found that in one day, more than 53,000 women, men and children received services from local domestic violence programs. Over 25,000 of those individuals, of which more than 50% were children, found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing.

Yet tragically, on that same day more than 7,700 victims that sought services from their local domestic violence programs were not served because the programs didn't have enough funding and resources. And this was the situation in communities throughout the country before the current economic crisis.

Even more shocking is the ongoing prevalence of domestic violence in the United States. The number of domestic violence victims is staggering: one in four women will be affected in her lifetime; 15.5 million children will witness abuse against their mothers; three women, on average, are murdered each day by their abusers; and the cost to taxpayers is an astounding \$5.8 billion annually. The need for sufficient funding for domestic violence programs and shelters cannot be ignored or overstated, given the dangerous and potentially lethal nature of many of the victims' circumstances.

As the nation recognizes October as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, all Americans have a role to play to ensure that adequate funding is available so that domestic violence victims' calls for life-saving help are answered. This is a crisis that affects each of us—our friends, our neighbors, our families. It is time for us to join together and to take action. Together we can ensure that every battered woman and her children, in every community in our country, can find a safe refuge, someone to call for help, and the ability to live free of violence and abuse.

by Michigan Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence

Volunteer Corner (continued p.1)

The countless hours she puts in, her devotion to raising awareness about C.O.V.E. and the services we offer to those who are abused make her a real treasure to us.

★ Creative, dedicated, fun loving, hard working, enthusiastic describes the Oceana Fundraising Committee of C.O.V.E. They raised over \$10,000 through paper houses, Women's Golden Sands Golf Outing, Beer Tasking, ETC Salon, Pentwater Tour of Homes, 5 & 10 K Walk/Run Event, Booths at Craft & Art Fairs. Twenty-three strong they are an inspiration. So a huge **THANK YOU** to: Susan Mac-Gregor, Mary Stiphany, Judy Seeley, Nancy Hubbard, Penny Bach, Betty Ligon, Joyce Anderson, Lynne Cavazos, Shari Cookenmaster, Connie Gillette, Carol Nauta, Kathy Fahlsing, Linda Martin, Sylvia Shrauger, Jean Russell, Marilyn Ward, Linda Haan, Vicki Poplstein, Pat Fitch, Judy Rumsey, Rhonda Buzan, Rhonda Shotwell, and Judy Coburn.



K Rock and C.O.V.E. "Coats for Kids"

www.callcove.com.

Have you seen our new web-site? In response to our April/May Newsletter, Dave Stanulis offered his time, creativity and technical expertise to be our web-master.

Dave Stanulis has lived in the Mason County area for the past 29 years. He is the Technology Director for the Baldwin Community School District, which also services the Baldwin Community in emergency management and Internet services. He created and maintains the Baldwin School web site. He truly enjoys this aspect of his career and is enjoying working with COVE developing their web site. Dave and his wife, Lori are the proud parents of three grown children and one grandson. In his spare time he enjoys bicycle riding, wood-working, and spending time with friends and his family. And of course, anything to do with technology!

Without Dave's expertise we would still be "Region 4"(our old name) and still be in 1999 mode. Thank you, Dave!

C.O.V.E.

Since C.O.V.E opened it's doors in 1979, it has provided services to over 5,500 individuals and families in Mason, Oceana and Lake counties who've experienced the trauma of domestic /sexual violence and/or homelessness. Cove provides a 24 hour crisis hotline, crisis support, outreach services , information and referrals , as well as 14 bed emergency shelter. C.O.V.E is a shelter from the storm.

C.O.V.E.

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

C.O.V.E 2008 Board of Directors

- Kristin Bantle, President
- Susan Bradford Tripp, Vice President
- Shareen McBride-Wicklund, Secretary
- Dave Gibbs, Treasurer
- Norma Gilbert
- Connie Gillette
- Linda Haan
- Matt Jastrzembksi
- Betty Ligon
- Robert Shrauger
- Sylvia Shrauger
- Kristie Stumbrie

C.O.V.E. Staff

- Marie Waite, Executive Director
- Kathy Griffith, Financial Director
- Kerry Schafer, Volunteer Coordinator
- Frances Elkin, Grant Support
- Angela Mendez, Outreach Advocate
- Katie Mendez, Outreach Advocate
- Brielle Kane, Outreach-Americorp
- Bea Rosalez, Legal Advocate
- Judy Geoff, Shelter Manager
- Shelter Support Staff*
- Anna Roerink Kelly Meyer
- Lori Hopson Lourdes Jaramillo

Women's Support Groups

- Lake County** - Thursday Morning
Advocate phone (231-8122)
- Mason County** - Tuesday Evening
Advocate Phone - (231)843-2541
- Oceana County** -
Advocate Phone - (231)843-2541

Afternoon Tea at the Hexagon House in Pentwater

Sunday, December 14, 2008 at 2:00 P.M.
"Come and enjoy an "afternoon tea" at the beautiful Hexagon House. Cost is \$15. Space is very limited, so please call Kerry (843.2541) early for reservations."

Mailing list

We are trying to become more green and more accurate with our mailings to all of our supporters. Contact Kerry e-mail: vc@verizon.net or phone: 231-8432541 Ext. 26 if:
• your name or address is incorrect • you want to use e-mail • you want your name off the mailing list

Thank You to all our Donors and Supporters

In Memory of Caroll Bluhm William & Gail Bluhm	Cartier Mansion Bed & Breakfast	Hart Upper Elementary	Plaza Cafe
In Memory of Joetta Howard Greg & Lid Howard	Tom & Joan Clair	Ceil Heller	PM Floral & Greenhouse
In Memory of Terry Greenwood Chris & Adina Winczewski Gary Sarvio	Closson's Jewelry	Francis & Elizabeth Hiscock	Bruce Polzotto
In Honor of Kathy Fahlsing Kay Marble	Craze	Holiday Inn Express	The Grand
In Honor of Dave & Sandy Gibbs Marianne Smith	Creative Cuts Spa & Tanning	Sue Hopp Artistry & Glass	Marilyn's Style of Pentwater
In Honor of Jane Jesuales Sarah James	Decors by Sandra Cluchey	Joel Hubscher	Moomers Ice Cream
Donations 108 Threads	Durand Wine of Pentwater	Jamesport Brewing Co.	Raven's Women, Men, Shoes
ABC Kidz	Fairfield Inn / Traverse City	La Fiesta Restaurant	Todd & Brad Reed Photography
Air Fun of Pentwater	Kathy Falhsing	Lenz & Associates	Jean Russell & Robert Childers
Holly Alway	Daniel & Teri Filius	Lighthouse Keepers Assoc..	Scotty's
Artists Market	Susan Filter	Luciano Restorante	S.S. Badger Lake Michigan Car Ferry
Bitchen Kitchen	Gardeners Folly	Lundquist Furniture	Bob & Sylvia Shrauger
Rick & Rhonda Buzan	Dave & Sandy Gibbs	Kay Marble	Mary Schumaker
Clarence Chase	Sarah James	Max & Chloe's	Vonda Sillman
	Donations	Ken McKie	Gary Sirvio
	108 Threads	Midas Auto Service	Karen St. Denis
	ABC Kidz	Russ Murphy	Sunshine Cafe of Hart
	Air Fun of Pentwater	Jim & Carol Nauta	Urka Auto Center, Inc
	Holly Alway	Oldewick Post Gift Shop	Rebecca VanBirtwucj
	Artists Market	Our Gallery of Pentwater	Robin Wells
	Bitchen Kitchen	Pelican Zim	West Shore Bank
	Rick & Rhonda Buzan	Pentwater Outfitters	Chris & Adina Wincz
	Clarence Chase	Pentwater Toy Box	
		Pentwater Women's Club	

Giving a Gift That will Bless Those Least Able to Protect Themselves

Next year is our 30th year of being *a shelter in the midst of the storm* for all who come to us: those who suffer domestic violence, those who have experienced sexual assault and those who find themselves homeless. You can be part of providing this vitally needed *safety net* in Lake, Mason and Oceana Counties. Please consider a gift to C.O.V.E.

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 food and clothing I would like to donate.
- 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 _____

Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone Number _____ e-mail _____

Occasion of gift: Birthday, Anniversary,
Special Occasion, Thank You, Death

Please make checks payable to **C.O.V.E.**, 906 E. Ludington Ave., Ludington, MI. 49431 - or contact Kerry Schafer 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.

Keychains and Bracelets



Sara Gadziemski loved absolutely everything about Christmas. She especially loved bringing Christmas magic to children. It was a long standing family tradition that each year her family would find a way to bring Christmas joy to those in need. Tragically in June 2005, Sara was murdered at the age of 23 trying to help someone out of a violent relationship. Through this tragedy her mother, Suzie, gradually became involved with C.O.V.E. and the Survivors Support Group. Suzie believed that the women in group would be more comfortable and open up more if they had something to focus on while dealing with painful issues and tough topics. She purchased the needed supplies using money from Sara's Memorial Fund, and the group began making bracelets and keychains, in honor of keeping her daughter's love for Christmas alive. The bracelets and keychains are sold and all proceeds used to buy Christmas presents for children and teens in the shelter. These keychains and bracelets are currently available at the Bookmark, 201 S. Rath Ave. and Blu Moon Cafe, 125 S. James St., both in downtown Ludington. The keychains are \$5 and bracelets are \$10.



Christmas for the women, children and men we serve is often a devastating time. Particularly in our unstable economy their future is more uncertain. There are less and less job and funds to meet their daily needs, let alone, medical needs, transportation, rent, and utilities. Frustration becomes greater and options seem fewer.

You can help. Volunteer some time. Donate gift baskets for women, pajamas, bath robes, slippers, children's socks and under garments, gift cards, storage containers, twin size bedding, dial a ride tokens, alarm clocks, towels, phone cards, gas cards, food baskets.

Adopt a family of one of our outreach clients.

Make this season better by giving a gift which says we care.

All Wrapped Up

The Christmas season is hectic with shopping, pageants, and entertaining. Let C.O.V.E. help take the worry out of wrapping those gifts. During the first three Saturdays of December, the 6th, 13, 20th, bring your gifts to the Bookmark, 201 S. Rath Ave. in Ludington. Volunteers will wrap your presents for the cost of a donation.. All donations will go toward helping bring Christmas to the people we serve.