



COMMUNITIES OVERCOMING VIOLENT ENCOUNTERS

November • December Newsletter 2010

Volume 10 No. 3



The Season of Giving... Wondering what to Give? How to Enjoy the Season? What to do?

As we near the Christmas season thoughts turn to gift giving..... Stores are full of wonderful things... TV ads flash those have-to-have gifts... There are so many choices. So often our wants and our needs are very different things. The solution: Shift Your Gift!

Shift Your Gift - For that friend or family member who is hard to buy for, give a donation to COVE in their honor. A special Christmas card will be sent to them with your name and gift acknowledgement. This is a "Gift that keeps on giving" from you to that special person and to over 300 women, children and men throughout Lake, Mason, and Oceana Counties. If you wish to shift your holiday gift, please use the enclosed envelope and fill in the donation option.

Develop a New Tradition: whether a business, organization, your family, friends or church, ask them to consider:

- Making a donation in your family or group's name to COVE, touching many lives throughout the year.
- Giving unwrapped gifts to the COVE so the 90 families can pick out presents for their loved ones. (See article page 4.)
- Baking special holiday treats to share at the Shelter. (PS: this doesn't have to be just at Christmas, but could be throughout the year.)
- Adopting the Shelter for a day, a week or month by bringing a meal. (Contact Volunteer Coordinator, Jamie 843-2541 ext. 26 or jamiecatlett_cove@ymail.com).
- Reading stories to the children. Helping with homework. Being a listening ear, child care.
- Providing transportation.

No gift is too small as one reaches out to touch people's lives when they are in the most need and vulnerable.



Employee of the Year 2010

Angela Mendez, Mason County Outreach and Shelter Advocate is the 2010 Employee of the Year. Anyone that has had a chance to work with her knows how amazing she truly is! She goes above and beyond to serve victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and homelessness. "Angela is an intelligent woman, very dependable and extremely creative." says Marie Waite, Executive Director. Angela has been working for COVE for five years. Her hard work, dedication and passion for the work is recognized by all and makes her an invaluable part of COVE. Her creativity is unsurpassed and is in very useful in her work. She always takes the time to support her co-workers.



Volunteer of the Year 2010

Sandy Gibbs has been a volunteer for COVE for four years. Her hard work and dedication are greatly appreciated by all of us at COVE. She puts heart (and countless hours) in everything that she commits to. She produces the newsletter three times a year, Chairs the Fundraising/Public Relations Committee, organizes and hosts the Holiday Party, keeps our calendar of events, co-authored the Annual Sponsorship packet and program, attends the majority of COVE's events and photographs them for us. She goes above and beyond even behind the scene assisting in emergency situations. Sandy, has a true philanthropic heart, she's an amazing business woman and completely genuine. For these things and more we are all grateful for you. It is an honor and a privilege to work with you. Thank you, Sandy, for all you are and all that you do for COVE."-Jamie Catlett



A new project, greater vision for our future

Michigan's Project Connect effort is focused in on efforts at two key levels: locally and state. At the state level we've developed a Leadership Team that COVE is now a part of as one of the local sites. At the local level, we are focusing on building collaboration between Domestic and Sexual Violence Service providers (DV/SV) and adolescent and maternal and child health programs (most of our local sites will be focused on working with adolescent health programs). Through this local work we are trying to increase the capacity of health clinicians to respond to the needs of adolescents presenting with issues of DV/SV and especially reproductive coercion. This will be done by building stronger linkages between health and DV/SV programs and working together to create policies and practices between health and DV/SV programs that enable all partners to effectively meet the needs of the young people that they're seeing. There are six local sites including Baldwin, Dearborn, Macomb, Saginaw, Antrim, and Muskegon. This new and exciting project will help us reach those in need of our services and help us grow as we work toward embracing the future.

Volunteers... Making a difference

• Caring • Dedicated • Giving Back •

On a chilly fall evening, they gathered in a church. Some were short, some tall. Some were slender, some heavy.



Volunteers Training Class

Some were young and some were old. Some were homemakers, others retired, and still others were working. Some became tearful during the presentations while others were stoic. But they all came with a single purpose: the

desire to help those in need—the abused, violated, and homeless. I was one of them, both someone who wanted to help, as well as, one who had needed help in the past. There are no special requirements to become a volunteer, just attend training sessions. And if you're like me, you don't even have to know *what* you want to do; you just have to want to help—the job will find you. For me, it has meant taking something positive away from a very dark time in my life. As you go about your daily lives, consider helping out. A few hours a year, a donation of food or clothing, or even just spreading the word about COVE, it all helps. I guarantee you will find it will reward you many times over what you put into it. by Jennifer Dalton- Volunteer

COVE has over 200 volunteers doing everything from sorting clothes, driving clients, helping at fundraising events, serving on committees and the Board, carpentry, child care, crisis line, art therapy, and working directly with clients. Being a volunteer at COVE makes a difference in many people's lives. Opportunities for giving one's time is



Volunteers at Holiday Party

flexible from two to three hours for an event or to giving a day a week at the Shelter. All skills from graphics to cooking are always appreciated. It is a wonderful place to give your time and use your talents.

Twice a year our Volunteer Coordinator, Jamie Catlett, holds ten hours of classes for anyone wishing an in depth orientation about COVE. These classes include CPR and are required for those volunteering in the Shelter.

Meet Maria Trevino - a gifted determined and caring woman who is giving back. Three years ago, barely speaking English, Maria came to the Shelter with her two daughters and teenage son leaving a very abusive situation. Having raised her three other sons, living in the US for almost 20 years, Maria was handicapped because she did not speak English. During her month long stay at the Shelter, through the help of many at COVE, she determined to become independent. One of her primary steps was to learn to speak English with the help of Oceana schools and her daughters and son. She now is giving back in the community. She volunteers for COVE by helping translate when clients only speak Spanish. She is a licensed care giver for the State of Michigan and also volunteers her time to drive people to medical appointments whether in Muskegon or Ludington. Her motto in life is "I can". And by her smile and the twinkle in her eyes, you can see why she can and does.

October Domestic Violence Awareness Month

During October, Peace Walks were held in both Ludington and Baldwin to raise awareness concerning domestic violence and to say there is NO place in our communities for domestic violence.



Baldwin Peace Walk

In Ludington more than 50 people walked for peace through downtown to the court house. They heard Ludington Police Chief Mark Barnett, Rev. Tom Evans of United Methodist



Ludington Court House

Church of Ludington and Christine Warne, former Executive Director of COVE. They discussed the changes in law in the last 15 years. Also they emphasized the immediate impact of witnessing and experiencing the trauma of domestic violence on the lives of children and families. Plus without treatment the residual long term effects it can have on

individuals years later.

The walks are also in memory of those whose lives were taken as a result of domestic violence. On this day we offered prayers and held a cleansing of the land where Sara Gadziemski had been killed five years ago. It was a very healing time for her mother, Suzanne Anthony.



Cleansing the Land

Area restaurants participated by using Domestic Violence place mats and table tents to help raise awareness. Georgianna Waite put table tents and flyers on the lunch tables at Ludington High School every Monday for the month of October. Many of the kids read and took the flyers. Many of the young ladies read the flyers to their boyfriends and many took the quiz on rating their relationship to determine if it was a healthy relationship.

The COVE Benefit Beach Walk/Run

The Third Annual Benefit Beach Walk/Run was a spectacular success even with the rain, the wind, and the waves. COVE and Charles Mears State Park co-sponsored the event held in Pentwater on September 11, 2010.



The event included a 5K walk, a 5K run, and a 10K run with an amazing 144 people



completing the different races, which is 50 more than last year when the weather was sunny and clear. A special thank you to Jim Gallie, State Park Supervisor, and his staff for their help in setting up the race and to all of the many COVE volunteers who came out to help with registration, food for participants, and marshals on the course.

The feedback on the race has been wonderful. This quote from one of the participants confirms that all of our hard work is paying off.

"I was so pleased the route was so well marked. This was my son's first race ever, and I figured he'd be a little stressed so I didn't want him to have to worry about which way to go. But it was so well marked with many people all helping out along the way. I'm sure it made him feel more comfortable. As a matter of fact he took 1st place in his age group – so that was AWESOME. "



The Finish Line!

Lynne Cavazos - Chair

Vintage Home Tour 2010

Pentwater's Home Tour and Used Book Sale to support COVE gave attendees the chance to view



eight houses built in the late 1800's to the early 1920's as well two built more recently. Each was unique with its own history; one 1871 home originally had horse stalls

on its second story. Those touring the homes often commented that this event, in its third year, was one that they wouldn't miss; some had traveled from Chicago, Manistee, Holland, and Onkema.

The Used Book Sale offered book lovers a chance to thin their own collection and donate their books to COVE, as well as, pick up great bargains on current and classical works.

Volunteers worked tirelessly throughout the year, totaling 250 hours and are beginning plans for the 2011 Home Tour, to be held Saturday, October 8, 2011, during the annual Pentwater Oktoberfest celebration.

Total money collected from this event totaled \$2,750.
Mary Stiphany - Chair

COVE Annual Report 2010

The Board of Directors and staff of COVE thank all those individuals, businesses, churches, community organizations and the Community Foundation of Mason County who have contributed to COVE during our fiscal year ended September 30, 2010. Without their generous and loyal support COVE would not have been able to provide the level of services we did this year. Despite the freeze from some funding agencies and decline in funding from other federal and state agencies, COVE met all its financial obligations and ended the year with an increase in the fund balance. This was also achieved by the careful and sound management of our financial resources by our outstanding staff.

COVE this year served 256 adults and 186 children and provided 3,663 "shelter night" with 52% of the nights for children. The Shelter was full or over capacity for 62 nights (equal to two months) and served 10,989 meals or an average of 30 meals a day. 3,720 crisis calls were answered. The Weekly Support groups average 15 - 20 women; 10 -12 children (ages 9-17) are in the Child Support Group and 6 - 10 (infant to age 8) in child care. A volunteer does art projects with children during group.

Because our grants from state and federal sources are either frozen or reduced for our new fiscal year, income from contributions and fundraising events will be more important than ever before. Our 2011 budget goal for contributions and fundraising is 17% of our total budget an increase from 13% of the 2010 budget.

Dave Gibbs, Treasurer

COVE Board of Directors

Kristin Bantle, President
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Shareen McBride-Wicklund, Secretary
Dave Gibbs, Treasurer
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Norma Gilbert
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Marie Waite, Executive Director
Kathy Griffith, Financial Director
Jamie Catlett, Volunteer Coordinator
Frances Elkins, Grant Support
Angela Mendez, Outreach Advocate
Katie Mendez, STOP Coordinator
Lori Beggs, Oceana Outreach
Bea Rosalez, Legal Advocate
Judy Goff, Shelter Manager
Shelter Support Staff
Ann Clark, Gail Brittain,
Cherie Savage, Linda Pustay

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231-843-2541

www.callcove.com

**Need Help?
Call COVE**
Toll-Free 24-Hour Crisis
Line
(800) 950-5808

COVE 2010 - 2011 Calendar

Dec. 12 - Holiday Afternoon Tea
Dec. 15 - COVE's Client Christmas Shoppe
Feb. 19 - Winterfest Beer Tasting - Pentwater.

Counting Our Blessings

- Our Dedicated, Caring, Skilled Staff
- Our Faithful and Talented Volunteers
- Our Generous Supporters
- Our Community and Supporting Services

Thank You to all our Donors and Sponsors! August - October 2010

Without the support of the individuals, businesses, organizations, foundations, and volunteers COVE would and could not meet its annual obligations. We do not turn anyone away from our services. Our staff goes the extra mile for the safety, guidance and support of our clients. Our staff and funds are stretched even more now as our economy is in trouble. COVE is the safety net of last resort for individuals and families in Lake, Mason and Oceana Counties.

COVE ANNUAL SPONSORS

Cal-Chlor Corp.
Lake Michigan Carferry
Ludington Beverage
Anonymous
Anonymous
Dave & Sandy Gibbs
Jean Russell &
Lee & Joan Schoenherr
Bob & Sylvia Shrauger

COVE Benefit Beach Walk/Run Sponsors

Christmann Insurance Agency
Dave's Party Store
Golden Sands Golf Course
Hart Pizza
Hill and Hollow Campground
Klotz Auto Parts
Lighthouse Car Care Services
M & M Associates
Pentwater Convenience Center
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Schooners Island Bar & Grill
Snug Harbor Marina

State Farm Insurance - Hart
Hansen Food's
Cenzo's Fresh Italian Market & Spirits
Coldwell Banker Anchor Real Estate
Pentwater Wire Works

Pentwater Tour of Homes Sponsors

Harbor Design and Construction
Jeremy Horton, P.E.
Kwik Print Plus

In Honor of Denise Pagura's 50th Birthday by Patti Walcott

In Honor of Gavin Charles Macher by Erika Fatura

In Memory of Dominick Calhoun by Douglas & Julie Nelson

DONORS

Baldwin Congregational Church
Amy Bennett
James & Carole Bird
Paul & Kathleen Bromley
Robert & Martha Collins
Epworth Church

Free Spirit Bible Group
Helen Gancarz
Charlotte Harris
Elva, Robert & James Heyd
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Bruce & Eileen Lemire
Irene Mayer
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Susan Pennington
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Wish List for the Shelter and Christmas

<u>Shelter</u>	<u>Children</u>	
Crock pot	Books	MP3 Player
Coat Rack/Tree	Puzzles	Books
Diapers/Pull-ups	Games	Wallet
<u>Mom's</u>	Clothing	Slippers
Robe/Slippers	Mittens	<u>Teen Girls</u>
Phone Cards	Snow Suits	Hooded Sweatshirts
Candle sets	<u>Teen Boys</u>	Gloves/Scarves
Gloves/Scarves	Hooded sweatshirts	MP3 Player
Towel /Washcloth Sets	Gloves/Scarves	Purse
		Bath set

Angel Tree & Present Drop-off

Bookmark has COVE's Angel Tree with specific requests on it for some of our children. **And you can drop off your unwrapped presents at the Bookmark.**

Need your Christmas Presents Wrapped?

Bring your gifts to the Bookmark and COVE volunteers will wrap them. 3 Saturdays - November 27, December 4 & 11 from 11- 3. All this is done for a donation to COVE.

Stockings for Christmas

Drop off stockings at Northwestern Bank in Ludington for the kids at COVE.

NEW COVE BUSINESS OFFICE HOURS

In order to save costs beginning the week of November 22nd COVE office hours will be:

Monday through Thursday • 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

This will benefit our clients who can't always come in during our current 9 to 5 hours. The Shelter house is always open for our clients, so any crisis situations can be handled at the Shelter.

Make Christmas Special for Someone

COVE has almost 100 women and 200 children including those in the Shelter in need of Christmas help this year. The week before Christmas COVE creates a Christmas Shop so our clients can find gifts for their families. Shelter residents and clients then come to pick out the gifts they think their children will like. The children, also, get a chance to shop for their mom or dad for that special present. After the gift selection, the gifts get wrapped for Christmas. It is a festive time, particularly being able to choose what they think their loved ones will like.

Would you like to participate in making Christmas special for others? If you are having a Holiday party, consider asking your guests to bring a gift for COVE - clothes, toys, games, personal items for infants to 17 year old boys and girls and gifts for their mothers and fathers. Or make it a fun event for your family. Take your children or grandchildren shopping. Have them pick out some clothes that they like that would be good to give to a child their age. You can also purchase Gift Cards and COVE staff will shop for specific clothing sizes and styles including winter boots and snow jackets. Drop them off unwrapped at the COVE office by Monday afternoon, December 13. If you need help in getting the items to COVE call and someone will pick them up 231-843-2541 ext. 26.

