



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



PROVIDING 30 YEARS OF SHELTER IN THE STORM

September 2009 Newsletter

Volume 9 • Issue 2

## Broken Dreams, Hopeless, Uncertainty, Fear, Courage ....

These all enter the Shelter in the hearts and minds of the women and children who come to stay. For some it is a safe refuge as they seek to weather the storm that swirls around them. For others it is a respite from the gripping fear that overwhelms them when a car door slams. Still others find support from those who are going through or have gone through what they are currently experiencing. For the children it is a place away from some of the chaos that surrounded them before they came to the Shelter. For the Staff who welcome them all - the abused, assaulted and homeless - it is a time to help bring hope, security, direction, support and self esteem. The task at times is overwhelming both for the client as well as for COVE.

For the past few months we have had every bed filled and several times we were over capacity. We do not turn anyone away. We seek to use all the resources that are available to assist each person or family. The Shelter does not house men. But during the winter when families were living in cars we helped the men find shelter in motels (funds provided through the Salvation Army) or with friends. \*The Salvation Army used all its allotted monies for the homeless before the end of the winter this year.

However, it is the children- THE CHILDREN- who suffer the most. In the confusion of leaving home, not having a place to call home, being afraid of the violence they see on a regular basis, they have no filters to help them understand and comprehend what is going on around them. See p. 2

## A Glimpse of Our Past "Herstory"

by Christine Warne\*

This is a picture of the staff in front of our second shelter on Hart Street in Hart, Oceana County. I have no idea of the date but it must be the late 1980's. The house no longer exists just like the



first shelter that was on Chatacqua and State Street. Being under funded has always landed the program in older structures in need of extensive repair and up-keep.

This seemed like such a 'huge' staff to me at the time. A 'house mother' (don't laugh, that's what we called her) LaVerle Eilers, an administrator who still did dishes, repairs and group (that's me, Christine Warne); three counselors/public speakers/coordinators of everything: Kathy Wall (actually the program coordinator, standing right) and Cheryl Petterson (sitting) and Christine Omness (standing center). Pat (standing second from right) was our volunteer receptionist.

When I think back on this period of our herstory I recognize a program that was coming-of-age. As a staff we were strong in philosophy and spirit as is the staff today. We were learning to function well with the other players and we were becoming more secure in our position within the larger three county community. We were active in our state coalition and with the domestic violence aspects of the state and local Departments of Social Services.

During our years in Hart we played a significant role just because of our presence. The shelter became a meeting place and while safety and security was always a concern it was balanced by the needs of the larger community of women. As legal issues spiraled across the state and country so did the contract conditions. Today the role we played in Hart could no longer be enjoyed even See p. 2

## Domestic Violence Awareness Month

October is the month set aside for communities across our nation to demonstrate their support for victims, survivors and advocates of DV. As people join together in a community it conveys a powerful message that there's no place for domestic violence in the homes, neighborhoods, workplaces or schools. The symbols used for DV are *purple ribbons* and/or *purple & teal* (DV & Sexual Assault). So during the month of October lets drape our communities with *purple ribbons* - our trees, front doors and /or clothing to join in speaking out against DV.

On October 2, 2009, the Lake County Women's See p. 2

if we could still provide in-county shelter. There is sadness in this. It was a very successful program. Ideally there would be safe shelter within each of our counties however, in today's world funding one program for three counties is a major undertaking.

\* Christine Warne worked for Region Four Community Services from 1982-98. She was Program Director, 1982-83; then Executive Director from 1984-98. In 2006 she was asked to return as Interim Director in order to stabilize and turn around COVE's operations and financial condition which she accomplished.

### The Gift of Giving...

COVE's 30<sup>th</sup> Holiday Birthday Party will take place on Thursday, November 19, 2009 from 6:30-9:30 p.m.

We are excited about some new surprises as well as the live and silent auction at the party.

If you have questions or would like to join in the fun of volunteering for this event, please contact Kerry at 843-2541 ext. 26.

Mark your calendars for the 4th annual C.O.V.E. holiday party on November 19th. We look forward to you joining us for this special event.

### Shelter's Facelift

In May volunteers from the Ludington Garden Club worked together to landscape the Women's Shelter. Sarah Champagne, Liz Donakowski, Diane Nemitz, Mary Shumaker, Gwen Jackson and Kristin Bantle spent a day planting the flowers and shrubs and putting down mulch donated by Lowe's Home Improvement. In the fall they will put on the finishing touches.



Liz Donakowski & Gwen Jackson

### Spotlight on Donors



Jane Lemme of Gardener's Folly

Jane and Neil Lemme fell in love with Pentwater and moved there 11 years ago, opening Gardener's Folly the following year - Featuring fine furnishings and accessories for the garden, cottage, and home. This past April when moving to a larger space on Hancock, they generously donated many items to COVE for the live & silent auction at The Gift of Giving... 30<sup>th</sup> Holiday Birthday Party in November.

### Calendar of Events 2009

- Sept. 6 - **Heritage Day** in Hart
- Sept. 12 - **Run/Walk** in Mears State Park
- October Domestic Violence Month*
- Oct. 2 - **Domestic Violence Awareness Event** including a Chili Cook Off in Lake County
- Oct. 10 - **Pentwater Vintage House Tour** 10-4
- Oct. 28 - **C.O.V.E. Annual Meeting**
- Nov. 19 - **The Gift of Giving... 30th Holiday Birthday Party**
- Dec. 13 - **Afternoon Tea at Hexagon House**

### Mason County Mobile Food Pantry

Since September 2005 COVE has been the pass-through fiduciary for the Mobile Food Pantry for Mason County. Staffed completely by volunteers they distribute 10,000 pounds of food on the third Tuesday of each month in all kinds of weather - heat, freezing cold, rain or snow.

Since October 1st, 2008 - 5,243 individuals and 1,514 families have received 100,031 pounds of food. This year there is almost a 40% increase of those receiving assistance.

A special Thank You to those who have supported the Mobile Food Pantry this year.

- Beacon Ministries, Bruce & Jane Beill
- Thrivent Financial for Lutherns
- Jim and Sandy Bloom
- Mason County DHS - Employees Coffee Benefit Fund
- G.Freeland Roofing Systems,
- Gregory and Karen Magee
- United Way of Mason County
- West Michigan Community Mental Health Systems

THE CHILDREN suffer silent emotional scars that show up as they act out in their childhood or repeat the anger, abuse and disfunction as adults.

COVE's mission is to educate the public concerning Domestic Violence and to take steps that will reduce it in the future. Stress often brings out the worst in all of us. But when stress becomes a repeated pattern of anger and aggression and the recipient feels they are responsible for the other person's behavior the pattern will be repeated into the next generation.

Group is going to have a walk at noon and other activities to draw attention to the victims and survivors of DV. Check the newspaper or [www.callcove.com](http://www.callcove.com) for details. Come be a part of it.

### Computer Savvy?

Visit [www.callcove.com](http://www.callcove.com) and learn more about COVE  
or  
Join COVE's Group on Facebook

### 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. **Back to school supplies** are always crucial at this time of year for both the children in the shelter and outreach clients.

Backpacks/messenger bag  
Notebooks • Pens • Pencils • Markers  
Erasers • Highlighters • Book covers  
Socks • Underwear  
Filler Paper • Folders • Colored Pencils • Protractor • etc.

Always needed:

- money - support client needs & supplies • Dial-a-ride tokens
- gas cards to defray cost of driving clients • phone cards • baby wipes/diapers • laundry soap/dry sheets • shampoo/conditioner/feminine hygiene products.

### Need Help Call COVE

Toll-Free 24-Hour Crisis Line

**(800) 950-5808**

**COVE**

Since 1979 COVE formerly Region 4 has been addressing the issues of domestic & sexual violence and homelessness in Lake, Mason, & Oceana Counties. The Shelter has housed more than 7,900 women and children during the last 30 years. In addition to 24/7 crisis hot line COVE has provided more than 7,000 clients with advocacy, crisis intervention, legal assistance and counseling. COVE's mission is to be a Shelter in the Storm and raise awareness and help eliminate domestic/sexual assault in our counties.

**C.O.V.E 2009 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 Jastrzembski
- 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, STOP Coordinator
- Brielle Kane, Outreach-Americorp
- Chista Byl, Outreach-Americorp
- Bea Rosalez, Legal Advocate
- Judy Geoff, Shelter Manager
- Shelter Support Staff*
- Ann Clark Gail Britton
- Lourdes Jaramillo Kelly Meyer
- Kellie Calou

**Every Penny Given Counts!**

Without the support of the individuals, businesses, organizations, and volunteers COVE would and could not meet its annual obligations. 10% of our yearly budget is based on donations. This year we need to raise \$55,000. We do not turn anyone away from our services. Our staff and funds are stretched even more now as our economy is weaker. COVE is the safety net of last resort for individuals and families in Lake, Mason and Oceana Counties.

**Thank You to all our Donors and Supporters • May 09 - August 09**

<b>Donations</b>	Lorrie Dykstra	Jim and Josie Lindenean	Judy Schmiede
ABC Kids	Eastern Stars- Masonic	Water & Mary Ligon	Jane Shelton
Eleanor Anderson	Temple Scottville	Pam Lewis	Bob and Sylvia Shrauger
Pat and Cal Anderson	Emanuel Lutheran Church	Lowes Home Improvement	Mari Anne Sobaski and
Sharron Anthony	Linda Eyke	Ludington Area Schools	Girl Scout Troop 10121
Susy Anthony	Gardener's Folly-	Lundquist Furniture	Ann Soles
Kristin Bantle	Pentwater	Marsha Mahynski	Diane Sonefeld
William & Mary Bantle	Dave & Sandra Gibbs	Karen Mallory	Nancy Spence
Beacon Ministries	Connie Gillette	Mancino's	Kathryn Spitler
John Berend	Judy Goff	Mary McCarthy	Sharon Stegena
Bethany Lutheran Church	Peggy Gollhier	Greg Melheim	Bruce Steketee
Jocyln Birtwhistle	Karen Gregaitis	Mary Meissner	Hendriella Tweedie
Kevin Bishop	Marian Hamaber	Lois Meloney	Rose Uerling
Susan Bradford-Tripp	Art and Linda Haan	Donna Miller	United Methodist Church
Barbara Burke	Lil Hansen	Maureen Myers	Robert Waite
Donna Busby	Katie Heath	Laura Nugent	Amanda Walsh
Anne and Larry Byl	Elizabeth Hiscock	Linda Odean	Darlene Weidner
Valerie Campbell	Gwen Holcombe	Russell Oden	Wesco
Ann Castonia	Sue Hopson	Corey Organ	George West
Sherry Chaffee	Howard Hudy	Leigh Anne Padgett	J. Wegner
Ruth Challender	Jeanne Kagey	Pandoras Box	Anita Whitaker
Sarah Champagne	Jamesport Brewing	Pentwater Service Club	Carol Willie
Robert and Martha Collins	Company	People's Church	S. Winters
Community Foundation for	Jeff Kerekes	Judi Piemervnt	Priscilla Wirt
Mason County	Kevin Kime/ Beaune Road	Juanita Pierman	WMC-CFMA
Suzette Davis	Charles Kopinski	Poncho's Pond	Philip Wolf
Gladys DeBoer	Kathy Kraus	Sandy Puckette	Betty Wolf
Vicki Derks	Karrie Kruppe	Raven's	Women's Society of
Joe and Tammy Derooy	John & Marty LaBarge	Bob Reni	Community Church
DHS	Kathy Lacko	Robert and Sue Ring	Sandy Youngblood
Dollar Tree -Ludington	Debra Lawrie	Rite Aide RX	Penny Zabavski
Phiiiaire Dudley	Linda Leady	Jean Russell	Darrell & Aderena Zwick
	Hilary Lenzo	St. John's Lutheran Church	

**Be a Part of Providing a Shelter in The Storm**

**Support 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 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

*Occasion of the Gift: Birthday, Anniversary, in Memory, Thank You, Special Occasion, In Honor*

Please make checks payable to **C.O.V.E.**, 906 E. Ludington Ave., Ludington, MI. 49431 - or contact Kerry Schafer at (231)843-2541 ext. 26

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.



NON PROFIT  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Ludington, MI  
Permit No. 25

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

## Pentwater Vintage House Tour



Saturday, October 10, 2009  
10:00-4:00  
\$15 per person

Tour six beautiful vintage Homes in Pentwater this fall. Tickets and maps available at the Pentwater Chamber of Commerce, COVE members, and in front of the Hancock Building (next to the Village Green) on the day of the tour.

## Guess who turned 30 this year and ....

- uses 6 to 10 gallons of milk in a week ?
- uses 25 gallons of laundry detergent a month?
- uses 500 loaves of bread a year?
- provided shelter for more then 116 women & children this past June?

*During the last 5 years has . . . . .*

- served 54,887 meals?
- has had more then 700 children?
- has provided 7,812 adult nights and 9,191 children nights in their home?
- answered 4,500 Crisis Hot Line calls?
- provided 8,000 hours of counseling?

### **Benefit Beach Run (5K/10K) & Walk (5K)**

Saturday, September 12th

5K/10K Run at 8:30 AM & 5K Walk at 8:40 AM

New Start and Finish at Charles Mears State Park in Pentwater.

Course covers paved, sand and beach surfaces.

\$15 person, \$20 on Race Day, \$40 for a family of 3 or 4, \$60 for a family of 5 + Prizes

Contact Lynne Cavazos 231-869-5939 or e-mail [lcavazos5939@charter.net](mailto:lcavazos5939@charter.net)