

**Board of Directors**

Tracey Stice  
Sheila Yuran  
Jenny Coleman  
Pat Daugherty  
Lisa Mistrot-Jones  
Jeanne Pruitt  
Crysty Odom

**The Project Safe  
Advocate**

Lori Brooks  
Sam Drennen  
Barbara Phillips  
Carol Faulkner  
**Advisory Members**  
Chuck Ivey  
Ann Buchholtz  
Jill Coveny Birch  
Sandra Townsell

Volume VII, Issue 4

December, 2007

Project Safe Provides:

- 24-hour Emergency Shelter
- 24-hour Hotline
- Community Support Groups
- Legal and Social Service Advocacy
- Information and Referral
- Volunteer Training
- Community Education
- Follow Up Services
- Service Coordination among Agencies
- Transitional Housing
- Emergency Financial Assistance

All services are confidential and free of charge

**706-543-3331**  
**Project Safe  
Hotline**

Every 15 seconds. . .

- 50% of all American women are likely to be abused by partners in their lifetime.
- In homes where partner abuse occurs, children are 1500 times more likely to be abused.
- A married woman is 5 times more likely to be attacked by her partner than by a total stranger.
- Every 15 seconds a woman is beaten by her partner or ex-partner
- Arresting a batterer significantly reduces the chances he will repeat his offense.

*From the Director*

*Long before our incorporation in 1990, Project Safe existed as a network of volunteer safe homes. Our founders opened their homes to strangers so that people with nowhere else to go could escape the horror of abuse. Today we ask ourselves as an organization, "What is the equivalent act of courage that we must do to end violence against women?"* These words are a paraphrase of a conversation the board and I had some years ago during a planning retreat. I've written them on our annual report every year since, and think about them almost every day.

Without these words as a touchstone it would be so easy to drown in the details of our work. Bills must be paid, letters written, repairs made and the hotline answered. Each day brings new women and children, terrifying accounts of abuse, boring meetings and new frustrations and disappointments. But each day also brings another opportunity to make change, to inspire an intern or volunteer, empower a survivor or affect a policy. Each day brings us another step closer to the end of violence against women.

Only time will tell if we're as courageous as our foremothers, but we honor their work and sacrifice by trying every day.

*— Joan Prittie*

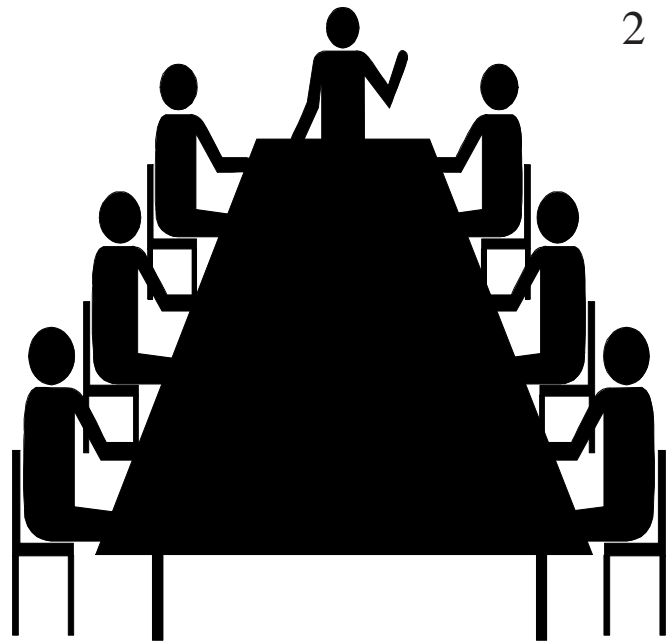
Tickets for  
*Vagina Monologues*  
will go on sale mid-January at  
Frontier  
Urban Sanctuary Day Spa  
Project Safe Thrift Store

## Community Workshops

2

Project Safe has begun to offer Saturday workshops for victims and survivors of domestic violence in the community. One recent offering was an expressive arts project jointly facilitated by staff and volunteers. In that workshop, participants created a beautiful and moving canvas which is now displayed in the Family Protection Center. The participants also designed t-shirts to contribute to the “Clothesline Project”, an on-going art installation which eloquently relays stories of abuse and survival.

The workshop began with a professionally guided warm-up and then transitioned into a series of writing and sketching exercises designed to stimulate creativity and imagination. This became a journal in which the participants could take with them as a memory, or for future artistic exploration. The environment was structured yet nurturing, allowing the experiential nature of artistic process to unravel and unfold without distraction, encouraging an expansive range of self-transformation. The participants were able to find themes, colors, and patterns in their work which helped them to create poems and images which were then transferred as a group to the canvas. They were encouraged throughout the workshop to share their work and feelings with the group as often as needed. There was a powerful sense of trust and support within the group. After a delicious lunch donated by a local church organization, the participants worked together to design the layout of the canvas using the journals they had created in the beginning. The facilitators provided basic art instruction in case there were participants with no prior art experience. From then on, they worked diligently, bringing the canvas to life as a testament to their experiences of survival. Throughout the duration of the workshop, the participants were also encouraged to use their images and pieces



### Community Workshops Continued from Column 1

of writing to individually create a t-shirt for the “Clothesline Project”. Much of the inspiration for the t-shirts also came from the initial brainstorming exercises.

At the end of the workshop, we gathered and engaged in the “harvesting” process in which discussed the experience of art making and what we learned from it. It was a wonderful experience both for participants and facilitators. There was a powerful sense of strength within the community. Every member of the workshop participated fully and how much to contribute. It was an inspiring day filled with much laughter and hope.

Following the success of the art workshop, Project Safe will host an assertiveness workshop in February. This workshop will examine the continuum from passive to assertive to aggressive behavior through various exercises and activities, and will finish with a workout at Barnett Tae Kwon Do Academy. Those interested in more information should contact Stacy at 706-613-3357 ext. 771.

Continued in Column 2 =>



*Save the Date!*

February 7-9, 2008

Vagina Monologues performances at the UGA Chapel on North Campus

Approximately 10 years ago, a young woman's body was pulled from the Oconee River. It was later discovered that the woman's boyfriend and father of her unborn child was responsible for her murder. Five years ago, a woman was gunned down in her east Athens home by her live-in boyfriend, while her teenage daughter was down the hall. A mother of two children was murdered just two months ago.

Domestic violence fatalities occur daily across the U.S., and Athens Clarke County has not been unaffected. In an effort to prevent future tragedies, Project Safe initiated a fatality review panel for Clarke and Oconee counties. In December 2003, Project Safe hired a fatality review coordinator to begin researching domestic violence homicide cases as far back as the early 1990s. These cases are examined by Project Safe and other members of the Domestic Violence Task Force in order to coordinate a better community response to domestic violence situations.

We've learned many things from these reviews, including risk factors for homicide and opportunities for community members to intervene. For example, a common theme among the homicide perpetrators was a history of suicidal thoughts or a completed suicide. The research also showed that numerous victims had seen a physician for previous injuries or prenatal care. Project Safe has worked to implement many recommendations of the fatality review panel in hopes that future fatalities can be prevented. For example, Project Safe staff has educated healthcare providers on ways to screen and assess patients for domestic violence. Staff also review police reports of domestic violence incidents and call the victims to offer services and check on their safety. With the help of other agencies, Project Safe will continue its efforts to educate the community on domestic violence to make Athens Clarke County a safer environment for all its residents.

Become a Volunteer! E-mail:  
projectvolunteer@yahoo.com to find  
specific ways that you can help!

**Mark Your Calendar!**  
**Dancing  
with  
Athens Stars**  
March 2, 2008

*Superheroes  
Starting in Spring*

Did you know that male children who witness domestic violence are 3 times more likely to abuse their partners as adults? And the risk of sexual abuse is 7 times greater for girls whose fathers batter their mothers. Early intervention helps. That's why Project Safe is creating a new support group called Superheroes for children who've witnessed intimate partner violence. Targeting children ages 5-10, the group will meet weekly from February 4 to April 21, 2008. Each meeting will be a high-energy mix of art, music, dance, games and puppetry. The activities are specifically designed to alleviate guilt, improve self esteem, manage emotions and develop skills related to safety, assertiveness and abuse prevention.

The group will be limited to 10 children, and participants will need to commit to attending each session. Screening interviews are already underway, and several children (including a few sibling groups) have already been registered.

In keeping with the theme that each child is a Superhero, members of the Cotton Patch Quilt Guild are creating one-of-a-kind superhero capes for each participant. Other volunteers are needed to assist the facilitators as we will have a 1:1 adult to child ratio for each group. If you're interested in volunteering for Superheroes, or would like information on how to register or make a referral, contact Donna at 706-613-3888 ext. 770 or Laura at 706-549-0922.

## *Santa Comes to Project Safe*

Many thanks go out to the kind people in the community who helped make this year's holiday celebration possible. The outpouring of gifts, food, gift certificates and other donations was fantastic. These extremely generous donations made it possible for Project Safe clients and their children, as well as staff and volunteers, to come together and celebrate in the spirit of the holiday season. We give a special thanks to Athens 1<sup>st</sup> United Methodist Church for the use of their fellowship hall for our festivities, and for all their hard work gathering gifts, preparing food and helping organize the party. We enjoyed a delicious meal and wonderful holiday music. There was lots of room for the children to play and visit with Santa as he made a much anticipated "surprise" visit to the party. The women and children enjoyed a multitude of craft stations such as bead work, making scented lotion, clay and pictures to create gifts for themselves and others this Christmas.

Continued in Column 2 =>

4

However, presents aren't the only benefit of the annual holiday celebration. Rare is the time when victims of domestic violence can come together with so many others who have experienced similar pain and trauma. One client said she never realized there were that many other women who had gone through what she did until she counted so many at the party. She was not alone. Everyone at the party had experienced a similar situation and overcome it. There was no reason for her to be ashamed, for no one there would blame or criticize her for things that had happened in her life. She was in fellowship with others who could understand her pain and frustration, and with her celebrate freedom from abuse.

The holidays are a time to celebrate what we have and to give to others who may not have as much. The Project Safe holiday party epitomizes this spirit of giving and receiving as staff, volunteers and current and former clients came together in an outpouring of love and goodwill.



Santa and Mrs. Claus cuddle up at the Project Safe Christmas Party.



## Donors

### Monetary Contributors October—November 2007

We thank the following for their generous contributions to our work.

1<sup>st</sup> Methodist Church of Athens  
 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church of Athens  
 Ashford Memorial Methodist Church  
 Athens Health Plan Select  
 Central Presbyterian Church, Presbyterian Women  
 Classic City Lions Club  
 Jenny Coleman  
 Georgia Power Foundation  
 Sandra and Cecil Hudson  
 Jackson EMC Foundation  
 Debra and Eric Kinard  
 Heather and Scott Kleiner  
 Pat Kools in memory of Linda Strupp  
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert Longshore  
 Nancy and Ray McNair

## Donors

Continued from Column 1:

Owen Ogletree  
 Helen and Jerry Prittie  
 Joan Prittie  
 Patricia Richards  
 Mary Gayle Rogers  
 Sheila Sanders  
 St. Gobain Corporation  
 Marian Simmons StClair  
 Telecom Pioneers  
 Elizabeth Turner  
 Watkinsville United Methodist Women  
 Whitehead Athens Civitan  
 Glenda York

Project Safe also receives monetary support from the Athens-Clarke County Government, Georgia Department of Human Resources, Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence, United Way of Northeast Georgia and Macy's Fund of Federated Department Stores.



Joan Prittie and Carol Ann Schmitt accept a check from Kenny Beck and Johnny Fowler of the Jackson EMC Board. The \$13,800 is being used for shelter renovations, including the installation of 22 energy efficient windows.

## *Update on Sexual Assault Services*

In just over four months of handling services for the Sexual Assault Center, Project Safe has answered 53 hotline calls from sexual assault survivors seeking support, reassurance and services. We've also provided medical exam accompaniment, counseling, transportation, financial assistance and in-person follow up for many additional survivors in Clarke and surrounding counties.

After the Sexual Assault Center of Northeast Georgia announced its plans to dissolve after 34 years, Project Safe immediately took steps to ensure that services would be available. Our staff have been cross trained in sexual assault, and volunteers have also received extensive training.

The Sexual Assault Center is in the process of reopening, and has recently hired a new Executive Director and three other staff positions. Project Safe will continue to provide hotline, crisis accompaniment, advocacy, support, follow up services, short term individual counseling and emergency financial assistance for adult victims of sexual assault until January 2<sup>nd</sup>, when it is expected that the Center will be fully operational.

Below: Painting created by expressive arts workshop participants. It is on display at the Family Protection Center.

6



Below: Project Safe elves pose with one of our youngest clients.



## Shelter Wish List

Please consider gathering any of the following items for use at our shelter. You may drop them off at the thrift store, or if you have a large load call our Follow-Up Services Coordinator Julie at 706-549-0922 to arrange a pick up.

Conditioner  
Deoderant  
Cleaning Products  
Socks (women's and kids)  
Pajamas  
Bathrobes  
Lotion  
Shampoo  
Laundry Detergent  
Dish Detergent  
Tall Kitchen Garbage Bags  
Ziplock Bags (gallon size)  
Razors  
Tampons  
Maxi Pads  
Buckets  
Sponges  
Aluminum Foil  
African-American Hair Care Products  
Curling/Straightening Irons  
Blow Dryers  
Twin Sheets  
Twin Mattress Covers (no zippers)  
Bleach  
Umbrellas  
Batteries (all sizes)  
Toilet Paper, Paper Towels and Kleenex  
Wal-Mart and Kroger Gift Cards (\$10-25 value)  
Gas Cards (\$15-25 value)

So many individuals and organizations contribute in-kind goods that sadly we are unable to recognize each of them. However special thanks go to **UGA Plant Pathology, Tom and Sharon Stephens** and the great people at **Curves of Oconee** for their HUGE donations of Christmas gifts and wish list items.

Next volunteer orientation will be held

**Saturday, February 23rd**

at

**The Family Protection Center**

Download an application from our website at

**www.project-safe.org**

or

email Volunteer Coordinator Awatif Eljack at

**projectvolunteer@yahoo.com**

*Uzupis Theatre Company  
to Perform in Association  
with Project Safe*

Uzupis Theatre Company describes itself as “an artistic forum for social change.” The non-profit group brings to Athens plays highlighting relevant social issues by new, progressive playwrights. This Spring, Uzupis (pronounced Oo-zshoo-peace) will perform “Boy Gets Girl” by Rebecca Gilman in association with Project Safe. “Boy Gets Girl” is a frightening story of a young, successful woman who is pursued with increasing harassment and terror by a man she meets on a blind date. The show will be held at the Morton Theater in downtown Athens February 27-March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

“Boy Gets Girl” is Uzupis’ second production, having recently performed “Nickel and Dimed” by Joan Holden based on the book by Barbara Ehrenreich in conjunction with Partners for a Prosperous Athens.

Sign up for our mailing list.

Go to:

[www.project-safe.org](http://www.project-safe.org)

**Project Safe**      *Services for Battered Women*  
**P.O. Box 7532**  
**Athens, GA 30604**

Office Phone: 706-549-0922  
FAX: 706-354-6161  
Email: [pjctsafe@bellsouth.net](mailto:pjctsafe@bellsouth.net)

.....  
: **New Website is** :  
: **up and Running!** :  
: [www.project-safe.org](http://www.project-safe.org) :  
.....