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Volume VII, Issue 1

February, 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

This is one those times of the year when I'm busy compiling data and reviewing outcomes, and I want to share some of the highlights of our work in 2006. During the calendar year, we responded to 2184 hotline calls though the only 24 hour hotline service in the Athens community. We sheltered 190 women and children in our 16 bed emergency shelter. Shelter services include all meals, transportation assistance, emergency clothing and personal items, case management, advocacy and court accompaniment, support groups, educational and recreational programs. Over the 12 month period, the shelter operated at 91% capacity. Between July and December, the shelter operated at 97% capacity.

Women leaving emergency shelter have the option to sign up to receive ongoing care, support and emergency financial assistance through our Follow Up Services Program. The services are designed to reduce emotional isolation and economic hardship that many survivors experience on the long road to safety and independence from their abusers. We continued our two-year transitional housing initiative and have helped nine families build new lives by providing housing, childcare, transportation, education, health care and counseling.

We expanded our outreach services by stationing three staff at the Family Protection Center. Project Safe provided 20,886 "non-resident" services such as legal advocacy, individual and group support, and relocation assistance to 444 new women and children who didn't need or want to come into the emergency shelter. In September, staff began reviewing ACC Police reports of domestic violence and reaching out to victims within a few days of the perpetrator's arrest.

We continued our commitment to prevention through 110 community presentations and in-service trainings to other agencies, reaching over 5600 people. Trainings range from classes for elementary school children, workshops for local CASA volunteers to presentations to visiting international judges. Community awareness events include Take Back the Night, the opening of the Family Protection Center and Stop Violence Against Women Day at the Capitol.

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Monetary Donors

November 2006 - January 2007

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

1st Presbyterian Church of Athens
Aetna Foundation
Alpha Chi Omega
Ashford Memorial Methodist Church
Athens Area Health Plan Select
Patricia Bell-Scott
Bell South Pioneers
William Berry
Elizabeth Campbell
John Lewis Campbell
Jenny Coleman
Marie Coleman in honor of her nieces
& nephews
Ben Comerford & Nicole Miller
Claire Connell & Bruce Ott
Covenant Presbyterian Church
Diane Dunston
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Gainesville College Women's Student
Organization
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Becky Lumpkin
Managed Medical Transport
Marie Mason
Lorna Messing
NE GA Bellydancing Community
Terri Pages
Susan & Jim Ponsoldt
Neal & Pat Priest
Princeton United Methodist Church

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

Project Safe is Bargainza Recipient

Project Safe is proud to announce that we will be one of the beneficiaries of Bargainza this year! The Junior League of Athens has sponsored Bargainza for over 16 years, bringing together donations from members, the community, and local merchants to create a thrift sale extravaganza. Project Safe will receive 10% of the net profits this year to support our programs and services. We appreciate the Junior League's continued support of our mission and wish them great success with their event. Please stop by the Classic Center for the Preview Party on April 13th and for a great shopping experience at Bargainza on April 14th.

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Donors
Continued from Column 1:

Young Harris United Methodist Church UMW
Jerry & Helen Prittie
Joan Prittie
John & Lisa Prittie
St. Gobain Corporation
St. Gregory's Episcopal Church
St. James United Methodist Church UMW
Tracey Stice
UGA Libraries Staff Association
Unity of Athens
Wal-Mart
Beverly Webert
Whitehead Athens Civitan Club
Constance Wynn
Joan Yantko
Young Harris United Methodist Church



What a Shower!

Project Safe staff sort through new pajamas and panties donated by Pilot Club of Athens.

From the Director

Continued from Page 1:

Because domestic violence is a crime of repetition and victims encounter harm in so many ways, obtaining safety and justice for victims is a process rather than an act. It is seldom accomplished in a short period of time or following a single intervention. It can be difficult therefore to measure success. A client who is unable to extricate herself from an abusive relationship at one point in time (and thus the intervention “failed”) may become successful in the future thanks to the assistance she previously received. Despite the difficulty, Project Safe is committed to evaluating the efficacy of our services, and we believe we stand out among non profit organizations in our approach to evaluation.

Here are some of the results from this past year.

- 77% of victims seeking temporary protective orders through our legal advocacy program complete the entire process without dismissing the TPO, a testament to the support, and safety planning they receive from PSI legal advocates working with volunteer attorneys.

- 85% of shelter clients achieve their housing goals or relocate to safe new housing, 55% achieve their support goals, and 57% achieve their other goals (i.e. legal, school related).
- 97% of shelter residents feel more protected from their abuser while staying at Project Safe according to exit evaluations.
- 96% of clients in Project Safe’s Follow-Up program continue to live independently from their abuser more than twelve months after leaving the shelter. *In 2001 only 64% of Follow Up Services program clients remained independent from their abuser for that time period.*
- 100% of DV-CPS pilot project clients reported that their lives had improved since working with Project Safe, and that they felt safe and protected while working with PSI.

Joan Prittie

Continued in Column 2=>

Individual and Family Therapy Offered at Project Safe

By Luciana Silva

In October 2005 Project Safe began contracting with McPhaul Family Therapy Clinic to offer residential clients individual psychotherapy and family counseling. This contract, which is now in its second year, provides the shelter three hours of individual or family counseling hours and one hour of group therapy a week. Presently, Luciana Silva and Ruth Neustifter share these weekly four hours at the shelter, with Luciana working with clients interested in individual or family therapy sessions, and Ruth working with all clients in a group therapy setting.

Each week clients have the option of signing up for one hour of individual or family therapy. Individual sessions are usually centered around clients' personal and professional goals, parenting skills, and on personal enrichment. Therapists tend to use a solution-focused approach, which encourages clients to find the solutions to the challenges they face by talking about the strengths and capabilities they bring to each situation. These therapy sessions also involve a major psychoeducational component, which aids residents in acquiring a more in-depth understanding of the trauma they have suffered and how they can overcome it.

Therapists are always willing to accommodate interested clients and their schedules—should a client want to participate in a session but find herself unable to do so during the therapist's scheduled hours, the therapist will attempt to come at a more convenient time for the client. Since Project Safe has been contracting with the McPhaul Family Therapy Clinic, therapists have served the shelter through translation and interpreting services, as well as responding to crisis situations at the shelter.

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2nd Annual Golf Tournament

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The 2nd Annual Project Safe Golf Tournament will take place on April 23rd at Eagle Green at Sandy Creek in Commerce. Our goal is to raise \$10,000 in support of Project Safe's services to battered women and their children. The tournament this year will have an afternoon start with lunch and snacks included. See the team registration form on Page 7 in this newsletter.



Project Safe Thrift Store Announces Furniture Pick Ups

Thanks to an arrangement with Cannon Residential Services, the Project Safe Thrift Store can now schedule pick ups twice a month for those who wish to donate furniture. Call the store at 706-425-8863. The store has also expanded its hours, and is now open Monday-Saturday 9-5.



Individual and Family Therapy
Continued from Column 1:

The partnership between Project Safe and McPhaul has been a fruitful one. Clients have expressed satisfaction with the opportunity to attain therapeutic services in their journey to wellness. Project Safe hopes to continue contracting with McPhaul Family Therapy Clinic for years to come.

Can you Imagine?

Each year, we ask those who participate in our production of The Vagina Monologues to imagine a world where there is no violence against women and how their lives would be different in that world. Here are some of their responses.

“I would feel free to go anywhere I wanted at any time I wanted without feeling resentful of the fact that men can do that now. I wouldn’t preach to my two daughters that they have to be careful of where they go, with whom, all the time, making them afraid and narrowing their world.”

“I wouldn’t be as paranoid about the relationships my daughters and grand-daughters have with men.”

“It’s hard to imagine a world where there is no violence against women, because it is always a part of the decisions I make (where I can walk alone, how late I can walk back to my apartment, etc.). But I do think that it is possible. If violence against women stopped, I could travel wherever I wanted alone, and I could walk back to my apartment without that nervous, stiff stride and my hand clenched around my cell phone. And I could breathe easy knowing that other women could too.”

“I can imagine a world where there is no violence against women. In this world, women would not be afraid to go out late at night by themselves. Women would have confidence in their ability to survive on their own; or to leave a relationship that did not satisfy them emotionally, physically, or mentally. Women would also be able to express all of their thoughts and opinions without fear of being ostracized or rejected. If violence against women stopped, I would no longer be self-conscious of my outfits (i.e. sexiness), nor would I require a male that I knew and trusted to be with me at certain times of the night.”

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Children’s Advocate Laura Wilson and Intern Mendi Sandoz display work from children’s support group at the shelter.

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Can you Imagine?

Continued from Column 1:

“Hard to imagine, but I would like to be able to have the freedom to linger in my car in a parking lot—to balance my checkbook after banking, or to check items of my shopping list and organize my thoughts for the next errand. As it is, I am cautioned not to do this lest I fall prey to someone cruising around looking for unsuspecting women to victimize.”

Many of the women expressed hope of a life for themselves, their friends, and their family free from fear. What do you imagine a world without violence against women to be like? What would change in your life?



Raffle Quilt

The Cotton Patch Quilt Guild has generously donated a beautiful handmade quilt to benefit Project Safe. The quilt is 70"x90" and will be raffled off on June 1, 2007. Raffle tickets are on sale for \$2. Tickets may be ordered by returning the form below and a check to: Project Safe, P.O. Box 7532, Athens, GA 30605. Checks may be made payable to Project Safe. Tickets are also available at the Project Safe Thrift Store. All proceeds benefit Project Safe.

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Name _____

Address _____

City/State _____ ZIP _____

Number of tickets _____ Amount enclosed _____

2nd Annual Project Safe Golf Tournament
Monday April 23rd Eagle Green at Sandy Creek

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3-Person Scramble, Shotgun Start 1:00 pm
Prizes for Long Drive, Accurate Drive, Closest to Hole
Barbecue, Cold Beverages, Gift Bags

Name of Team:

Players

Handicap or Avg. Score

Advance registration \$300/team. \$360/team day of tournament. Checks payable to Project Safe P.O. Box 7532 Athens GA 30604.
(Project Safe is a 501(c)3 organization. \$180/team or \$60/person is tax deductible as a charitable contribution).

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

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: We're on the Web! :
: www.project-safe.org :
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