

**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 2

May, 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*

It feels like we do a great deal to bring attention to Project Safe and the problem of domestic violence, and Athens just isn't that big so sometimes I get thrown by the questions people who haven't heard about us sometimes ask. One of my favorites is, "Being the Director of Project Safe, is that a real job?" (Answer: Feels like one). Another favorite, "Do you work full time?" (Answer: Yes, and then some!). But one of the hardest questions I'm asked is, "So what does Project Safe do?" Ok, so it's not really hard. I have my pat answer about shelter and services for victims of domestic violence. Give me 30 more seconds and I mention crisis intervention, prevention & education, ongoing support and systems change all to reduce and ultimately eliminate domestic violence. What's challenging is trying to answer that question accurately in a short amount of time. When people ask me that, I want to share stories that capture the generosity and caring of our staff and volunteers or show the lengths we'll go to try to help. I want to talk about buying beds for an elderly woman with two grandchildren who'd been refused services by another organization. I want to talk about our Follow-up Services Coordinator taking her weed whacker to a client's trailer and helping her tame her overgrown yard so she wouldn't be evicted. Lately I want to talk about Lucy.

Lucy's person came to the shelter about a year ago. She had no children or close friends or family in the area. The only true companion she had was her dog, Lucy. The Department of Human Resources does not permit domestic violence shelters to house animals, so usually staff will work with vets, rescue agencies or volunteers to find a safe place for pets. In this situation however, the woman really wanted to visit Lucy frequently, something that would be difficult with our regular resources for fostering pets. To accommodate the request for frequent visits, one of Project Safe's staff members took Lucy home with her. That way she could more conveniently bring her to the shelter to see her person. Project Safe provided Lucy's food and flea treatment and took care of all her veterinary expenses. While in shelter, Lucy's person received case management, counseling, support groups, advocacy and assistance with housing and mental health treatment. It took ten months for the woman to move out of the shelter and into a new apartment. Continued on Page 3, Column 1=>

## *In Transition...*

Two families are graduating this year from Project Safe's Transitional Housing Initiative. Both women have jobs, secure new apartments, and savings from their time in the program. Each of them was able to obtain valuable resources during their time in the Transitional Housing Initiative that will support them and their families as they continue to build on their success working with Project Safe. One of our graduates was able to receive a car through a grant from the Allstate Foundation. Our second graduate completed her degree at Athens Technical College while part of the program. We are very proud of all their hard work and accomplishments and wish them well!

The Transitional Housing Initiative began in 2005 as a way to provide qualified former shelter residents intensive long-term support with housing, childcare, education, and limited emergency financial aid. Transitional Housing clients work with Project Safe for two years; building skills that will help them live successful, independent lives. Currently, Project Safe has six units of housing in this program.

Donna Bracewell is Project Safe's Transitional Housing coordinator, and she is looking forward to working with the two new families who are taking the place of our graduates. One client would like to complete her degree at Athens Tech and to build budgeting and parenting skills. Another client has been in the program for about a month, and is still forming her goals. She wants to be able to raise her children on her own, but is not sure what path to take for long-term success. "In my opinion, the THI program is there to help victims who are motivated to become independent, but may be overwhelmed and not sure where to start," says Donna. She is working to help the client design a program to meet her needs during her two-year stay. These clients will be able to take advantage of THI's intensive support services to overcome obstacles they may face such as obtaining childcare, transportation, and counseling services for both themselves and their children.

Continued in Column 2 =>

## *New Manager at Thrift Store 2*

This spring there are some great new developments at the Project Safe Thrift Store. Project Safe is proud to announce that the store is now equipped to accept credit and debit cards as forms of payment. Also, we welcomed a new full-time manager in March, Sabrina Cuadra. With Sabrina as the Thrift Store's full-time manager, Awatif Eljack will now be able to focus her energies on volunteer coordination. We would like to thank Awatif for all her hard work opening the Thrift Store and building it into a successful source of support for Project Safe.

Sabrina is from Miami, Florida and she brings some new ideas to continue the success of the Thrift Store. One of her top priorities is to process all donations the day they arrive at the store, as this will help keep the store more organized. Sabrina is also interested in drawing in more college students by creating a special rack for the funkier clothes. She is also exploring the idea of selling some items online in order to maximize the income available to support Project Safe.

In order for these new ideas to be realized, we will need the help of committed volunteers. If you have a good eye for fabrics and fashion or for creating displays, your help would be greatly appreciated! Volunteers are always needed to help sort donations, stock shelves, and act as cashiers. To learn more about how you can volunteer at the Project Safe Thrift Store, please contact Sabrina at (706) 425-8863 or Awatif at [projectvolunteer@yahoo.com](mailto:projectvolunteer@yahoo.com).

Project Safe is excited about these new developments, and we hope that you will drop by soon to do some shopping and say hello to Sabrina! The Thrift Store is located in the Bell's Shopping Center on the corner of Prince Ave. and Hawthorne Ave. and is open from 9am-5pm, Monday-Saturday. All proceeds support Project Safe.



### **In Transition**

Continued from Column 1:

In order to strengthen the Transitional Housing program and give our new families a fresh start, Project Safe is accepting donations of gently used furniture and household items. Anyone who is interested in donating can bring items labeled "Transitional Housing" to the Project Safe Thrift Store from 9-5, Monday-Saturday. For more information about donations or the transitional housing program, please call Project Safe at (706) 549-0922.

## *Project Safe reaches children through Crossroads*

As part of its work to end domestic violence, Project Safe provides a number of educational programs and trainings throughout the year. One of these is Crossroads, a specially designed curriculum that teaches 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders about anger management and domestic violence. Crossroad emphasizes two guiding principles: that you have a right to be safe from harm, and that you have a responsibility not to harm others.

The Crossroads program explores the guiding principles in three 45-minute lessons. Students participate in a fingerprint exercise to think about how each individual is unique, and talk about individual rights and self-esteem in the first lesson. In the second lesson, students learn healthy ways of expressing anger, and how to identify passive, assertive, and aggressive ways of expressing anger. Domestic violence and safety planning are the subjects of the final Crossroads lesson. This lesson discusses the different types of abuse and students learn specific safety skills such as staying out of a fight, numbers to call for help, and how to find a safe place in their home.

Project Safe has offered the Crossroads program in Madison, Clarke, and Oglethorpe County schools. After the program, 95% of students were able to express one or both of the underlying principles and could identify one or more individuals they could seek out for help if there was violence in their home. Eighty-nine percent also recognized examples of abusive behavior and expressed an understanding of safety planning. These results show that the Crossroads program can be an important resource for providing children with an understanding of domestic violence and ways to stay safe. If you are a school counselor or teacher in the Athens area who would like to schedule a Crossroads program for your school, please call Laura Wilson at 706 549-0922.

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

## *Ride to End Domestic Violence*



3

Project Safe will hold its 1<sup>st</sup> annual Ride to End Domestic Violence sponsored by Vista Care Hospice on Saturday July 28. Cycle World of Athens is hosting the event which will start in the morning and finish with a cook out lunch Cycle World. The route will take riders to Watson Mill Bridge State Park in Oglethorpe County. Registration is \$25 per bike, extra riders are \$10 each. The first 100 registrants will receive a really cool t-shirt designed by Brad Gilleland. To register or receive more information, contact Carol Ann at carolann.schmitt@gmail.com

---

---

### **From the Director**

Continued from Page 1:

During that time she came to believe that Lucy would be better off in a different environment, one with more room to run or perhaps other dogs or children. She asked that Project Safe help Lucy find a new family. Staff and volunteers put the word out, and almost one year to the day she arrived, Lucy moved in with a young couple. Both are graduate students at UGA with another rescue dog for Lucy to romp with. In their latest email they report that Lucy is enjoying trips to the dog park and playing Frisbee and ball with her new sibling.

“So what does Project Safe do?” (Answer: Whatever we can to try to help battered women and children escape the pain and humiliation of abuse and rebuild their lives. It may be shelter. It may be a temporary protective order. It may be pet care and kibble. It may be so unique to the individual calling on us for help that we don’t know what it will be until we decide to try).

*Joan Prittie*



**The Vagina Monologues, 2007  
raised over \$17,000  
for Project Safe services.**

## Monetary Donors February—April 2007

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

1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church  
1<sup>st</sup> United Methodist Church of Athens  
Shayne Abelkop—In Memory of Chelsie Glen  
Kizmet Adams  
Deborah Alderman  
Ashford Memorial Methodist Church  
Athens Academy  
Athens Chapter Order of the Eastern Star  
Cleveland & Margaret Burns  
Amy Carver  
Joyce Carver  
Virginia Carver & Hank Raichle  
Carol Cummings  
Randy Dishaw (*Vagina Monologues Sponsor*)  
Lori Dunsmore  
Earthfare  
Erastus CWF  
Joy Evans  
Marcheta & Brian Forrester  
Franciscan Special Project  
Debbie & David Hatmaker  
Holiday Benevolence Market

## Monetary Donors Continued from Column 1:

Bill Kudon  
George & Cindy Kuhlman  
Mary Long  
Ryan Lubin  
Ronald Makula  
Managed Medical Transport  
(*Vagina Monologues Sponsor*)  
Mt. Hermon Presbyterian Church  
Annette Nelson  
Gary Pederson  
Joan Prittie  
Tom Stephens  
Brady Stubblefield & Michelle Murphy  
Laura Taylor  
UGA Biochemistry Graduate Student  
Organization  
Lisa Jones  
Ruth Walton

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.



The Family Protection Center opened a year ago. Three Project Safe staff members work full time from this wonderful facility.



Board Treasurer, Lori Brooks, works the Registration Table at the Golf Tournament

### *Project Safe Golf Tournament*

Our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Golf Tournament was held Monday April 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Sandy Creek Golf Courses in Commerce, Ga. The team from Pappy's Dry Wall placed first. First American Bank placed second, followed by Mo Wilshire, LJ Arnold, and Thom Morris in third. Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors, Project Safe raised over \$7,600 for battered women and their children.

#### 2007 Golf Tournament Sponsors:

Accounting/Payroll Services Inc.	Pappy's Drywall Inc.
American Spirit	Silver & Archibald LLP
Ameritrans Inc.	Southern Land Exchange LLC
Aruna Biomedical Inc.	James Stice & Family
Athens Mailing Service	Steve & Tracey Stice
Athens Plumbing & Well Supply Inc.	
Cathy & Charles Auslander	
Cannon Residential Services	
cheveux—Fine Salons of Athens	
Clarke County Farm Bureau	
Classic City Brewfest	
Fresh Air Barbecue	
Carol Faulkner-Smith	
Green Acres Baptist Church	
Homes & Land of Athens	
Managed Medical Transport Inc.	
North Georgia Bank—Watkinsville	

Hijacked Beer Cart





Left: Tangelia

Below: Joellen



Mark your Calendar!!!!



*Groovy Nights  
is BACK!*

Friday August 17th, once again the Classic Center will be transformed into an unbelievable trip through the decade that taste forgot. Disco balls and lava lamps, hanging beads and yellow smiley faces, 8-track tapes and *Saturday Night Fever* posters, live and silent auctions, fabulous buffet, and great 70's music you hate to admit you love, will keep you dancing and partying all night.

Tickets are \$50 and will go on sale at the Classic Center on July 1. Mark your calendars, practice your disco moves, find that perfect outfit or accessory and get ready to have a blast!



**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)

.....  
:      **Coming Soon!**      :  
:      Watch for Project Safe's      :  
:      New and Improved Web Site      :  
.....