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Volume VIII, Issue 2

November, 2008

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

In the last three months, Project Safe has maintained 123% occupancy at the emergency shelter and assisted 419 other victims and survivors at our outreach office. It's easy to feel inadequate as we struggle to help more people with fewer resources in these difficult times, but feedback from those we serve lets us know how we're doing. Here's what some of our recent clients had to say...

"Thanks to all. You guys have helped me get the new beginning I have been praying for for three years. I am so grateful. My confidence and security are 100% greater than they were. Just being safe and in a caring environment meant huge leaps for me."

"I feel a tremendous amount of relief...I have at times, become so overwhelmed, especially because I felt so all alone. When Linda [Project Safe staff person] reached out to me, I was ready to say "Enough!"

"Thanks to everyone for supporting my family...to let us know we are not alone. I just want to say I have never felt this strong."

"After meeting you all I can truly say my life has completely changed. It's not 100% safe, but I feel a lot better about the changes we have made. I stopped trusting people for awhile. I thought I was left all alone and had no one to turn to but family. Now I realize you are family too, and I am so grateful. Thank you Project Safe for bringing the world back to my family."

"You all have been so good to me and my family. I do not know how to thank you. You have helped me get on my feet. You have shown me more things to do with my life that I have not known before."

"Thanks to Project Safe, my life has improved and I have options available to me that I never had before. What a wonderful service Project Safe provides for the community. I hope to one day give back what Project Safe and Athens has given me these years. Thank you for saving my life!"

"Thank you for everything you have done for my son and me. I have enjoyed the safety."

We don't expect thanks for the work we do, but it's heartening to read these words from people whose lives we've touched.

Joan Prittie

*People's Choice Winners Selected
Dancing with Athens Stars
Competition Underway*

Dancing with the Athens Stars co-producers Joan Prittie and Pat Priest announced the winners of the People's Choice contest September 10th at Project Safe's outreach offices at the Family Protection Center. Rebecca Cheney and Tammy Gilland both earned spots in the lineup for "Dancing 2" March 1, 2009 at the Classic Center. Dylan Brooks, Charlotte House and Laurie Jones--in a virtual tie for 3rd place--were all invited to dance in "Dancing 3" scheduled for March 7, 2010. A crowd of about 65 gathered to hear the results of the contest which garnered \$25,000- in just seven weeks of voting.

Here's the lineup of stars and their instructors for the 2009 show:

Branch Manager of El Banco de la Oportunidad

Fausto Sarmiento and **Kathy Cole** of Dancer's Studio.

WUGA News Director **Mary Kay Mitchell** and **Michael Moody**, Private Instructor and owner of Broad River Outpost.

UGA Law School Associate Dean **Paul Kurtz** and **Natalie Grier Cox** of Dancespace, Artistic Director of UGA Ballroom Performance and Attorney with Strickland, Chestnut and Lindsey.

Legendary Music Producer, Author and Owner of John Keane Studios, **John Keane** and **Genie Wiggins** of Oconee Youth School of Performance and Artistic Director of KinetiCorps Performance Collective.

St. Mary's Hospital Nurse **Theresa Dorsey** and **Aaron Talbert** of Dancespace.

Classic Center Executive Director **Paul Cramer** and **Barb Putman** of Freedom of Movement.

Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeon **Jim Moore** and **Cheryl Gerde**, Private Instructor and School Teacher in Carnesville.

Tennis Pro/Director Tennis for Life **Stacey Venker** and **Angelo Kalevela** of Freedom of Movement and UGA Student.

Continued in Column 2 =>



*Groovy Nights '09
Scheduled for August 28*

. It's never too soon to practice your disco moves, find that perfect outfit or accessory and get ready to have a blast!



Aaron Talbert and Natalie Grier-Cox of Dancespace perform their exhibition dance to "Ring my Bell" at Groovy Nights last August.

Dancing with the Athens Stars

Continued from Column 1:

UGA Graduate Student **Rebecca Cheney** and **Erik Hofmeister**, faculty Advisor to UGA Swing Club and Vet School Professor.

Labor Commissioner **Michael Thurmond** and daughter (and UGA Student) **Mikaya Thurmond**, instructed by **Tre McClendon** of McClendon Studios of Stone Mountain.

Athens/Clarke County Police Sergeant **Courtney Gale** and **Ron Putman** of Freedom of Movement.

Senior Director of Constituent Programs at UGA Office of Development **Tammy Gilland** and **Derrek Walters** of the Derrek Walters Studio.

Online voting opens December 1. Go to: www.project-safe.org and click on the Dancing with Athens Stars button to vote for your favorite couple.

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

Groovy Nights '08 Great Success!

Tonya Dugas, Rakhi Dalal, Megan Haley, Crysty Odom, Betsy Harter and Joan Prittie introduced some new features with retro flair into this year's August Groovy Nights. Cool additions included a disco lesson with Dancing with the Athens Stars instructors Natalie Greer Cox and Aaron Talbert, expanded dinner buffet with 70's favorites like fondue as well as 70's drink specials, a groovy lounge area, fabulous lights and sound, and extra large dance floor. Thanks to our sponsors and auction donors, who are named on our contributors list.

Research Project on Experiences Across Relationships

My name is Ruth Neustifter, and I am a doctoral student at The University of Georgia. It has been an honor for me to work with survivors of domestic violence and their partners for over seven years, including through Project Safe. I also do research in this area. I am interested in committed, enjoyable and mutually beneficial relationships in which at least one member has survived domestic violence in a *different* relationship. My research project explores positive things about these couples, and how they create and maintain their relationships. This study involves brief questionnaires, followed by interviews with a member who has survived prior domestic violence. If you would like to learn more about this study, or to find out if you qualify to participate, leave a message for me at (706) 254-6794 with your name and phone number. You may also visit www.survivorcouples.com for more information. Please pass this information on to anyone you know who may be interested in participating!



Advocate of the Year Honorees from left to right: Greg and Rebecca Bleakley, Ellen Garrison, Tangelia Beard, Glenda York, and Cpl. Matilda Wooden

November 6th Marks Beginning of Madison County Support Group

Survivors of domestic violence in Clarke County have had ready access to support groups for many years, but women living in other counties have had more difficulty attending Project Safe's support groups. In determining where to locate a new support group, we looked at the demand for services in various outlying counties. This past year in particular, has seen tremendous growth in clients from Madison County. Last year Project Safe worked with 56 outreach clients in Madison County (outreach clients are those who need our assistance, but do not need to come into the emergency shelter). In the first half of this year Project Safe has worked with 128 outreach clients from Madison County.

The Madison County Community Support Group meets the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month thanks to a church in Ila which has generously donated space. Other area churches are providing dinner for the women and children to enjoy prior to the start of group. Dinner begins at 6:00 and group is held from 6:30—8:00. For more information about the group, directions, or if you or your organization would like to provide dinner sometime call Stacy at 706-613-3888 ext.771.

Kids Enjoy Washington Farms

Remember the show, "It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown"? Linus misses trick or treating to wait all night in the pumpkin patch. Thanks to Washington Farms and weekend advocate Holly Thornton, moms and kids at the shelter got to experience a real pumpkin patch. John Washington kindly donated passes to Project Safe, enabling Holly and the residents to participate in all the farm activities, from a hayride to the corn maze to the petting zoo. Most of the kids had never been on a farm or seen where pumpkins come from, and they didn't want to leave—even for lunch. It wasn't the Great Pumpkin, but it was pretty great!



Donors May–October 2008

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

- 237 Prince Woodfire Grille
- Michael Alewine & Jerry Braun
- Cecil Allee*
- Amber Dreams*
- Margaret Andrade
- Sandy & Chuck Applebaum
- Aromas*
- Ashford Manor Bed & Breakfast*
- Ashford Memorial Methodist Church
- Athens First Bank & Trust+
- Athens-Oconee Junior Women’s Club
- Athens Pet Sitter*
- Athens Regional Medical Center+
- Aurum Studios*
- Kevin Bailey*
- Sallyanne Barrow
- John Barton
- Mary Ann Beard
- Eileen Becker
- Bethany Belanger
- Katie Bemisdorfer
- Ruth Bettindor
- Jill & Doug Birch*

Continued in Column 2 =>

Donors

Continued from Column 1:

- Bill Bradford
- Brewtopia Events*
- bob Salon*
- Richard Buice
- Stacy Campbell
- Cannon Residential Services*
- Judy Capie
- Center Stage Catering*
- Central Presbyterian Church Presby-
terian Women
- James Cheney
- Bernice Cheney
- C.R. & Amy Chisholm
- Ciné*
- Clarke County Farm Bureau+
- Classic City Orthodontics+
- Classic City Pilot Club
- Kasey Clayton
- Clifford Howell Foundation
- Pam Clough
- Jenny Coleman
- Georgia Collier
- Megan Conaway
- Sara Cooney
- Covenant Presbyterian Church
- John Culpepper

Continued on Page 5, Column 1=>



Party goes dance at Groovy Nights '08

Donors Continued from Page 4

Customink in honor of Jessica Berry
 Daily Groceries Co-op
 Liz Dalton
 Pat Daugherty*
 Paige Davenport
 Damon Denton*
 Ray Dove
 D'Ree & Co. *
 DePalma's *
 Tonya Dugas*
 East West Bistro*
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 Ron Ellington
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 EZ IT Solutions*
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 ian Women
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 Georgia Music Hall of Fame*
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 Kat Gilmore
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 Tom Greene*
 Leslie Hardigree in honor of Anna
 Grace
 Jennifer Healen

Continued in Column 2 =>

Donors
Continued from Column 1:

Healthy Gourmet *
 Janet Hemner
 Judy Herrin
 William House
 DT Jackson
 Cat Jennings
 Jittery Joe's *
 James Johnston
 Laurie Jones
 Kelly Jones
 Steve Jones
 Jones Chapel United Methodist
 Church
 Elizabeth Kelley
 Kimberly Kelly
 Maung Myint Khaing
 Debra & Eric Kinard
 (k)larity Group
 Doug Kleiber
 Catherine Kleiner
 Heather & Scott Kleiner
 Mary Koenigshof
 George & Cindy Kuhlman
 L.E. Fance Alterations
 Last Resort*
 Law Offices of John Lyndon+
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 Let's Get It Straight*
 Ed Levine*
 Allison Lewsin
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 Loewen
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 Mama's Boy*
 Paul & June Martin+
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 Judith Maynor
 Jennifer McDowell
 Alice McMaster
 Merrill Lynch ARH Group+
 Susan Middlebrooks
 Mrs. Ronald Moody
 Julie Moon*
 Legene Mullis
 The National*

Continued in Column 3=>

Donors

Continued from Column 2:

5

Native American Gallery*
 Jim & Dorothy Newland
 Mary O'Donnell in honor of Dianne
 Wall
 Michele Overend
 Owen Ogletree
 Pain & Wonder*
 Elizabeth Pee
 People's Bank
 Martha Phillips*
 Linda Pinholster
 Evelyn Power
 Helen & Jerry Prittie
 Joan Prittie
 Terri Ray*
 Jeremy Reaves
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 REM+
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 Nancy Riley
 Mary Gayle Rogers
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 Kisha Shelton
 Shiraz*
 Shirtworks*
 Silver & Archibald+
 Sit Happens*
 W.H. Slack
 Mrs. James Souter
 Megan & Brad Sperr
 Joellen Steffan*
 Diane Stow
 Sun Trust Bank in honor of Martha Hatton
 Anne Sweaney
 Julie Tashlein
 Tennis for Life*
 Timothy Road Elementary School
 Chuck Toney
 TSAV+
 Tuckston Methodist Senior Citizens
 Bobby Tyler*
 UGA Athletic Association*
 UGA Gymnastics*
 UGA Sigma Alpha Sorority
 Urban Sanctuary Day Spa

Continued on Page 6, Column 2=>

Annual Breakfast and Advocate of the Year Recognition

The Domestic Violence Task Force of Athens-Clarke and Oconee Counties held its annual breakfast with elected officials on October 30th at the Athens Community Council on Aging. The highlight of the event was recognition of Advocates of the Year in four categories: Volunteer, Business, Officer of the Year, Above & Beyond and Church. We celebrate and thank this year's honorees:

Volunteer

Ellen Garrison. Ellen was recognized for her work at Project Safe's thrift store. A faithful volunteer, she has helped the store become a resource for Project Safe clients and a source of income for Project Safe since it opened in 2005.

Glenda York. Initially an intern pursuing her Masters in Counseling, Glenda has since donated up to 40 hours a week providing individual counseling, support group facilitation and shelter coverage.

Business

South Athens Animal Hospital and Four Seasons Pet Resort. Both these businesses were honored for their flexibility, patience and generosity in providing veterinary care and boarding facilities for the pets of domestic violence victims.

Sgt. Sean Potter Officer of the Year

Matilda Wooden. Corporal Wooden is an invaluable resource at the Athens-Clarke County Courthouse, often assisting the Solicitor General's office with translation and always keeping an eye out for the safety of domestic violence victims.

Above & Beyond

Tangela Beard. Tangela received well deserved praise for going well out of her way to accommodate the needs of victims and survivors in her role as Legal & Community Advocate at Project Safe.

Church

Milledge Avenue Baptist Church. The church plays host to Superheroes, the weekly group for child witnesses of intimate partner violence.

Avon Foundation Awards Grant 6

Project Safe received a \$13,700 grant from the Avon Foundation to continue the Superheroes support group for child witnesses of intimate partner violence. The grant, part of Avon's "Not Seen, Not Heard, Helping Children of Domestic Violence" will enable Project Safe to offer Superheroes three times between now and next September.

Studies suggest that up to 10 million children witness some form of domestic violence annually, and research indicates that those who witness or experience domestic violence are more likely to be victims or perpetrators in adulthood. Superheroes works to end the generational cycle of abuse by giving children a chance to share their experiences, articulate their fears and feelings, and learn appropriate ways to express anger.

Donors

Continued from Page 5, Column 3:

Joelle Walls
Robin Weinrich*
Margaret Wesley
Widespread Panic*
Wild Adventures*
Vicki Williams*
Denise Wilson
World of Coca Cola*
Wow! Bootcamp*
Glenda York*
Eleanor Zimmerman
Zingo*

*Groovy Nights Auction Donor

+Groovy Nights Sponsor

Applebee's to Donate 15% of Proceeds December 9th

Clip and save the **Dining to Donate** invitations found on the last page in this newsletter and make plans to eat at Applebee's between 11:00am and 9:00pm Tuesday, December 9th. Simply present the invitation to your server, and Applebees will donate 15% of your pretax food and beverage total to Project Safe.



DINING TO DONATE

“The 5 seeds to success: fun, food, friends, family...FUNDRAISING!”

Project Safe would like to cordially invite you to participate in

*Dining to Donate, a fundraising event sponsored by Applebee's, to be held on **Tuesday, December 9, 2008, from 11am-9pm** located at 2226 West Broad Street, Athens, GA 30601.*

This event will help to provide money for client assistance and programs for battered women and children; and with your dining contribution, together we can reach our goals! Please contact Joan Prittie at 706-549-0922 ext. 21 or visit www.project-safe.org for questions concerning this event.

On behalf of Project Safe and Applebee's, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support.

Please present this invitation to your server prior to service. One invitation per guest check required. Listed organization will receive a company check by mail within 2-3 weeks of event date for 15% of food and beverage sales generated from invitation holders on above said date only. Excludes tax and gratuity. Under no circumstances is the invitation allowed to be distributed to guests in or around business premises during Dining to Donate event date. If such an event occurs, none of the sales proceeds will be donated to the organization.



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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

.....
: **New Website is** :
: **up and Running!** :
: www.project-safe.org :
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