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Volume VII, Issue 3

October, 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

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706-543-3331
Project Safe
Hotline

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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

Flipping through channels the other night, I caught the end of a documentary about a neighborhood bar/restaurant closing down after decades in business. It had served as a de facto community center for many folks in the area, sponsoring sports teams and tournaments, and the people interviewed seemed genuinely saddened and even angry by the closing. Yet the owner said she was forced to close because business had just been too slow for too long. Apparently people had positive feelings about the place, but had sort of forgotten about it, and just didn't support it anymore.

If the closing of a restaurant affects people, imagine the closing of a community based charity. Early this summer, the Sexual Assault Center of Northeast Georgia announced plans to dissolve after 34 years, citing both financial and operational problems. Since July 26th Project Safe has handled hotline and adult services for the Center. We've provided support, reassurance, medical exam accompaniment, counseling, transportation, financial assistance and in person follow-up for sexual assault survivors in Clarke and surrounding counties. Other organizations have been providing services for children.

A new board is in place, and the Sexual Assault Center is in the process of hiring staff and plans to reopen soon. Project Safe will continue to provide services until the Center is operational. Thankfully the community responded to the Center's crisis, and it looks like it will be saved.

The Sexual Assault Center isn't the only local non-profit to nearly collapse despite a long history of service. Back in late 2005, the Athens Area Homeless Shelter announced that without an influx of financial support from the community, it would have to scale back or even possibly shut the doors of its facility. The community responded and the shelter was saved. I came to Project Safe in December of 1999, but many folks don't know or remember that the shelter had been forced to close for three months in the early spring of that year. Thankfully, the community responded and the shelter was saved.

Continued on Page 3, Column 2=>

September 2007, By the Numbers

2

(Just some interesting facts and figures.)

0—Average Income of Women Entering Emergency Shelter This Month

\$22/Hour—Income of Woman Exiting Our Transitional Housing Program This Month

98%—Occupancy at Emergency Shelter During September

55—Women and Children Referred to Other Places This Month Because Our Shelter Was Full

30—Average Number of Minutes Advocate Spends to Find Another Place for Someone to Stay

\$4089.77—Emergency Financial Assistance for Rent, Lock Changes, Childcare, Car Repair and Motel Stays During September

25—Clients Sheltered in September

3—Dogs Boarded in September

49—Average Number of Days Each Person Sheltered During September Has Stayed at the Shelter

98—Average Number of Days Each Dog Boarded During September Has Stayed in Boarding Facility/Home

11—Sexual Assault Outreach (Non-Sheltered) Clients Receiving Project Safe Services at the Family Protection Center in September

124—Domestic Violence Outreach (Non-Sheltered) Clients Receiving Project Safe Services at the Family Protection Center in September

28—Average Number of Outreach Clients Served Each Month Before the Family Protection Center Opened

20—Sexual Assault Crisis Calls Answered in September

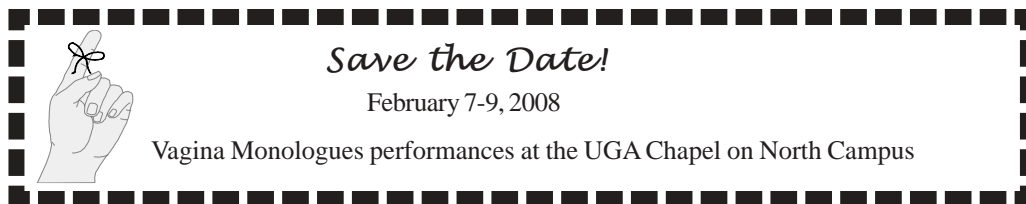
110—Domestic Violence Crisis Calls Answered in September

67—Number of Minutes of Telephonic Interpretation Service for Non-English Speaking Hotline Callers

\$1.69—Cost Per Minute for Translation

54—Minutes of Collect Calls on Hotline

\$1.51—Average Cost Per Minute for Collect Calls



Dancing with Athens Stars Competition Underway!

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The Competition is really heating up in the 1st Annual Dancing With Athens Stars to benefit Project Safe. Ten notable Athenians have been paired with instructors from local dance studios who are donating individual lessons to prepare for the show on **March 2nd**. Contestants will be judged by a panel of experts, and one of a kind trophies will be given for the best dance performance as well as audience favorite.

Project Safe thanks our brave contestants and the even braver instructors who have to teach them to dance! Thanks also to volunteers Pat Priest and Ambrey Mize for their leadership in organizing this event. Check our website www.project-safe.org in the coming months for more details.

Here's the lineup

1. Chuck Horton, Oconee County Commissioner and Former UGA Police Chief
Kathy Coles of Dancer's Studio
2. Dexter Weaver of Weaver D's
Kris Salinas of Dancer's Studio
3. Doc Eldridge, Former Mayor and Chair of the Athens Chamber of Commerce
Molly Myagui of BailaRueda
4. K. Paige Carmichael, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs UGA Vet School
Gonzalo Myagui of BailaRueda
5. Elizabeth Dalton, Consultant and Talk Show Host on WGAU
Ron Putman of Freedom of Movement
6. Bill Overend, Attorney at McArthur and McArthur
Barbara Putman of Freedom of Movement

Continued on Column 2=>

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

Mark Your Calendar!

**Vagina Monologues Auditions
Sunday and Monday, Novem-
ber 25-26, 2007**

Dance Competition

Continued from Column 1:

7. Wilma, Singer/songwriter, Herbalist, and
Massage Therapist
Aaron Talbert of DanceFX
8. Dr. Kip Hix, Emergency Medicine Physician at
St. Mary's Hospital
Natalie Cox of DanceFX
9. Pete McCommons, Editor, Flagpole
Tiffany Williams of the UGA Ballroom
Performance Group
10. Jason Winders, Editor, Athens Banner-Herald
Tamara Tyre of the UGA Ballroom
Performance Group

From the Director

Continued from Page 1:

It's wonderful how Athens rallies around organizations in crisis, and usually finds a way to help them pull through. But it would be even better if everyone could find it in themselves to support non profits on a regular basis—helping to avoid crisis in the first place. The commitment of volunteers and donors has helped Project Safe remain stable and growing for the last eight and a half years. I hope that these folks and the rest of the community will remember us and the work that we're doing in the years to come. Let's join together to make sure that the only we time shut our doors is when there's no longer a need for Project Safe to exist.

Joan Prittie



The Clothesline Project

The Clothesline Project is comprised of hundreds of T-shirts decorated by survivors of domestic violence. The Project is currently on display in several locations around Athens. Check out our website: www.project-safe.org for details.

The Clothesline Project started with 31 t-shirts displayed in Hyannis Massachusetts; women finally airing out in public the dirty laundry of domestic violence. The Athens Clothesline has about 150 shirts, and continues to grow as survivors decorate or design new shirts to express their personal experiences with abuse. Project Safe began displaying portions of the Clothesline at several locations in and around Athens starting in October.

Scheduled locations are as follows:

Jittery Joe's on Barnett Shoals Rd. October 1—November 1

Oglethorpe County Library October 3—

Silent Demonstration at UGA's Tate Center—October 11

Conference on Women & Girls at UGA Center for Continuing Education—October 12-14

Madison County Department of Family & Children Services October 15-29

Oglethorpe County Department of Family & Children Services October 17-31

Tentative locations include Madison County Library November 4—18, Starbucks Coffee on Atlanta Highway (across from the Mall) November 11-25 and Athens-Clarke County Library in December.

Check back for more dates. If you're interested in displaying the Clothesline at your school, work or church, email sayers@uga.edu.

Donors

Contributors April—September 2007

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

1st American Bank & Trust*
1st Christian Church
1st Presbyterian Church
42 Degrees **
AI Insurance
Alps Nutrition Center
Amanda Whitsel**
Amber Dreams**
Ambrey Mize**
Anonymous
Arbor Salon & Spa**
Ashford Manor Bed & Breakfast*
Ashford Memorial Methodist Church
Athens 1st Bank & Trust**
Athens Regional Medical Center*
Athens Roller Derby
Aurum Studio**
Barberitos**
Barry Katz
Beverly Babb**
Bischoero**
Blue Laser Group*
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Buffaloes**
Cannon Residential Services**
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Centerstage Catering**
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Classic Center**
Cleveland & Margaret Burns
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Covenant Presbyterian Church
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DRee & Company**
Earthfare**
East West Bistro**
Ellen Garrison
Emily Carr
ezITsolutions**
Farm 255**
Five & Ten**
Five Star Day of Athens

Donors

Continued from Column 1:

Foster's Jewelry**
Foundry Park Inn**
Four Seasons Pet Resort**
Gail Cowie
Georgia Power*
Good Dirt**
Gretchen Fennell Evans**
Helen & Jerry Prittie
Homes & Land of Athens*
Jane Scott**
Jenny Coleman
Jewels by Annette**
Jill & Doug Birch**
Jittery Joe's**
Joan Prittie
Junior League of Athens*
Judi & Chuck O'Kelley
Kaleidoscope**
La Dolce Vita**
Lambda Nu
Last Resort**
Last Resort Grill**
Lee Epting Catering**
Legene Mullis
Let's Get it Straight**
Longhorn Steakhouse**
Mama's Boy **
Managed Medical Transport*
Margo**
Martin Management*
Michael Shetterly**
Mitchell Bridge Dental Associates
Moe's Southwest Grill**
Nancy Turnbull
Native America Gallery**
Neal & Pat Priest**
Newland Family Foundation
Omni Club**
Owen Ogletree**
Pat Kools
Patricia Trumbull
Paul & Carol Kurtz
Peggy Holcomb**
Positive Outcomes
Presbyterian Women of 1st
Presbyterian Church
Rage Hair Studio**
Rajiv & Vanda Setia

REM*
Road Atlanta**
Robin Weinrich**
Rocket Salon**
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Sean Arrington**
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Shiraz**
Shirtworks**
Sicum Dog Signatures**
Silver & Archibald*
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Effie's Club Follies
St. Gobain Coroporation
St. Gregory's Episcopal Church
St. Mary's Healthcare System*
St. Mary's Wellness Center**
Sudz Laundry**
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Susannah Flanigan**
Sylvia Hutchinson
Ted Maznicki
Telecom Pioneers
Tennis for Life**
Tess Loewen
Thrasher Photography**
TNT Electric
Trust Services
Urban Sanctuary**
Velvet Touch Painting**
Wellpoint
Wild Wing**
Wolf Ridge Ski**

* Groovy Nights Sponsors

**Groovy Nights Auction

Donor

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.

Annual Breakfast and Advocate of the Year Recognition

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The Domestic Violence Task Force of Athens-Clarke and Oconee Counties held its annual breakfast with elected officials on October 11th at the Athens Community Council on Aging. The highlight of the event was recognition of Advocates of the Year in five categories: Volunteer, Business, Trailblazer, Officer of the Year, Above & Beyond and Church. We celebrate and thank this year's honorees:

Volunteer

Kim Halastra. Kim 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.

Business

Athens Regional Medical Center. ARMC was honored for its work with clients of UGA's Family Violence Clinic.

Mitchell Bridge Road Dental Associates. Dr. Whitney Swann and Dr. Melody Higginbotham were honored for their donations of dental work to multiple Project Safe clients.

Trailblazer

Ruthie Neustifter. Ruthie's innovative doctoral research is on survivors of domestic violence who have moved on and created healthy relationships. She also leads workshops and support groups as a volunteer with Project Safe.

Sgt. Sean Potter Officer of the Year

Jonathan McIlvine. Officer McIlvine was honored for his handling of domestic violence cases at the Athens-Clarke County Police Department.

Above & Beyond

Donna Thomsen. Donna received well deserved praise for taking on the coordination of sexual assault services while still fulfilling the responsibilities as Women & Children's Advocate at Project Safe.

Church

Green Acres Baptist Men's Sunday School. Every Sunday for the last fourteen years each member of this class contributes a dollar to Project Safe. The funds are used for shelter, transitional housing and follow up services clients.



Three of the Advocates of the Year: Left to Right: Donna Thomsen, Ben Neustifter and Norman McGlohon.

Shelter Renovations Continue

The Newland Family Foundation awarded Project Safe an \$8,000 grant to remodel two resident kitchens at the emergency shelter. Thanks to the Newland's generosity, the 1980's-era kitchens will be upgraded with new cabinetry, counters and dishwashers. We expect to complete the work by the end of the year.

The kitchen remodeling is part of a larger shelter renovations project begun last year. Funding from Home Depot supplied new carpeting, while exterior painting, gutters, a remodeled handicap accessible bathroom and new furniture came about through a TANF grant in June. Thanks to a Community Development Block Grant from the Athens-Clarke County government, the shelter will enjoy a new security system this year.

We continue to owe a great debt to Cannon Residential Services who graciously donates the labor for shelter repairs and improvements. Alan Cannon's generosity allows us to stretch grant dollars to their limit.



Support Group on Thursday Nights Offers Dinner

It really is the simple things that make a difference. For decades, Project Safe has held support groups in the community, but only recently did we begin to offer dinner. Many of the women attending the community support groups work during the day and struggle to pick their children up from daycare, get home to cook dinner, and then rush to get to group. Project Safe staff at the Family Protection Center determined that offering a simple meal was the missing element needed to help survivors of domestic violence get the most benefit possible from their time in support group.

The first "simple" meal offered was actually a lovely dinner brought over to the Family Protection Center piping hot and ready to be eaten by grateful clients and their children. Sandy and Chuck Applebaum graciously donated a pan of lasagna large enough to feed 10-12 people; in addition to the main dish, Sandy and Chuck provided two loaves of crusty garlic bread, homemade chocolate cupcakes, sodas, napkins, plastic flatware, and plates. Sandy shrugged off the thanks offered to her and explained that she was happy to help out and that her "cup runneth over."

Several organizations and individuals have committed to providing dinner for the twice-monthly group, but we're still seeking others to ensure that we always have a meal prepared. If you or your church or civic group would like to give back to the community in a tangible way, think about donating a meal once in awhile and giving others the simple pleasure of food and fellowship. For details, call Stacy Sampson at (706) 613-3888 x 771.

Groovy nights was a gigantic success, raising \$30,000 for Project Safe. Executive Director, Joan Prittie, poses with Chewbacca at Groovy Nights.

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