



January 2014
Winter Issue

Alliance Advocate



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Gifts of Hope

Sharing the Spirit of Giving

The outpouring of our community support has been overwhelming in providing holiday gifts for victims of domestic abuse and their children. The conference rooms at The Alliance transform into Santa's toyshop as the donated toys, quilts and other goodies are set out. Young people from a few area schools are Elves that are part of our Santa's workshop that help us sort and organize. The whole atmosphere becomes cheerful and yet has a special spirit about it. It is the spirit of giving that fills the air with *cheer* and *gratefulness* that our community cares so much about the victims we serve. The toys are nicely displayed so that Mom can "shop" for just the right gift for her children. Each child receives one large, medium and small gift. This year we were able to serve 42 women and their 102 children. Because of your generosity, the holidays were a little brighter and merrier for these families. We would like to share with you some comments of appreciation from the victims we have served.

"I had been preparing my children that there would be no Christmas this year. Thank you for giving us an awesome Christmas to remember."

"I am absolutely overwhelmed by your generosity. Tell everyone who donated these items how grateful I am."

"Fabulous — best support I have experienced — even better than family!"

"My son needed a new winter jacket, and you had one for him!"

"All of this is for my kids? Toys, books, pajamas a quilt and some food too? Our holiday is going to be wonderful. Bless you!"

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for reaching out and sharing the joy with those in need!

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- Anna Hoy

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- Barbara Reierson
- Tonia Siehndel

CONTRIBUTIONS

On behalf of the hundreds of women and children who reach out to The Alliance for assistance, we thank the following for their contributions. Your donation, grant, special event or in-kind gift is changing lives. (Gifts recorded September 13, 2013 through December 31, 2013)

Individuals

- Buesgens, Carol
- Carlson, Erin
- Case, Donna
- Clausen, Chris
- Dirks, Marge
- Drentlaw, Anita
- Fehr, Donald
- Gerjets, Travis
- Green, Laurie
- Green, Linda
- Grimm, Marvin and Evelyn
- Grimm, Roger and Joan
- Hallgren, Roger
- Hartmann, Judy
- Hauger, Barbara
- Kaaua, Judy
- Malkerson Family
- Merrill, William and Kathleen
- Monson, Abby
- Odell, Steve
- Raetz, Amy
- Rogers, Melinda
- Schleicher, Donald and Judi
- Schmitt, Peter and Barb
- Schmokol, William and Eileen
- Simon, Heidi
- Stevens, Robert/Community Bank Corp.
- Swendseid, Solveig
- Tieben, Barbara
- Vinkencier, Leon and Sara
- Vogel, Laura
- Wilhoit, John
- Wolf, Michele

Government/Businesses Foundations

- Advanced Auto Parts
- Allina Health System
- Ameriprise
- Bakken Family WRC Foundation
- Carver County
- Creative Print Solutions, Inc.
- Greater Twin Cities United Way
- Give with Liberty
- Kopp Family Foundation
- Redwing Publishing Company
- Ridgeview Medical Center
- Scott County
- Shelter Alliance
- State of Minnesota (OJP)
- Thrivent Financial for Lutherans
- Wells Fargo Community Support

Give to the Max Day

- Deutsch, Kimberly
- Eggers, Etienne
- Gosewisch, Bill
- Miller, Tamera
- Shackelton, Brandie
- Siehndel, Tonia
- Stolz, Jen
- Wiebe, Sylvia
- Wright, Mary

Churches/Schools

- Church of Peace ~ Women's Guild
- Moravian Church of Lake Auburn
- Shepherd of the Lake Lutheran Church

In Kind

- Belle Plaine ECFE
- Bott, Richard and Lynn
- Bowler, Gayle
- Brown, Eric and Lyla
- Broz, Phyllis
- Carlson, Connie
- Carver County Courthouse
- Carver-Scott Cooperative ~ New Beginnings
- Curves ~ Prior Lake
- Edina Realty ~ Prior Lake/Savage Office
- Fox, Dick and Peggy
- Granssee, Earl
- Hynes, Liz
- Helmer, Laura
- Jasan, Char
- Jordaness Lions
- Ketcher, Julie
- Kohlhardt, Debi
- League of Women Voters ~ ECC
- Living Christ Lutheran Church
- Lyon, Amy
- Mahnke, Judi
- Memory and Milestones
- MN Chapter PJ Program
- MVEC
- Nash, Jane
- Pelzl, Linda
- Petersmeyer, Pam
- Raddatz, Janice
- Raplinger, Marilyn
- River Valley YMCA
- Renneke, Klye
- Revak, Marilyn
- Shoger, Meridy
- Sicheneder, Lorraine
- Smith, Stephanie
- Spring Lake Area Learning Center
- St. Francis Regional Medical Center
~ Special Care Unit
- St. Gertrude
- St. John Lutheran Church ~ Belle Plaine
- St. Michael Church ~ Prior Lake
- Such, Julie
- Stepping Stones Ministries
- Super Target-Chaska
- Tousley, Renee
- Valentin, Tim
- Wagner, Nita
- Wal-Mart-Shakopee
- Weckman, Sara
- Weise, Casy
- Welch, Julie
- Wolf, Susie

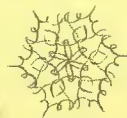
Community Organizations

- Belle Plaine 4-H
- Girl Scout Troop 25516
- Prior Lake Area Chamber of Commerce
- Prior Lake Optimists
- Shakopee Jaycees
- VFW Auxiliary ~ Waconia
- Family of Christ Lutheran Church

Maxine Kruschke Fund

- Dohrer, Sharon
- In honor of Pearl Olson
- Erickson, Robert
- In memory of Ruth Marie Viereck
- Schwartz, LeRoy and Pat
- In memory of Barbara Anderson
- In memory of Lela Skelly
- In memory of Mary Jane Harsh
- In memory of Patricia Glisczinski

The Winter of Life



For the older woman living in an abusive relationship, her stage in life can be described as a season; she is in the winter of her life. Winter also describes the bleak, harsh and cold reality of her living situation. In our society where youth and beauty are highly prized, the older woman may be forgotten and pushed aside. She was raised to believe that family business is a private matter. She has internalized generational values. To the older woman, there is a commitment of marriage and duty not often found in younger generations. Her reality may also have financial aspects. Some older women are financially insecure and are concerned about the potential power of the abuser to tie up their assets. Others have no formal education or have been employed in lower paying positions or are unable to find gainful employment. She may not be eligible for social security for her years of working at home nor be eligible for public benefits due to an appearance of resources. Perhaps she may be facing some health concerns or limitations, which further impacts her decision to stay in the relationship and choose between a “worse or worst” situation. The dynamics she faces are very different from the younger woman, and therefore, the reality is that most women over 50 are the most reluctant group to reach out for assistance.

The staff and volunteers at The Alliance are trained to understand the nuances particular to the older victim. When an older woman reaches out to us, we are equipped to offer resources and support her in her choices. We are aware that her journey follows a different road. We will travel that road with her for as long and as far as she wishes with our support and compassionate listening ear. We encourage her, in the winter of her life, that indeed spring is just around the corner.



6TH ANNUAL

EDINA REALTY FOUNDATION SPAGHETTI DINNER & DANCE FUNDRAISER

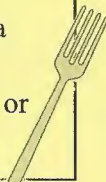
~A portion of the proceeds go to
*Southern Valley Alliance for
Battered Women*

- Saturday, February 1, 2014
- Prior Lake VFW-16306 Main Ave
- Tickets \$10
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Hello everyone!

I'd like to introduce myself; I am Anna Hoy, the newest addition to the staff at Southern Valley Alliance. I live in New Prague with my family; my husband and three wonderfully busy kids, two boys, 15 and 9 and a 3 year old little girl who thinks she runs the show, not to mention our friendly 100lb dog who thinks he belongs on everyone's lap! I attend Minnesota School of Business in the evenings and I am very proud to say, I am 6 months shy of obtaining my Bachelor's Degree in Business! So with kids, work and school my life is pretty crazy, and I love every minute of it—most days! I recently left my own home business of 12 years to join Southern Valley where I am the Office/Crisis Line Coordinator. I have spent many years helping children grow and flourish, and now I am happy to be helping victims to get to a better place in their lives; it is a very rewarding and humbling experience. I enjoy my days here in the office and I look forward to whatever adventures the future may hold.

~Anna

Poinsettia Fundraiser

A holiday success!



(To the tune of Jingle Bells)

Dashing thru the halls
Poinsettias line the walls
Over the fields we go
Delivering plants thru snow

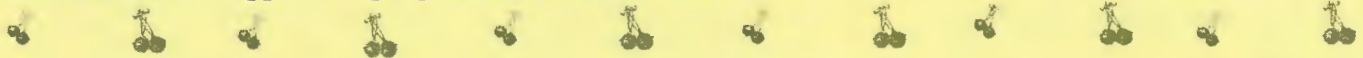
Ribbons on the plants
Make the spirits bright
Oh what fun it is to wrap
Poinsettias left and right!

Oh, (chorus)
Snip, snip, snip,
Wrap, wrap, wrap
Foil everywhere
Oh what fun it is to wrap
While volunteers bring cheer

Place the bag,
Then name tag
Out the door they go
Oh what fun it is to wrap
Poinsettias with a bow!



Many thanks to all who supported our Poinsettia fundraiser by purchasing these beautiful plants. Volunteers helped with unloading the plants from the Bachman's trucks, wrapping them and then delivering the plants throughout Scott and Carver counties. This year we sold 693 plants! The proceeds from this fundraiser are used to support the programs at Southern Valley Alliance.



Welcome New Crisis Line Advocates

A warm welcome to new volunteers that have successfully completed Advocates training in October.

Ericka Kimball

Tammy Thomason

Angie Otto

Jennifer Stolz

Carrie Oleson

Mary Wright

Gwen Knutson

Kaitlin Thompson

Thank you for sharing your time and talents with The Alliance!

If you would like to join our dynamic and caring volunteer staff, please contact us to sign up for training that begins on March 22, 2014. You will learn valuable skills while helping others, and also benefit from being part of a professional organization that is vigilant and constantly working to advocate for those in need.

SOUTHERN VALLEY ALLIANCE FOR BATTERED WOMEN

The following is a breakdown (by zip code/community) of the 17,007 cases of domestic violence that Southern Valley Alliance for Battered Women worked with over a thirty year period (1982 through 2013).

		<u>1982-2012</u>	<u>2013</u>
56011	Belle Plaine	1019	38
55315	Carver	307	16
55317	Chanhassen	830	41
55318	Chaska	2520	82
55322	Cologne	187	1
55020/55054	Elko New Market	174	8
55339	Hamburg	49	1
55352	Jordan	806	18
55044	Lakeville	115	6
55360	Mayer	88	5
55367	New Germany	95	5
56071	New Prague	590	41
55368	NYA	405	11
55372	Prior Lake	1895	82
55375	St. Bonifacius	52	1
55378	Savage	1416	72
55379	Shakopee	3924	210
55386	Victoria	202	9
55387	Waconia	685	24
55388	Watertown	431	19
Other/Unknown		1,217	0
TOTAL		17,007	690

CONGRATULATIONS PRIOR LAKE POLICE CHIEF O'ROURKE



For the last 17 years SVABW has been selling Bachman's poinsettias as a fundraiser for the agency. In the year 2000, Bill O'Rourke began his term on our Board of Directors and so as part of his duties he took on promoting poinsettia sales.

Last year in 2012, Bill reached his goal of selling 100, but this year he surpassed his own goal by selling **ONE HUNDRED FIFTEEN** poinsettias.

Congratulations Bill!!!!

You continue to be our best "flower child" EVER!



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Training for Crisis Line Advocates Begins March 22



Southern Valley's telephone crisis line is answered 24-hours a day, 365 days per year. This valuable service is a real life line for victims and concerned individuals. In order to provide complete coverage of the crisis line, Southern Valley is fortunate to have dedicated volunteers who are able to commit to a

one year opportunity to answer the crisis line two shifts per month. We will be conducting training for additional Advocates beginning on Saturday, March 22 from 8:30 am until 3:30, with two additional evening training sessions.

If you are a caring individual who has a passion to help others, please call Jan or Anna at 952-873-4214 for additional information.



SVABW offers an ongoing support group for women who are victims of domestic abuse in Scott and Carver counties. Weekly group is held in a convenient location with free childcare.

For more information, call 952-873-4214.



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Southern Valley Alliance for Battered Women is excited to announce that we are now accepting your old iPads and iPods. This is a great addition to our cell phone and smart phone recycling collection program.



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Presents

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Auction & Dinner
Fundraiser*

**Jeans
&
Gems**

Date: Friday April 25, 2014

Time: 6:00 p.m. Social Hour/Cash Bar
7:30 p.m. Dinner

Place: The Grand Ballroom
Mystic Lake Casino Hotel
2400 Mystic Lake Blvd.
Prior Lake, MN 55372

Cost: \$50.00 per person