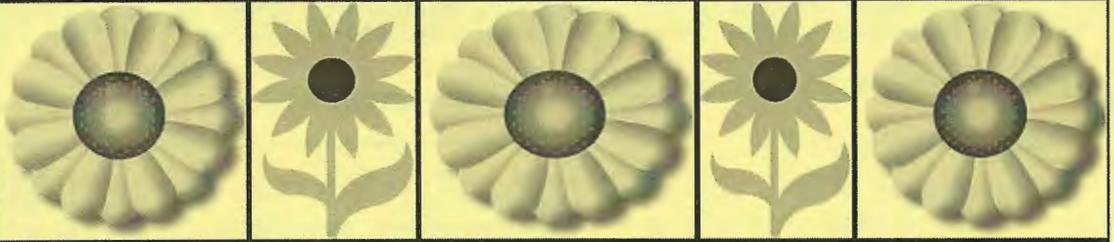


Alliance Advocate



October 2013

Fall Issue

Southern Valley Alliance for Battered Women

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Check out our website,

www.southernvalleyalliance.org

DONATIONS make the difference, **YOU** make it happen.

TOGETHER we change lives...

You can now make a donation to SVABW easily and securely online using your credit card, or a check card, or simply mailing a check!



DONATE



October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Did you know that a victim is more at risk for losing their life when they are *leaving* an abusive relationship? This newsletter concentrates its efforts in relaying the importance of safety planning and the diligence of carrying out a workable, safe exit.

~Rescue~

He arrived on her doorstep on a sleeting November evening. Just a small ball of fur, tiny, probably the runt of the litter, his meow barely audible. His color was a brown/black with a smudge of white on his forehead. What would she name



him? Mocha?, Cocoa?,...Rescue! Rescue would be his name because he chose her doorstep to come to for rescue. She spent the first night with him drying him off and coaxing him to drink a little warm milk until they both fell asleep, with Rescue snuggled under her chin. It was the beginning of a bond between the two of them, a nightly routine of rubbing the smudge on his forehead before falling asleep, a deep huggy snuggly bond between animal and human that has no words for description. She bragged that his purr was so loud that it could be heard south of the county line. He grew into a handsome cat, with much personality and antics that gave her life a slice of sunshine. Her partner did not like Rescue, calling him and her terrible names amongst the violent outburst of anger. On a particularly nasty day, Rescue shuddered with fear as he sought solace in his favorite hiding place. He stayed there a long, long time until he thought it was safe to come out. Where was she? She will return this evening he thought, and we will carry on our nightly ritual. When she arrived home, she did find Rescue again on her doorstep. He was dead, his violent demise apparent at the hands of her abusive partner. She then went to the area in her home where she secretly kept her "get away" suitcase that Southern Valley Alliance for Battered Women had spoken with her about in safety planning. Upon leaving, she hugged Rescue, rubbing the smudge on his forehead one last time. She thought; Rescue, at first I thought it was me who rescued you. But you see, you arrived on my doorstep to rescue me. You are the final reminder of what happened to you can, and will, happen to me if I do not leave. Thank you. Thank you for being *my* huggy, snuggly pet with a purr that could be heard south of the county line.

For more information about *safety planning*, see the article on page 3.

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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 June 13, 2013 through September 13, 2013)

Individuals

- Davick, Theresa
- Dirks, Laura
- Drissi, Devrey
- Harris, Jimly
- Mortenson, Steve
- Nordquist, Sheila
- Pierskalla, Gretchen
- Smith, Stephanie
- Straus, Dennis and Jeanne
- Swendseid, Solveig
- White, Darcy

Government/Businesses/Foundations

- Ameriprise
- Bring It!
- Carver County
- Edina Realty Foundation
- Greater Twin Cities United Way
- Give with Liberty
- Kopp Family Foundation
- Scott County
- Shelter Alliance
- Southwest Newspapers
- State of Minnesota (OJP)
- The Earl and Doris Bakken Foundation
- Thrivent Financial for Lutherans
- Wells Fargo Community Support

Maxine Kruschke Fund

- Schwartz, LeRoy and Pat
- In memory of Tim O’Laughlin
- In memory of Ramona Spickelmire
- In memory of Mary Ann McMillian
- In memory of Dave Soller
- Sisson, Bernice
- In memory of Gary Bigaouette

In Kind

- Friendship Church
- Lake Auburn Moravian Church
- Michelle Stay
- Super Target-Chaska
- Wal-Mart-Shakopee

Community Organizations

- American Legion Post 57

Ruth Anne Lipka Memorial Fund

- Yonker, Joe and Mary Lou
- In memory of Ruth Anne Lipka’s birthday

Churches/Schools

- Minnesota School of Business
- Legal Eagles



Check out our updated website!



We have updated our website with a new look and expanded information!

Please visit us at
www.southernvalleyalliance.org
and browse our site.

One added safety feature you will notice is on the top right hand of each page. It is an arrow icon that can be clicked on and the user will immediately leave the site and be directed to Google. This feature was added with safety in mind to better serve victims who are seeking information on our website and might have their abuser walk in on them while doing so.



Domestic Violence Safety Plan

Everyone has a right to be safe!

The most dangerous time for a victim of domestic abuse is when they are actually leaving the relationship. The risk of lethality greatly increases. One of the things Southern Valley Alliance Advocates speak with victims about is a safety plan. The safety plan is comprehensive and is specific to each individual's needs. The commonality is ensuring that it is a workable plan, looking at all of the options and aspects of a victim's life. For example, if there are children in the household, we tell a victim to have or get copies of the children's birth certificates, social security cards and school records. This ensures proving the children's identities for many services such as school and health care. In addition, we stress that the victim take the children with her, as it could possibly be viewed as an abandonment issue for future custody if she does not.

Some of the items victims should take with them are:

Identification

Drivers License

House and car keys

Money

Bank and check books with account numbers

Credit cards or account numbers & amounts

Pay check stubs-both yours & partners

Medications

Medical records for all family members

Address book

Yours and children's birth certificate

Social security card for all family members

School records

Lease, rental agreement, house deed

Work permits and green cards

Passport

Order for Protection

Jewelry

Welfare identification

Small saleable items

Diary, journal or calendar

Children's small or special toys

Items of sentimental value

Pictures and photo albums

Divorce papers

Income tax records

Insurance papers

This list is a reference point to identify some important items to take with when leaving. However, safety planning *prior* to leaving is essential. To read about a safety plan, please visit our website at www.southernvalleyalliance.org or call us at 952.873.4214.

Our staff is available to help victims make an individual safety plan for escaping an abusive relationship.





Southern Valley Alliance's Board of Directors are active in their professions while carrying with them a passion for victims of abuse. Board member, Deacon Bob Wagner, wrote the following letter to the editor.

Letter To The Editor

As a child, I remember watching the TV sitcom, "The Honeymooners" with my family. One line Ralph Kramden used to address his frustration with his wife, Alice, was, "One of these days, Alice, Pow! Right to the moon!" And, of course, we would all laugh. With more and more domestic violence being exposed in family units, Ralph's line from the past is not funny anymore, but alarming! Physical, sexual, emotional, and spiritual abuse is not something at which to laugh. It is dangerous. It is destructive. It is deadly to the physical, emotional and spiritual state of those abused. It is contrary to everything that Jesus teaches us. 85% of those abused are women and children, 15% of those abused are men. Just in this month alone there have been countless reports of abusive relationships that have ended in the murder of those being abused. The abused reduces all those that he/she abuses to a commodity, something that he/she uses, and controls. The victims of abuse often find their personalities systematically being erased by the abuser, sometimes being erased to the point of not existing in any public record, and in extreme cases being murdered. Abuse is not just something found among the poor, unlearned, and the lower classes. Rather abuse is found among the rich, the successful, the celebrity, Bing Crosby, Ann Bancroft, and Kirby Puckett being terrible perpetrators of abuse. There are examples in scripture that point out the evil of abuse, Sarah's treatment of Hagar in Genesis, and the rape of Susannah in the Book of Daniel. Jesus teaches us that the "Power Over" relationship of the abuser over a victim is not what God intends. Jesus shows us that God's relationship with all humanity is one of "Power With" exemplified by Jesus' Incarnation when all that is Divine is united equally with all that is human. The relationship of humans is to mirror the mutual relationship of God with humanity. If you are being abused or know of anyone being abused, it is necessary that help is found. In New Prague, since 1983 there have been 549 reported cases of domestic abuse, 31 cases reported in 2012. In Scott and Carver County, call the Southern Valley Alliance for Battered Women (SVABW), at 952-873-4214. If anyone is in imminent danger, call 911.

Deacon Bob Wagner
SVABW Board Member

We're On A Roll!

Let's face it, one of the essentials in life is toilet tissue. It is a necessity for every one, but is expensive to purchase when one is on a limited budget. For many women leaving an abusive relationship, providing basic needs is a challenge.

The Alliance has begun it's "We're On A Roll" campaign to collect unopened toilet tissue packages consisting of 6 or more rolls. We need the tissue delivered to our office in Belle Plaine no later than December 9th in order to "roll it forward" for distribution at our Gifts of Hope holiday giving program. Thanks for helping us and remember, don't squeeze the Charmin!





Help Make the Holidays Bright

Southern Valley Alliance for Battered Women needs your help to make sure that the holidays are as bright as they can be for families dealing with domestic violence in Carver and Scott Counties. Through our Gifts of Hope event held each December, we are able to help mothers to see the excitement of their children as they open their holiday gifts. Please consider donating a gift to this event. See our "wish list" and please give what you can. Call 952-873-4214 for more information. Donations need to be received by December 9, 2013.

Wish List

- | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Cash Donations | Electronic Games | MP3 Players |
| Jewelry Sports Apparel | Watches | Portable CD Players |
| Boom Boxes | CD's | DVD Players |
| Make Up Sets/Cosmetic Bags | DVD's | Perfume/Cologne |
| Sports Bags | Skateboards | Baseball Gloves |
| Curling Irons | Hair Dryers | Board Games |
| Multi-cultural Barbies | Snowboards | |
| Snow Sleds | Winter Hats/Gloves/Mittens/Scarves | |
| GIFT CARDS (Target, Wal-Mart, Best Buy, Sports Authority, American Eagle, Outfitters, etc.) | | |

Please do not (we already have more than we can use) donate stuffed animals, Candy Land and Chutes & Ladders board games. Thank you!



~ Save the Date ~

Southern Valley Alliance's

15th Annual

Silent Auction and

Dinner and Fundraiser

Friday, April 25, 2014

6:00 p.m.

Mystic Lake Casino Hotel

Prior Lake, MN





Violence Against the Image of God

An Outreach to Clergy

We at The Alliance recognize the important part that clergy play in helping victims of domestic abuse. Many times victims feel their place of worship and trusted clergy person is a safe environment to tell what is happening to them. We keep in touch with clergy through a yearly mailing to all of them as well as assisting them when a victim does ask them for help. In addition, each place of worship in Scott and Carver County has received an informational packet from SVABW as a resource for them. We feel confident that clergy know we are the domestic abuse victim's service provider in the area and are informed about our services. The Community Outreach Program Coordinator has met with many ministerial associations and presented domestic violence education and intervention. A framework of a faith-based response is incorporated in the presentation called "Violence Against the Image of God". The response has been positive, with the practical application of equipping clergy with the tools to effectively recognize all aspects of abuse along with a safe plan of action.

If you would like a presentation to your church or ministry group, please call Jan at 952-873-4214.



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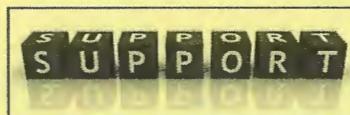
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SVABW offers an ongoing support group for women who are victims of domestic abuse in Scott and Carver counties. Weekly group is held in a convenient location with free childcare. For more information, call 952-873-4214.



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We Are Now Accepting iPads & iPods!

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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