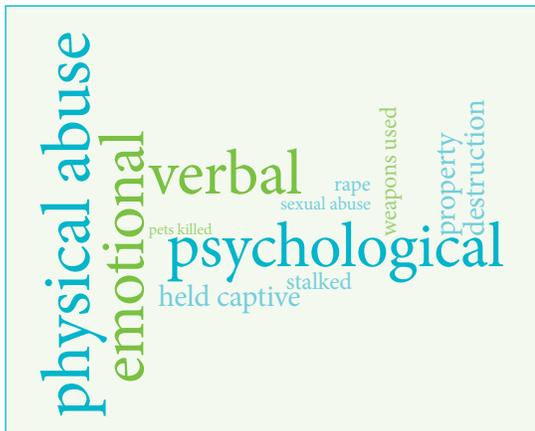


The Purple Door

REPORT

Volume I • Issue 2 • Summer 2013

Think You Know What a Survivor Looks Like? Think Again.



In 2012, we reached more than 10,000 women, men and children through our emergency shelter, hotline, legal advocacy, outreach and counseling programs.

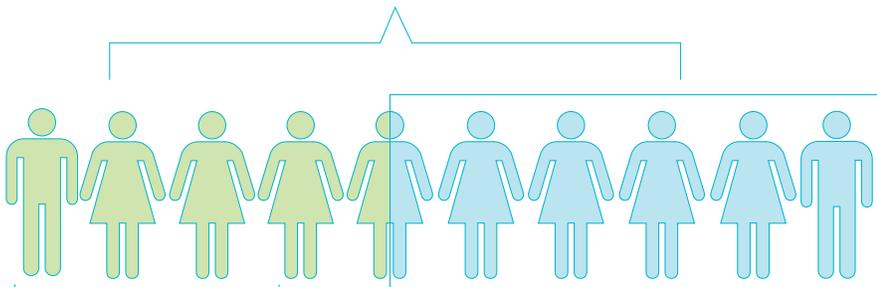
The faces we encounter are all different, their stories as varied as they are. Many are working professionals ... doctors, lawyers and teachers who live in gated communities with friends and supportive families. Some are

living paycheck to paycheck but driving their children to school each day and encouraging them to play sports, join an after-school club or play in the band. Others are impoverished, struggling to put food on the table with little means to change their circumstances.

But no matter where they fall in the socio-economic spectrum, they all have something in common. *They are trapped in an abusive relationship by someone they love.*



7 out of 10 were living with their abuser at first contact



Between the ages of 20-39 and/or Employed (55%)



Attended or graduated college (37%)

These are the survivors we serve. And these are the lives you change by supporting Harbor House. Thank you for making a difference and helping keep individuals, families and our community safer.



Get ready for the event of the year! This year, we are proud to announce Sharon Love of the **One Love Foundation** will be our keynote speaker. Sharon cofounded the One Love Foundation after the tragic death of her daughter, Yeardley Love, a University of Virginia student and lacrosse player murdered by her ex-boyfriend two weeks before graduation. The story captured the nation's attention.

Jill Schwartz and Sara Brady will serve as the event co-chairs.

Our flagship annual luncheon held during Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October is filled with inspiration, uplifting messages of hope and captivating stories of survival and transformation.

Your support of the 37th Annual Purple Door Luncheon will have a direct impact on breaking the cycle of domestic abuse in our community. Thank you for partnering with us to save a life today and open doors to a better future tomorrow.

Event Details:

37th Annual Purple Door Luncheon
Friday, October 11, 2013 · Noon - 1 p.m.
SeaWorld Ports of Call
7007 SeaWorld Drive
Orlando, FL 32821

Corporate sponsorships, table host opportunities and tickets available at www.harborhousefl.com/purpledoor.

Focus On: Partnerships

At Harbor House, we know we can't accomplish our goal of social change without the support of the community. Each and every one of you makes a difference—no matter how you choose to support us—and we appreciate every hour you spend volunteering, every event you attend, every dollar you donate to ensure our programs and services address the ever-changing needs of survivors and help keep our community safe.

We are equally thankful for our amazing charitable partners who provide a profound impact on our ability to be innovative. **The Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation** has given us the opportunity to expand our community education and outreach services. Through their support, we are able to train more individuals, businesses and faith institutions on our core philosophy of R3—Recognize, Respond, Refer.

Allstate funds our Economic Empowerment Program, which helps survivors become financially independent. With economic issues being one of the top reasons survivors stay with or return to their abusers, Allstate's program and ongoing partnership are truly life-changing for hundreds of survivors each year.

In addition, community organizations often step in to help us achieve our goals. **The A. Jones Family Foundation** hosted the 2013 Princess Ball in May. This daddy-daughter event helps to reinforce to young girls how they should be treated by men in their lives. The night was filled with fairy tale princesses, dancing and lots of sparkly dresses, and we know it was a night those lucky young ladies will never forget.

Walk a Mile in Her Shoes® Orlando, which was held June 13, was the result of a group of activists who came together to raise community awareness about the role men play in ending domestic abuse. The event featured numerous prominent community leaders and more than 200 brave men walking in heels down the streets of downtown Orlando. The event raised more than \$20,000—enough to provide 300 nights of safe shelter for survivors in crisis.

With an issue as far reaching as domestic abuse, it really does take our whole community's involvement to make a difference. With the generous support of individuals like you and our treasured community partners, we can do it! **HH**



Walk a Mile in Her Shoes Orlando participants gather at the Orange County Courthouse to kick off the walk.

Counseling: The Healing Process for Kids



At Harbor House, we implemented the Helping At Risk Kids (HARK) Program last year thanks to the **Orlando Sentinel Family Fund**, and it has made a tremendous impact on the quality of services we offer.

HARK is an intervention and prevention program designed to empower children ages 4-17 from abusive homes and consists of a 12-week course built upon nationally-recognized curriculum. Children are separated into age-appropriate groups and led through weekly classes where they participate in activities designed to educate them about domestic abuse and assist them in understanding and dealing with their emotions. Heavy emphasis is placed on breaking the cycle of violence by teaching anger management, non-violent conflict resolution and respect for others.

Individual counseling is also provided by a trained child advocate to develop a plan that is workable and therapeutic.

The HARK program is a top priority for us given the Florida Fatality Review Commission's 2010 finding that *the most significant gap in services in child welfare is trauma-informed counseling for children who have witnessed domestic abuse*.

Overall, 90% of children completed a comprehensive assessment, 75% of children had an individualized safety plan created and 80% of participants demonstrated an understanding of how to handle conflict non-violently.

We are thrilled with our first year of results and look forward to continued success in the coming year. With your support, we can expand our services for children who have experienced domestic abuse. **HH**



Top: Lina Leavens, domestic abuse program coordinator and licensed mental health counselor, is one of the many counselors who work with kids at Harbor House. Above: Encouraging creative expression through art is just one way we help children heal from the trauma of abuse.

Program Spotlight: Legal Advocacy

The Harbor House Legal Advocacy Program helps an average of 450 survivors per month who file for injunctions for protection against domestic violence, dating violence, sexual violence and stalking.

Harbor House is one of the few Legal Advocacy Programs in the nation that have a permanent office in the county courthouse. In fact, when the Clerk of Courts office closes, Harbor House advocates are deputized to complete emergency after-hours injunctions. This unique service allows 24-hour, 365-day-a-year access to injunctive relief.

We also offer a weekly court preparation class to help survivors prepare for the injunction hearing as well as a DV 101 class, which is presented in conjunction with the State Attorney's Office, for survivors whose abusers are facing criminal charges. A Harbor House advocate also accompanies all survivors to their injunction hearings so survivors never have to face their abusers in the courtroom alone.



Legal Advocacy Team (pictured left to right): Maggie O'Connell, Sylvia Marolla, Molly Reeves, Allison Suarez, Mary Kogut Lowell. Not pictured: Regina Taylor.

Two of our most recent accomplishments are the development of a Pro Bono Attorney Program and our partnership with the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU) College of Law.

The Pro Bono Attorney Program helps survivors in need of legal representation on a pro bono basis in injunction cases. On average, we help secure eight to 10 pro bono representations per month. Assuming 10 hours of attorney time per injunction case, our Program saves survivors and our legal system approximately \$180,000 in attorney fees annually.

Attorneys also provide 30-minute consultations on a variety of legal matters including dissolution of marriage, child custody, immigration, criminal law and the landlord/tenant act.

Harbor House recently partnered with FAMU's College of Law to develop a clinical program through which law students learn about injunction court and also provide a valuable service by assisting survivors in the injunction process. The program will begin with the Fall 2013 semester. Harbor House's Court Services Manager, a licensed Florida attorney, will teach a class on domestic violence law at the school and will also provide on-site supervision of the FAMU law students.

With your support we will continue to develop cutting-edge initiatives. **HH**

CEO CORNER



CAROL WICK, CEO

This past February, Mayor Teresa Jacobs reconvened the Domestic Violence Commission following a five-year hiatus to address the growing problem of intimate partner violence and its devastating impact on families across Central Florida.

Harbor House has been an integral part of the Commission's efforts to both identify problems and more importantly, recommend realistic solutions that can be implemented by the participating agencies, which include law enforcement leaders, corrections, mental health specialists, judicial experts and the state attorney's office.

In May, the Commission formally recommended several key changes to current processes to ensure a comprehensive approach to address survivors needs earlier in and throughout the judicial process.

"We are proactively offering solutions for our community to end domestic abuse."

currently working with Orange County to determine how to fund the increased demand on our resources.

In addition, the Commission recommended increased training for virtually every agency that touches the judicial process in criminal domestic violence cases. Again, Harbor House has offered a plan to provide innovative online training based on its R3 model in which those trained would receive CEUs. The online training is coupled with in-person training by Harbor House experts.

These are just two examples of how Harbor House is not only actively involved in the discussion about ending domestic abuse, we are proactively offering tangible solutions that our expertise can bring to fruition.

With your support, we can continue this life-saving work. Thank you for all you do help us create social change!

Your Gift Will Help Families in Need Right Now

You have the ability to help domestic abuse survivors right now—women, men, children and pets. Those in need are struggling to rebuild their lives after experiencing the horrors of emotional, physical and sexual abuse. Many survivors have endured years of abuse, and the process of recovery is long and difficult. Children who have grown up in households mired by domestic abuse suffer tremendous trauma and struggle to cope emotionally, developmentally and academically. Pets are often victimized by batterers and arrive at our facility in extreme distress.

New survivors come to us every day, and we never turn away a single one. But our policy of never turning anyone away requires substantial support. Please take a look at the opportunities available for you to help. **Your donation can save a life.**

Thank you for providing hope, help and safety for survivors of domestic abuse in Central Florida.

For more information, please contact:

Harbor House of Central Florida
P.O. Box 680748
Orlando, FL 32868
407-886-2244
www.harborhousefl.com
admin@harborhousefl.com

 facebook.com/harborhousefl

 @harborhousefl

24-hour Crisis Hotline: 407-886-2856

UPCOMING EVENT

■ This fantastic all-volunteer will be held this year in partnership with the Orlando Police Department.



Get your sneakers ready to go door to door, home by home, distributing door hangers with life-saving information about

our 24-hour resources. Last year, 38 families sought emergency shelter at Harbor House after our It Takes Courage event. How many lives can we save this year?

Grab your friends, family and coworkers and join a team together to make your outing both fun and meaningful. We'll meet up at the Fashion Square Mall and head out in teams into the community.

For more information or to get registered, visit www.harborhousefl.com/ittakescourage.

VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHT Arlene Gullo has been an active volunteer at Harbor House since 2009. As a CORE-certified advocate, she volunteers on a weekly basis managing our on-site clothing store.

Arlene has even recruited her husband, Lee, to assist in ensuring the shelter is safe, clean and comfortable for survivors. Whether lending a hand at one of our events or managing "Arlene's Attic" (as we've affectionately dubbed it), she has provided invaluable help and played an instrumental role in the healing process of thousands of survivors. Thank you, Arlene!

DONATE TODAY!

Yes, I would like to help you fulfill your mission of eliminating domestic abuse in Central Florida. You can count on my support to help survivors right now.

- \$1,000 sponsors a family's entire stay in shelter
- \$500 provides child care, activities and three healthy meals a day for a child's stay in shelter
- \$250 provides one consultation with an attorney for a survivor seeking an injunction for protection
- \$125 sponsors one night of safe shelter for a family in crisis
- \$65 sponsors one night of safe shelter for a survivor in crisis
- \$27 provides a survivor with emergency safety planning with an experienced crisis advocate

- I would like to donate \$_____ every month to help support domestic abuse survivors.
- CHECK (payable to Harbor House of Central Florida)
- Please bill my credit card.
- VISA MASTERCARD DISCOVER
- NAME ON CARD: _____
- # _____ Exp. _____ / _____ CW# _____
- NAME: _____
- HOME ADDRESS: _____
- CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____
- PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____
- CORPORATE OR ORGANIZATIONAL AFFILIATION: _____

HarborHouse
of Central Florida

GIVE ONLINE AT:
www.harborhousefl.com