



Working together to end domestic violence

HarborHouse
of Central Florida

2008-2009 Annual Report



Carol Wick, CEO



George Glance, III
President,
Board of Directors

LEADING THE WAY TO END DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The past 12 months at Harbor House have been marked with many exciting milestones and filled with the promise of long range plans to eradicate domestic violence in Central Florida for good.

From Governor Crist's recognition of Coaching Boys Into Men as one of the state's top violence prevention programs, and the expanded involvement of the community through efforts like Founding Fathers, to breaking ground on a new children's education and child care center, the progress has been exhilarating.

In the past year, we've also made tremendous strides to lay the foundation for our vision to engage the community to end domestic violence. The innovative InVEST initiative was launched last January with the intent to expand the network of available advocates across our community to identify and assist those who may be in danger. Through InVEST, Harbor House has already trained more than 1,500 members of law enforcement within the Orange County Sheriff's Office and Orlando Police Department, as well as more than 200 employees of the Florida Department of Children and Families and other Community Based Care providers.

And that's a good thing...because unfortunately the need for our shelter and advocacy services has never been greater.

While we're aware of this every day, it really came home this past July. With our shelter at complete capacity, one caller, ready to flee her batterer, was grateful with the offer to spend the night on a couch in one of our buildings because, as she so succinctly put it, "At least my children and I will be safe and that's all that matters."

Here are a few sobering statistic to remind us of just how far we still need to go:

- 1 in every 4 homicides in the City of Orlando are the result of domestic violence and claimed 10 men, women and children last year
- Countywide, 22 people lost their lives to domestic violence in 2008
- An estimated 130,000 victimizations take place in Orange County each year, yet Harbor House only reaches an average of 20,000 – just 15 percent!
- Domestic Violence is the leading cause of child abuse in our community with more than 14,000 calls annually

As evidenced by the annual report that follows, these statistics strengthen our resolve to achieve the Harbor House vision to be "an innovative organization that guides the way for safer communities everywhere by developing, deploying and modeling best practices to eradicate domestic violence in Central Florida."

Like with any major social change, the journey will be long and arduous and require tremendous stamina. But thanks to incredible support from civic and corporate leaders across Central Florida and an army of passionate volunteers and advocates, we believe the vision is attainable and that we're well on our way.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carol Wick".

Carol Wick

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "George Glance, III".

George Glance, III



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PROVIDING HELP AND OFFERING PROTECTION AT THE MOST CRITICAL MOMENT



"I have been able to let go of bad relationships and I noticed I started feeling like me, like I could breathe. I have graduated from college now and have a great job helping those who are disabled. They are fighters too.

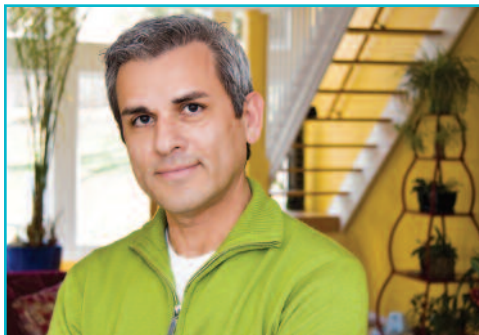
My life ahead will not be easy, but I kept my blanket that you gave me as a reminder that I am safe now. Thank you for helping me heal. Thank you for allowing me to stand on my own two feet."
Former shelter resident

DID YOU KNOW?

- Orange County has the highest rate of domestic violence in the State of Florida
- Law enforcement responded to 8,653 calls for help from domestic violence survivors last year
- The second most deadly crime in our community, domestic violence, is the cause of 1 out of every 4 homicides
- The Department of Children and Families determined that 3,200 children in Orange County were victims of domestic violence last year. Put together, these children would fill **five** elementary schools
- There are an estimated 130,000 victims each year in Orange County – more than enough to fill the Amway Arena 7 1/2 times

HARBOR HOUSE IS THERE

- 5,300 individuals completed safety plans with Harbor House advocates
- 11,000 hours of counseling was provided at 8 locations throughout the community
- 715 women and children were sheltered from violence
- 2,000 youth participated in prevention programs such as *Coaching Boys into Men*
- 3,900 individuals were assisted with injunctions for protection



"Thank you for your tremendous help and comfort as I went through the legal process. I was extremely nervous about my hearing and facing my batterer in the courtroom. It was so comforting to have Harbor House there beside me. I am so deeply thankful for all of your caring and concern."

Survivor using Harbor House Court Services

MAKING CENTRAL FLORIDA A SAFER COMMUNITY

Harbor House operates numerous programs providing safety, education, counseling and prevention services

InVEST

This innovative program brings together advocates, law enforcement and child protective services to prevent homicides and serious injury for hundreds of survivors in highly dangerous situations each year. As a supplement to traditional services, InVEST partners identify high lethality cases and refer them to Harbor House for emergency intervention.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

With 88 beds, Harbor House is one of the largest, most comprehensive domestic violence shelters in the United States. The program operates a 24-hour hotline, employs state certified staff, and offers onsite medical services, counseling, case management and crisis intervention. A 28-unit scattered site housing program provides transitional housing to those needing longer services in Orange, Osceola, and Seminole Counties.

CHILDREN'S EMERGENCY SERVICES

Nearly half of all shelter residents are under the age of 18. Harbor House provides crisis child care and after school care for all children in residence. Also provided to each child is age-appropriate safety planning, onsite counseling with licensed trauma therapists, case management, tutoring, group counseling and recreational programs.

LEGAL ADVOCACY

Harbor House operates one of the largest legal advocacy programs in Florida. With an office in the Orange County Courthouse, advocates assist with safety planning, translation of injunction paperwork, escorts to court, case management, crisis counseling and pro bono legal representation. Harbor House staff are deputized and assist with injunctions when the courts are closed in the evening, weekends and on holidays.

INTERVENTION SERVICES

Assisting survivors who are not in need of emergency shelter is the most-frequently provided service. Harbor House advocates are available at eight sites across Orange County offering counseling, case management, safety planning, relocation, group counseling and support.

PREVENTION PROGRAMS

Coaching Boys into Men was recognized as one of the top violence prevention programs in the state by Governor Crist in 2008. *Teens Ending Abusive Relationships* (TEAR) teaches teens to recognize and address dating violence. *Too Good for Violence* teaches at-risk about youth positive alternatives to violence and drugs.

ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY

At a time when there's tremendous economic uncertainty and social upheaval, we search in earnest to engage in things that have meaning and find ways to make a difference. There's no greater satisfaction than when we're given the occasion to serve, the opportunity to help someone in need, or the chance to work along side our neighbors to strengthen our community.

Harbor House depends on volunteer support and offers a wide range of opportunities to get involved. From onsite service projects and supporting community prevention initiatives to helping raise awareness and participating in fund-raisers and drives to collect in-kind supplies, there are plenty of ways for individuals, groups, organizations and corporations to support the Harbor House mission.

And as many have experienced, you'll get back far more than you ever give.



"I have been a volunteer at the courthouse for almost seven years after retiring from a career in social work. The clients I see at the courthouse are in extreme crisis and very vulnerable and confused. The injunction process is overwhelming and time consuming. This is a moment when it is imperative to have someone there to offer support, empathy and resources. The legal advocacy program is quite unique and makes a difference in many lives. I am so proud to be a part of this team."

Maggie, volunteer at the courthouse

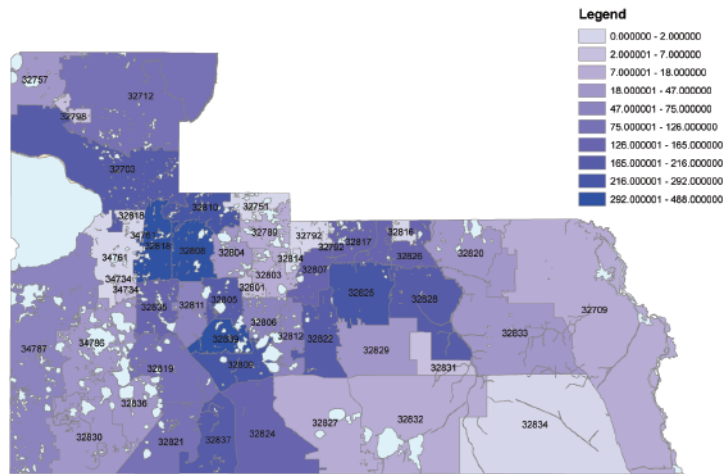
STATISTICS FROM VOLUNTEERS

- 1,071 individuals volunteered at Harbor House last year
- 62 group projects were completed at the emergency shelter
- 16,363 hours were donated worth an estimated \$331,351
- \$317,158 in goods and services were donated by supporters and included food, clothing, furniture, toys and professional services.



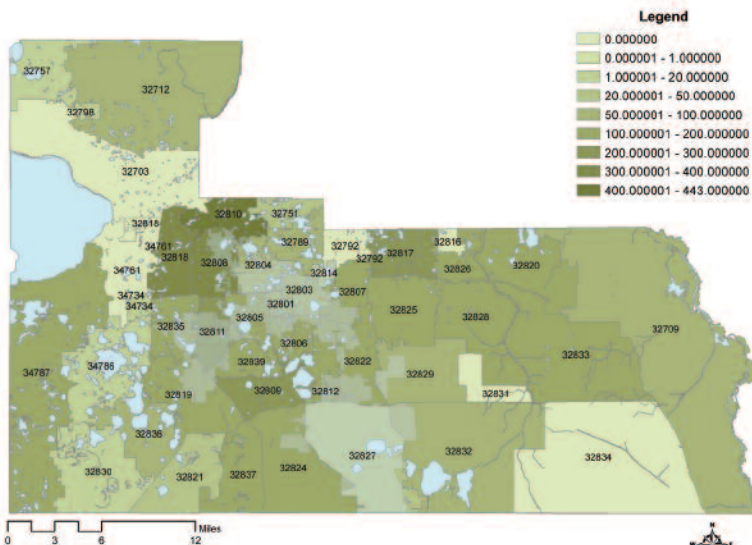
UNDERSTANDING THE SCOPE OF THE PROBLEM

Domestic Violence Incidents for Orange County, FL (2008)



Data Source: Orange County Sheriff's Office

Orange County Child Abuse Reports by Zip Code (2008)



Data Source: Division of Children and Families



This year Harbor House partnered with the University of Central Florida, the Orlando Police Department, Orange County Sheriff's Office and the Florida Department of Children and Families to better understand the problem of domestic violence in each Central Florida community. Dr. Jana Jasinski, a professor of sociology at UCF, worked with Harbor House, law enforcement and DCF to track, by zip code, domestic violence related calls. The result was a community map that showed the density of

reported incidents by color. The darker the color, the greater the number of reported incidents.

It is clear from the maps that domestic violence knows no boundaries. However, knowing which communities have higher reported incidents gives agencies dealing with limited resources a better understanding of where to concentrate their efforts.

In 2010, this project will be expanded to include law enforcement in all municipalities in Orange County so that a more comprehensive picture can be obtained. Knowing where to act is only one part of the solution. Engaging communities to act is critical to ensuring every home is free from violence.

ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY



Domestic violence is not a women's-only issue. Men have a critical role to play in the fight against domestic violence and Harbor House supports several initiatives that can help men get more involved. Prevention programs targeting youth are popular with men across the community and allow them to help others learn about the issue and how they can intervene when they see the warning signs.

FOUNDING FATHERS OF ORLANDO

Last year Harbor House launched a landmark initiative to engage all men in our community in a common cause. *Founding Fathers of Orlando* brings men together and recognizes those who stand up against domestic violence. Partnering with the *Family Violence Prevention Fund*, these men are publicly recognized each year.

COACHING BOYS INTO MEN

Coaching Boys Into Men is a highly effective prevention program that teaches young boys in high risk neighborhoods how to have positive relationships without violence. Male mentors teach a weekly curriculum and engage the boys in annual basketball and fishing tournaments as well as camping trips. This program was recognized as one of two top violence prevention programs in Florida this year. *Coaching Boys Into Men* is a program of *Family Violence Prevention Fund*.



"Volunteering and mentoring with Coaching Boys into Men for the last four years has been very enjoyable and extremely fulfilling. Many of these boys have no positive male influence or role model in their lives. It is great to be able to give them the positive affirmation and encouragement they require. Having a place to openly discuss topics shunned elsewhere and express ones feelings without being judged is awesome."

Morgan - Coaching Boys Into Men Volunteer

ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY



WALK A MILE IN HER SHOES

This awareness walk happens each year at the University of Central Florida with more than 100 young men walking in women's shoes to show their support for the fight against violence against women.



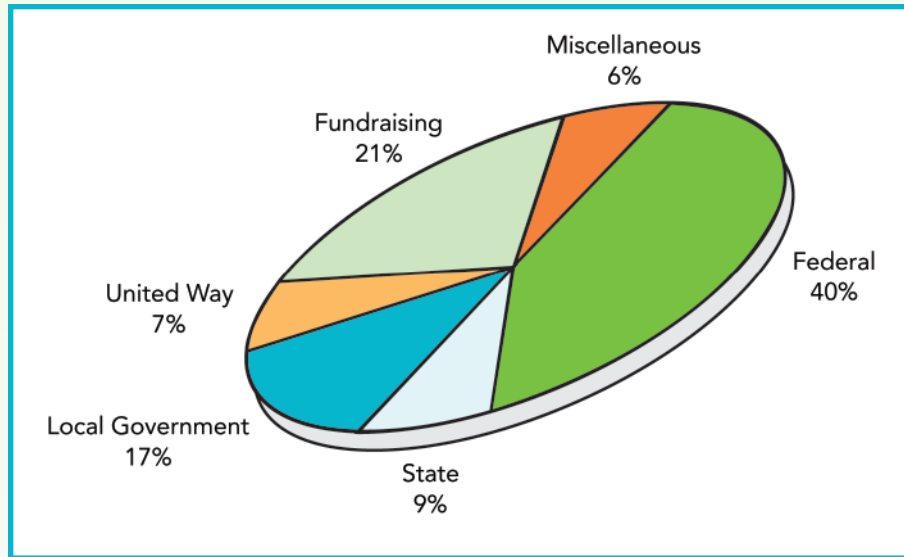
PRINCESS BALL

This storybook event celebrates the very special bond between fathers and their daughters, and reinforces the role fathers play in preventing domestic violence.

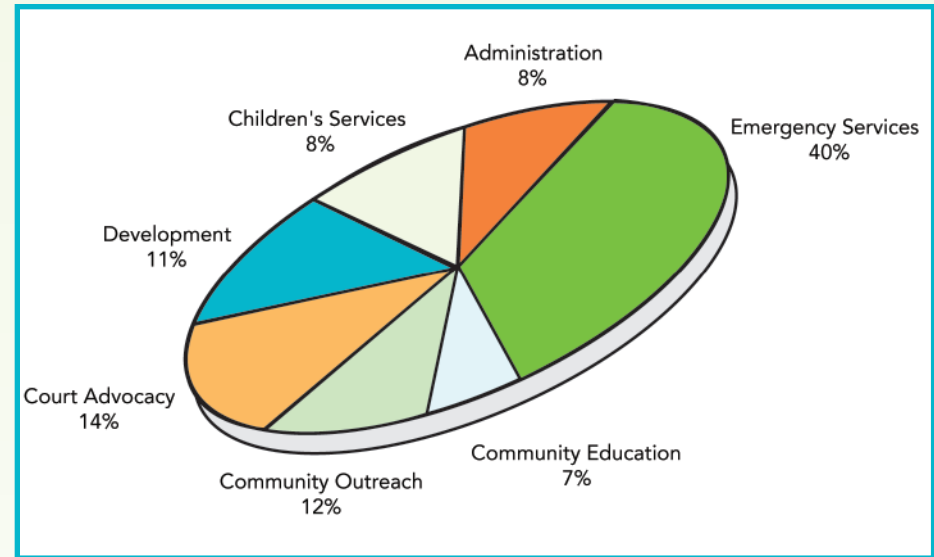


RESPONSIBLE USE OF FUNDS SAVES LIVES

Revenue By Source



Expenses By Program



AN INSIGHTFUL COST/BENEFIT ANALYSIS

While the Impact of Domestic Violence in Orange County is significant...

- Domestic violence costs employers more than \$122 million each year in lost wages, medical costs and absenteeism
- More than \$3.7 million in taxpayer funds are spent annually to investigate domestic violence related child abuse cases
- The annual cost to respond to 911 calls exceeds \$1.1 million

...the cost to prevent domestic violence and provide support to survivors is nominal. The return on this investment is priceless :

- Emergency shelter costs only \$40 a day and can increase the chances of survival by nearly 98 percent
- \$28 per day covers therapeutic child care so a mother is free to work or seek employment
- Ongoing outreach services for a survivor not in shelter including counseling and support can be provided for as little as \$2.90 a day
- Prevention programs like *Teens Ending Abusive Relationships* and *Coaching Boys Into Men* cost as little as \$37 per child and can help break the cycle of domestic violence

GROWING TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY

Four years ago, Harbor House embarked on a bold, five-phase plan to improve and redesign its campus to meet the ever-growing needs of domestic violence. Since opening the new shelter, donated by KB Home in 2007 (Phase I), no endangered survivor has been turned away. On completion of Phase I, the Phase II construction of a new children's center broke ground this past January and will open in early 2010. A third Phase of campus improvements targets the "other members" of survivor families – their pets – with the building of a kennel along with much-needed additional storage space and infrastructure.

The goal of Phase IV is to replace a deteriorating existing shelter residence and increase overall capacity to 110 beds. In the fifth and final phase, we'll look to erect a counseling and administration building, and replace the final shelter residence.

Community response to the initial phases of the project has been tremendous, but we need continued support to make this vision a reality and build a campus that addresses the comprehensive needs of domestic violence survivors. Here's a closer look at a few aspects of our vision.



DISCOVERY ZONE

CHILDREN'S CENTER 2009

Did you know nearly half of the residents at Harbor House are children? It is critical for these smallest survivors to have a safe place to grow, learn and play. The new Discovery Zone Children's Center will provide child care, classroom education and aftercare for up to 70 children every day. Numerous partnerships will enable the children to attend K-8 classes, as well as provide trauma counseling, health services and much more in the safety of the shelter environment.



SAFE HAVEN FOR PETS 2010

It is important that when a survivor decides to leave that "no one gets left behind." Eighty percent of survivors in shelter report having had an animal killed or harmed by their abuser and 48 percent report that they stayed or delayed leaving because they had no place for their pets. Harbor House is building the first kennel for pets of survivors in Central Florida.



SHELTER FOR FAMILIES 2012

The deterioration of existing residential facilities requires construction of new buildings to house the families that seek refuge at Harbor House. The new shelter will be built with the latest security and green technology, and serve as a prototype.

HarborHouse

of Central Florida

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