

# EWB Newsletter

VOLUME II, ISSUE III

FALL 2009



**EVERY  
WOMAN'S  
HOUSE**

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## A Woman's Faith

For the women and children who come to Every Woman's House, courage is a trait they exhibit on a daily basis. Courage to leave a home filled with violence, courage to move to a shelter and sleep in a strange bed, courage to stand up and say "no more." Where they find this courage is often associated with their religious faith.

As diverse as the cultures and backgrounds are of these women, so are their religious faiths. In its 30 years of existence, just about every religion has walked through the doors of Every Woman's House.

With such diversity in religious faiths, Every Woman's House does not push one religion over an-



other and has reached out to all area clergy in an effort to provide the best available resources to the women in the shelter.

Women in abusive relationships are often kept from practicing their faith or have their religious beliefs used against them to perpetuate the abuse. Recognizing that their faith has often been the only thing that has kept them going through one of the darkest times in their lives, the staff at Every Woman's House offer to help them reconnect with their respective churches.

Every Woman's House has built a strong relationship with local clergy over the years. We work together to address issues of faith and how it plays a strong part in the healing process for many women.

If you would like to learn how your religious institution can help these courageous women heal from the wounds of domestic violence, please call Every Woman's House at (330) 263-6021.

Every Woman's House collects old cell phones to provide clients with emergency service access. If you would like to donate your old phone, please drop it in the collection box in the Gault Liberty Center lobby!

## Our Mission

Building healthy and peaceful families and communities.

## Our Vision

Every Woman's House is committed to building a community free of violence where everyone is treated with respect and dignity.



**Have an old  
cell phone  
lying around?**

Every Woman's House collects old cell phones to provide clients with emergency service access. If you would like to donate your old phone, please drop it in the collection box in the Gault Liberty Center lobby!

## From the Director's Desk



**Bobbi Douglas,**  
*Executive Director*

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. I was fortunate enough to attend the candlelight vigil sponsored by the Wayne County Domestic Violence Coalition on October 15th. I would like to extend my thanks to the roughly thirty local residents who braved the temperamental weather to show support for victims of domestic violence.

The program was built around hearing the voices of women who have left violent homes and begun to build a new life for themselves. I was very moved by these stories and wished that the entire community could hear how these women

struggled and then prevailed.

These are the voices that keep all of us in the domestic violence field committed to creating a world free of violence; a world where our homes—which should be the safest place of all—can be peaceful havens where we feel safe.

This commitment is needed now more than at any other time in our endeavors. Over the past several years, drastic cuts in funding at the federal and state levels have forced many social service agencies in our community to make tough decisions. Every Woman's House takes pride in the fact that we have been able to keep

these cuts from impacting direct services to clients. However, the strain on our local system of care is becoming increasingly evident day after day. More and more services are being utilized by many in need when the funding is simply not there anymore.

This November, the Mental Health and Recovery Board of Wayne & Holmes Counties has placed a levy on the ballot that will allow Every Woman's House and many other agencies to continue to provide much needed services to those in need.

I encourage you to get out and vote yes for the levy. A community worth living in takes care of its own.



**Sallie Cook,**  
*Board President*

## Board President Sallie Cook

Eight women and nine children resided in Julia's Place, our shelter, last month. They will receive counseling and learn skills in finding new housing, child care, job training and budgeting, if appropriate.

But Every Woman's House offers other services too. Women can come to our offices for parenting classes, legal advice and counseling if they believe they are in an abusive relationship. We have mentors, women who support other women, to lend a

listening ear. Residents sometimes are surprised to learn that we offer help for women outside the shelter.

Your board is working hard to maintain our programs in these precarious economic times.

Each month, we carefully look at our budget. Most of our money comes from state grants, United Way, Medicaid reimbursements and your donations. Our biggest expense is payroll, as you might expect.

One exciting bit of news is that we received

\$48,000 in stimulus dollars to keep open our Holmes County office. Earlier, we had lost that money. Our staff is constantly looking for new money and grants to supplement our work.

To help meet our budget crunch, we welcome volunteers. We have many jobs that you can do from filing to mentoring to babysitting. Giving an hour of your time can encourage a woman to find a life without abuse. That is satisfaction which can't be measured.

# The Urban Cottage

On the first Friday of each month from 11:00 am to 8:00 pm, The Urban Cottage donates 10% of that day's sales to Every Woman's House. Come down and visit a unique store full of wonderful treasures. Every Woman's House would like to thank Urban Cottage for their support!

The Urban Cottage  
126 S. Market Street, Wooster



## Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers play a vital role in helping families recover from domestic violence and sexual assault.

Some of our Volunteer Opportunities are listed to the right. As always, if you have some unique talent or skill that you feel would help achieve our mission, please call Blake Swartz, Volunteer Coordinator, at (330) 263-6021.

### Shelter Monitor

Assist shelter staff with answering phones, helping clients, and basic office work.

### Hospital Advocate

Provide support to sexual assault survivors during medical exam at the hospital

### Mentor

Provide guidance and support to women as they transition out of the shelter to begin their new life.

### Community Educator

Assist Community Education staff by representing EWH at health fairs and community events

### Babysitter

Provide childcare for shelter clients during counseling sessions and job interviews

### Office

Provide filing, computer, and general administrative tasks.

*“Volunteers play a vital role in helping families recover from domestic violence and sexual assault”*

## Julia's Place Wish-List

Julia's Place provides our clients with a warm, safe place to live while rebuilding their lives. However, the transition to a new home can be an overwhelming change. There are many items needed by our clients during this difficult transition.

If you would like to help our clients with a donation, new or gently used items can generally be dropped off Monday through Friday, between the hours 8:00 am and 5:00 pm, at the Gault Liberty

Center located at 104 Spink Street in Wooster.

The following are some of our most needed items by our clients:

- Clothing (Adult/Children)**
- Sheets/Blankets**
- Towels/Washcloths**
- Small Kitchen Appliances**
- Dishes & Utensils**
- Personal Hygiene Products**
- Baby Products**
- Toilet Paper**
- Food**



## Wayne County Friends & Neighbors

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This past summer was a big success for Wayne County Friends & Neighbors.

In July, over 400 people attended the Garden Tour. Five exquisite gardens and landscapes were showcased in Wooster and Orrville. The day began with a Patron's breakfast at Quailcrest featured a presentation on "Organic Gardens" by Cindi Pettiti from Pettiti's Garden Center in Louisville, Ohio.

August brought two beautiful days of golfing at Mohican Hills as the annual Golf Outing took place with 36 women's teams on day one and 32 men's teams on day two.

Both events were an immense success and allowed Friends and Neighbors to donate more than \$20,000 to Every Woman's House this fall.

### OUR FAMILY LABELS

Don't throw away those UPC bar code labels found on Our Family brand products. Each bar code is worth 5 cents and can be turned into cash for Every Woman's House.

The UPC bar codes are those little patterns of vertical bars and spaces found on practically every item you purchase ... including the store brand found on Buehler's grocery store shelves.

Recently, Friends and Neighbors of Every Woman's House shipped 4,000 of the bar codes to Our Family Labels and received a check for \$200 which was donated to EWH.

Bar codes can be dropped off at any of the current collection sites — the courtesy desk at Buehler's Milltown, Buehler's offices or Zion Lutheran Church in Wooster. If you would like to help with the project in any way, call Ann Gasbarre, (330) 345-6419, or email [agasbarre@gmail.com](mailto:agasbarre@gmail.com).

If you would like to join Friends and Neighbors, please contact Every Woman's House at (330) 263-6021.



## Putting the "Fun" in Fundraisers

This summer was filled with some fun and creative fundraisers by local supporters of Every Woman's House.

On July 4th, Jack and Bev Crafton held a silent auction at their home to coincide with their Independence Day festivities. A good time was had by all that attended and several hundred dollars was raised to help the women of *Julia's Place*.



Silent Auction  
Jack & Bev Crafton's House

In September, Stephanie Reardon hosted a Bridge party where attendees were encouraged to donate an item for the donation room at Every Woman's House. These much-needed household items come in handy when women leave the shelter and are starting a new life.

If you are interested in hosting an event to support Every Woman's House, please call us at (330) 263-6021 for assistance.

## Giving in Your Own Way

About a year ago, there came a point in Keri Butler's life where she was re-evaluating her financial planning for the future. Keri was reminded by her daughter that they were now in a position to help others the way they had been helped early on in life.

With her family's financial future secure, Keri decided to name Every Woman's House as a beneficiary of her life insurance policy.

Many people are finding new ways to support their favorite causes and planned giving is just another way for those who strive to ensure the work of organizations continues

long after they are gone.

Keri believes it is important for people to support a cause they are passionate about in a way that works for them.

Keri spent most of her life in Wooster and has a deep affection for Every Woman's House and issues affecting women of all ages. Her planned gift is a way for her to stay connected to an issue that is near and dear to her heart.

Keri's desire to help others is contagious. She has begun a project to decorate and refurbish gently used purses to give to the women at Every Woman's House. When Keri's co-worker Danielle Gray, a

talented artist in her own right, heard about this project she jumped at the chance to help out. Keri hopes to expand this project and create beautiful purses for many women at other domestic violence agencies.

Keri's passion for giving in her own way is just another example of how many have donated their time and resources to help women live a life free from violence.

If you would like to explore options for planned giving, please consult your financial planner or contact Every Woman's House at (330) 263-6021.

## Employee Spotlight

*Each issue, this newsletter spotlights one of the talented staff members who provide our clients with exceptional service. This issue, we spotlight Julia's Place Shelter Manager, Paula Shearer.*

Paula is the new shelter manager for Every Woman's House. Paula has lived in Shreve for more than twenty years. She graduated from Hillsdale High School and from The Ohio State University with a Bachelor of



Paula Shearer  
Julia's Place Shelter Manager

Science in Social Work and a Master's Degree in Social Work.

Before joining Every Woman's House, Paula worked as a full time counselor in Mansfield. Paula lives with her two golden retrievers and five cats. Her hobbies are reading and of course, her pets.

Every Woman's House would like to welcome Paula Shearer and looks forward to her many contributions to our mission to build healthy, peaceful families and communities.

**HOLMES COUNTY  
FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS  
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**Vicki Morrison**

**Amy Patters**

**Eleanor Runyan**

# Holmes County Friends & Neighbors

Holmes County Friends & Neighbors is gearing up for the Holiday House Tour in December. This year, Raymond and Roselyn Coblentz have graciously opened up their home for this year's tour from December 3rd—5th.



The Coblentz is home located at 6163 CR 203, just west of Berlin. Parking will be at Martin's Creek Mennonite Church with shuttle service provided to visitors.

Patron's night is Thursday, December 3rd from 5pm-8pm. Pre-sale Patron Tickets are \$25 and must be purchased at Rodhe's IGA in Millersburg. General admission tickets are available for \$5 for tours on Friday, December 4th from 2pm-8pm, and Saturday, December 5th from 10am-3pm. General admission tickets can be purchased at the door.

Planning is also underway for the 2010 Garden Tour in Holmes County as well as other fundraisers such as restorative yoga, pottery for kids, and a tasting tour of Coblentz Chocolates! Visit the Every Woman's website for more details.

## Going Green

In an effort to reduce our impact on the environment, we are offering the option for you to receive future newsletters electronically through email or our website.

If you would like to be taken off the mailing list and receive future editions of the newsletter through email, please send your name and full address to [info@steps-ewh.org](mailto:info@steps-ewh.org).

As always, your email address will never be shared with anyone and will be used solely for receiving our newsletter.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Geoffrey Martin at (330) 263-6021.

**If you would like to join Holmes County Friends & Neighbors, please contact us in our Millersburg office at (330) 674-1020.**

## Therapy Sand Tray Donation

Counselor Deb Fitzwater recently enlisted the services of her new brother-in-law to help construct a therapy sand tray. This sand tray allows kids to express their feelings by placing figurines of people, animals, monsters, vehicles, etc., into the sand and tell their stories, since verbalizing abuse can be very difficult for them.

Deb and Every Woman's House would like to thank Gene Wilds, who took the time to build, assemble, and transport it all the way from Missouri!



## Client Success Stories

At 21, Alexis found herself in a marriage with a newborn daughter and a four-year-old son. Though her marriage had some minor difficulties, she had always considered herself lucky and tried not to focus on any negativity—after all, she had a roof over her head.

But she wasn't too enveloped in her world of false perfection to notice the anger her husband was exhibiting after being laid off from work. The anger soon turned into violence—both physical and verbal. Her family noticed her lack of hopefulness and lowering self-esteem. Though she left several times after violent inci-

dents, she returned with his promise that it wouldn't happen again.

But it did. When Alexis had finally had enough, she loaded her children into her car and headed to Every Woman's House. Though she had never before visited, she had heard about it before from the community. Though the journey across town was a difficult one to make, because she very much feared what it would be like there, she felt at peace for the first time.

She soon met with the victim advocate and a counselor, and also received a tour of the shelter. Alexis also learned

that her young son was also able to speak with a counselor to unravel the hurt he felt after witnessing the violence in his home.

Although Alexis understood that this was only the beginning of a new life for her and her children, and that she would have many more decisions to make and many more obstacles to overcome, she felt confident that she would be able to do it with a healthy mindset free from abuse.

*This Success Story is just one example of how our clients overcome insurmountable obstacles to better their lives.*

## Volunteer Spotlight

*Each issue, this newsletter spotlights one of the talented staff members who provide our clients with exceptional service. This issue, we spotlight Office Volunteer Linda Kaser.*

Linda Kaser has been with Every Woman's House longer than most staff members. Its often said that she's like the postal service, whether its rain, sleet, or snow, Linda always makes it in to contribute her time with a smile on her face.

Linda has made volunteering a family affair as she occasionally brings in her daughter and husband to help out with various office duties.



**Linda Kaser**  
Office Volunteer

Every Woman's House would like to thank Linda for her tireless work ethic and devotion to the organization. She is an inspiration to many around her and we are grateful for her contributions to Every Woman's House.

## Candlelight Vigil



**Community members converge on the square in Wooster to hear stories of courage from survivors of domestic Violence.**



# EVERY WOMAN'S HOUSE

Ending Violence, Creating Peace

Gault Liberty Center  
104 Spink Street  
Wooster, Ohio 44691

Phone: (330) 263-6021  
Hotline: (800) 686-1122

Non-Profit Org  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Wooster, OH 44691  
Permit No. 23



## Upcoming Events

### Holiday House Holmes County Friends & Neighbors December 3rd—5th



Come tour the beautifully decorated home of Ray and Roselyn Coblentz from December 3rd—5th, located just west of Berlin at 6163 CR203.

Patron's Night: Thursday December 3rd from 5pm-8pm

\$25 Presale Tickets available at Rodhe's IGA in Millersburg

General Admission: Friday December 4th from 2pm-8pm

Saturday December 5th from 10am-3pm

\$5 Tickets available at the door



Please visit the Mental Health & Recovery Board's website at [www.whmhrb.org](http://www.whmhrb.org)

to learn more about the important levy going to the ballot on

Tuesday November 3rd.

United Way provides over \$100,000 of financial support to Every Woman's House each year.

Please give to the United Way and support their efforts to improve the lives of everyone in our community.

United Way of Wayne & Holmes Counties

Orrville Area United Way

