

EWB Newsletter



EVERY
WOMAN'S
HOUSE

VOLUME III, ISSUE I

SUMMER 2010

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Family Suggestions for Responding to Domestic Violence

As friends and family members, it can be difficult to know what to do when someone you care about is experiencing domestic violence. Here's a list of some guidelines to assist you in addressing the violence with the friend or family member and helping them seek the help that is available.

Although we will use the term victim/survivor * and batterer throughout this handout, please be aware that she may not see herself as a victim/survivor or view her partner as a batterer.

- * **Ask questions.** If you suspect domestic violence is occurring, ask how the relationship is going. Ask about disagreements and tension that you observe in the relationship. You can ask specific questions like, "Has he ever pushed or shoved you?" or "Has he ever called you or your children names?"
- * **Be aware of the effects of domestic violence.** Domestic violence has serious and dangerous physical and emotional effects on everyone living in the household, including the children. Educate yourself on the effects of

domestic violence so that you can share them with the victim/survivor in a non-judgmental way that lets her know that you are concerned. Information can be a powerful tool in helping her recognize and mobilize herself against future violence.

* **Trust her knowledge.** Victim/survivors are the "experts" on their relationships and are typically aware of the patterns of violence that occur in the relationship and the batterer's behavior, so trust her to gauge when she is safest. Respect her choices about when she can or cannot take certain steps.

* **Give her positive feedback.** Physically abusive relationships are also emotionally abusive, and all types of abuse lower the victim/survivor's self esteem. Some victims stay in the relationship because they believe that they are to blame for the abuse or do not see the possibility of a nonviolent relationship.

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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

The question that I receive most often about Every Woman's House is "Are you seeing an increase in the number of families in the shelter due to the economy?" The answer is yes. As of today, there are twelve women and fifteen (15) children residing in our shelter. Our projections suggest that we will provide 6600 nights of shelter during this fiscal year (July 1st, 2009 – June 30th, 2010) which will be a 10% increase over last fiscal year.

The perception and belief is that during difficult economic times, increased stress may lead to an rise in domestic violence. Although an economic downturn itself does not cause domestic violence, it can exacerbate the factors that contribute to

domestic violence and reduce victims' ability to flee.

- Domestic violence is more than three times as likely to occur when couples are experiencing high levels of financial strain as when they are experiencing low levels of financial strain.

- Women whose male partners experienced two or more periods of unemployment over a 5-year study were almost three times as likely to be victims of intimate violence as were women whose partners were in stable jobs.

These circumstances create an increase in demand for services, just as emergency domestic violence service providers are struggling with fewer resources. We have

been fortunate to be well supported philanthropically by our community, but the recent defeat of the Mental Health and Recovery Board levy and declining state resources will create additional financial challenges for Every Woman's House in the upcoming year.

You can count on the Board and staff of Every Woman's House to do everything possible to serve our community and to stretch our dollars as far as possible. If you are interested in volunteering for Every Woman's House or contributing to our work, please complete the form on the enclosed envelope and return to our office.

Thanks for all your support.

Board President Sallie Cook



Sallie Cook,
Board President

With the loss of the Mental Health and Recovery Board levy last month, people asked "What services will be cut?" My answer is that we are alright for the rest of this year but next year is a worry. Your board is working on this problem trying to maintain services without slashing hours for counselors who are helping women and children and their batterers.

We can assure you that the shelter will remain open. Women and children still will be able to escape to a safe environment in an emergency with counselors available to aid them. We will also provide counseling to men, women and children who are victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Every Woman's House offers a wide range of

services. We provide a program called "Another Way" which helps batterers understand why they hit and abuse. We find housing for women and children who leave the shelter. We provide programs to local schools about bullying. We attend court sessions when necessary and locate lawyers. We have a donation room with clothing and furniture for clients when they leave. We teach budgeting and parenting skills.

While in the shelter and/or counseling at Gault Liberty Center, women develop a safety plan. They learn to recognize danger signals and decide how to handle them. Many decide to return to school or look for jobs. Some leave their abusers

to start a new life.

Last month, I was told a story about two women having lunch in one of our local restau

rants. The waitress who was serving them said she could not help but overhear their conversation. "I can't help but interrupt," she said, "but Every Woman's House saved my life."

We need all of you to help save women and children's lives. You can volunteer and donate money. You can attend the Holmes County Garden Tour and play in the Wayne County men and women's golf tournaments which support the agency. Our community is richer because of you!

Quilts Donated to Every Woman's House

The Unitarian Universal Fellowship of Wayne County (UUFWC), presented three handmade quilts, a crib quilt, dolls and stuffed animals to Bobbi Douglas representing Every Woman's House.

The material for the quilts was donated, sorted and sewn into the quilts by UUFWC members Margaret Boyer, Lois Grant, Sue Gross and Carol Noel.

For many victims of domestic violence there is little time to pack comforting items from home including toys, clothing and bedding and the items donating by the UUFWC help provide much needed comfort in the shelter environment.



Volunteer Opportunities

“Being able to see the women and children in the shelter smile and laugh and look truly at ease and to see happiness and joy starting to return to their lives makes all of the long hours of training totally worth it!”

—Every Woman's House Volunteer

Every Woman's House volunteers are indispensable to the success of our programs. We are always in need of more helpful hands. Some of our volunteer opportunities include:

Answering our crisis line

Assisting with our childcare when mom's are in counseling

Working at special events like Kid's Day and information booths at health & wellness fairs

Providing administrative support

Sorting donations

Community Education on domestic violence (DV), sexual assault (SA), the effects of DV and SA, and other topics

Speakers Bureau activities on services of Every Woman's House

Other activities that utilize your special skills!

If you are interested in becoming an Every Woman's House volunteer, please contact Blake Swartz, Volunteer Coordinator at 330-263-6021 ext. 115 or swartzb@steps-ewh.org with any questions, to discuss your volunteer interests, or to schedule a service group project.

Wayne County Friends & Neighbors

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'Yarn to Prevent Harm'

The launch of what will become a biennial raffle to benefit Friends & Neighbors of every Woman's House, an original artisan-knitted wool afghan has been generously donated and sponsored by Calla Lily Yarn & Gifts. Supported by Buehler's Fresh Food Markets and Walnut Street Gallery, only 250 tickets will be sold, giving participants a greater chance to win this beautiful piece of art.

The designer afghan, valued at \$1,000, was made by nationally-known knitting artisans who, not only designed the patterns for each block, but knitted them and assembled the afghan for the raffle.

Raffle tickets will be sold at Calla Lily beginning the week of August 2 for \$25 each or 6 for \$100. The drawing for the afghan will be held at Holiday House on Sunday, December 5 at 3 PM. Although we encourage ticket purchasers to also visit Holiday House, you need not be present to



win.

Tickets will also be sold at various Friends & Neighbors events, including the annual golf outing on August 2 and 3 at Mohican Hills, and the Gift Market at Kean Elementary on November 6. Fundraising Chairman, Sonja Tugend, will also have tickets available and can be contacted at 330 345-5844.

The afghan can be viewed in the Photos tab at <http://friendsandneighborsewh.webs.com/>

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 of 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:



General Household Needs

- Canned/non-perishable food
- Cleaning solutions
- Laundry supplies
- Office desks & chairs
- Paper napkins & paper towels
- Toilet paper
- Trash bags (large sizes)
- Household furniture especially cribs, toddler beds and adult beds and mattresses

Children's Needs

- Baby bath/lotion/powder/shampoo
- New underwear
- Diaper rash ointment & Vaseline
- Diapers / Baby Wipes
- Bottles
- Toothbrushes and Toothpaste/Toiletries
- Children's toys especially educational toys and books in new or gently used condition.

Women's Needs (new only)

- Bras
- Hair products
- Ethnic hair care products
- Hair brushes
- Nail Care products
- Socks
- Underwear
- Feminine Hygiene Products
- Toothbrushes and toothpaste
- Toiletries

Family Suggestions for Responding to Domestic Violence Cont'd from Page 1

She may also have fears of making it on her own. Remind her of her strengths and abilities and her importance to you.

- * **Recognize her efforts.** Realize that the victim/survivor is doing something every day to try to improve her situation. Victim/survivors try many things to stop the violence in their lives. These may include talking with the abuser, calling the police, or contacting a mental health professional or clergy member. Recognize that although you might like to see her make different choices, she is trying to improve her situation. Change often occurs in small steps that eventually lead to large gains.
- * **Do not criticize the batterer.** Saying critical things about the batterer also implies criticism of the victim/survivor as she may have chosen the batterer as her partner. Also, one of the ways that many abusers isolate their victims is by telling her that her friends and family don't like him and want to break up the relationship. Criticisms of the abuser may convince her that he is telling the truth about this. Keep in mind that she may also see his positive qualities and continue to love him, despite the abuse. Criticizing the abuser can cause distance in your relationship making her less likely to come to you for support.
- * **Don't make choices for her.** One aspect of abusive relationships is that the batterer limits the victim's ability to make choices. Try not to repeat this behavior by giving her ultimatums or orders. Issuing ultimatums or orders may lessen her ability to confide in you and get your support.
- * **Learn about community resources.** You may want to help yourself by contacting a local shelter or domestic violence program to educate yourself about domestic violence and learn more about community resources. Expand your own support system so that you can share your feelings and frustrations with others.
- * **Be patient and know your limits.** A victim/survivor may try to leave several times before she makes a final break, and this process can take years.

While it can be difficult to maintain your patience with her, remember that leaving is a process that takes time. Develop personal boundaries for yourself so that you can be supportive, but not over-whelmed by a victim/survivor's needs. Make sure to take time for yourself to engage in self-care and get support.

- * **Encourage her to start a log or journal.** This may help the victim/survivor to realize the frequency,



severity, and duration of the abuse she has experienced and can be a helpful source of information later. You may also want to keep a log that can include information about the violent events or others who saw or heard the event, pictures, and information about injuries to the victim or property.

- * **Encourage the victim/survivor to develop a safety plan.** Safety plans can help the victim/survivor to make important plans and decisions about her safety. Safety plans may include the "what" and "how" a victim/survivor will respond if violence is imminent. Safety planning is an ongoing process that changes and evolves as she makes difficult decisions about the relationship. Contact your local shelter to learn more specific information about safety planning. Local shelter numbers can be accessed by calling ODVN at 800-934-9840.
- * **Call the police.** If you witness or hear a violent episode, DO NOT try to intervene physically as this may result in injuries to you or others. Call 911 immediately. When the police arrive, cooperate, ask to fill out a statement, and prepare yourself to testify in court. Often the victim/survivor cannot cooperate with the police or follow through to take necessary legal steps due to her fear of the abuser.

Copied with permission of the Ohio Domestic Violence Network

Holmes County Friends & Neighbors



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The Holmes County Friends and Neighbors of Every Woman's House continued its effort to support their programs by raising money through the proceeds collected at its biennial Garden Tour that

the Nashville United Methodist Church. The featured speaker was Ruth "The Grower" Hale, who has a degree in agricultural business and 17 years of experience in commercial greenhouse



production. The title of her presentation was "Mother Nature's Speciality: The 4 x 4 Area Garden that Will Save You \$600 on Your Grocery Bill".

"Holmes County Friends and Neighbors of Every Woman's House is dedicated to providing financial and emotional support to battered and abused women and families," explained Friends and Neighbors member Vicki Morrison. "Its primary function is fundraising for Every Woman's House, along with increasing public awareness of the programs and services offered through the agency."

She and fellow Friends and



was held on July 10th. Featured gardens were toured at the homes of Leonard and Jane Bilek, Shreve; Chuck and Marianne O'Neal, Swan Lake Bed & Breakfast, Millersburg; Bill and Louise Tallion, Lakeville; and the Tysl Family, Quiet Country Bed & Breakfast in Lakeville. Tours were open from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and preceded by a GardenBreakfast held at

Neighbors member Eleanor Runyan established the Holmes County chapter seven years ago; it now boasts 60 members and alternates holding the Garden Tour with the Wayne County chapter each year.

Dues to become a member in Holmes County are \$10 a year per member or family, payable to Holmes County Friends and Neighbors of Every Woman's House, P.O. Box 189,

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

Going Green—Send Us Your Email Address

In an effort to reduce our impact on the environment, we would like to offer the electronic version of our newsletter to you in the future.

Please send your name, full address and your email address you to: gravesl@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 Leslie Graves at (330) 263-6021.

From the Shelter: Client Success Stories

Darla is a 41 year old, single Caucasian female with a 2 year old son. She entered the Every Woman's House shelter on June 13, 2009 due to intense verbal abuse by her boyfriend of five years. Darla reported that her boyfriend has always been controlling and prohibited her from participating in anything outside the home.

While at the shelter, Darla was active in pursuing employment and completed numerous on-line and paper applications. Although she has not been able to find employment



yet, she remains hopeful for her future. She has been able to receive benefits and is working toward obtaining child support.

Darla currently attends classes at the University of Akron (Wayne College).

Since she has a number of college credit hours that will transfer from her previous college, she has decided to pursue a Bachelor's Degree which will take an estimated 2 years to complete.

Darla currently lives in an apartment with her son. She left the shelter in September of 2009.

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

New Tool Assesses Risk

The Danger Assessment Survey is a 20 item survey administered to a victim of domestic violence to assess the risk of homicide or attempted homicide toward that victim.

The survey was developed by Jaquelyn C. Campbell, PhD, RN of John Hopkins School of Nursing and is used by the Wooster Police Department and advocates and counselors at Every Woman's House to determine the risk level and to better assist the victim.

The score indicates the risk level to the victim and recommends interventions such as higher bond, more intense monitoring, careful safety planning, and other interventions.

This tool is also used to apply for Civil Protection Orders. The Wooster Police Department administers the survey on domestic violence calls and when that risk is rated "high" the Police Department contacts the Every Woman's House hotline then assertively links the victim with the organization.

The Danger Assessment Program was developed by Gina L. Patterson, Psy. D., and Steve Glick, Chief of Police, Wooster and implemented in late 2008. The project continually collects data to determine the effectiveness of the survey and if it could be recommended for implementation by other jurisdictions.





**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
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Upcoming Events

Friends & Neighbors of Every Woman's House 'Holiday House 2010'

Friends and Neighbors of Every Woman's House is thrilled to announce that the 2010 Holiday House will be held at the former Dix home at 647 Northwestern Avenue in Wooster. This beautiful home will be of great interest to the community and we're looking forward to a well-attended event. Patron's nights will be Wednesday and Thursday, December 1 and 2; with general admission tours taking place December 3, 4 and 5.



Rosalie Green, F&N Board member, and Peggy Finley are serving as co-chairs for the event. Many volunteers are needed for this event, and anyone interested in serving on one of the committees is encouraged to contact Rosalie at 330 347-8332.



Please visit the Mental Health & Recovery Board's website at www.whmhrb.org

United Way of Wayne & Holmes Counties
Orrville Area United Way

