

# EWH Newsletter

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 1 WINTER 2009



EVERY  
WOMAN'S  
HOUSE

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## Sexual Assault Awareness Month

This April marks the annual observance of *Sexual Assault Awareness Month*. Similar to domestic violence, sexual assault is an epidemic that is turned a blind eye by some due to the uncomfortable nature of the subject. However, organizations like Every Woman's House work to raise awareness for the many who are victimized by this horrible crime.

One of the ways that Every Woman's House helps raise awareness is through its curriculum in area high schools. Many students are shocked to learn that 1 in 3 women in



their lifetime will be a victim of sexual assault.

This April, Every Woman's House will be conducting several activities in conjunction with *Sexual Assault Awareness Month*. We will be holding an open house on Tuesday April 28th from 4:30-6:30pm. We will also be

conducting several self-defense classes for EWH clients. These classes will teach the women some basic ways to escape an attacker and increase their awareness of safety.

The *Men Working For Change* program will also be recording various public service announcements that will air on local radio stations.

If you would like to help Every Woman's House raise awareness about sexual assault, please contact us at (330) 263-6021.

## 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*

It doesn't need to be said that we are all facing difficult times. The slumping economy is taking a toll on our lives from fluctuating gas prices, soaring food costs, rising unemployment, and a mortgage crisis that is leaving many families homeless.

In addition, agencies like Every Woman's House face additional struggles. Federal and State budgets are generally cut during times of economic crisis and their effects trickle down to many of the smaller non-profit agencies. So what does this mean for our community? It means an

increased need for services with even less resources to respond to these issues.

If my experience in this community has taught me anything, it's that when faced with a challenge, the residents of Wayne and Holmes County somehow rise to the occasion and find a way to solve the crisis.

I never cease to be amazed by the generosity and support of the community for the families we serve. Even in these hard times, it's people like you who help those who need it the most.

Our Board and staff

have worked extremely hard to maintain the high quality of service to our clients while absorbing the reduced funding through attrition and collaboration with other agencies. While their hard work has been crucial to our continuing success, we still depend on your support no matter what form it is given.

I encourage you to help us with not only your time or financial support, but by the unlimited experience and expertise that many of you possess. It's creative collaboration like this that allows a community to survive in hard times.

## Board President Sallie Cook



**Sallie Cook,**  
*Board President*

Each month when I receive a packet for our upcoming Board meeting, often I first turn to a vignette about one of our women who lives in the shelter. The story with names changed tells how the woman came to the shelter and how with the help of counselors she is progressing in searching for a new life.

What courage these women have. And how fortunate we are as a community to have a shelter where women and children can find peace until they get back on their feet. None of this would be possible without you.

Recently, I looked at a

list of more than 300 Wayne and Holmes County residents and businesses who gave over \$50,000 during the holidays to support these women and children. In addition, Wayne County Friends and Neighbors provided \$22,000 from their successful holiday house. Holmes County Friends and Neighbors will be donating money from their chocolate-dipping party. I can assure you that each woman and child at the shelter is grateful for your gifts.

It takes a lot of money to operate the shelter, pay professionals who counsel the women and

children and provide an organized plan for them to leave which includes a job, housing, health and child care.

Your Board is working hard to cut costs and stretching every dollar to maintain services in these hard economic times. We look to you – donors, clients, interested residents and friends - to provide suggestions on how we can do better to serve the needs of those who face major challenges. But most of all, thank you for your time, energy and support in making our counties better places to live.

# Hospital Advocates

The hospital advocates are Every Woman’s House volunteers that have been provided with specialized training on the topics of sexual assault and crisis intervention.

These dedicated volun-

teers provide companionship to all survivors of rape and sexual assault during the medical investigation process. Because the survivor’s clothing is often kept as evidence, the volunteers must carry a supply of gender neu-

tral clothing to provide for the survivor’s return home.

If you would like to become a regular contributor for this program, please contact Kate Taylor, the Every Woman’s House Victim Advocate at 330-263-6021.

## 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**



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# Wayne County Friends & Neighbors



Friends & Neighbors of Every Woman's House held a fabulous Holiday House this winter season!

This year, they were fortunate enough that Holiday House would coincide with the grand

opening of the newly renovated Lorson House, which will provide residential treatment for men experiencing drug or alcohol addiction.

The Lorson House was beautifully decorated by numerous local ven-

dors and set the record as the highest attended Holiday House ever!

In a typical year, the Holiday House tour averages around 1,200 visitors; however, the interest in touring the beautifully decorated house drew in nearly double that amount. The immensely successful event raised approximately \$22,000 for Every Woman's House.

Every Woman's House would like to thank everyone who worked so hard to make this event a huge success.

If you are interested in joining Friends and Neighbors, please contact Every Woman's House at (330) 263-6021.



**Some of the wonderfully decorated rooms for Holiday House!**



# Legal Clinic

Every Woman's House offers a monthly legal clinic for our clients. Through the donation of services from both Community Legal Aid and the law office of Kropf, Wagner, Hohenberger, and Lutz LLP., registered participants are able to attend a free 30-minute legal counseling session. During the session, a volunteer attorney will provide legal advice to assist the client with resolving the prob-

lem, make arrangements to continue working with the client on the case, refer the client to another private attorney, or refer the client to the Community Legal Aid staff in order to match the client with the appropriate attorney.

The clinic attorneys are able to advise clients on a number of issues, including guardianship, custody, divorce, and victim of crime

reimbursement. In order to register for the clinic, those interested should contact our victim advocate.



## Courageous Clients

When Arlene and her 9 year old son, Patrick, first came to the shelter two years ago, both were very quiet and kept to themselves. After a few days, both began to open up, little by little, and share their stories with the staff.

Arlene was having trouble sleeping because of worry. She knew she needed to keep up on her homework for her online college classes, but also search for a new job. She had lost her job after missing too many days because of the violence at home. Meanwhile, Patrick asked to spend time in the office with staff while he worked on jigsaw puzzles. While placing in each new piece, he would talk to staff about his fear of having to visit his step-father and his hopes to have his own room and a place to ride a bicycle. During their stay, Arlene

was able to acquire a Civil Protection Order to protect her family and begin working at a local nursing home.



This past fall, Arlene and Patrick flagged down a staff member on one of the local rails to trails and, smiling, Arlene shared that she was working on her last semester of college and that she was really enjoying her work as a nurse aid.

She and Patrick had found a nice apartment in Wooster that was within

walking distance of Patrick's school and a park. Patrick blurted out that he has two fish in his room, then he rode around in a couple circles to show off his new bike.

Arlene talked to the staff member about how much Every Woman's House helped her family and that she had been writing poetry as a way to heal from her abusive relationship.

*This Success Story is just one example of how our clients overcome insurmountable obstacles to better their lives. If you or someone you know is living in an abusive relationship, please call our 24-hour hotline at (800) 686-1122. All calls are confidential and a representative can provide information on the multitude of services offered by Every Woman's House.*

**"...he would talk to staff about his fear of having to visit his step-father .."**

**HOLMES COUNTY  
FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS  
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# Holmes County Friends & Neighbors

Holmes County Friends & Neighbors recently partnered with Coblentz Chocolates of Walnut Creek, Ohio to hold a fun and delicious event on January 29th.

Those who braved the cold weather were rewarded with the pleasure of making their own sweet treats.

Coblentz Chocolates generously donated the ticket proceeds for the

event as well as 10% of the day's sales from their shop to Every Woman's House.

Every Woman's House would like to thank Coblentz Chocolates, HC Friends and Neighbors, and all those who attended this fun event for their support of our mission to build healthy, peaceful communities free from violence.



## 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.**



### **Rita Smith, Executive Director of the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence**

Every Woman's House is pleased to announce that Rita Smith will be presenting to area professionals about how our community can utilize our expertise and resources to respond more efficiently to interpersonal violence.

Please join us on Thursday March 12th from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm. The conference is free and a box lunch is available (Cost is \$8). 2 CEU's are available for Counselors and Social Workers (Cost is \$10)

RSVP Required: Register by calling (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 Clinical Director, Gina Patterson.*

I received a Bachelor of Arts in psychology from Ohio Dominican University and went immediately into the Psy.D. clinical psychology program at the School of Professional Psychology at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio. I completed

my pre-doctoral internship at the Student Health Center at Michigan State University and I completed my post-doctoral internship in Cleveland at North East Ohio Health Services. From there I went on to work at The Counseling Center for three years as a staff psychologist providing psychotherapy and psychological testing. I came to Every Woman's House in 2002 in the position of Women's Therapist where I provided psychotherapy to survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. In

September of 2008 I accepted the position of Clinical Director of Every Woman's House. I am responsible for overseeing the shelter, counseling program, and advocacy program including the satellite office in Millersburg. I continue to provide psychotherapy to a small caseload of clients and psychological testing as needed. I have been married to Joseph for 10 years and we have two daughters Isabel (7) and Emily (4).



**Gina Patterson**  
**Clinical Director**

## Donate Books to Help Every Woman's House

Every Woman's House has a new program that will help raise funds for client services. In a program similar to our cell phone and printer cartridge recycling, we can receive funds for used books. Donated books should be in reasonably good condition for the program.



Unfortunately, paperback fiction is the one type of book that is not currently being accepted at this time. Books are available for drop-off Monday through Friday between 8am and 5pm.

## Garden Tour

Wayne County Friends and Neighbors will once again be holding another Garden Tour!

The tour is scheduled for Saturday, July 18th (with a rain date of July 19th). The day will begin with a Patron's Breakfast at Quailcrest Farm at 8:30 am. The tour will



consist of five glorious gardens that will be announced

soon. Patron Tickets will be \$25 and General Admission Tickets will be \$10.

Mark your calendars early for what is sure to be an exciting event! For more information please call Dorothy Ginther at (330) 345-6222 or email Deborah Draudt at [debdraudt@yahoo.com](mailto:debdraudt@yahoo.com).



**EVERY  
WOMAN'S  
HOUSE**

Ending Violence, Creating Peace

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

Gault Liberty Center  
104 Spink Street  
Wooster, Ohio 44691

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



## Upcoming Events



### **Fellowship Luncheon (March 10th)**

Every Woman's House will once again be holding a Fellowship Luncheon for local clergy on Tuesday March 10th from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. This is a wonderful opportunity for local churches to learn more about how their congregation can help end domestic violence in their community. If any Pastor or church representative would like to attend, please contact Geoffrey Martin at (330) 263-6021.



### **EWB Open House (April 28th)**

Every Woman's House will be holding an open house on Tuesday April 28th from 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm. Please come and learn about how Every Woman's House and other area agencies respond to Sexual Assault in our community. Information will be available from 4:30 pm to 6:00 pm followed by a Panel Discussion from 6:00 pm to 6:30 pm.