



2017 Summer Newsletter

IMPACTING OUR COMMUNITY TOGETHER



From The Desk of Executive Director, Sylvia J. Jackson

July is the month we spend a lot of time talking about independence and freedom, which are key elements to the American way of life.... but for victims of domestic violence, these inalienable rights are taken away from them by their abuser. Much of the work, The Women's Safe House does is focused on freeing women and their dependent children from the abuse and fear that goes with helping them to remain safe and living violence free lives.

Additionally, there is another freedom that we must address as a community; freedom from guilt. Too often victims are blamed for the abuse they've suffered as if they made a conscious decision to be abused, or they could somehow prevent the abuse from happening in the first place. Community attitudes that misconstrue or condone domestic violence have powerful impacts: they compound the shame that victims feel and dissuade them from seeking help, and give license to the abuser to continue the abuse. The fact of the matter is the blame for the abuse rests with the abuser. There is never an excuse or a valid justification for domestic violence.

As a community, we must come together and help victims to feel supported, by refusing to blame victims of domestic violence for the abuse they've endured. Not blaming victims is an act of courage. We all need to be brave enough to stop blaming victims, and to realize that the shame of domestic violence never belongs with survivors, but in the hands of the abuser.

I hope you will continue to support the work The Women's Safe House does for women and their dependent children trying to escape abuse and discover the true freedom of living lives that are safe from violence and other forms of abuse. Thank you for everything you do.

Client Success: Building a safer future for her family

We love hearing from our former residents with updates on how they are doing. We received this letter from a resident who utilized our shelter, supportive services and participated in our AfterCare program.

"When my daughter and I first arrived at The Women's Safe House, we were homeless. We were exhausted, afraid and struggled with interacting with people. We had no hope for the future."

This is where the challenging work begins for many of our residents. While in the shelter she met with staff who helped her to plan for her safety. Then she and her daughter worked with our life coach to begin processing the trauma and abuse. From the shelter, she moved into transitional housing where she accessed safe, affordable housing while participating in our AfterCare program.

"Nine months later, I am enrolled in school and have successfully navigated divorce and custody proceedings. My daughter is happy and secure young lady. Most importantly, we have been filled with joy, hope and a sense of purpose.

Like all of our success stories, this would not be possible without the generosity of our supporters. We're so thankful to you for becoming involved with our mission. Together with your support, we can change lives.



Upcoming Events

[August 21 - 25th Annual Golf Tournament](#)

[October 1 - Kick off of Blue Lips Campaign](#)

[October 9 - Safety In Beauty](#)

[November 28 -Giving Tuesday](#)

Join us in celebrating 40 years of service! Stay engaged with the Women's Safe House all year.

1. Celebrate 40 with us! Are you celebrating a milestone birthday or anniversary this year? In lieu of gifts, request donations in your honor to The Women's Safe House.
2. Help us make new friends. Invite others to follow our social media pages, volunteer with you, or attend one of our events to hear firsthand about our work.
3. Volunteer. Volunteers are critical in the work we do to serve survivors. Volunteer by yourself or with a group of people - we have opportunities year round! Call our Volunteer Manager at 314-772-4535.
4. Hold your own fundraiser. Collect funds at work, school or church, or host a drive for clothing, hygiene products, shoes, or any of our [Wish List items](#) to help provide for the residents we serve.

Volunteer Spot Light

The Women's Safe House is grateful to World Wide Technology Global Service provider team volunteers, who painted several suites in our emergency shelter, July 12, 2017, and purchased all of the painting supplies valued at \$1,000.00. Thank you to Melissa Ecker, who coordinated the work through her group St. Louis Sales Team.



Walk This Way..In Her Shoes 2017 Recap

In February, our community of friends, supporters, and concerned citizens came together for our **Walk This Way In Her Shoes Gala Fundraiser**. Hundreds of guests attended this night of food, fun and fundraising to support the life-saving services of The Women's Safe House. We raised over \$60,000.00.

Janet Horlacher was honored with the **Legacy Award** for her years of service both on and off the board of directors.

[View photos from the gala.](#)



NoraAnn Boland began working in the mental health field in 1973, on a forensic male maximum security unit in Ohio for two years. After moving to Missouri she was employed as an activity therapist at St. Vincent's Hospital for two years and then teaching at Special School District. Returning to college to complete her bachelor's degree in psychology she was gainfully employed for 18 years at St. Joseph's Health Center where she filled a variety of positions working with adults and adolescents as well as seniors all with mental health and/or chemical dependency issues. Nora completed her MBA at Lindenwood University and was employed in a management capacity at St. Patrick's Center as the Senior Administrator and Director of Rosati Center for 19 years. Prior to her employment at The Women's Safe House she was the interim Executive Director of the Good Samaritan House, a shelter for women and children in Granite City, Ill.



Jaszmine Parks is a recent graduate from Washington University in St. Louis where she studied Women and Gender Studies, International and Area Studies with a focus in Public Policy, and French. A native of Chicago, she comes to us from Center for Women in Transition where she volunteered under their advocacy director Barb Baker, attending court dates with clients, tracking legislation, and studying women-centered legal issues. Her background is in women-centered policy studies, having studied how policy changes affected gender-based violence both in Senegal and the USA. Jaszmine looks forward to working with and growing as a part of TWSH, and will become the Shelter Advocate in October.

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The Women's Safe House, Young Professional Group, supports Beta Theta Pi, Walk A Mile In Her Shoes Fundraiser and raise over \$4000.00

For the past several years, Beta Theta Pi fraternity at St. Louis University has hosted, Walk a Mile In Her Shoes fundraiser benefitting The Women's Safe House. Looking to expand their reach out into the community, Beta Theta Pi joined forces with the Women's Safe House, Young Professionals Group to raise awareness and garner community support; thus raising well over \$4,000.00.

TOP 50 Donors (Jan 1 - June 30, 2017)

Ace Pipe Cleaning Co.	Mr. & Mrs. Tim Bussen
Alpha Kappa Lambda	Mr. & Mrs. Timothy Noelker
Amelia M. Beckmann	Mr. & Mrs. Tobe Suarez
Ameren	Mr. & Mrs. Tom Horlacher
Anders CPAs & Advisors	Mr. & Mrs. William Gaffin
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