



House Talk

A Publication of The Peace At Home Family Shelter

Peace at Home Family Shelter's 3rd Annual Top Chefs & Rock Stars

Northwest Arkansas' best chefs and top musicians will team up again for a unique event to benefit the Peace at Home Family Shelter. The third annual Top Chefs & Rock Stars will be held Monday, December 14, 2009 from 5:30 to 10:00 pm at the Fayetteville Town Center.

With support from Presenting sponsor Tyson, as well as Harp's, Pel-Freeze, Maple Leaf Farms, Cargill and others, Top Chefs & Rock Stars 2009 is sure to be our most delicious and musically inspiring fundraiser ever. This social event is both a band auction and a culinary competition unlike any other event held in Northwest Arkansas. It will serve as a fundraiser for Peace at Home's efforts to END domestic violence and support survivors in the northwest Arkansas area. Last year, the event raised \$40,000 for victims of domestic violence in Northwest Arkansas.

Top Chefs & Rock Stars attendees will sample food prepared by locally and nationally renowned chefs competing for Top Chef honors in six categories, as well as for a People's Choice Award. Already participating are Ella's, Bordino's Herman's Ribhouse, Bliss Cupcake Cafe, Café Rue Orleans, Shelby Lynn's, Greenhouse Grille, and more. Prominent NWA bands including Take Cover, Ultra Suede, Efron White, Oreo Blue and 3 Penny Acre will donate a performance; Top Chefs & Rock Stars attendees will bid for these fabulous performances, and the lucky winners will enjoy a performance in their own home or business. The live auction will be hosted by Dick Trammel, and a silent auction of items relating to Top Chefs and Rock Stars will also be available. Entertainment for the evening will be provided by T.J. Scarlett.

Over the past two years, more than 1,000 people have attended Top Chefs & Rock Stars. 2009 promises to be another thrilling year! Call Peace at Home Family Shelter at (479) 444-8310 for more information on how to become a sponsor or participate in Top Chefs & Rock Stars 2009.

"Tickets are on sale now on Peace at Home's web site at www.peaceathomeshelter.org."

One Woman's Journey to Independence

JM was a victim of domestic violence from a very young age. She grew up in a violent home. As a teenager, she left her home to escape the abuse and went to live with her boyfriend, with whom she had a child. The child's father was also abusive to her, but she believed she needed him to survive as she had no other support. Another child quickly followed and she felt really stuck. In January of this year at the age of 23 and while she was pregnant with her third child, JM's abuser almost killed her. She believed that her life and the children's lives were in jeopardy if she did not leave him. JM contacted the Peace at Home Family Shelter. During her stay with us, she delivered a healthy baby and she participated in the Arkansas Women Achieving program (see Allstate article for more details). This program helped her make the decision to go back to school. She passed her GED test and started a business cleaning homes and offices in order to support her family as she continued her education. It took almost nine months, but JM has graduated from Massage Therapy School and is now better able to support her family. Her goal is to eventually get a degree in social work so she can give to others the help and support she found at Peace at Home Family Shelter.

What a Year it has been!

By Judith Selle, CEO

Our first year in the new Donald W. Reynolds Peace At Home Family Shelter will be completed on December 17th, 2009. It has truly been worth all the effort that was expended by dozens of volunteers, Campaign Committee members and the Board of Directors. I was confident that with a new state-of-the-art shelter and program facility, more women and children could be helped with even greater success than in Peace at Home's previous thirty-two years, and I was right.

Some of the accomplishments include:

- 5,688 nights of safety for women and children fleeing domestic violence;
- 63 individual women provided safe shelter;
- 103 individual children provided safe shelter;
- Over 14,000 meals provided supported by community donors;
- An additional 715 women and children provided services who are survivors of domestic violence but who either do not need emergency shelter (but do request support services), or who are on a waiting list to come into the shelter and are receiving services while they wait;
- Up to five support groups held each week at the shelter, typically two each week for adults, one in Spanish and in one in English and up to three support groups each week for children;
- GED and English as a 2nd language offered each week in the shelter
- 490 crisis calls answered;

The list goes on and on.

Volunteers Needed

Volunteering at Peace At Home Family Shelter can be an extremely rewarding experience. Those interested in directly assisting our women and their children can become prepared and feel confident in their helping skills for this special population by attending the Volunteer Training program. You will learn more about the Dynamics of Domestic Violence and specific skills to promote the healing and avoid the harming of our clients.

Training Dates in 2010

January 16th: Saturday 9:00 to 3:00pm

April 19th: Monday 6:00 to 9:00

April 22: Thursday 6:00 to 9:00pm

August 14th: Saturday 9:00 to 3:00pm

October 25: Monday 6:00 to 9:00

October 28: Thursday 6:00 to 9:00pm

Contact Melissa Hughes at mhughes@peaceathomeshelter.com

Overall, our shelter census has increased 70% over last year. Our community clients and crisis calls have increased, in part I believe because of our greater visibility, and we are seeing many more families from the middle class requesting shelter. The type of cars in our shelter parking lot is very different from our old shelter as women are choosing the safety and support provided by living in the shelter even if they have other options and resources. This is great because it is the women themselves who inspire and who are inspired by each other. Courage and hope are crucial to begin and maintain the journey to independence and freedom from violence. When women see others succeeding and overcoming enormous barriers, when they see their children start the healing process and begin to flourish, as they do in the shelter, then women most often find the strength and bravery to create new lives for themselves and their children.

I never judge a woman for returning to an abuser; she sometimes has very good reasons, including believing that the situation will change and her family can be preserved. We always strategize safety planning with her and emphasize she can always get help again if she decides to try again to leave. But I must admit that I am thrilled when I see families leaving the shelter to create new and violence-free homes. My day is always wonderful when I hear of their many ensuing successes. The most important statistic of what has been accomplished in our first year in the new Donald W. Reynolds Peace At Home shelter is that only 7% of the families leaving the shelter return to their abusers! For the 63 women and the 103 children sheltered so far this year, all but five left the shelter to safety and started their path toward creating new lives and finding peace in their homes. This could not happen without the support of our community. Thank you - we need your help now more than ever.



Boozefighters Motorcycle Club Presents \$6,000 Donation to Peace at Home at Fiesta 2009



Press Conference at Fiesta 2009



Children's Game at Fiesta 2009

Featured Donor:

Allstate Insurance Company

Allstate Insurance Company generously donated \$10,000 to support Peace at Home Family Shelter's Arkansas Women Achieving (AWA) program. Carrie Davis, Exclusive Agent, Allstate, presented a check to Peace at Home Family Shelter for the program. AWA has proven very successful in helping domestic violence survivors through financial, personal, and career empowerment.

"We are very appreciative of the support that Allstate has given us," said Maria Thompson-McSperitt, Transitional Services Coordinator for Peace at Home. "AWA provides a solid foundation for women as they create their new independent lives. We are very grateful for the support of the business community."

AWA is a three-phase economic empowerment program that not only assists women with gaining the skills necessary to obtain employment, pursue a career or education, but it also centers on restoring dignity and the right to self-determination that has been denied victims of domestic violence for far too long. Another benefit of the AWA program is that women gain inspiration and strength from each other, and form lasting friendships. To read how AWA impacts women in a very positive way, see the article "One Woman's Journey to Independence" on page 1.

Since its inception, 232 women have participated in the seminar weekend and graduated from AWA. Separate seminars for Hispanics and non-Hispanic women are offered and are tailored to each group. Equal numbers from both groups have participated.

So far 100% of the women who attended the program have completed it and most have gone on to find success in the job market. Our clients tell us this is a life-altering program and it is completely funded by private donations.



AllState Check Presentation - Amy Michaud and Carrie Davis

New Justice Program

Many women file for an Order of Protection (OOP) after being threatened or violated by another person, usually their husband, boyfriend or a family member. A Circuit Court Judge issues the Order of Protection after reviewing the petitioner's statement. Typically, this initial OOP is good for 30 days and another hearing is scheduled for the "permanent" OOP. Many women who seek the initial OOP do not follow through to the 2nd hearing and the Order of Protection is dropped.

There are many reasons for this. Sometimes the abuser influences the woman to drop the OOP. Sometimes the woman doesn't have the support she needs to make a

final break and make the OOP permanent. With the help of new funding, Peace at Home Family Shelter now has some resources to support women through the process with the hope that more women and children will be safe.

Peace at Home Family Shelter has received this new grant as a part of the stimulus funding. Because of this grant, we have hired two professionals and are providing services to help women through the court process, including supporting women to stay with their initial intention to leave their abuser and get protection and help.

This program is staffed by two new members of Peace at Home's family of advocates, Liana Frisbie, Court Advocate, and Lensa Odima, Justice System Specialist. Together, these two new Peace at Home family members provide individual court advocacy and accompaniment to court; develop a tracking and evaluation system to develop a tracking system to document the impact of domestic violence on our legal system; create a volunteer court advocacy program to assist trained advocates in providing services to victims; recruit and support pro bono services by area attorneys, and work with etc etc. and work with judicial system community partners to increase victim safety and offender accountability.

This new advocacy program will not only help victims of domestic violence who are suffering the devastating physical, emotional and economic effects of domestic violence navigate the often confusing judicial system, but will also work with the justice system to provide the best possible outcomes for victims of domestic violence and their children.



Peace at Home Board Member Susan Schroeder donates her car to shelter client Satara Wilson through Bumper to Bumper program.



Peace at Home Family Shelter

P.O. Box 1923

Fayetteville, AR 72702

Return Service Requested

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Fayetteville, AR
Permit No. 504

The Healing Journey of One Child

LS was only three years old when her mother first brought her to the Peace at Home Family Shelter. She and her mother had been abandoned by her biological father, and LS had witnessed her mom's new boyfriend cut, stab, and burn her mother. Living with a dominating abuser, LS thought the way to deal with people was to order them to do what you want. Hugs and smiles were only to manipulate others into doing your bidding and if that did not work, she turned to anger and rage. As you might expect, LS had a hard time following directions, being in public and speaking to anybody, especially children her own age.

All of that began to change while LS stayed at the shelter with her mom. Our children's services specialist began to work with LS and her mom to modify her behavior. Mom learned techniques to teach LS new ways to ask for and get what she wanted, and LS was able to start in the Head Start program. LS is now almost five years old. She is looking forward to starting kindergarten and she no longer has hysterical fits when things are not going her way. The only long-term effects that mom is reporting at this time are nightmares, but they are becoming less and less frequent now that mom and LS are living in a stable, violence-free home. LS has taken many steps on the path of healing and is on her way to becoming a happy, well-adjusted child.