



HopeLine



Refuge House *Saving Lives, Building Hope, Ending Violence!*

Winter 2008

REFUGE HOUSE EMERGENCY APPEAL!

The downturn in the economy has affected Refuge House in two significant ways - government funding is being cut while at the same time the increased stress on family finances results in more violence and abuse and an increased need for our services.

Particularly at this holiday season, we at Refuge House want to thank you for your past support. Because of your generosity, last year we provided:

- Safe shelter to 519 women and children escaping abuse
- Hotline crisis intervention/safety planning to 2,883 callers
- Supportive counseling in the aftermath of violence to 1,191 to children and adults

However, with this celebrated success, Refuge House like other human services agencies has received cuts in government funding. What this means is that private contributions will have to make up the difference to continue the mission that you and we know is so essential for our community. We will need \$330,000 in private contributions to maintain our services in 2009. To date, concerned friends have contributed \$100,000. We're asking you to help us raise the remaining money to help survivors of domestic and sexual violence reclaim their lives. **Please make your tax-deductible gift today!**

Gender Equality: The Focus of Black on Black Rhyme Troupe

On October 24, 2008, Refuge House featured a ground-breaking, innovative initiative addressing domestic violence in our society. Rhyme Against Domestic Violence, a competition featuring the "spoken word," a form of poetry that SPEAKS UP and SPEAKS OUT against domestic violence, featured the Black on Black Rhyme poetry troupe and area poets.

It was the highlight of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, in which Refuge House focused on our primary prevention efforts to end conditions in our society that support the continuation of domestic violence.



"As long as we have the belief that someone is less than us, it provides an opportunity for violence to fester."

— Layne Davis
Event Coordinator

Meg's Message

Domestic violence wounds so many in our community. Among those hardest hit are our children who witness such violence. For them, domestic violence is black and blue, painfully ugly, and hurts more than the eye can see. Emotional pain, shame, guilt, fears of abandonment, depression, anxiety, self blame...these are the legacies they inherit.

Without intervention, this inheritance has a pervasive impact on hundreds of children in our community. They may suffer from dysfunctional aggressiveness or passivity, lying (to avoid confrontation), reduced intellectual competency and mood swings. Commonly, headaches, stomachaches, and more serious physical disorders plague these children.

However, thanks to our loyal supporters, children at Refuge House are getting the help they need and a second chance at life. Children such as those of 25-year old Ella, who entered Refuge House earlier this year suffering from a brain injury caused by an abusive partner. This injury left her unable to read and take care of her four young children. When Ella and her children came to Refuge House, they were malnourished, inadequately clothed and the young victims' mental and behavioral development were significantly challenged.

Caring, committed donors to Refuge House enabled us to provide Ella and her children the services that they desperately needed at the time they desperately needed them. Emergency shelter, group counseling (for both Ella and her children), childcare, pre-school education, case management and referral services saved their lives. Today, Ella is determined, capable and self-sufficient, with her own apartment and is successfully taking care of her children.

This holiday season, please dig deep and help women and children in our community, like Ella and her family, begin a new life. Their survival and Refuge House's continuation of programs depends on your caring and generosity.



Meg Baldwin
Executive Director

Miss Julia Honored for Lifetime of Generosity

Mrs. Julia Munroe Woodward was recently honored as the first recipient of the Lifetime Achievement in Philanthropy



"I believe that every child has a right to grow up healthy and whole in order to fulfill their God-given potential and become contributing members of society."

– Julia Munroe Woodward
Lifelong Donor

Award by the Big Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals.

Miss Julia, as she is affectionately known, has a strong commitment to faith,

family and community and her beloved hometown of Quincy, Florida. Her support of Refuge House, particularly its children's

program, continues to transform lives. As one who avoids the spotlight, Miss Julia says she gives, not to be recognized, but because there is a need.



Terri Brown, Publix District Manager (left)
Marie Olenych, Refuge House former Assistant Director (right)

Publix Partners to End Domestic Violence

Publix Super Markets believe giving back to the community creates a win-win situation for citizens as well as the company. Toward that aim, Publix recently presented Refuge House with a \$4,500 contribution to help rebuild the lives of survivors of domestic violence. "Refuge House provides a unique service to our friends and neighbors affected by domestic violence, and we are proud to partner with the agency in its important work," says Publix District Manager, Terri Brown. In addition to financially supporting Refuge House, Brown believes volunteer involvement is important as well. Brown says, "We have many associates who cannot give financially and given the opportunity to give financially, their time helps them fulfill their desire to make a difference." She concludes, stating, "Parents who volunteer provide an example for the next generation, and when kids grow up understanding the importance of helping others, it is just one more tool to help them mature into loving, caring individuals."

Thank You

Thanks to Susie Mozolic with Culley Meadowwood Funeral Home and Memorial Park for the gift of Thanksgiving international phone cards. Because of your generosity, our international residents were able to make soul restoring contact back home to friends and family all over the globe.

Sheriff Campbell Golf Tournament Sets New Record: \$26,000

The 9th Annual Sheriff Larry Campbell Golf Tournament benefitting Refuge House set a record, raising more than \$26,000! Thanks to the tremendous support of our sponsors, players and volunteers, led by golf committee chair, Cecile Reynaud, the tournament was a glowing success.

More than 100 golfers and community sponsors turned out at SouthWood Golf Club last October for a fun-filled day of golf, food and fabulous prizes. Raffle prizes included signed sports memorabilia, golf outings, dinners and merchandise. A chance drawing for a luxurious beach house resort stay at St. George Island was a highlight of the event. Karen Kline, the winner of the drawing, expressed her excitement, saying, "I've always wanted to enjoy a weekend on St. George Island, and the beach house gives me and my family the wonderful opportunity to do just that!" Refuge House appreciates the support of all of our event participants and invites each of you to join us for next year's golf tournament.

Special thanks to Sheriff Larry Campbell and all of our sponsors, players, volunteers and the SouthWood Golf Club:

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SPONSORS

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Rogers, Gunter Vaughn Insurance	

Many Thanks to the Golf Committee

Cecile Reynaud, Chair	JoAnne Graf
Laura Brock	Janet Hinkle
Kathy Bye	Janet Stoner
Alicia Crew	



Refuge House

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850-653-3313

Crawfordville
850-926-9005

Tallahassee
850-922-6062

Madison
850-973-4144

Monticello
850-342-3518

Perry
850-584-8808

Quincy
850-627-9377

P.O. Box 20910 * Tallahassee, Florida 32316 * 24 Hour Crisis Line 850-681-2111 Local or 800-500-1119 Toll Free



Refuge House, Inc. is registered with the state under the Solicitation of Contributions Act 1991, Registration Number CH1682. Refuge House, Inc. receives 100% of each contribution. A copy of the official registration may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Affairs by calling toll-free, within the state, 1-800-435-7352. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the state.