



The
Haven...
more than just a shelter...

The Haven Shelter 2005 Newsletter



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

When The Family Focus Board of Richmond County first founded The Haven in the mid 1980's, its sole purpose was to provide safe shelter for victims of domestic violence and their children. Very quickly, it became evident that shelter was just one part of what victims need in order to maintain safe homes for themselves and their children, and that in order to



Roy Foster (left) & John Rellick, Esq. (Right) Our hats off... to Roy and John for years of service as Haven Board Members. You will be missed. Thank you!

best meet the needs, other services would have to be available. It also became evident that many domestic violence victims were also victims of sexual assault and that there were many victims of sexual assault who, because they were not victims of domestic violence, had very few services available to them in the community. Twenty years later, The Haven, now its own 501c3 organiza-

tion, offers a full range of services to victims of sexual assault, victims of domestic violence, and many who are both. As was the original intention, all services remain confidential, free of charge, and available to all victims regardless of whether or not they choose to stay in the shelter.

In this newsletter, you will be reading about some of the many services provided at The Haven and about the caring and dedicated staff that provide those services. We hope that you will help us spread the news that we are a shelter and much, much more. Victims both of domestic violence and sexual assault in the community need to know that services designed to meet their individual needs are available. Everyone in the community needs to know about and take advantage of our prevention programs so that in our future there will be fewer victims.

Sincerely,
Ellen Yackel
Executive Director

DEVELOPMENT REPORT

This year has brought with it many exciting events and happenings to The Haven, beginning with Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Awareness Month in October. Though the vigils were nestled in somber perspective due to the tragic murder that occurred in Essex County just before the first vigil, we had record turnout at both vigils and success in our outreach/awareness efforts with The Silent Witness figures, library book reviews, and booth events.

Our Thanksgiving and Christmas Adopt-A-Family programs went exceedingly well. Churches, businesses, and families that gave, outdid themselves. The staff was ecstatic, as were the families that received the blessings of these programs. This is truly one of the programs that everyone feels good about at the end of the day. Thanks to all who participated!

Following a robust singing Santa event for staff from The Board of Directors we jumped straight to business after the first of the year. The Haven Volunteers and staff participated in a successful Legislative Advocacy Day at the States Capital helping to pass important legislation about domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

As February came we turned our attention to Mardi gras and the mid-winter break that we had been looking forward to since the last years successful event. Close behind Mardi gras we began to prepare for Just Gardens with large mailings and plans.

March moved in with training for staff and volunteers on everything from grant writing to personality inventories trying to get at the stuff that makes not just a good team, but a great team.

April came with rain for 'Just Gardens' flowers, a concert to benefit The Haven arranged by local artists, and National Child Abuse Awareness Month. The Haven collaborated with several other local agencies in order to raise awareness about child abuse and participated in Family Fun Day held at The Heathsville Library. It wasn't clear who enjoyed the event more, the kids or the clowns. The praise and worship concert put on to benefit The Haven by the local community went extremely well with the best talent in area donating their time and gifts in an effort to spotlight the need for community support.

continued



DEVELOPMENT REPORT *continued*

Finally...in May, Just Gardens. What a special event this has turned out to be again this year. Everyone involved worked hard, gave their all, and enjoyed a wonderful turnout that raised more financial support for the building fund than any year so far. Our hats are off to those who helped and participated.

Lazy summer days...June hasn't slowed things down a bit. Already we are gearing up for domestic violence and sexual assault awareness month in October. In addition, we are taking the opportunity to participate with the Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance (VSDVAA) in National Lobby Day in Washington, D.C. to support more legislation that will increase the likelihood that agencies like our Haven can continue to thrive and help people statewide prevail in the face of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking.

The Haven is unique to the Northern Neck and Essex County. The Haven cannot survive without aid from the community. Once again that community has come through. Thank You!



VICTIM'S ADVOCATE

Go to the magistrate to request an emergency protective order...You can't file for custody of your children in this county... We are considering a plea agreement... Your emergency protective order expires at 5:00 tomorrow; you need to get on the docket for a preliminary protective order...The conditions of the bond will be... What did the judge specify on your protective order... Be in court at 9:00 am... The charges will be nolle prossed...

Is it any wonder that a victim who is in crisis might be overwhelmed to the point of being paralyzed when it comes to the maze of legal issues that surround domestic violence and sexual assault? In addition to the general confusion of the whole process, victims must often face their abuser in the courtroom or outside while waiting for their case to be heard.

The Haven has trained staff who help guide a victim through the maze and help them avoid some of the barriers along the way. Primarily, the Victims' Advocate and the Sexual Assault Services Coordinator provide advocacy services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault to help them navigate the complicated legal system. Our advocates are not lawyers, and therefore do not advise victims, but they are very knowledgeable about the legal system and can help victims better understand the options from which they must choose.

The Victim's Advocate is present in the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court each time it meets to hear domestic or sexual violence cases in each of the five counties that we serve. The advocate's role varies based on the needs of each victim. The goal of the advocate is to make a victim's contact with the legal system as safe and successful for that victim as possible by...

- Helping the victim identify her/his needs and the preferred outcomes of her/his legal case.
- Helping the victim assess her/his readiness to participate in the justice system process.
- Clarifying what can and cannot be accomplished through the legal system.
- Preparing the victim for the courtroom experience and helping to create a safety plan for court.
- Providing referrals to attorneys and other professionals who can assist the victim.
- Helping the victim to understand legal "jargon".
- Helping the victim work cooperatively with other "players" such as law enforcement or the Commonwealth's Attorney

Sometimes the most important thing an advocate can do is just be in the courtroom as a support for the victim.

In addition to Lisa Brann, the Sexual Assault Services Coordinator, who accompanies sexual assault victims in court, a new advocate, Megan Hay, the new Victims' Advocate for The Haven will now be accompanying and assisting court clients. Megan comes to the program with a lot of experience as an advocate for victims of domestic violence and a genuine desire to help empower victims to achieve their goals through the legal system.



Megan Hay

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WISH LIST

The local community has in the past and present helped to meet the needs of shelter residents by making in-kind donations. As always these gifts are still in need. The following is a list of items that we most frequently have in short supply.

Paper Towels

Toilet Paper

Pre-Paid Long Distance Phone Cards

Laundry Detergent

Kitchen trash bags

Bleach

Dish Detergent

Food items are also needed, however those needs change with our residents. If you would like to make a food donation please call our offices to get an updated list of things that are currently needed.

All in-kind donations are accepted at our Administrative Offices in the Warsaw Professional Building on Main Street in Warsaw. Please call first to verify that someone will be available to accept donations at (804) 333-1099.



Teens Promoting Awareness 2005 These are the faces of the future. If you know a teen that would like to be a part of this terrific group of volunteers, call Darlene Hayes at The Haven Offices (804) 333-1099.

JUST GARDENS RAISES \$13,000 FOR BUILDING FUND

The fifth annual Just Gardens Tour was a great success. Each year the number of gardeners attending and the proceeds have grown. The generosity of all the garden owners over the past five years has been exceptional. They have weeded, mulched and made their gardens special for the visitors. This year 982 tickets were sold with a total of 842 attendees. Despite a chilly and windy Friday the attendance was very good. And Saturday, a perfect spring day, saw even more come out. The Tour generates enthusiasm and pleasure for both garden owners and visitors. Plans have already begun for next year's tour. The Haven is grateful to all those involved in this benefit. Special thanks go to:



COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

- C.J. Carter ■ Kay Cardwell ■ Stacey Carden Chavaz ■ Anne Dickerson
- Connie Drew ■ Jane Kimball ■ Jennifer King ■ Suzanne LaPrade
- Maria Laqueur ■ Mary Lloyd Lay ■ Susan Lindsey
- Linda McConahey ■ Barbara Ohanesian ■ Anne Olson
- Dana Smith ■ Nancy Thomas

2005 GARDEN OWNERS:

- Bruce Arnzen and Milton Crump ■ Carol and Fred Cole
- Susan and David Hughes ■ Susan and Bill Lindsey
- Renate and Hans Muller ■ Anne and John Olsen ■ Marguerite Slaughter

OUTLETS FOR TICKET SALES AND DOOR PRIZES:

- The Dandelion ■ Greenpoint Nursery ■ Kemper Nursery
- Wildest Dreams ■ Mary Young's Herbs & Garden Shoppe

We wish to extend very special thanks for special support and sponsorship to B.H. Baird Insurance for additional support. Appreciation should go to the members of The Haven Board and all those other volunteers who turned out to help in the gardens on tour days. And thanks to those hundreds of community members who came and were so complimentary.

It was a wonderful event - and brought the new shelter a bit closer to reality. The Just Gardens tours have contributed close to \$50,000 to the Building Fund. The Committee can be proud of what its idea has produced.

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TITLE???????????????

Looking at a map of The Haven's service area, it's easy to see how difficult it could be for some victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking to come to Warsaw to obtain services. All of the services provided by The Haven have been available for years through the Warsaw office, but for victims outside Richmond County

gaining access to those services has, at times, proven difficult. That's why three years ago The Haven began what we call satellite sites throughout our service area. Darlene Hayes, our Victims Services Coordinator, uses these sites to meet with clients and to bring the services a little closer to home.



Darlene Hayes Victim Services Coordinator

The sites provide victims with an atmosphere of refuge in which they can transform from victims into survivors.

This year alone, at five county satellite sites, Darlene has taken The Haven's services to twenty-six victims through group and/or individual work. At three of the sites where the demand has been the greatest, weekly support groups have been established and offer victims a place to share their experiences in becoming survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and/or stalking. These groups allow survivors to form a common bond by sharing what they have learned, and they allow survivors to become empowered as they draw strength from each other. Individual services are available for those who might not feel comfortable working within a group.

Darlene's role is not to tell the clients what to do or how they should do it, but to provide them with the necessary tools to empower them to gain control of their lives. She helps clients recognize abusive behaviors and provides them with information - one of the most powerful tools available. Darlene helps clients determine their goals and helps them to find the resources available to reach them.

On behalf of the clients who have utilized these more easily accessible services, The Haven would like to thank the agencies and churches who have collaborated with us to provide the necessary confidential space where Darlene and these clients can meet.

Each site in each county is made available on a weekly basis for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking. As with all Haven services, satellite services are confidential and free of charge and can be accessed by calling 1-800-224-2836.

Concert
To Benefit
The Haven's Capital Campaign
Featuring:

<p>Masquerade</p>  <p>Award Winning Barbershop Quartet</p>	<p>Laymetha Reed & Sounds of Rapture</p>  <p>Anointed Gospel Group</p>
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Saturday, September 17
Essex Intermediate School
7:30 P.M.

Tickets can be purchased in advance for \$15.00. Call The Haven Administrative Office at 333-1099 or a board member for ticket information.

The Haven Now Accepts Credit Cards!!

VISA & MASTERCARD

Name: _____

Billing Address: _____

City/State, Zip: _____

Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____

V-code (3 digits on back of card): _____

Amount of Donation: \$ _____



The Haven Shelter & Services, Inc.

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