



SafeHaven of Tarrant County
6815 Manhattan Blvd., Ste. 105
Fort Worth, TX 76120

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SafeNews

You can make the holidays happy for domestic violence survivors

When SafeHaven staff set up a makeshift store for mothers in our emergency shelters to choose gifts for their children each December, many of the survivors end up crying at the sight.

"It's really emotional for them because some have never been able to provide a Christmas like that for their children," said Mindy Sutherland, the children's program coordinator. "We often hear that it's the best Christmas they've ever had."

Sutherland also said that when the clients are told that the gifts come from community donations at our Santa's Sack locations, they are overwhelmed by the generosity.

During the holidays, women and children who have fled abuse must also deal with the stress that comes with gift buying, meal preparations, family, etc. Most are without the resources to provide basic needs for themselves and their families, nevermind the ability to purchase gifts or cook elaborate

meals. Only because of our generous donors are we able to help these survivors weather the holiday season while continuing with the programs in place to help them reconstruct lives of safety for themselves and their children.

Ways to help:

- Donate baskets of Thanksgiving food and gift cards for Turkeys from November 16-23 at the Arlington Resource Center at 401 W. Sanford or Berry Good Buys at 1701 W. Berry St. in Fort Worth.
- Provide and serve Thanksgiving meals at one of the shelters during lunch or dinner on November 26th and 27th.
- Donate gifts for children and moms through our SafeAngels holiday programs: Santa's Sack and Adopt-A-Family. Drop off points are at University Park Village in Fort Worth and at Lincoln Square in Arlington from December 5-23.
- On December 26th, 27th, 28th and 31st we are seeking volunteers to donate and serve lunch



and dinner at the Arlington and Fort Worth shelter locations.

• From December 5-December 23, Santa's Sack locations at University Park Village in Fort Worth and Lincoln Square in Arlington will be open and accepting new toys for children. If you'd like to provide Christmas presents for a family, our Adopt-A-Family program will also be operating from these locations.

To participate, contact Geri Medlin at gmedlin@safehaventc.org or 817-548-0583 ext. 226.

SafeHaven Stats

From January through October 2009,
SafeHaven:

Answered **42,298** hotline calls to **1-877-701 SAFE (7233)**
Logged **21,251** volunteer hours
Educated **28,237** people about family violence
Provided emergency shelter to **2,255** adults and children

Leaving a Legacy

If you'd like to leave a legacy of providing for Tarrant County's victims of domestic violence by making arrangements to include SafeHaven and its programs in your will, please contact Reece Small at 817-535-6462, ext. 105.

Contact us:

Community Relations office: 817-535-6462, ext. 119
24-hour Emergency Hotline: 1-877-701-SAFE (7233)
www.safehaventc.org

Thanks to our SafeFutures Society Charter members

SafeHaven started a major donor society called SafeFutures last month at SafeHaven's 30th Anniversary Celebration and would like to thank those who joined:

Louise and Gordon Appleman, Susi and Mike Bickley, Bill and Shari Bowie, Shalyn and Al Clark, Shirley and Troy Cox, Holly Gathright, Mary Lee and Weldon Hafley, Gregg and Kris Ipock, Rosemary and Webb Joiner, Fonda and Reggie Martin, Jessica and Tom McCraw, Mike and LaDonna McHaney, David Meadows, Karen and Peter Parsinen, Alice and Buddy Puente, Jr., Laurie and Len Roberts, Jodi and Mark Sanders, Betty Sanders, Reece and Don Small, Paula and Gary Spencer, Joe and Ginny Tigue, Linda and Rob Timmons, Kristin and Victor Vandergriff, John and Julie Via, Jane and Vern Wood.

If you would like to join the society, please contact Reece Small at 817-535-6462, ext. 105 or rsmall@safehaventc.org.

Our mission is to end domestic violence through safety, support, prevention and social change.

Monthly E-mail Newsletter

To receive our monthly e-news, please e-mail Sarah McClellan-Brandt at smbrandt@safehaventc.org or call 817-535-6462, ext. 119.

Legacy lunch honors great Tarrant area women

SafeHaven named five winners of the 2009 Legacy of Women Awards, which was Oct. 8 at the Dallas Cowboys Stadium.

Winners were:

Arts:

Margo Dean: owner of Margo Dean School of Dance;

Business:

Christine Cook: president of Sleep Experts;

Education:

Nina Jackson: director of adolescent pregnancy services of Fort Worth ISD;

Health and Human Services:

Ramona Osburn: director of Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital Springwood;

Volunteerism:

Louise Appleman: Tarrant County College District, Streams and Valleys, Visiting Nurse



From L to R: Christine Cook, Ramona Osburn, Louise Appleman, Nina Jackson and Margo Dean.

Association, Women's Foundation of North Texas

The Legacy of Women luncheon raised \$150,000 to support SafeHaven's emergency shelters and other critical services for domestic violence victims and their children.

Sponsors for the luncheon were Don and

Karen Neustadt, Moritz Dealerships, Bates Container, TXU, Texas Health Resources, Frost, Daireds Salon and Spa Pangea, Pier 1 Imports, Meridian Bank, Fort Worth, Texas Magazine, The Fort Worth Business Press, Murray Media and Concussion. Elizabeth Ray served as chair for the event and Diane Stow has agreed to serve as chair for the 2010 event. The Kitchen Source donated its space to SafeHaven for a VIP party to honor finalists the night before the luncheon. Other VIP party donors included Brown Publishing, Rent a Frog, McKinley's Bakery, Tokyo Café, Sublime Bakery, Buttons, Lone Star Gourmet, Ash-Allmond Associates, Savannah Low and TCB Catering.

To nominate a fantastic woman for the 2010 event, contact Reece Small at 817-535-6462, ext. 119 or rsmall@safehaventc.org.

SafeHaven Snaps



Chefs Blaine Staniford from downtown Fort Worth's GRACE and Brian Olenjack from Olenjack's Grille in Arlington helped SafeHaven dedicate the Fort Worth shelter renovation and thank those who donated to it by cooking a fantastic meal at the open house in September.



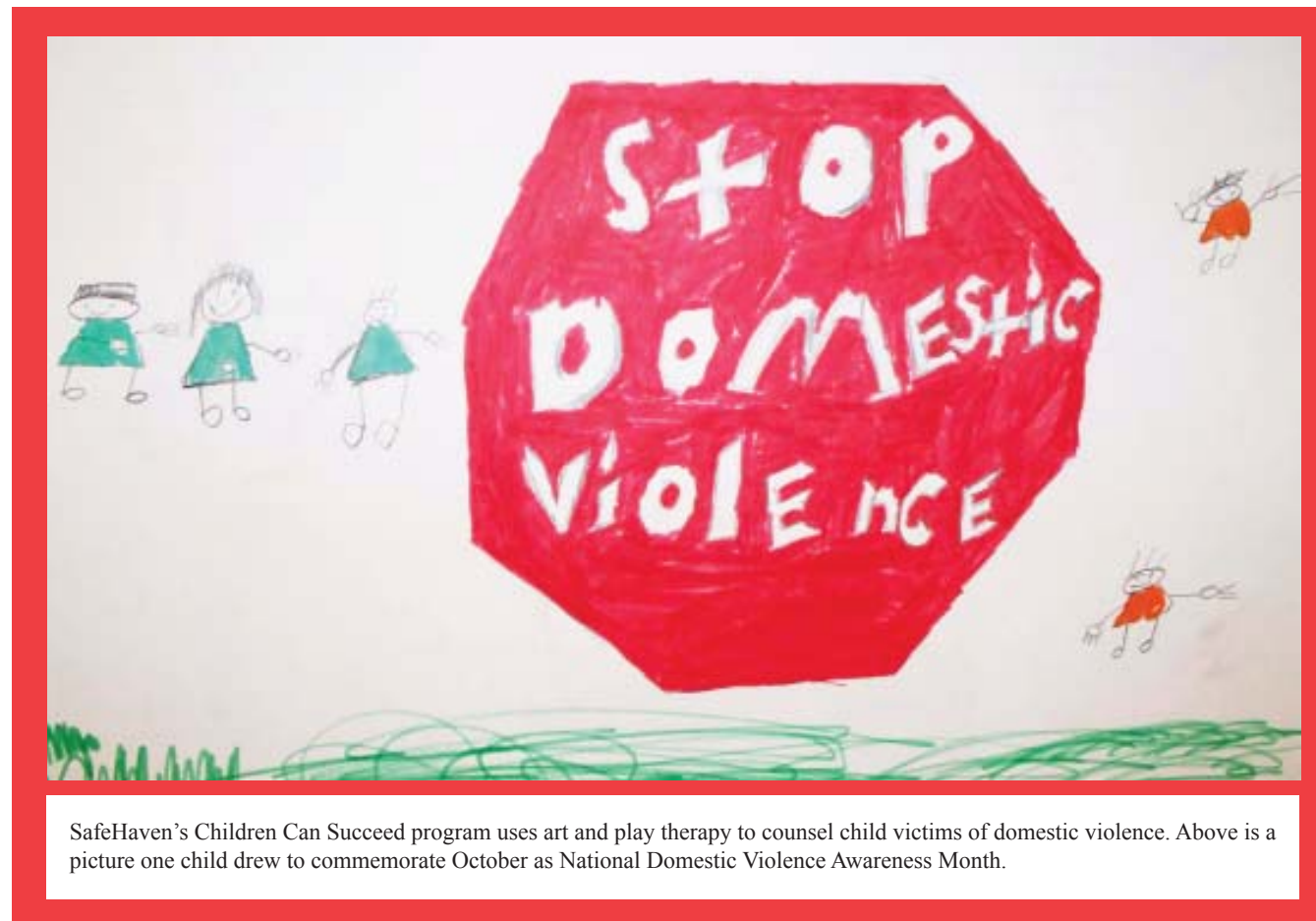
Congresswoman Kay Granger toured the Fort Worth shelter with President and CEO Mary Lee Hafley and Board Chair Scott Turnage.



Tamara and Steven Cole brought a grocery donation to the Arlington Shelter.



The Women's Initiative Network, a group at DFW Airport, held a backpack and school supply donation drive for SafeHaven's kids.



SafeHaven's Children Can Succeed program uses art and play therapy to counsel child victims of domestic violence. Above is a picture one child drew to commemorate October as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Mary Lee Hafley, President and CEO: *Need is great as the holidays approach*

The numbers shock us. 136 Texas women and 11 children killed in 2008 as a result of domestic violence. And those are just the documented cases. Seventy-three of those women were shot; 24 were stabbed. The youngest woman was 14 years old and the oldest 74. Please tell me these numbers shock you, too.

About 10% of the 136 women were Tarrant County residents. Maybe your neighbor or co-worker. Maybe your friend's daughter or your niece. Some of you knew these victims. Some of

you are caring for the children they left behind.

Our hotlines ring regularly with approximately 4,200 calls answered each month. Many of those callers enter our shelters with their children and experience uninterrupted sleep for the first time in months. Or years. Someone prepares their meals, others help them select clean clothes and no one ever rations the number of diapers the baby gets for a day.

And now it's time for the holidays and gift exchanges. You can make sure this is possible by providing new toys, games,

clothing and accessories for those staying in SafeHaven's shelters during the holidays. Help children wrap their mom's gifts. Prepare and serve a meal to clients. Do it in memory of the 136 women and 11 children who aren't here to celebrate the 2009 holiday season. Do it for the children and moms who survived.

During the upcoming holiday seasons, SafeHaven staff and clients look forward to celebrating hopeful tomorrows with you. It's a good thing to do.

MACK BROWN SPEAKING AT LEGACY OF MEN 2010

Mack Brown, head coach of the University of Texas football team, will be the keynote speaker at this year's Legacy of Men breakfast. The breakfast, scheduled for February 15, is intended to involve men in the fight against domestic violence. Place and time TBD.

To join the host committee, please contact Reece Small at rsmall@safehaventc.org or 817-535-6462, ext. 105. To reserve your spot at the breakfast, contact Valerie Salter at vsalter@safehaventc.org or 817-546-6040 ext. 246.

How to help

There are many ways to get involved at SafeHaven. Volunteers are the heart of the services we provide.

Opportunities include:

- **Hold a donation drive.**
- **Brighten the life of a child with toy donations or work with the children's program.**
- **Assist in sorting donations at Berry Good Buys.**
- **Provide meals for our shelter residents.**
- **Answer Hotline calls.**
- **Assist women with information and resources at the hospital or police station through our SafeResponse program.**
- **Staff a community fair booth to provide information about SafeHaven and domestic violence.**

These are just a few ways that your group can get involved with helping the families at SafeHaven. For more information on how you can impact the lives of domestic violence victims, please contact Geri Medlin in our volunteer department at 817-548-0583, ext. 226 or gmedlin@safehaventc.org. You can also visit our Web site at www.safehaventc.org.

Client finds strength to move on through shelter services

Mary Beth Kopsovich, Arlington Site Director, shared this story:

A few months ago, I went to lunch at a restaurant when a woman named Dee approached me and asked if I remembered her. She had recently stayed at the Arlington shelter with her children.

While in the shelter, Dee struggled with whether or not to go back to her husband, a registered sex offender who abused her daughters. He provided a luxury lifestyle that she had become accustomed to and moving from that type of environment to a communal living setting had been very difficult for this family. Dee hadn't worked in more than five years and was scared of the idea of providing for herself and her children on her own. It had been easy to stay in her abusive relationship, where everything had been handed to her – including the emotional and physical abuse she endured.

Dee told me that she was doing very well. She had not returned to her husband and had gotten a job. With assistance from her church she was able to move into an apartment. With help from staff at the shelter, she was able to apply for food stamps and Medicaid for her children and withdraw her children from private school and enroll them into a public school.

She thanked me for all the support and emotional help she received while at the shelter and for the services she and her children had been provided. We talked for a few more minutes, and I asked if she was connected with our non-residential counseling services. She said that she was not because her children were court-ordered to see a particular counselor. When I told her that she could seek services for herself for counseling and/or support groups at either one of our outreach centers, she wanted to thank me again, and gave me a big hug. I left the parking lot smiling, as I knew that we had positively affected Dee and her family.