

# SafeNews

## Shelter Mother's Day gift helps raise mom's self esteem

When Arlington Site Director Mary Beth Kopsovich thinks about Mother's Day at the shelter, she thinks about Evelyn. After staying in the shelter last May, Evelyn returned to the home of her abuser to retrieve important documents and plan a permanent escape.

Evelyn was degraded by her abuser on a regular basis. When she returned to the home they shared, she told Mary Beth that she was "in the kitchen cooking within 10 minutes, after being told that I had disgraced myself by leaving and that I was a disgrace of a woman."

"Women in abusive relationships are often degraded for their cooking, cleaning and mothering abilities, or not adequately performing the duties of a "woman's role," Kopsovich said.

Evelyn, who has one young child, was never given Mother's Day gifts by her abuser. He told her she wasn't worth it. So when SafeHaven donors provided gifts for the children to give to their mothers while in our shelters on that special



day, she was overcome with emotion. "Getting a gift from her son showed her that she deserved to be celebrated as a

mother and a woman," Kopsovich said.

Evelyn left her abuser again and is on the path to never go back. She was accepted into our transitional living program last summer, and is following her safety plan and attending counseling. She found employment at a local advertising agency and is determined to live a safe life.

SafeHaven depends on the community's generosity to make holidays like Mother's Day special for our clients. You, too, can boost the spirits and self-esteem of mothers in the shelter this May 9th. Your monetary donations will help purchase gifts for children to give their mothers as well as everyday necessities like new pillows, fluffy towels and fresh sheets that make their shelter stay seem more like home. Your contributions translate into safety for those who flee violence to seek shelter at SafeHaven...women who are mothers, sisters, and daughters and the families they care for.

Donations can be made on our web site at [www.safehaventc.org](http://www.safehaventc.org) or by filling out the enclosed envelope. Thank you for making Mother's Day a day to celebrate the courageous women residing at SafeHaven.

## SafeHaven Stats

### In 2009, SafeHaven:

Answered **50,120** hotline calls to **1-877-701 SAFE (7233)**  
Logged **23,880** volunteer hours  
Educated **32,986** people about family violence  
Provided emergency shelter to **2,579** adults and children

### What we need now:

Women's pajamas in all sizes  
Women's and children's underwear  
Women's sweat pants  
Pillows  
Towels  
Kids' coats

**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](mailto:smbrandt@safehaventc.org) or call 817-535-6462, ext. 119.

## 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](http://www.safehaventc.org)

## Nominations for Legacy due June 1, format changed

SafeHaven of Tarrant County is accepting nominations of inspiring, successful women for its 18th Legacy of Women Awards Luncheon.

The format for the awards has changed. Our judging panel will select a winner from Greater Arlington, Greater Fort Worth and Northeast Tarrant County in each of the five categories: Arts, Business, Education, Health and Human Services and Volunteerism, bringing the total number of honorees from five to fifteen.

"We are thrilled to honor women from each area of Tarrant County," said event chair Diane Stow. "SafeHaven represents

all of Tarrant County and we feel that honoring women from Greater Fort Worth, Greater Arlington and the Northeast area reflects that."

The luncheon will be held on Oct. 29, 2010 at the Omni Hotel in downtown Fort Worth. The nomination deadline is June 1.

If you have any questions or would like the form e-mailed to you, please contact Reece Small at 817.535.6462 x 105 or [rsmall@safehaventc.org](mailto:rsmall@safehaventc.org). The form is also available at [www.safehaventc.org](http://www.safehaventc.org).

Past winners include Margo Dean, Louise Appleman, Karen Newell, Pam Minick, Dr. Jane Harper, Karen Perkins, Bonnie Carroll, Judi Bishop, Suzi Hill, Deborah Jung, Patricia



SafeHaven board member Lacy Walker was one of the award presenters for the 2009 Legacy of Women Awards Luncheon.

Harrison, Joy Ann Havran, and many more.

# SafeHaven Snaps



Hundreds gathered in Arlington to run the second annual Jiggle butt run in January. Race proceeds benefitted SafeHaven.



SafeHaven held the second Legacy of Men Breakfast on Feb. 15. UT Head Football coach Mack Brown (left) was the keynote speaker and presented the Legacy of Men Award to Mike Stone (right).

## Mary Lee Hafley, President and CEO: Moms need safety and support

My mom made all my clothes. From a fancy navy blue Easter dress with matching hat when I was four to an elegant formal with exquisite beading for a college sorority dance, her talents seemed endless. And, cooking? Even my aren't you supposed to fry everything husband looked forward to each meal she prepared.

When I was in the sixth grade, my dad bought his own business so she dusted off her financial skills from a previous career and joined him in the business. For 25-plus years, she managed the books, deposited funds, ordered supplies and waited on customers. And, she still cooked and sewed for not only me, but my younger sister and an occasional neighbor child as well.

I see mothers in the halls of our shelters everyday. They look tired, worried and distracted. I read the reports on SafeLiving clients. One works at QuikTrip. She takes special precautions because the police are still looking for her abuser. Another must use bus passes to get to job interviews because her car finally died. Still another can't accept a job offer because she can only find daycare for 2 of her 3 children.

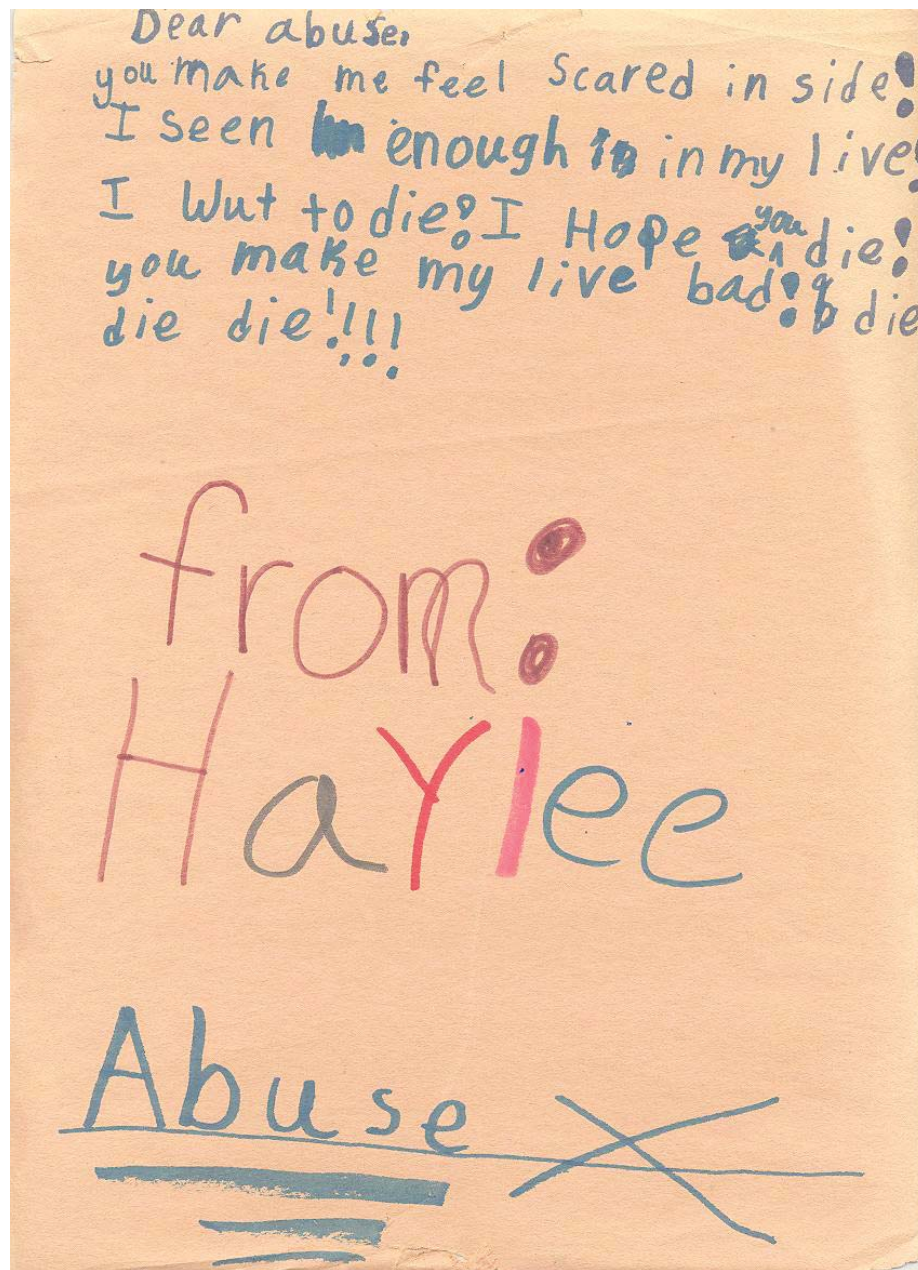
Regardless of the pressures my mom faced, she always retreated to a safe home at the end of the day. My sister and I were safe there, too. The moms that SafeHaven protects would enjoy retreating to a home where they

could cook and sew and read to their children at the end of a productive work day. Instead, fear becomes a constant companion and financial stability remains elusive.

This Mother's Day, in addition to your own mom, remember the moms who struggle, who desire more for themselves and their children, who covet safety. When you partner with SafeHaven, you provide a good night's sleep, a plan to remove obstacles and a future marked by hope.

*Every mom deserves that much.*

--Mary Lee



Children in SafeHaven's shelters, transitional living and counseling programs participate in art therapy. Pictured above, Haylee wrote a letter to abuse, explaining how it makes her feel.

## Volunteer: 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.
- Work in the children's program.
- Sort donations at Berry Good Buys, SafeHaven's resale shop
- Provide meals for our shelter residents.
- Answer Hotline calls.
- Staff a community fair booth to provide information about SafeHaven and domestic violence.

These are just a few ways that you 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 Krista Moffett, Volunteer Coordinator, at 817-548-0583, ext. 226 or kmoffett@safehaventc.org. You can also visit our Web site at [www.safehaventc.org](http://www.safehaventc.org).



Daimler Truck Financial, winner of the SafeHaven Corporate Partner Award for 2009, recently visited the Arlington shelter and re-mulched the children's playground, built picnic tables and benches for the outdoor areas, purchased and hung new blinds and re-stained the wood portions of the children's playground.

## Berry good buys gets a makeover

Staff at SafeHaven's resale shop, Berry Good Buys, re-designed a portion of the store to make the Berry Chic Boutique. The boutique is stocked with the higher end donations our generous supporters drop off at the store regularly. Proceeds from the store directly benefit the victims of domestic violence served in SafeHaven's shelters and other programs. Victims are also provided vouchers to purchase the things they need to furnish safer lives -- free of charge. The store serves as a community resource as well, providing vouchers to other agencies to give to their clients. Berry Good Buys is located at 1701 W. Berry St. in Fort Worth, near TCU. Donation hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Store hours are 10 a.m. 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday. Contact the store at 817-921-2793 or visit [www.berrygoodbuys.com](http://www.berrygoodbuys.com).



Store manager Danna Wall painted the walls.

