

New Beginnings



Christine Ann

DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICES, INC.

HELP IS HERE

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

"Home is not where you live, but where they understand you." ~Christian Morgenstern

Spring is finally here. For many, spring is a time for personal renewal, for new hopes and a chance at a "fresh start." It is also a time when we focus on home—spring cleaning, opening the windows and letting in the fresh spring air, watching flowers bloom outside the windows, the laughter of children playing outside in the warm spring sunshine, and much more.

For the individuals and families that reside at the Christine Ann Center, these springtime rituals have a different meaning, especially of home. For many, springtime can bring mixed emotions for residents as they celebrate Easter, Mother's Day, birthdays—as they enjoy flowers blooming and children playing outdoors—all in a shelter environment—but all the while on a journey of hope to a violence-free and financially independent life.

For a short time, the Christine Ann Center is home. And, we strive to make sure that it feels like home. We help celebrate holidays and birthdays—successes and milestones—we share in the joys and sorrows. Often, when I give tours of the Center, a comment I hear is—"it's so homey here."

One definition of home is "any place of residence or refuge." That is what the Christine Ann Center is, not just a place of residence but of refuge...a safe haven, sanctuary, shelter. And, we are deeply grateful to a community that enables us to continue to provide a home for women and children affected by abuse—a place of renewal, new hopes and a chance at a "fresh start".

Julie Fevola

Julie Fevola
Executive Director

MEN WHO COOK 2008

A Man's Place is in the Kitchen

Get your taste buds ready for another extraordinary culinary experience at the 8th Annual "Men Who Cook for Christine Ann" to be held this year on **Saturday, June 21st**. Once again, men from around the Fox Valley will prove that they CAN cook!

The award-winning event will take place at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh's Reeve Memorial Union, where over 50 "chefs" will come together to share not only their love of cooking, but also their common goal of helping victims of domestic abuse break free from the cycle of violence. Using exquisite culinary skills, the men will share samples of their favorite appetizers, entrees, side dishes and desserts to guests amidst soft jazz entertainment, silent and live auctions, and more. "Men Who Cook" is a key fundraising event for Christine Ann; it is also part of the agency's efforts to more actively engage men in the work to end violence against women.

We look forward to dishing up another enjoyable event this year—so please mark your calendar now—you won't want to miss it! For tickets, table sponsorships, and more exciting event details, please see the enclosed insert.

SPRING INTO JAZZ

A Swinging Success

On a cold and rainy Friday evening, April 11th, the atmosphere was anything but dreary inside the Bridgewood Resort Hotel and Conference Center in Neenah for the 2nd Annual "Spring into Jazz" event. The special performance benefiting Christine Ann Domestic Abuse Services was in full swing—over 100 guests dusted off their dancing shoes to enjoy a lively music blend of jazz, blues and even a little funk by the popular Woody Mankowski Quartet. The event raised \$10,000 with all proceeds supporting the shelter, advocacy services and education programs. Christine Ann would especially like to thank the event's sponsor, Wealth Management LLC. It would also like to thank Bridgewood for hosting the event along with Valley Graphics, Mario Noche and Pansies Country Store & Gardens and the generous support of all who attended.



Newly Launched

www.christineann.net

24-Hour Helpline

920-235-5998

920-729-6395

800-261-5998

SPRING 2008

Volume 33

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Standing Strong: A Story of Hope

“Words cannot express my gratitude for all you have done. My girls are safe and provided for because of you. Thanks to the Holiday giving program, my girls and I had the best Christmas ever! All three of us cried tears of happiness as we knew that I could never have given them near what was

received. I cannot explain in any way the comfort that comes from knowing my girls have all their needs met...”

— Christine Ann Domestic Abuse Services Survivor

FUNDING HIGHLIGHTS

Christine Ann Domestic Abuse Services gratefully acknowledges the following grants received from September, 2007 to March 31, 2008:

Catholic Charities of Diocese of Green Bay, Inc.—\$3,000 to support the Client Advocacy Services Program

Frank C. Shattuck Charitable Fund—\$5,000 to support the Children and Teen Program

Jane and Tad Shepard Family Foundation—\$10,000 to support agency operations

Oshkosh Area United Way - Program Reserve Fund—

\$800 to support the agency's new “Stepping Stones” Program

Oshkosh Area Community Foundation, Winnebago County Crime Prevention Fund—\$700 to support the Safe Locks Project

Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation—\$1,000 to support agency operations

Target Foundation - \$1,000 to support the Emergency Shelter & 24-Hour Helpline program

Wisconsin Public Service Foundation—\$1,000 to support the Emergency Shelter & 24-Hour Helpline Program

Women's Fund for the Fox Valley Region—\$1,500 to support Project P.O.W.E.R.

Women's Fund of the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation—\$1,973 to support the agency's Expressive Arts Program.

Peace Lutheran Endowment Fund—\$2,000 to support Emergency Shelter and Client Advocacy Services Programs

Christine Ann is also proud to be a partner agency of the Oshkosh Area United Way and United Way Fox Cities and is grateful for their continuing support.

FORGING THE WAY TOGETHER

Directions, Inc. and Christine Ann

In 2007, Christine Ann was honored to be chosen as the nonprofit “partner” of Directions, Inc., a full-service branding, marketing and packaging design firm located in Neenah. Christine Ann, seeing a continued increase in clients seeking services, and looking toward the future, had identified a number of marketing and P.R. needs, and with no dedicated marketing and P.R. staff person to focus specifically on these challenges, the agency needed professional assistance.

From the first meeting Christine Ann and its mission were embraced by the Directions team; the agency was not just a “pro bono client” but a Directions client. The team's thoroughness and dedication were immediately evident. Christine Ann staff was particularly impressed by the firm's total commitment in allowing the team to become fully engaged in the partnership.

Since it began working with Directions, Christine Ann has been given a fresh, new look, enabling the agency to better reflect its mission and the hope that the agency strives to instill in its clients and all those affected

by domestic violence and abuse. The partnership has also assisted Christine Ann in moving forward with a plan for the future that ensures the continued strength of its message, “Help is Here”.

And, Christine Ann is thrilled that Directions selected the agency to continue the partnership in 2008. The agency is excited at another opportunity to work with the firm on additional marketing and public relations needs, and to benefit from the expertise and enthusiasm of the Directions team.

NOTES FROM GREEN LAKE COUNTY

By Lorri Bohn, Green Lake County Coordinator

I once was told that the three keys to success were timing, vision and action. I realize the definition of success may vary from person to person, author to author but for the purpose of this article timing, vision and action are it.

Timing. There is a right place and right time for everything. Rural communities have always been identified as a unique challenge in the field of domestic abuse, both geographically and systemically but not until recently, has there been enough financial support to fund a rural program. In the early 80's, the need for rural community advocacy became more visible through lobbying efforts. In 1982, Christine Ann Domestic Abuse Services, Inc (CADASI) was able to secure some faith and a little funding to begin part time advocacy work in Green Lake. In 2004, a growth in numbers, increased funding opportunities and consistency in need allowed for the first full time advocacy work in Green Lake to begin.

Vision. The vision of Christine Ann and Green Lake County is the same—to see safe and healthy families free from violence. Our work in 2004 would not have been able to begin without the support of the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services, which fostered a relationship between domestic abuse advocacy and human services. With a shared vision, the Green Lake Department of Human Services made room to house a domestic violence advocate, free of charge.

Action. A special thank you to Green Lake Department of Human Services, Green Lake State Bank, and United Way who helped us to begin our work in Green Lake County and continues to support us today. Every year, the number of victims and families served in Green Lake grows (I believe this is primarily due to an increased awareness of the issue and available services). Need + Opportunity + Support has allowed CADASI to secure enough funding to have its first ever independent office in Green Lake County.

We believe Green Lake County is a great place for families. Together our vision can be reached and we hope our investment in the community will provide more accessibility and reliability to those of you we serve.

PETS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Why it Matters

When an individual or family lives with domestic violence, it is rarely only that the human members of the family or the individual are affected. Batterers target family pets to exert power and control over the individual or family, coerce the victim to stay, and punish the individual or family, often in retaliation of the victim leaving.

According to facts compiled by the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, 71% of pet owners entering domestic violence shelters report that their batterer had threatened, injured or killed family pets, 87% of batterer-perpetrated incidents of pet abuse are committed in the presence of their partners for the purpose of revenge or control, and up to 76% of incidents occur in the presence of children. In many cases, abusers had a history of animal abuse that preceded domestic violence toward their partner.

As most will concede, family pets are commonly viewed as beloved family members and companions. But particularly for domestic violence victims and their children, their pets are very important sources of emotional support; consequently violence toward pets may be especially devastating. For example, studies have shown that a vast majority of children who witness pet abuse become distressed and emotionally distraught. Because victims understand the extent of the harm that their abusers will likely inflict upon their pets, if left behind, many victims remain in violent homes; a powerful form of psychological abuse used by perpetrators, it is a significant barrier to victims seeking domestic violence services.

Again, according to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence study compilation, up to 40% of domestic violence victims are unable to escape their abusers because they are concerned about what will happen to their pets when they leave.

Since 1998, Christine Ann Domestic Abuse Services has partnered with the Oshkosh Area Humane Society, which fosters family pets in instances of domestic abuse. Additionally, Christine Ann works with the Humane Society's humane officer to refer victims of abuse to the agency, and in turn, the agency has referred clients to the Humane Society when their pet was a risk of abuse. Christine Ann has also invited the humane educator to present to clients, and have allowed Christine Ann's children's groups to visit their facility, spend time with the animals and learn about safety around and humane treatment of animals. This collaborative effort has been successful in helping to remove a powerful barrier for victims in leaving their abusive relationship.

We are grateful for our partnership with the Oshkosh Area Humane Society to insure that everyone in a family is safe and protected from abuse.

OSHKOSH HALF MARATHON
& 5K WALK/RUN 2008**Weather or Not, Here We Run!**

Christine Ann Domestic Abuse Services was once again honored to be chosen as one of three area agencies to receive proceeds from the Oshkosh Half Marathon and 5K Walk/Run, which was held on a wet and chilly Saturday, April 12th. Despite the very "un-Spring like" weather, over 1,800 enthusiastic participants met the weather challenge—some from as far away as Florida.

In addition to the adverse weather, the event had to also make some last minute changes to accommodate the filming of "Public Enemies" including changing the race course to begin and end at the Leach Amphitheater.

Thanks to the dedicated efforts of the event organizers, the hundreds of volunteers, the generosity of event sponsors, and the tremendous support of the community, this year's Marathon was again a success.

INNOVATIVE PROGRAMMING

Alternative Choices for Teens

In an effort to meet the increasing need for services targeting high school boys with abusive or controlling behavior and domestic violence issues, Christine Ann Domestic Abuse Services implemented a pilot program called, A.C.T. or Alternative Choices for Teens. The program focuses on non-violent conflict resolution and communication skills, assisting teen boys, ages 15-17 years old, in learning to make positive choices for themselves as "critical moments" arise in their relationships at home, school and with peers. The program also helps build positive coping skills and self-esteem.

The A.C.T. program is the "teen version" of the A.T.A.M. program (Alternatives and Treatment for Abusive Men), which is Christine Ann's highly effective adult male batterer treatment program. The program is the result of numerous requests from social workers, school guidance counselors, families and parents needing assistance for abusive high school aged boys—boys who have histories of abusive behavior toward family members, particularly mothers and authority figures, and well as in their dating relationships.

Led by a Christine Ann staff facilitator, A.C.T. uses a variety of activities such as "check-in work sheets" that asks participants to identify a situation that made them angry, gauge their anger level and report their behaviors; group discussion and participation; communication skills training, and relaxation exercises to achieve the following goals:

- Teens will hold themselves accountable for their violent behaviors.
- Teens will develop problem solving techniques.

Since starting the program in 2006, Christine Ann has received numerous referrals through human services. In addition, the agency continues to receive strong interest in the program from guardians of high school boys who are not under the supervision of human services, school staff, as well as mothers who are currently Christine Ann clients requesting the program for their sons. To date, more than 30 teen boys have participated in the program.

For more information on the A.C.T. program, please call 920-235-5998 or email aellison@christineann.net.

VOICES OF MEN

By Grant E. Birtch, Christine Ann Board Member

On October 24, 2007, a score of men from the Fox Valley first met to address the issues of violence against women. Included were men from a variety of backgrounds and professions—businessmen, educators, counselors, administrators, editors, doctors, lawyers, policemen and clergymen. After some education, the group began discussions hoping to find a way to make a difference.

The group, tentatively named "Voices of Men", met again in January, March and April. It is honing a mission statement and working on two major action items. The first is a media campaign designed to both raise awareness of the issue of violence by men against women, and engage more men to take a stand against the abuse. The second is an educational plan designed to provide positive role models and teach standards of acceptable behavior to boys and young men.

These are works in progress. Using the talent and commitment of men in our community, we hope to take a stand and make a difference. If you would like to learn more about the group, please contact Julie Fevola at 729-5727.



Christine Ann
DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICES, INC.
HELP IS HERE

Return Service Requested

LOCATIONS

Oshkosh:

206 Algoma Blvd.
Oshkosh, WI 54901
920.235.5998

Menasha:

1488 Kenwood Center
Menasha, WI 54952
920.729.5727

Green Lake:

800.261.5998



2007 RACE FOR THE LIGHT

Community Showed True Holiday Spirit

The weather outside may have been “frightful” for the 5th annual Race for the Light 5K Run/Walk to benefit Christine Ann Domestic Abuse Services but it didn’t stop participants from coming out to support the agency and joining in the holiday spirit.

While conditions of snow, sleet, wind and ice forced Race organizers to cancel the event about an hour before start time, the Oshkosh Boys and Girls Club was host to approximately 150 runners, walkers, and volunteers that stayed to enjoy great food and entertainment by the Oshkosh West High School Madrigal Singers, as well as a visit from St. Nick. “It was amazing to see all of the people at the event despite the weather conditions,” said Julie Fevola, Executive Director. “Even though the race was cancelled, people were generously giving us their registration fee and making donations. We are grateful for the incredible community support. This event is critical for Christine Ann to continue to meet the needs of victims throughout our communities. Once again, community members stepped forward for women and children.”

Race for the Light is Christine Ann’s second largest fundraiser, providing a fun and healthy way to raise awareness and funds for a tremendous cause: To help end domestic violence in our communities. It is also a great way to kick-off the holiday season with family, friends and co-workers.

The race course features the breathtaking Celebration of Lights in Oshkosh’s Menominee Park.

The Christine Ann staff, board and event committee would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all who made this event possible. Mark your calendar for Saturday, December 6 to once again Race for the Light.



2007 HOLIDAY PROGRAM

It’s a (Incredible) Wrap

Thanks to the overwhelming generosity, commitment and compassion of Christine Ann “friends,” the agency’s annual Holiday Program was once again a heartwarming success. Nearly 200 women and children received gifts, food and household needs—their spirits brightened by the act of caring. Christine Ann also received gifts for the shelter that will be put to use all year long. And, another agency friend and his family came into the shelter on Christmas Day to cook and serve dinner to the more than 20 women and children in residence.

For many families, the end of an abusive relationship can mean financial and emotional hardship that make the holiday season especially difficult. Christine Ann relies on the community to help relieve some of the strain placed on families who have worked so hard to escape violence in their homes. The Holiday Program is a wonderful opportunity for individuals, families and co-workers to come together to help families in need during the holiday season.

Christine Ann would also like to acknowledge the First Congregational Church; without their caring and supportive staff, the Holiday Program would not be the success that it is today.

(To read more on how the Holiday Program impacts Christine Ann clients, read the “Standing Strong: Story of Hope” excerpt on page 2.)