

New Beginnings



FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

"Hope"

Twenty-five years ago this month, hope began for area domestic violence victims in the form of a small shelter and what is today known as the Christine Ann Center and Christine Ann Domestic Abuse Services. Over the years, thousands of women and children have come through our door not always certain of what they were seeking—help, safety, support, belief, trust, validation, answers? I believe it is a combination of all of these things, but I also believe they have come seeking hope; that the overriding desire that brought them to our door was hope for a life without abuse. Although many of these victims may not have realized it at the time, the overall need we all have for hope propels us forward in life. As Martin Luther King Jr said, "If you lose hope, somehow you lose the vitality that keeps life moving, you lose that courage to be, that quality that helps you go on in spite of it all."

On September 16, 2009, the date that it all began, we will celebrate this legacy of hope. In everything we do, it is the hope we provide to victims and their families that moves them on to a better life—hope that is essential for healing and for living. It truly is the greatest gift we can give.

Julie Fevola

Julie Fevola
Executive Director



THE FOX VALLEY TAKES BACK THE NIGHT

"Stand up to violence. Don't stand by."

That simple message countering the all-too-pervasive bystander mentality will be the theme as hundreds of community supporters and survivors in the campaign to end domestic violence will crowd the streets of Oshkosh on Tuesday, October 6.

October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Christine Ann Domestic Abuse Services and partners Reach Counseling Services, Harbor House Domestic Abuse Programs, University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh Counseling Center, the Oshkosh Police Department and other area law enforcement agencies are coordinating the area's 19th annual Fox Valley Take Back The Night rally and march on the evening of October 6. You can learn more about the event at www.uwosh.edu/home/tbtn or www.christineann.net.

The evening begins at 5:30 p.m. with activities followed by a 6 p.m. rally featuring a diverse, empowering lineup of speakers at UWO's Polk Memorial Library. That's followed by a march on Oshkosh streets, passing by Christine Ann Center and ending with a vigil at the Winnebago County Courthouse. Everyone is welcome to join the event.

If you have questions about supporting Take Back The Night or how to get involved with other events, contact Alex Hummel at 235-5998, 729-6395 or ahummel@christineann.net.

NEW FOX CITIES CLIENT ADVOCATE WILL STRENGTHEN SERVICES IN AREA

In order to better serve domestic violence victims in the Fox Cities area, particularly Neenah and Menasha, Christine Ann recently received a 26-month grant through the Office of Crime Victim Services as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

The new Fox Cities Client Advocate, located in the agency's office in Menasha will serve in a part-time capacity to provide client advocacy to victims of domestic violence residing in northern Winnebago County, primarily the Fox Cities communities of Neenah and Menasha. The advocate will meet individually with clients to assess needs; make recommendations to other Christine Ann programs and services; and, provide referrals to outside resources. The advocate will also assist clients with restraining order paperwork and the restraining order process, and other legal matters.

Additionally, the Fox Cities Client Advocate will coordinate the weekly support group held at the Neenah-Menasha YMCA. The group focuses on basic understanding of domestic violence, supporting each other, and moving toward self-sufficiency.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call Renee at 729-5727.

Website

www.christineann.net

24-Hour Helpline

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AUTUMN 2009 Volume 36

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Standing Strong: A Story of Hope



“Thank you (Christine Ann) for your kindness, your support, your love for helping others, your willingness to listen and give an honest answer. Without your support, I would not be where I am today! You have helped me to believe in myself, to move on and convinced me that I can make it in this world by myself. I feel that I am a

worthwhile person who respects herself and demands others to do the same. But by no means would I ever be as strong today if it wasn't for the love and compassion of Christine Ann.”

~ A Christine Ann Client and Domestic Abuse Survivor

MEN WHO COOK

Makes a “Global” Impact

Those who attended the 9th annual Men Who Cook for Christine Ann were treated to a mouthwatering, culinary trip around the world. This year's event not only featured a first-ever international theme but also a record-breaking 64 chefs serving up exquisite samples that spanned the globe from Ireland to Thailand.

On June 27th at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh's Reeve Memorial Union, an enthusiastic group of area men came together to once again 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. And, they once again showed the community that “men can cook”. Using exquisite culinary skills, the men shared samples of their favorite international appetizers, entrees, side dishes and desserts (as well a few domestic dishes) to over 400 guests amidst relaxing entertainment, silent and live auctions, and more. Thanks to the support of these amazing chefs along with the generosity of the event sponsors, donors, volunteers and participants, Christine Ann raised over \$70,000!

Said first-time chef Wade Paffenroth, Oshkosh, “I have always admired the work of the Christine Ann Center and this event in particular. I really enjoy cooking and every year I found myself saying that I would like to volunteer for this event. As the old saying goes, there is no time like the present, and I decided that this was the right time to finally get involved. I hope that this small effort on my part can help further the cause and inspire more men to get involved in this event!”

Men Who Cook will be back on June 26, 2010—don't forget to mark your calendars for our 10th annual event!



VOICES OF MEN

Men Speaking Up to End Violence

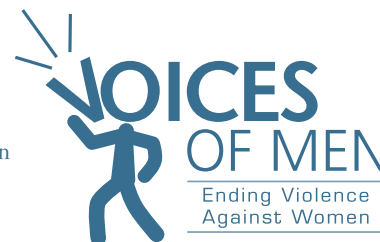
A new effort to get thousands of men in the Fox Valley Region to stand up, be counted and take action in the campaign to end violence against women is just one season away from its public launch.

Fox Valley Voices of Men will kick off on Tuesday, January 12 at a community breakfast first rallying the region's top male business leaders, public officials, educators, clergy and coaches to create an understanding of the common behaviors and thinking that can lead to violence against women. From there, the Voices of Men initiative will connect with the region's broader community of men, encouraging this second wave to step up, consider becoming a youth mentor, model a message of respect to youth sports teams and begin work toward a host of other goals ending abuse and violence.

A key component of the January event will be the array of action opportunities that will be available to participants. The hope is that the kick-off breakfast and its action menu will start a chain reaction, activating that even-larger corps of men throughout the region to foster a change—to promote a culture of nonviolence and respect for women.

Ultimately, the campaign will nurture a generation of boys and men who change a culture, who honor and respect women and girls, who reject violence and who encourage others to spread the message onto their peers and children. Now more than ever, it is important that men get involved and have a positive impact on ending violence against women. Fox Valley Voices of Men is taking a lead.

For more information about Voices of Men, please contact Julie at 729-5727 or info@christineann.net.



INNOVATIVE PROGRAMMING

Educating Workplaces on Abuse

He demanded she quit her job. He saw the largely male staff she worked with at a local car dealership and became irrational, suspicious and extreme jealousy took control. Concerned what would happen to her if she didn't comply with his demand, she found a new job. But the abuse didn't stop. The power and control tactics worsened. It escalated to a point in which Jennifer didn't feel safe and so she sought shelter at the Christine Ann Center. And while Christine Ann helped her plan and ensure personal safety, there was also some vital teamwork happening outside the agency. Her employers, old and new, took a stand—a strategic one.

Having detected red flags of abuse at work and having the courage and sensitivity to talk to and assist Jennifer, managers decided they would not stand by or look the other way—they would not stand for an abuser tormenting her or her co-workers. The controlling

calls to work, the emails, the borderline stalking behaviors were all unacceptable. Ultimately, they saw one employee's abuse as a danger to her and an entire workplace. So, the car dealership loaned her a new car, one he wouldn't recognize.

Her new employer, with Jennifer's guidance and permission, adjusted work hours and commute routes to the job. She never drove the same way into work. She was safely, off his radar. The minor inconvenience was a welcome exchange for the assurance of safety. Her new managers also gave her a pager with simple codes that would alert not only Jennifer but also her colleagues when her abuser called, was in the parking lot or dared to enter the building. Phone numbers and emails changed. Supervisors were always careful to first run their solutions past Jennifer, making sure she was comfortable with the strategy and the in-shop awareness of the safety plan.

Today, Jennifer's is the essential voice that propels Christine Ann's "Safe and Supportive" workplace presentations. These free, hour-long educational workshops educate CEOs to mid-level managers to ground-level employees on what abuse looks like and what they can say and do to insure they and their workplaces are safe. The goal of the program is to instill in workplaces the knowledge, courage and tools to help employees help one another out when the red flags of domestic abuse and violence appear at work. Unfortunately, statistics suggest they will. One in four women will experience abuse in her lifetime. Equally alarming: 74% of abused women are harassed at work.

We're finding an inspirational willingness in lunch-and-learn settings or other before-or-after work seminars to discuss the issue and empower employees.

If your place of employment would like to schedule a presentation please contact Alex Hummel at 235-5998, 729-6395 or ahummel@christineann.net.

RACE FOR THE LIGHT 2009

The Wellness Team Challenge is Back and Much More!

In the midst of the beautiful fall weather, it's difficult to imagine that Christine Ann's 7th Annual Race for the Light 5K Benefit Walk/Run is approaching in just a few months. So, it's not too soon to mark your calendars now for Saturday, December 5th, when this popular pre-holiday event kicks back into gear. Presented by ThedaCare, Race for the Light will once again feature a great way to participate: The "Wellness Team Challenge". Christine Ann invites all individuals, families, civic organizations and businesses to put together a Wellness Team; and, here are some great reasons why:

- It's an excellent opportunity to get involved in a fun community event.
- It's a great way to help in the fight against domestic violence in your community.
- It's a fun and healthy way to kick-off the holiday season.
- All teams will be recognized on Christine Ann's website.
- All teams get a team photo, commemorative hat for each member and prizes for the team that collects the most pledges!
- Registration is only \$250 for up to 10 people; and \$15 for each additional person.

In addition, the event will also feature a new Children's Activity area with fun and creative activities for younger participants. And, don't forget about good ol' St. Nick who will be on hand to help spread some holiday cheer.

The event registration, starting point and a post event party and celebration will be held at the Oshkosh Boys and Girls Club. And, holding to tradition, the race will take participants through Oshkosh's breathtaking Celebration of Lights in Menominee Park.

"Race for the Light" is truly a fun and healthy way to raise awareness and funds for a tremendous cause. Individual and Wellness Team registration and pledge information will be available in October. Sponsorship opportunities are also available. For more details, please call (920) 729-5727 or email info@christineann.net.

INTERFAITH CONFERENCE ON TEEN DATING VIOLENCE

All who work with teens of faith (pastors, rabbis, imams, youth pastors, religious education leaders, volunteers) are invited to attend a special conference on Thursday, October 8, from 5:15 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Liberty Hall in Kimberly.

Dating violence is happening to teens of faith throughout the Fox Valley. Come learn how to address this disturbing issue within your religious organizations. Please RSVP to Alex at ahummel@christineann.net or 729-6395.

Sponsoring Agencies: Harbor House Domestic Abuse Programs, Christine Ann Domestic Abuse Services, Samaritan Counseling Services, Reach Counseling Services and the Sexual Assault Crisis Center-Fox Cities.

This conference is funded by a project grant from unrestricted funds within the Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region.

A VOLUNTEER AND DONOR IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Safe and Secure

In the brief time that Dan Shea of Shea Electric & Communications, LLC has been volunteering his time, talent and resources to the Christine Ann Center, he has already made a tremendous difference. From helping the shelter to "go green" to making it a safer place, his knowledge of the shelter's electrical and security needs has proven invaluable.



Dan Shea (right) & Shea employee, Chris Hopf

Says Patty Shea, "Shea Electric has taken a personal interest in the Christine Ann Center because we believe in the hope and support Christine Ann provides to women and children who seek a new path and new opportunities. We have members of our own family that have experienced an abusive relationship and recognize the importance of an organization like Christine Ann. It takes all of us working together to bring about change. We are proud to be a small part of that change. 'Pay it Forward' is our philosophy."

It began in November 2008, when Shea Electric was called to the shelter to give a quote on a range hood electrical project—for which Dan ended up donating the labor. Shortly thereafter, the company designated Christine Ann as their "charity for the year".

More recently, Dan initiated and coordinated with the IBEW (International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers) Local 577 to take on a major lighting project at the shelter. On a warm summer Saturday, eighteen Union Journey Wireman representing three local electrical contractors volunteered their services to install energy efficient lighting throughout the entire facility, compiling about 140 light fixtures.

And, there is more. When the Christine Ann Center was struck by lightning, Shea Electric not only assisted in the replacement of the security cameras and DVR, but Dan was able to solicit funding to help underwrite the cost of new, higher quality cameras. Shea Electric has also taken the role of monitoring the security system; with a portion of the cost being donated by the company.

Finally, Shea Electric's efforts have now extended beyond the shelter to Christine Ann's Menasha office—the company replaced the outdated security panel and installed a motion sensor to enhance security—at no cost to the agency.

"All of the work that Dan has done for the Christine Ann Center has made it a safer environment for our resident women and children," says Angela Gauger, Facilities Manager.



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920.729.5727

Green Lake:
515 Gold Street
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800.261.5998



FUNDING HIGHLIGHTS

Christine Ann Domestic Abuse Services gratefully acknowledges the following grants received from April 1, 2009 to August 31, 2009:

- Catholic Charities, Diocese of Green Bay, Inc.—
\$1,000 to support the Client Advocacy Program
- Frank C. Shattuck Charitable Trust—
\$5,000 to support the Children and Teen Program
- Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region,
Basic Needs Giving Partnership—
\$5,000 to support the Emergency Shelter Program
- Oshkosh Area Community Foundation, Hiwela Youth Fund—
\$2,980 to support camperships and enrichment activities for children and teens
- Oshkosh Area Community Foundation—
\$10,000 to support the Emergency Shelter Program
- Green Lake County/Ripon Community Foundation/Ripon
Community Foundation Unrestricted Fund, and the
Lucille M. Grams Fund—
\$500 to support the Green Lake County Rural Outreach Program
- Walmart Foundation—*\$500 to support the Emergency Shelter Program*
- Women’s Fund for the Fox Valley Region—
\$5,000 to support Project P.O.W.E.R.
- Kimberly Clark Foundation—*\$4,000 to support Project P.O.W.E.R.*

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

2009 HOLIDAY GIVING PROGRAM

Sharing the Spirit of the Season

Christine Ann is already planning for its annual 2009 Holiday Giving Program. 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. This is a wonderful opportunity for individuals, families and businesses to come together to help a family in need this holiday season. In 2008, 189 women and children received gifts, food and household needs—their spirits lifted by the kindness and generosity of the community. The agency also received gifts for the shelter that were put to use all year long.

Christine Ann continues to offer donors several options for giving:

- ✳️ Adopt-a-Family program allows donors to choose the size of the family they wish to assist. Donors will be given the family’s “wish list” to help in their shopping.
- ✳️ Adopt-a-Shelter allows donors to purchase items needed to operate the Christine Ann Center throughout the year.
- ✳️ The Special Gifts ~ Moms & Teens option invites donors to purchase individual gifts for older children and moms.
- ✳️ Through the Gift of Time, donors can give of their time during the holiday season and throughout the year by committing to regular volunteer hours or one-time projects at the Christine Ann Center.

If you have any questions about the Holiday Giving Program or would like to participate, please call Stephanie at (920) 235-5998 or email info@christineann.net.

Blessed is the season which engages the whole world in a conspiracy of love!
~ Hamilton Wright Mabie

