

The Advocate

Published by the Alliance Area Domestic Violence Shelter

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**Our Crisis Hotline
Is
Available
24-Hours
a Day**

330-823-7223

Shelter Services

- Emergency Shelter
 - Counseling
 - Legal Advocacy
 - Food/Clothing/
Transportation
 - Case Management
 - Educational Services
 - Public Speakers
- All services are provided
free of charge*



Hannah Niehaus, age 14, was recipient of the Helping Hand Award at this year's Alliance Area Domestic Violence Shelter's donor recognition event held September 16. Niehaus is the daughter of Dr. Leslie and Susan Niehaus.

Hannah Niehaus Helping Hand Award Winner

On Sunday September 16th, the Alliance Area Domestic Violence Shelter recognized some of our past and present supporters. The event was sponsored solely by the board using no shelter funds.

Shelter President, Debra Lehrer spoke saying that "the members of the board feel it is so very important to thank our many donors in the community. You (the donors) make a difference to the shelter and those we serve."

Lehrer noted a few of the recent donations in the past year — purchase of a new refrigerator, handmade quilts, the donation of materials and labor to install shelving, furniture for our clients when they obtain their own housing and the much needed clothing, food and toiletries that help sustain every day life.

Antonetta Crump, organizer of the recognition event, thanked all of the donors for their continued support.

"Our Shelter continues to actively serve victims of domestic violence because we have a community that supports our mission," she said.

Shelter Director, Kim Stanley gave an educational presentation on domestic violence to help donors realize what victims experience.

To conclude the event, Hannah Niehaus was presented with the Helping Hand Award. This special award was designed to honor a donor who went above and beyond to help victims of abuse.

A letter received from Hannah, who is 14 years old, was truly an inspiration to all. Hannah had asked all of her friends to not purchase a birthday gift for her, but to instead donate money to the shelter.

Hannah's wish was to make the children at the shelter smile. Because of her generous donation, 23 children and 8 adults spent a day at Pioneer Water Park.

Letter from the Executive Director

Greetings to all.

So often we only hear of the horrors of domestic violence and how terribly these situations can end. However, there are many successes that occur and many survivors that surface from abusive situations that go unnoticed.

I would like to tell you about one of our many success stories. Meet "Jane." Jane is a mother of three young children. She came to the Shelter after many years of suffering abuse at the hands of her boyfriend, the father of her three children. It was not an uncommon occurrence for Jane's boyfriend to end an argument with bruises and abrasions.

Like many abused mothers, Jane felt that she should put up with the abuse because this man was the father of her

children and the children deserved to have their father in their life. However, things turned ugly when he began to physically abuse the children as well. Then Jane decided it was time to get help and flee their home. Jane came to the Shelter seeking safety and a life free from abuse. During her stay at the Shelter, Jane was able to obtain a protection order for her and her children, obtain employment, receive counseling, and to attain housing and independence from her boyfriend.

After leaving the Shelter, Jane struggled here and there but has used our Outreach services. To this day Jane has not returned to her abuser. Even more exciting, Jane went back to school and was able to get a wonderful job to support her family. She has even come back to volunteer at the Shelter.



Executive Director
Kimberly Stanley

We are very proud of her, as well as our other survivors who have completed this program. If you are a victim of domestic violence, I want you to know that you too can be a survivor. We know that it can be hard to make that first step, but please know that you do not have to do it alone. Please call our hotline, night or day, and allow us to help you start your journey to surviving domestic violence.

Thank You Mount Union College Employees



Mount Union College employees, from left to right, Amanda L. Espenschied-Reilly, Jennifer Scott, Larry Baswell, Ashley Jones, Audra Yungin worked together at the shelter on the United Way of Greater Stark County's Day of Caring. The Day of Caring took place September 5 and resulted in a new picnic table, a cleaner playroom and a better organized clothing room.

The annual "Day of Caring" event sponsored by United Way of Greater Stark County was held on September 5, 2007.

A group of employees from Mt. Union College spent an entire day at the Shelter volunteering their time to complete projects that Shelter staff do not always have the time to do.

This year's projects included building a picnic table; cleaning, sorting and sanitizing the playroom; and organizing the clothing room.

The agency, along with the women and children who reside here, are very grateful for their hard work.

Thank you to Amanda L. Espenschied-Reilly, Jennifer Scott, Larry

Baswell, Ashley Jones and Audra Yungin for your wonderful hard work.

Day of Caring was established nationally in 1991 by the United Way to raise awareness of local needs and services and help community members better understand the impact of their donated dollars.

The benefits include:

- Program partner agencies such as ours receive the assistance they need.
- Volunteers develop a sense of satisfaction from a job well done while learning about United Way funded programs. Many Day of Caring volunteers now give their time to partner organizations on a year-round basis.
- Volunteers have fun, too! Day of Caring activities build camaraderie and give employees an opportunity to get to know one another outside of the workplace.
- United Way gains committed volunteers. Statistics show that employees who participate in the Day of Caring are more involved in their companies' United Way campaign.

Letter from the President

As our thoughts turn to the holidays and the warmth and love of friends and family, it is so comforting to know that the Alliance Area Domestic Violence Shelter has so many friends -- I'm referring of course to our donors.

We have had quite a turbulent year, but I feel confident that the Board has succeeded in putting our mission and vision back completely on track.

I personally want to thank all of our donors who have given us a chance to complete this task, and for your continued support of the shelter.

Your contributions this year have enabled us to install a new security system, upgrade and remodel two bathrooms, and keep the pantry stocked for our clients.

Donations of homemade quilts have helped each client feel special -- safe and warm -- and donations of furniture have helped our clients get established in their new lives once they leave the shelter.

The generosity of our community is truly a wonderful thing. I hope that during the upcoming



Debra L. Lebrer, MD
Board President

season of giving, you continue to remember those among us who are less fortunate.

Thank you for your consideration.

'Take Back the Night' Scheduled for October 24

Join us as we unite to "Take Back the Night" on October 24, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. in the Campus Grounds of the Hoover Price Center at Mount Union College. "Take Back the Night" is a way for us to take a stand against violence in our community and empower others to join in the fight.

The speakers for the evening are Kelly Addington and Becca Tieder who focus on preventing sexual violence. Their program name is *Let's Talk about "TT."* Afterwards, there will be a moonlight march through campus.

Kelly Addington, a Florida native holds a degree in Interdisciplinary Social Sciences from the University of West Florida. Her professional career began as a foster care counselor for teens and staying true to her social work roots, she later managed a large non-profit organization which provided services to survivors of domestic and family violence.

Most recently, she served as a professional in higher education fundraising at the University of South Florida. Her strongest passion is her work with *Let's Talk About "TT"* and for her, the students she meets time and again reinforce that she has the greatest job in the world. Kelly lives in Tampa, FL with her husband and their cat Abby.

Becca Tieder holds a degree in Theatre from the University of West Florida. After leaving UWF, Becca landed in corporate America. In no time at all she was promoted to regional marketing manager but she still felt something was missing.

About this time she married her college sweetheart and decided she wanted a change of scenery in her professional life as well. Working as a manager for a national not-for-profit organization seemed to be the perfect fit, which it was, until she decided she could make a more direct impact by

making *Let's Talk* her full time job. Becca believes the only way to make the world a better place is to engage others and to enact change. Becca lives with her husband and their dog Jack in Tampa, FL.

Fusing their knowledge, experience and collected research, Addington and Tieder have created a program that encourages students to talk openly about the realities of sex and sexual assault on campus while providing real and attainable solutions for students to follow. Both Kelly and Becca agree that every campus they visit reinforces their belief that the power for change lies within the students and that with a little faith and education, anything is possible.

"Take Back the Night" is sponsored by the Association of Women Students, Alpha Chi Omega Sorority, the Alliance YWCA and the Alliance Area Domestic Violence Shelter. We hope to see you there!

Alliance Area Domestic Violence Shelter Board of Trustees

Debra Lehrer, MD, President
Antonetta Crump, Vice President
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Signs of an Abusive Relationship

Your Inner Thoughts and Feelings

Do you:

- Feel afraid of your partner much of the time?
- Avoid certain topics out of fear of angering your partner?
- Feel that you can't do anything right for your partner?
- Believe that you deserve to be hurt or mistreated?
- Wonder if you're the one who is crazy?
- Feel emotionally numb or helpless?

Your Partner's Belittling Behavior

Does your partner:

- Humiliate, criticize, or yell at you?
- Treat you so badly that you're embarrassed for your friends or family to see?
- Ignore or put down your opinions or accomplishments?
- Blame you for his own abusive behavior?
- See you as property or a sex object, rather than as a person?

Your Partner's Violent Behavior or Threats

Does your partner:

- Have a bad and unpredictable temper?
- Hurt you, or threaten to hurt or kill you?
- Threaten to take your children away or harm them?
- Threaten to commit suicide if you leave?
- Force you to have sex?
- Destroy your belongings?

Your Partner's Controlling Behavior

Does your partner:

- Act excessively jealous and possessive?
- Control where you go or what you do?
- Keep you from seeing your friends or family?
- Limit your access to money, the phone, or the car?
- Constantly check up on you?

If you find there are any of these signs of abuse in your relationship, call the Alliance Area Domestic Violence Shelter. Our crisis hotline is available 24 hours a day. It is 330-823-7223.

Join Us at Our Spring Fundraiser April 27

Help us
"Paint a
Brighter Future"
for victims
of domestic violence
while having
a fun-filled evening
of dinner, drinks, and
a silent and live
auction.

For more information, or to
donate items for the auction,
call Antonetta Crump,
Fundraising Chair,
at 330-823-7223.