

# The Advocate

Published by the Alliance Area Domestic Violence Shelter

## IN THIS ISSUE

Letter from the Executive Director

Page 2

Alliance Casting Employees Contribute on Day of Caring

Page 2

Letter from Board President

Page 3

'Take Back the Night' Scheduled for October 29

Page 3

AXO/ATO Golf Outing Benefits Shelter

Page 3

Signs of an Abusive Relationship

Page 4

**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*



*A wide range of auction items ranging from a one-week trip to Naples, Florida to a cuddly puppy helped to make the Domestic Violence Shelter Annual Auction a major success.*

## Annual Auction Raises \$30,000 for New Roof and Other Needs

“With our annual auction, we not only try to raise funds, but also raise awareness about domestic violence,” says Shelter Executive Director Kim Stanley.

“During the calendar year of 2007, we provided shelter to 57 women and 99 children, and we helped almost 1,000 people through our hotline referrals. We’ve also held 33 speaking engagements and reached over 1,100 people in attendance.”

This year’s event, “Paint a Brighter Future,” was held April 27 at Alliance Country Club raising \$30,000. One-hundred-seventy attended.

“All the credit goes to our Fundraising Chair Antonetta Crump, the other board members, staff and volunteers who made it happen,” says Stanley.

“They did a fantastic job,” she adds.

“Part of the reason it was such a success was the unique items such as a puppy and quilt.”

Other items included: a grill, various gift baskets, a Rock Band kit for PlayStation II, a one-week trip to Naples, Florida and a weekend stay at a cabin in the country.



*Antonetta Crump*

The community supported the shelter’s work by: making tax-deductible monetary donations; donating tax-deductible items to be auctioned and purchasing tickets to the auction.

“We desperately need a new roof at our Alliance shelter, and we’re trying to raise enough money for that, which is quite a large project,” Crump says. “We thank the community for all its support.”

Check our new Web site at [www.alliancedomesticviolenceshelter.org](http://www.alliancedomesticviolenceshelter.org) for information about our next fundraiser. Click on the News link on the home page.

*Thanks to The Review and Laurie Huffman for the use of this article and Gayle Agnew for Crump’s photo.*

## Letter from the Executive Director

I want to discuss a seven letter word that is currently on everyone's minds – ECONOMY. Our nation is facing hard times and our community is not an exception, nor is our agency. I want to share how the current economic status is affecting our clients and our agency.

In the recent months, we have seen an increase in the number of victims entering the shelter after their significant other lost their job. In these relationships, abuse was always a factor, but because the spouse or boyfriend was now at home more and the finances were even tighter, the abuse intensified to the point victims sought shelter.

Another example of the effects of the economy is the difficulty shelter residents are having in obtaining

employment and housing. More than 98 percent of victims residing at AADVS are considered to be below the poverty level.

The waiting list for low income housing is overwhelming, lasting from six months to a year. As a result, the 90 day program is increasingly becoming an inadequate amount of time for victims to be able to successfully obtain housing they can afford.

Due to the increase of clients and the increased length of stay, the operating expenses of the agency have also increased.

Gasoline costs for transporting clients to appointments is very high. The cost of water, electric, and food all increase as the number of clients increase reaching levels we have not seen over the last few years.



Executive Director  
Kimberly Stanley

Unfortunately, while the expenses increase, funding such as grants and private contributions decrease.

On the bright side, we are very fortunate to be located within such a generous, giving community who has always supported the Alliance Area Domestic Violence Shelter and we know that we will overcome these hard times. In closing, thank you for your past and continued support.

## Alliance Castings Employees Donate Time on Day of Caring



Front left to right: Robbie Meredith, Eldon Ramsey, Bob Burns. Back left to right: Pete Virden, Garnetta Bush-Thigpen, Connie Brodzinski and Kenny Young.

Seven employees from Alliance Castings Co., working together during the annual United Way Day of Caring, accomplished so much at the Domestic Violence Shelter on Tuesday, September 9, that they surprised themselves.

Those seven volunteers were: Robbie Meredith, Garnetta Bush-Thigpen, Eldon Ramsey, Bob Burns, Pete Virden and plant foreman Kenny Young. Connie Brodzinski of the administrative office was on the job with the team of volunteers.

"When we first started the wallpaper in this room this morning I thought to myself we would never get it done," said Meredith. Bush-Thigpen agreed, saying she had never stripped anything like that before.

Yet the dedicated crew of volunteers was able to apply chemical stripping solvent and peel two layers of wallpaper and a layer of glue off the walls of the main office and hallway in the shelter within two hours.

"They definitely went above and beyond what was asked of them," shelter Executive Director Kim Stanley said of her eager volunteers. "They did more than we ever expected them to."

Stanley explained the project was totally out of reach in the shelter's budget, and said the wallpaper in the two rooms was starting to peel. On top of that, it had turned yellow, along with the ceiling in both rooms, from the years dating back to the 1970s and '80s when smoking was still allowed inside offices.

These are the types of things we don't have time to do and don't have the budget to do," Stanley said. "We had free labor today to help with the project, and we only had to supply the materials," Stanley said.

After the walls were stripped, the crew went to work applying compound to fill in the damaged spots on the surface. Then they let it dry and sanded it down. Next, without even needing time to talk it out and make a plan, they painted the ceilings.

Three of the crew — Meredith, Bush-Thigpen and Young — were back the next day to finish the job by doing the painting.

The Day of Caring was sponsored by Grove Appliance, TV & Mattress; HSBC; and Massillon Cable TV Inc.

Thanks to Laurie Huffman and The Review for the use of this article.

## Letter from the President

These are very turbulent, disturbing, and distressing times we are living through at present, aren't they? The ups and downs in the economy are nerve-racking, the politicians are going at each other full force, and there is no end in sight to the war in the Middle East.

But for most of us, we have the comfort of knowing that, at LEAST we can go home to a warm bed, or at LEAST we can go home to a good meal, or at LEAST we can go home and play with the kids tonight.

However, there are some in our community that do not even have these simple joys. Their lives are even more uncertain, even more unpredictable, even more troubled—and those are the women and children that use the services of the Alliance Area Domestic Violence Shelter.

A simple fact is that when the economy takes a downward spiral, the need for shelter services takes an upward spiral. We are indeed seeing that trend at the present time. This increased need strains the resources we have available and tests the limits of our ability to provide shelter and care to those among us who need it most.

As we all go through the next weeks and months, please take a moment out and give a hand where and when you can. Difficult times really test our inner strengths and convictions—but I also tend to think they bring out the best in people.

I recognize that our shelter needs support even more this year than last year, and I know that my resolve is even stronger than last year to continue my personal support for what I see as a very



Debra L. Lebrer, MD  
Board President

worthy, much needed, and essential facility in our community.

Won't you join me, in whatever manner you are able, to help see us through?

If you can help financially, please do so when you are able.

If you can say a good word for our cause, please do so.

If you can keep us in your prayers, I believe that all things are possible.

## 'Take Back the Night' Scheduled for Wednesday, October 29

"Take Back the Night", sponsored by Alliance Area Domestic Violence Shelter, Alliance YWCA, Alpha Chi Omega Sorority, and the Association of Women Students, will be held Wednesday, October 29, at Mount Union College.

From 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. an Educational Fair will be held in the Hoover-Price Campus Center. Agencies

such as the Alliance Area Domestic Violence Shelter, the YWCA, and the Alliance Area Rape Crisis Center will be on hand with information and referrals.

The program begins at 6:30 p.m. in the Campus Grounds in the Hoover – Price Campus Center with featured speaker Angela Rose. Rose is founder of the first chapter of PAVE (Promoting

Awareness, Victim Empowerment) and the organization MMD (Men Making a Difference).

For more info about her and PAVE, go to [www.pavingtheway.net/angelarose/home.html](http://www.pavingtheway.net/angelarose/home.html)

Following the program there will be a Moonlight March to promote awareness throughout campus.

## Shelter Benefits from Alpha Chi Omega Golf Outing

In September the women of Alpha Chi Omega (AXO) teamed up with Alpha Tau Omega fraternity of Mount Union College to host the first Annual Charity Golf Outing at Tannenhau Golf Course to benefit the Alliance Area Domestic Violence

Shelter. Over 80 participants played in the tournament to benefit the Domestic Violence Shelter raising over \$1200. The top teams received cash prizes (first - \$300, second - \$200, third - \$100).

AXO is a sorority founded upon the values of character, leadership,

academics, personal development and financial responsibility. AXO provides lifetime opportunities for friendships, leadership, learning and service.

Mount AXO's chosen philanthropy is addressing issues of Domestic Violence and supporting the Shelter.

### Alliance Area Domestic Violence Shelter Board of Trustees

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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?

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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.

**Visit Our New  
Web Site at  
www.  
alliancedomesticviolence  
shelter.org**

Our Web site was made possible through a grant to the shelter in May 2008 by service-learning students at Mount Union College. The grant was one of a number of grants given to Alliance agencies as part of the first year of a three-year \$45,000 grant.

The \$45,000 was received from Campus Connects, which is funded by the Roger Grein Foundation. This grant money was made available to schools belonging to Ohio and Kentucky Campus Compacts.

Our site features domestic violence and safety information for those in abusive relationships.

It also lists our board members, ways to help us, news about the shelter and important links.