

The Stepping Stone

Spring 2009

The Stepping Stone is a newsletter published quarterly by Someplace Safe, Inc. We are a non-profit social service agency, and are committed to serving survivors of Domestic Violence.

AVAILABLE SERVICES

24-Hour Crisis Hotline
Emergency Shelter
Crisis Intervention
Legal Advocacy

Women's Individual & Group Support Services
Children's Individual & Group Support Services
Community & School
Education Programs



All services are
accessible by calling:

**330-393-3003 or CONTACT at 330-393-1565
or 2-1-1**

**Please visit our website at
www.someplacesafe.org**

Someplace Safe, Inc. is funded by the State of Ohio's Marriage License Bureau, VOCA, VAWA, United Way, Family Violence & Prevention, Trumbull County Department of Jobs & Family Services, & private donations.

**Someplace Safe, Inc. would like to
feature sincere appreciation of our
Sponsors & Vendors of the 2009 6th
Annual Just Desserts
Fundraiser**

Corporate Sponsors

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The Cake Boutique
Starbucks Coffee Company, Eastwood Mall
Joanna's Greek Treats
Just Pizzelles
Colonial Bake Shoppe



Above, Sister Stella Schmid, a Board Member, managed the "Change of Heart Tree" during the event. For more event photos, go to page 7 of this issue.

ARE WE GOING TO LET THIS OPPORTUNITY SLIP BY?



Photo: www.TMZ.com

When Chris Brown viciously assaulted Rihanna last month, their celebrity status brought to the forefront the hidden secret of dating violence. There was an outcry, from the media and the public, for something to be done. Everyone said this is the perfect time to talk to your children about dating violence. Finally, a celebrity couple that teens could relate to was in the spotlight. For a few days, sympathy was there for Rihanna, and everybody was down on Brown. As time passed, sympathy waned for Rihanna, and teens said that she must have done something to bring about this beating. Nearly half of Boston-area teenagers say Rihanna was responsible for pop star Chris Brown's alleged Grammy night attack that landed her in the hospital, according to a new survey by the Boston Public Health Commission. Why the turn of opinion?

The survey of 200 Boston youths, ages 12 years old to 19 years old, found that 51% domestic violence incident. In another survey, "a significant number of males and females" said both Brown and Rihanna were to blame for the violence. Additionally, the survey indicates that over half of the surveyed teens believe the media were treating Brown unfairly, and Rihanna was destroying Brown's career by the bad publicity. According to the Boston survey, 100% of the surveyed youths had heard of the Rihanna-Chris Brown case. American kids are paying attention. Clearly, as indicated by the Boston survey, half of the youth population hasn't learned that domestic violence is unacceptable. Even more disturbing, if Brown is given a celebrity pass and is allowed to "rehabilitate" himself without professional intervention, America's youth will be in danger of becoming desensitized to the issues related to domestic violence.

This is beyond disturbing to the people working in the field of domestic violence as well as community service professionals, and it should concern you too. Domestic violence is not simply a domestic problem. It's a community problem that touches all sectors including law enforcement, healthcare, educational and religious branches of our society. You may ask, "What can I do about it? I'm only one person, so how can I make a difference?" You can:

- Contact Someplace Safe, Inc. for educational material or for a speaker presentation
- Encourage men to get involved in standing against domestic violence (For more information about "A Call to Men," an independent program led by men, go to <http://www.acalltomen.org>.)
- Be aware of what's happening in the lives of children & teens you know
- Volunteer to assist your local domestic violence agency—most agencies have a variety of things you can do to help and also to promote the stand against domestic violence. You can use the Rihanna/Brown case as a basis for a teachable moment and demonstrate your stand against domestic violence. If you don't speak up, there can be life-threatening consequences as recent history has demonstrated in the Simpson/Brown case.



Photo: www.People.com

ATTENTION TEENS: WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU! PLEASE E-MAIL YOUR COMMENTS, QUOTES, POEMS, & QUESTIONS TO apeigowski@someplacesafe.org or dmccue@someplacesafe.org. We'll include your feedback in upcoming newsletters, so write to us!

THROUGH THE EYES OF A TEEN...

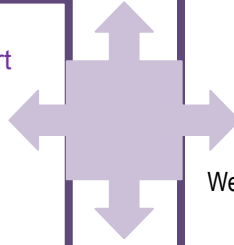
They say a picture's worth a thousand words
But what about a woman's face that is badly hurt

She gave her heart to a bad man
Who doesn't know how to control his hands

He says he loves her but that's not true
Cause he's beating her black and blue

She wants to run away
Cause she's going to die at his hands some day.

—Anonymous teen writer



"Teenage Ignorance" by Ryan P. Dentscheff (reprinted by request)

Pressure to Impress
This is our only issue.
Our self-goal is to make elders accept
To make our peers accept
When these goals are forgotten, we are people. We are ourselves
Instead we are ignorant to reality
We are like the ostrich, sticking our heads in a hole and thinking we're hidden
We lack responsibility and consequence
But still complain about the "difficulties"
It is so easy to be happy
We just try so hard to be upset
Our pressure on ourselves is holding us back.
We are balloons on the verge of bursting
Almost releasing our insides to the open and endless world
It only takes a prick
A sudden moment of epiphany when life makes sense
When the important things become relevant
But until we are poked by the needle, we will remain...
Teenagers.

Endowment Fund

Please remember Someplace Safe has established an Endowment Fund with the Community Foundation of the Mahoning Valley. The Endowment Fund was established to secure the future of the agency. Gifts to the Endowment Fund are not used for general operations, but rather they remain in the fund to build the principal balance. The goal of the fund is to secure the financial stability of the agency well into the future. For more information regarding Someplace Safe's Endowment Fund please contact the Community Foundation of the Mahoning Valley at 330-743-5555. Gifts to the Endowment Fund can be forwarded to Someplace Safe or sent to:

Community Foundation of the Mahoning Valley
11 Federal Plaza Central Suite 1600
Youngstown, Ohio 44503

SUPREME COURT: NO GUNS FOR ABUSERS



Photo www.Google/images.com

An article featured in Speaking Up, a project of the Family Violence Prevention Fund, (Produced by PR Solutions, Inc., Washington, DC. February 27, 2009 Vol. 15, Issue 4), a decision concerning gun rights was discussed. The article explains that the ruling upheld the federal ban on gun possession by people convicted of domestic violence misdemeanors. The U.S. Supreme Court's decision follows the ruling of last year that struck down



Photo www.Google/images.com

Washington, D.C.'s ban on handguns. The ruling was decided by a seven to two split, with Justice John Roberts and Justice Antonin Scalia voting their disagreement. In support of the decision, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg wrote, "Firearms and domestic strife are a potentially deadly combination nationwide," and ruled that domestic abusers convicted under general battery laws can be banned from carrying guns if there is a proven domestic relationship between the victim and the offender.

United States v. Hayes addressed the question of whether gun ownership should be barred for someone convicted under a general assault and battery law, or whether Congress intended the ban to apply only to those convicted under laws specifically barring domestic violence. Fewer than half the states specifically name domestic violence in their assault and battery laws, so many more convicted batterers would have been allowed to have guns if the Court had ruled the other way, as reported by the *Washington Post*. Paul Helmke, President of The Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence commented, "[The ruling is] the right one for victims of domestic abuse and to protect law enforcement officers who are our first responders to domestic violence incidents."

IDENTIFYING ELDER ABUSE



Photo:
www.Google/images.com

There's an elderly neighbor you've chatted with at civic meetings and block parties for years. When you see her coming to get her mail as you walk up the street, you slow down and greet her at the mailbox. She says, "Hello," but seems a little wary, as if she doesn't quite recognize you. You ask her about the nasty bruise on her forearm. "Oh, just an accident," she explains, "The car door closed on it." She says goodbye quickly and returns to the house. Something isn't quite right about her. You think about the bruise and her skittish behavior. Well, she's getting pretty old, you think—maybe her mind is getting fuzzy. Yet, you can't shake the feeling that something isn't right.

Every year tens of thousands of elderly Americans are being abused in their own homes, in relative's homes, or in facilities that are responsible to take care of them. As elders become more physically frail, they're less able to stand up to bullying and/or fight back if attacked. They may not see, hear, think as clearly as they used to due to the aging process. This leaves opportunities for less than scrupulous people to take advantage of them. Further, mental or physical ailments may contribute to the frustration in which their companions experience in living with an elderly person. However, this is never an excuse to abuse anyone.



Photo www.Google/images.com

If you suspect elderly abuse, look for clusters of the following physical and behavioral signs:

Physical

- Unexplained signs of injury such as bruises, welts, or scars—especially if they appear symmetrically on two sides of the body
- Broken bones, sprains, or dislocations
- Report of drug overdose or apparent failure to take medication regularly (A prescription has more remaining pills than it should.)
- Broken eyeglasses or frames
- Signs of being restrained such as rope marks on wrists
- Caregiver's refusal to allow you to see the elderly person alone



Photo www.Google/images.com

Emotional

- Threatening, belittling, or controlling behavior demonstrated by the caregiver
- Behavior from the elder that mimics dementia, such as rocking, sucking, or mumbling to oneself

Sexual

- Bruises around breasts or genitals or unexplained vaginal or anal bleeding
- Torn, stained, or bloody underclothing
- Unexplained venereal disease or genital infections

Compiled from www.helpguide/mental/elder_abuse_physical_emotional_sexual_neglect.htm

Neglect by Caregiver or Self Neglect:

- Unusual weight loss, malnutrition, or dehydration
- Untreated physical problems such as bed sores
- Unsanitary living conditions including dirt, bugs, soiled bedding and clothing
- Poor hygiene
- Unsuitable clothing or covering for the weather
- Unsafe living conditions (No heat, running water, faulty electrical wiring, or any other fire hazards)
- Desertion of the elder at a public place



Photo www.Google/images.com

Financial:

- Significant withdrawals from the elder's accounts
- Sudden changes in the elder's financial condition such as items or cash missing from the senior's household
- Suspicious changes in wills, power of attorney, titles, and policies
- Addition of names to the senior's bank signature card
- Unpaid bills or lack of medical care (Although the elder has enough money to pay for them)
- Financial activity the senior couldn't have participated (Such as an ATM withdrawal when the account holder is bedridden)
- Unnecessary services, goods, or subscriptions

How Do I Report Abuse?

If you are an elderly citizen who is experiencing abuse, neglect, or exploitation, **tell someone**. Tell your doctor, a friend, or a family member whom you trust. Other people care and can help you.

To report abuse, you or a trusted individual can call Adult Protective Services at:

Trumbull County **330-392-3248**

Mahoning County **330-884-6952 after 4:00** **330-747-2696**

Columbiana County **330-424-1471**

Ashtabula County **440-994-2020**



Photo www.Google/images.com

Please Help Us Save On Our Office Supplies



Photo www.Google/images.com

For all of you that receive coupons for Staples Office Supplies and **do not** use them, please mail them to:

Someplace Safe, Inc.
1540 Tod Avenue NW
Warren, OH 44485

We'll gladly use them when we purchase office supplies. Thank you, in advance, for your generosity!

“We must remember that a right lost to one is lost to all.”

--William Reece Smith, Jr. (1925)

This year's theme, “25 Years of Rebuilding Lives: Celebrating the Victims of Crime Act,” honors legislation that shaped our nation's response to victims of crime. Before the Victims Of Crime Act (VOCA), victim advocates struggled to gain any form of support. After VOCA, steady federal funding for victim compensation, victim assistance, training and technical assistance, and a host of other programs began to reach our nation's communities. Twenty-five years after the passage of VOCA, the victim service field has much to celebrate. Key Federal Victims' Rights Legislation cited by the National Center for Victims of Crime are:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1974 Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act | 1996 Community Notification Act (Megan's Law) |
| 1980 Parental Kidnapping Prevention Act | 1996 Anti-terrorism Effective Death Penalty Act |
| 1982 Victim and Witness Protection Act | 1996 Mandatory Victims' Restitution Act |
| 1982 Missing Children's Act | 1997 Victims' Rights Clarification Act |
| 1984 Victim of Crime Act | 1998 Crime Victims' with Disabilities Act |
| 1984 Justice Assistance Act | 1998 Identity Theft and Deterrence Act |
| 1984 Missing Children's Assistance Act | 2000 Trafficking Victims Protection Act |
| 1984 Family Violence Prevention and Services Act | 2001 Air Transportation Safety and System Stabilization Act (established September 11 th Victim Compensation Fund) |
| 1985 Children's Justice Act | 2003 PROTECT Act (“Amber Alert” law) |
| 1988 Drunk Driving Prevention Act | 2003 Prison Rape Elimination Act |
| 1990 Hate Crime Statistics Act | 2003 Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act |
| 1990 Victims of Child Abuse Act | 2003 Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act |
| 1990 Victims' Rights and Restitution Act | |
| 1990 National Child Search Assistance Act | 2004 Justice for All Act, including Title 1 <i>The Scott Campbell, Stephanie Roper, Wendy Preston, Louarna Gillis, and Nila Lynn Crime Victims' Rights Act</i> |
| 1992 Battered Women's Testimony Act | |
| 1993 Child Sexual Abuse Registry Act | 2005 Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act |
| 1994 Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act | |
| 1994 Violence Against Women Act | |

Featuring our 6th Annual Just Desserts Fundraiser: A Good Time for a Good Cause

The combination of desserts, entertainment, live & silent auctions, a 50/50 raffle, & cash bar ensured a good time for our guests. Many local businesses & individuals donated generously to the auctions. Items included a week-long getaway package at the Seven Springs Mountain Resort, Autographed Kelly Pavlik gloves, DiLucia's Catering Package, & a gift certificate for a complete spring cleaning from National Fire Repair. A diverse spectrum of businesses was represented such as Thom Duma, Thumm's Bike & Clock Shop, Panera Bread, & the Funny Farm Comedy Club. Please support our local economy by supporting these businesses.

Colonial Bake Shoppe features its specialty cakes.



Fun Flavored Fudge is a faithful friend of Someplace Safe, Inc.



Guests share a laugh as the auction bidding gets competitive.



Susan Campbell, of TV-21 asks Bob, of Cold Stone Creamery, to share a few words.



Specialty creations by The Cake Boutique



TO SEE MORE EVENT PHOTOS, GO TO:
WWW.SOMEPLACESAFE.ORG

THE STEPPING STONE



**Someplace Safe, Inc.
1540 Tod Ave NW
Warren, OH 44485**

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**IF YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO IS IN A DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CRISIS
PLEASE ENCOURAGE THEM TO CALL CONTACT FOR 24-HR
CRISIS INFORMATION AT 330-393-1565 or 2-1-1.**

**We believe in the philosophy that everyone is entitled to a life
free of violence!**

**Someplace Safe, Inc. operates just like your home—only on a bigger scale. The
quality of products we offer our clients depends, in part, upon your generosity. If
you are able, please donate any of the following items:**

**Large Heavy Duty Trash Bags, Paper towels & Toilet Paper
Laundry Detergent, Dish Soap, Cleaning Supplies, Mops, & Brooms
Disposable Diapers & Baby Wipes
Sugar, Flour, Spices, Condiments, & Dry Food Products
Spaghetti Sauce, Cans of Ravioli, Spaghetti-O's, Sloppy Joe's, & canned goods
Batteries of all sizes**

Remember, all donations are tax-deductible!

