

# *The Stepping Stone*

*Fall 2009*

*The Stepping Stone* is a newsletter published quarterly by Someplace Safe, Inc. We are a non-profit social service agency and we 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:

Someplace Safe, Inc.

330-393-3003 or the  
24-Hour Crisis Hotline  
330-393-3005

[www.someplacesafe.com](http://www.someplacesafe.com)

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



Someplace Safe Inc. is announcing it's

## 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Just Desserts

Friday, February 12, 2010

At 6:00 pm

Leo's Ristorante

7042 E. Market St.

Warren, OH 44484

\$25.00 per person

Enjoy a fun filled evening as you sample some of the most delectable desserts from local vendors specializing in gourmet desserts and novelty treats.

Contact Alicia Siler Peigowski at 330-393-3003  
[asiler@someplacesafe.org](mailto:asiler@someplacesafe.org)

# Christmas and Domestic Violence

Christmas is a time of awe and wonder and family gatherings. Christmas trees and Santa Claus. Christmas Carols and nativity scenes. “Joy to the World” and “Here Comes Santa Claus.”



Did you ever wonder what a home with domestic violence looks like at Christmas?

I doubt if there are many carols playing. I am sure that the children aren't filled with wonder and awe. It's more like dread and fear. The family is praying that there's no family gathering this year because it always ends up in a big argument and somebody gets hit. Then Dad yells, “Let's get out of here!” The kids pile into the car not wanting to leave the cookies and candy behind. All the way home Mom and Dad argue. Dad yells as you go into the house, “Get to bed now.” Bed? It's 6:30 on Christmas Eve.

As the kids lay in bed in the quiet house, mom and dad continue to yell. Well, mostly Dad because mom doesn't open her mouth except to say, “Stop, don't hit me.” “Jack, please.” “The kids will hear.” There are loud noises going on.

The first thing to go was the Christmas tree. Dad knocked it over when he swung at the cat. She flew into the tree and dad got it. “That d----- cat! I told you to get rid of it. If I get my hands on it, I'm going to wring its neck.” “Oh no!,” the kids cry. “Here, Muffin. Come on girl!”, the kids say, frightened that the cat will get hurt. “Oh, dear, do you think Santa Claus will want to come to our house this year?”

You can still hear some swearing and mom weeping quietly. “I told you to shut up. If you want something to cry about, come here and I'll give you something to cry about.”

”Jack you've got to stop, it's Christmas Eve. Please, don't drink anymore. You've got to put the bikes together and Sally's dollhouse.” “Shut up, you whore. Why didn't you have your boyfriend put them together when he was over here the other night.” “Jack! What are you talking about? I don't have a boyfriend.” SMACK! Dad gets her in the eye. The noises go on long into the night.

After a while when it has been silent for a time, the children creep down the stairs to see what Santa Claus has brought them.

“Twas the night before Christmas and all through the house, not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse...”

Christmas can be a particularly harrowing time for people in abusive relationships as the pressures of financial difficulties, lost jobs, more alcohol around, and spending long periods of time with an abusive partner combine to create greater anxiety and stress. Add in then the tendency for violence and it makes it a not so very merry time of the year for victims and survivors of domestic violence.





## Someplace Safe, Inc. Christmas Wish List

With the holiday season fast approaching, we are again making plans for a holiday party here at SSI, to be held on December 14, 2009. Last year we had approximately 150 women and children attending. We try to give a few gifts to each family member. Remember, we also have Christmas morning here at the shelter. Usually there are a number of women and children staying with us, often with a short notice of their arrival. **\*We are in particular need of gifts for preteen, teen girls & boys, and women.** Sometimes, we do find out that a child has a particular wish; however, more often, we have only sex and age to judge what sort of gifts they may like. If you have any questions, please call Someplace Safe at 330-393-3003.

**Please donate only new gifts, as we want the women and children to feel special.  
Also, please do not wrap the gifts.**

### Here is a Christmas List:

#### **Newborns to Toddlers**

Mobiles  
Blocks  
Rattles/Keys  
Winnie-the-Pooh items  
Blankets  
Sesame Street toys  
Clothes

#### **Pre-school**

Ben 10 toys  
Spiderman toys  
Thomas the Train items  
Bob the Builder  
Care Bears  
Dolls and clothes  
Building Blocks  
Dora & Diego items  
Play Dough sets  
Disney movies  
Child's Toolbox  
Spongebob Squarepants items

#### **Ages 6-12**

Etch A Sketch

Transformers  
Light Bright  
Children's Purses  
Legos  
Children's tape players  
Easy Bake Oven  
Plastic beauty sets  
Hannah Montana items  
Barbie Dolls  
Little Pet Shop toys  
Fishing Poles  
Tackle Boxes  
High School Musical items

#### **Teens**

Art kits  
Bead kits  
Bowling gift certificates  
CD players  
Content Appropriate CDs  
Craft items  
Electric Keyboards  
Sporting goods  
Gameboys and games  
Hair accessories

Hand held games  
MP3 Players  
Lava lamps  
Model car kits  
Scooters  
Movie passes  
Movie rental passes  
Skating Passes  
Toolbox with tools  
Clothes

#### **Women-something enjoyable**

Alarm Clocks  
Jewelry Boxes  
Nail Care Kits  
Slippers  
Spa Sets/Candles  
Watches  
Purses/Wallets  
Cameras  
Nightgowns/Robes  
Perfume Sets  
Clothes  
Gift Certificates  
House wares/Decorations

**PLEASE DO NOT PURCHASE GIFTS THAT PROMOTE VIOLENCE—THANK YOU**

**Please have all gifts to Someplace Safe by 12/7/09**

**We also need a collection of wrapping supplies: gift bags, gift-wrap, nametags, tape & bows.**

# THE STEPPING STONE



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

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
Paid  
Permit No. 300  
Warren, Ohio

Place mailing label here

Someplace Safe is in need of the following items:

**#1 Immediate Need Right Now is TOILET PAPER & PAPER TOWELS**

STANDARD SIZE BED PILLOWS BEVERAGES (JUICE, KOOL-AID, LEMONADE,  
LARGE HEAVY DUTY TRASH BAGS MOP/BROOM/BUCKETS LIGHT BULBS  
LAUNDRY DETERGENT, DISH SOAP & CLEANING SUPPLIES  
DISPOSABLE DIAPERS AND BABY WIPES  
FEMININE HYGIENE PRODUCTS  
OVER THE COUNTER MEDICATIONS (TYLENOL, ADVIL, COLD MEDICINE, ETC...)  
SUGAR, FLOUR, SPICES (SALT & PEPPER MAINLY) SPAGHETTI SAUCE,  
CANS OF RAVIOLI, SPAGHETTI-O'S, SLOPPY JOE'S, ETC.  
PEANUT BUTTER AND JELLY, CEREAL HAMBURGER HELPER, TUNA HELPER  
CANNED VEGETABLES, FRUIT, MEATS AND SOUP  
KETCHUP, MUSTARD & MAYONNAISE  
TOOTHPASTE, TOOTHBRUSH, FLOSS & MOUTHWASH  
SHAMPOO & CONDITIONER

