

The Stepping Stone

Summer 2010

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:

Someplace Safe, Inc.
330-393-3003 or the
24-Hour Crisis Hotline
330-393-3005
www.someplacesafe.org

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.

Unity Day, 2010



HISTORY

Domestic Violence Awareness Month evolved from the first Day of Unity observed in October, 1981 by the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence. In October 1987, the first Domestic Violence Awareness Month was observed, and in 1989 the first Domestic Violence Commemorative Legislation was passed by the U.S. Congress. Such legislation has passed every year since.

THEMES

These activities have common themes:

- Mourning deceased victims of domestic violence
- Celebrating domestic violence survivors
- Connecting workers in the community who have a passion to end domestic violence

The Day of Unity is celebrated the first Monday in October, with the hope that events in communities across the United States will culminate in a powerful statement as the strength of battered women and their children is celebrated and awareness of domestic violence issues increases.

Please join us on October 4th at 6:00 p.m. on Courthouse Square in downtown Warren for this inspiring evening.

Saying Goodbye to one Executive Director and Saying Hello to a new Executive Director

On June 25th, the staff of Someplace Safe held a retirement party at the Outback Steakhouse, a long-time supporter of the Agency, for Pat Porter who has been the Executive Director for 12 years. It was a fun-filled evening in which we presented Pat with several “non-working” presents to take with her into retirement. We gave her a non-working alarm clock because she no longer has to wake up to get to work on time. Other gifts included a non-working watch because she no longer needs to know what time it is, as well as an old cell phone for all the calls that she doesn't have to return anymore! The staff is really going to miss her



Patricia Porter, Executive Director, (Ret.)



guidance and leadership, and many of us are going to miss a friend. When asked what she was going to do she said she was going to spend as much time as possible in her nightgown doing nothing. So to send her on her journey into retirement properly, the staff gave two bottles of Bailey's. Just remember, Pat, as you sit at home in your nightgown, you will be missed.

On July 1st, Cheryl Tarantino assumed the reins of leadership as Executive Director. Cheryl comes to us from Northeast Ohio Adoption Services where she was the Director of Marketing and Recruitment. Cheryl was the Co-Chairman of the Boardman Relay for Life 2010, and comes to us with a diverse and solid background. She said, “It was meant to be” that she is here. She shared an anecdote as she explained that at her last interview she was washing her hands and one of our flyers dropped down from the top of the towel dispenser into her hand. Well, Cheryl, we think that's a good sign! It has only been a short time, but Cheryl has worked hard and we feel that she fits right in. She shared the analogy of a bus driver extending an invitation to “get on the bus” as we move forward as an Agency. We are on the bus, Cheryl, and ready for your leadership. Toot! Toot!



Cheryl Tarantino, Executive Director



In celebration of both remarkable women and marking the change in leadership, the Board of Someplace Safe held a public retirement party for Pat at the Amphitheater in downtown Warren on July 28th. Many community members, government officials, and law enforcement attended the event and extended support to the Agency.

When “Birth Control” Takes on an Ugly New Meaning



Do you remember a time when women trapped men by getting pregnant in the hopes of marriage and support for life? Well, this is still occurring, except the person doing the deed is sometimes the father of the child.

Researchers say that in some abusive relationships, men use strategies to force women to become pregnant, including sabotaging their birth control. One study was conducted from 2008–2009 at five family clinics in Northern California with a survey of women ages 16 to 29. Jay Silverman, the co-author of the study and an associate professor of Society, Human Development and Health in the Harvard School of Public Health stated, “What this study shows is that reproductive coercion likely explains why unintended pregnancies are far more common among abused women and teens.” More than half of the women surveyed, 53 percent, reported physical or sexual violence from her partner. Nineteen percent of all of the women reported pregnancy coercion, and 15 percent reported birth control sabotage.

Nearly 20 percent of the women reported that their partner tried to coerce them into having a child—sometimes using methods such as poking holes in condoms or flushing birth control pills down the toilet. Pregnancy coercion also consists of verbal threats, demands, and physical violence to pressure pregnancies.

“It was stunning to have this many women seeking reproductive health services saying, ‘this has happened to me,’” Dr. Elizabeth Miller of the University of California Davis reported online in the *Journal Contraception*. She said the reason men would want their partners to bear children vary “from things like wanting to leave a legacy, to a desire for attachment, to having absolute control over her body.”

Dr. Mays, Director of the Teen and Young Adult Clinic at San Francisco General Hospital, said pregnancy coercion is a growing problem that has been around for “quite some time” but is just now being recognized as a major health issue. “It’s about power and control,” says Mays, though not involved in this particular study. “It’s another way of saying, “This girl’s taken; this girl is mine,” explained Mays.

“It’s a way for males to make their partners more dependent on them,” according to Amy Bonomi of Ohio State University. Women in abusive relationships are sometimes forced to bear children as a means to keep them dependent on their partner and sometimes as a means to justify additional—and sometimes more severe—abuse,” Bonomi said.

The findings emphasize the importance of advising women on emergency contraception and the need for family planning clinics to provide intervention programs to combat both reproductive control and/or partner violence. Identifying the occurrence of reproductive sabotaging, the clinics can offer women methods for birth control that the partner can’t tamper with or alter. Some methods include invisible means of birth control. Family Planning Clinics provide education on all methods of birth control, including risks and side effects.



In a study conducted in Chicago during 1998 and 1999, two Illinois Department of Human Services Teen Parent Services sites and two community-based health clinics surveyed 474 young mothers. The study revealed:

- 55% of the young women had experienced domestic violence at the hands of their boyfriends during the previous 12 months
- 41% of these women (about 30% of the entire sample) reported experiencing the most severe forms of violent behaviors
- The average length of the relationship among young women currently involved with a partner was 2.74 years
- Young women with older boyfriends were more likely to experience domestic violence

- 51% of the young women reported experiencing at least one form of birth control sabotage from their boyfriends
- 21% of the young women has experienced some form of work or school–related sabotage from their boyfriends

The young women surveyed were from 11 to 21 years of age. Most participants were older teens between the ages of 18 and 21. Sixty-four percent reported that they were still in high school. Only two percent reported any education beyond high school. Sixty percent reported either pursuing or having completed a GED. Only 20% reported being currently employed.

Forty-eight percent of those studied reported verbal sabotage of birth control and 14% reported experiencing behavioral sabotage of birth control. Verbal sabotage of birth control was assessed by asking whether her boyfriend has said any of the following to her in the previous 12 months:

- “You want to use family planning so that you can sleep around with other men.”
- “If we have a baby you will always have a part of me and I will always have a part of you.”
- “If you have a baby, you will never have to worry about me leaving you. I’ll always be around.”
- “You would have my baby if you really loved me.”



Behavioral sabotage was identified through the use of one of these two yes or no items:

- “My boyfriend won’t let me use family planning.”
- “My boyfriend forces me to have sex when I am not protected.”

Twenty-one percent of these women were sabotaged from going to work or finishing school by their boyfriends. Among those young women who reported having experienced some level of domestic violence from their boyfriends, 34% reported some level of work or school-related sabotage.

Work and school-related sabotage were assessed by asking the respondent whether her boyfriend has done any of the following in the previous twelve months:

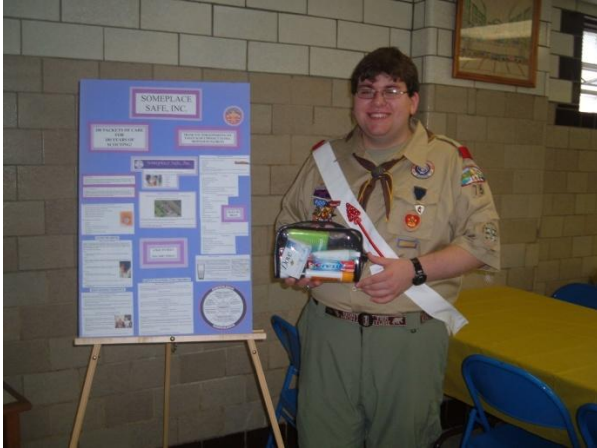
- Caused injuries that kept her from going to school or work
- Tore up her books or homework
- Kept her up all night so that she couldn’t go to school or concentrate on work
- Promised to baby-sit or drive her to school or work and hadn’t shown up
- Destroyed her clothes so that she couldn’t go to work and/or trying to get her to quit
- Tried to guilt-trip her by saying that she needed to stay at home with her child
- Came up with emergencies, which prevented her from going to school or work



Boy Scout Earns Gold Award and Helps Someplace Safe, Inc.

Chris Raidel from Bristol High School and Boy Scout Troop 75 has chosen Someplace Safe as his project for his gold award. Chris came up with the idea of “welcoming packages” for the women who come to our shelter. Each clear, vinyl bag contains a toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, lotion, shampoo, and such for one person. Chris decided to prepare 100 of these welcome packages for the 100 years that Boy Scouts has been in existence. We want to thank Chris for thinking about the families of Someplace Safe. We’d also like to take this time to say to any other Boy Scout troops that are looking for projects to complete, please give us a call at 330-393-3003.

Here are some pictures from the Eagle Scouts fundraising breakfast on June 5, 2010.



Girl Scouts Collect for Someplace Safe

Girl Scouts from Troop 817 of West Farmington collected items for the women and children of Someplace Safe. They also made some “Welcome Packages,” which includes a washcloth, soap, and shampoo for the ladies. They brought their items to the Shelter and learned about the Agency, what it does, and about dating violence from Community Educator, Darlene McCue.

Pictured left to right are: Nicole McMasters, Megan McMasters, Kimberly Michael, Monica McMasters, leader, and Cherie Michael. Not shown are Haley Spangler, Wynter Spangler, and Starr Spangler, leader.



Ladies of the Highway Riders Host 2nd Annual Poker Run for Someplace Safe, Inc.

On Saturday, July 17th, The Ladies of the Highway Riders (LHR) held a Poker Run to benefit Someplace Safe. The LHR is the women's division of the clean and sober bike organization. The Highway Riders have operated as a non-profit organization for over five years and have hosted four bike runs so far. They've raised monies for groups of Trumbull and Mahoning counties such as the Parkman Fire Department, Alcoholics Anonymous (AA), Narcotics Anonymous (NA), and Someplace Safe, Inc.

It was a beautiful day for the event, and many people participated. We want to thank them for all of their hard work and dedication to helping us in our journey to improve the quality of life for the victims of domestic violence.



SENTENCE COMMUTED FOR GAILE OWENS*

Granting a rare reprieve, Tennessee Governor Phil Bredesen commuted Gaile Owens' death sentence to life in prison earlier this month. One of only two women on Tennessee's death row, Owens was set to be executed on September 28.

Owens was convicted of murder in 1986 for allegedly hiring a man to kill her husband. But the jury never heard critical information about the years of sexual and physical abuse and humiliation she suffered from her husband. Owens later said she didn't testify about the abuse because she wanted to protect her children.

The National Clearinghouse for the Defense of Battered Women and the Tennessee Coalition against Domestic and Sexual Violence worked with other domestic violence prevention organizations and advocates to support a life sentence, rather than a death sentence, for Owens. More than 11,000 people signed an online petition in support of a lighter sentence, *The Tennessean* reports. Owens has served 25 years in prison. She could be paroled as early as next year.

The Family Violence Prevention Fund thanks all the Speaking Up readers who took action on Owens' behalf.

*This article is being reprinted from the July 23, 2010 Vol. 16, Issue 7 of Speaking Up, a project of the Family Violence Prevention Fund: Produced by PR Solutions, Inc., Washington, DC. Phone: 202/371 1999; Fax: 202/371 9142; Electronic mail: speakingup@prsolutionsdc.com.

Photo: <http://lady4peace2.blogspot.com/>



BARRIERS, PART III: “Why Does the Victim Stay?”

The Stepping Stone has presented The Barrier Model© within a series of articles of the past two issues. We believe community members are better equipped to assist victims of domestic violence in attaining a healthy and violence-free lifestyle as members learn about barriers and its cycle. Please continue to learn as we share Part III of the *Barriers* series.

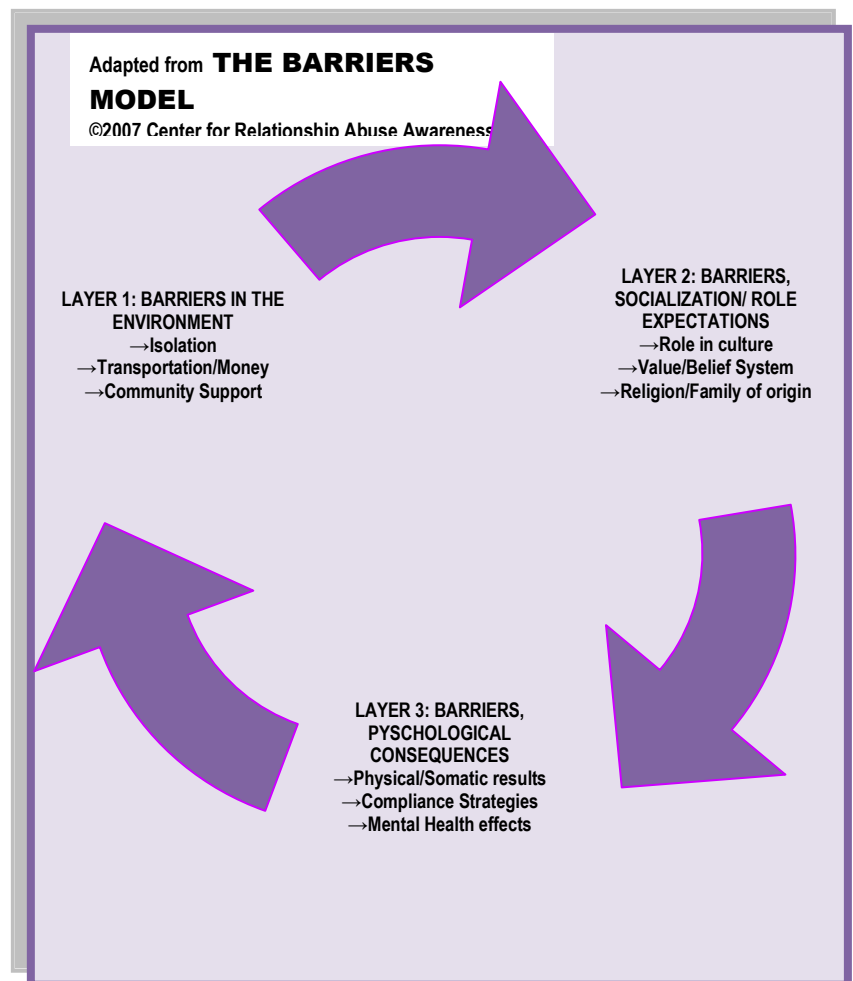
As we've shared, barriers can prevent the victim from finding freedom and healing. The barriers that victims face are cyclical in nature just as the cycle of domestic violence is. Nancy Grisby and Brenda R. Hartman, Psy. D. have developed “The Barriers Model©” to demonstrate its causes.

According to Grisby in *Psychotherapy*:

The Barriers Model of psychological treatment for survivors of domestic violence places the focus [sic] of analysis on society and context rather than on the individual. It recognizes that

symptoms present in clients who are victims of domestic violence are often the result of victims colliding with socially imposed barriers to safety and security rather than of individually rooted pathology. The Barriers Model proposes three layers of barriers to the psychological well-being of a survivor of domestic violence. These barriers must be addressed in order, with barriers in the first layer (the environment) being addressed first, in order to provide for the victim's immediate safety needs. After the first layer of barriers has been resolved, the second layer (socialization) and third layer (psychological consequences) may be addressed by the therapist. Therapy focused around the second and third layers before addressing the first layer may be ineffective and could contribute to a victim's isolation and self-blame. (Vol. 34, No. 4, Winter 1997)

Layer 3 of The Barrier's Model© will be featured within the next issue of
The Stepping Stone.



A study by www.stoprelationshipabuse.org outlines each layer of The Barriers Model©, and reveals the powerful influence of society and familial influences as it outlines Layer 2. Consider the following detailed analysis:

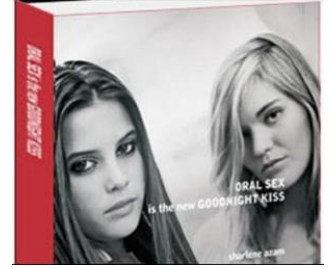
Layer 2: Barriers Due to Family/Socialization/Role Expectations



- Female socialization in patriarchal culture, individual and societal values and attitudes, personal identity, religious beliefs and rules learned within one's family of origin
- Values/Beliefs about Relationships
 - How women's relationships, behaviors, attitude and beliefs are shaped by the demands and threats of the dominant patriarchy in which women live
 - Identity
 - Isolation often forces them out of the workplace, out of old friendships and away from alternate sources of support. As a result, the victim's relationship with the abuser may be the only significant relationship in her life.
 - Questions:
 - What does this client believe about living without a partner?
 - What does she believe she can accomplish on her own?
 - What does she believe about putting herself first, before her abuser and children?
 - Who does she believe she is, or can be, if she is not in this relationship?
- Values/Beliefs about Abuse
 - One result of socialization into American society is desensitization to violence.
 - Questions:
 - What does this woman believe about violence?
 - Does she perceive it to be a normal part of a relationship?
 - Is it acceptable as long as her mate does less damage to her than her father did to her mother?
 - Is jealousy from a mate validation that she is loved or a sign of danger?
 - Is divorce wrong?
 - Are children better off with any father, even a violent father, rather than no father?
- Religious Values/Beliefs
 - Patriarchal beliefs are often reinforced in religious institutions that tell women to obey their husbands as their husbands obey God.
 - Questions:
 - Is it ever acceptable within this woman's faith to end a marriage?
 - Does she believe God expects her to love, honor, and obey her mate despite the violence?
 - Does she believe God wouldn't give her more to deal with than she could take?
- Family of Origin Values/Beliefs
 - It is important to consider the rules learned in the battered woman's family of origin.
 - Questions:
 - What rules from her upbringing will she be breaking if she leaves this partner?
 - What will the consequences be from her family of origin if she prioritizes her safety above her marriage?

Oral Sex is the New Goodnight Kiss...A New Book

There's a new book out that chronicles the shocking sex lives of teen girls. Recruited into prostitution by their fellow classmates, these girls, some as young as 9 years old, are selling their virginity and having oral sex in order to buy the material things that they want and they feel that they need to fit into their society. "Luxury Fever," as the author terms it, is that insatiable need for the material things like Coach Purses, I-phones, mp3 players, designer clothes, and sophisticated makeup. Sharlene Azam author, of this book, examines the recent emergence of teenage prostitution in affluent suburbs. Middle class girls as young as 12 year of age are having sex with up to seven men a night and/or several times a week, so they can go shopping.



These young girls are referred to as "prosti-tots." They are performing these acts in school bathrooms, malls, and at oral sex parties. When one young girl was asked how she felt about performing oral sex on a boy she said that "It really wasn't that big a deal." "If you could do this for five minutes and get \$100, why not?" Another girl said that it gave her a sense of power to be able to do something good for someone and get paid for it.

There are many videos on YouTube® about this subject. Many have been featured on popular talk shows. One host interviewed the teen girl recruiters and asked, "What is the youngest girl you recruited?" The recruiter answered, "They were 8-9-10 [years old]." When the host asked one of these young girls, "What do you think happened to these girls?" She replied, "Nothing good, I suppose." In asking the reason for performing these acts, the pre-teen said, "I felt awesome because I got more stuff." These girls are not the girls that are low on the totem pole but the very popular, good looking girls that already have the attention of the school. One girl stated that she sold her virginity for \$1000 but her friend that was a blonde sold hers for \$3000.

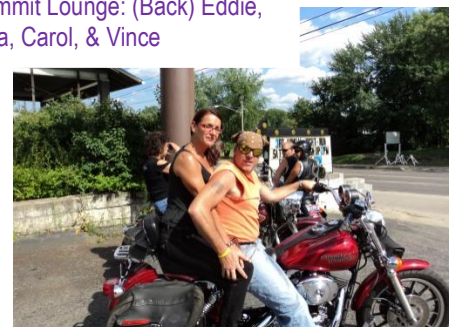
Parents around the country are in shock at this discovery. Some parents have turned in their daughters after having discovered them with the things that they know they had not bought for them or could not afford. So what do you do as a parent? Have conversations about sex and have them often. Don't be naïve and think that this can only happen to someone else's teen—it's an equal opportunity occurrence.

oooooooooooo

Summit Lounge Hosts 3rd Annual Poker Run for Someplace Safe, Inc.



Alicia with owners of Summit Lounge: (Back) Eddie, Paulette, Alicia, Carol, & Vince



The Tina Proj♥ct™



On December 21, 1992, Tina Croucher was murdered by her boyfriend. Despite restraining orders, despite behavior witnessed by classmates and teachers, incidents with the police, Tina's on again and off again boyfriend of several years walked into her house and shot her while she slept and then killed himself.

Her parents, Jim and Elsa Croucher had lost their youngest daughter. So the Croucher's turned their grief into advocacy speaking in schools about Teen Dating Violence, the warning signs and how to get help.

In 2009 The Croucher's testified in front of the Ohio Senate Education Committee on behalf of House Bill 19, requiring Teen Dating Violence education in schools.

In December of 2009, Governor Strickland signed House Bill 19, The Tina Croucher Act into law. That was followed closely by the signing of House Bill 10, Shynerra's Law, which will allow minors and individuals in dating relationships to access protection orders. House Bill 10 along with House Bill 19 requires school districts to adopt a dating violence prevention policy and to include dating violence prevention and education in the classroom.

HB 19 basically mandates 3 things:

1. That Teen Dating Violence be addressed in school policies at the State and District levels
2. That all schools in the state of Ohio provide education and awareness Teen Dating Violence for all students 7th through 12th grade.
3. That all schools in the state of Ohio provide education, awareness and training to staff in their schools.

With the signing of this bill and the requirement for immediate implementation with no funding to make that happen, 13 organizations in Northeast Ohio that deal directly with victims of violence, came together to help ensure the communities they served were able to address this important issue in a way that would have maximum impact. We are calling ourselves "The Tina Project." Someplace Safe, is the partner serving Trumbull County in the collaboration.

Our goal is to not just help your school be in compliance with the mandate, but to provide your school with resources and ongoing support with it comes to addressing violence among teenagers. Post cards are being sent out to all principals, guidance counselors, health teachers, home economics teachers in the county giving them the information that they need to know. Any other interested parties can call 330-393-3003 and ask for Darlene.

Violence education is not just an extracurricular program; it is our responsibility as the adults in our community to raise safe and educated children.

Just a reminder! We are still collecting cell phones. Please bring them to the Agency between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

WE'RE IN NEED OF THE FOLLOWING:

- *DISPOSABLE DIAPERS: SIZE 4 & 5,**
- *BABY WIPES**
- SPAGHETTI & SPAGHETTI SAUCE,**
- CANS OF RAVIOLI, SPAGHETTI-O'S, SOUP, &**
- SLOPPY JOE**
- *MACARONI & CHEESE, HAMBURGER HELPER,**
- TUNA HELPER, & BOXED MEALS**
- *CANNED FRUIT, JUICES, MEATS, & TUNA**
- *CEREALS, PEANUT BUTTER AND JELLY**
- *PRESWEETENED DRINKS, COFFEE, TEA, AND**
- SUGAR AND CREAMER**
- CONDIMENTS – MAYONNAISE, KETCHUP, MUSTARD**
- *PASTAS OF ALL KINDS & INSTANT POTATOES**
- TOOTHBRUSHES & TOOTHPASTE**
- BED PILLOWS**
- *SIPPY CUPS**



***DENOTES IMMEDIATE NEED**

ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE, SO PLEASE ASK FOR OUR TAX I.D. NUMBER FOR YOUR RECORDS.

**COME JOIN THE WARREN AREA JUNIorettes AT
SOMEPLACE SAFE FOR
MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23RD!**



Julie Vugrinovich, President, & the Warren Area Juniorettes made blankets & care packages for Make A Difference Day!



Alicia Siler, Development Specialist, with Howland Middle School students. The students initiated a food drive for Make A Difference Day!

The Stepping Stone



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

**Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
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Youngstown, OH**

Current Resident or

Place mailing label here

**IF YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO IS IN A DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
CRISIS
PLEASE ENCOURAGE THEM TO CALL 330-393-3005 FOR
24-HOUR
CRISIS INFORMATION.**

Someplace Safe's Crisis Line & Shelter is staffed 24-hours a day.

All services that Someplace Safe, Inc. provides are free of charge.

If you need assistance in obtaining a Civil Protection Order or need court accompaniment, please call 330-393-3003 for an appointment with one of our Legal Advocates.

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