

The Stepping Stone

Winter 2010

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 &
Support Services
Community & School
Education Programs



All services accessible by calling:

Someplace Safe, Inc.
330-393-3003 or the
24-Hour Crisis Hotline
330-3993-3005

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.

A Very Big Thank You Goes Out to the Community

The staff of Someplace Safe, Inc. would like to send a very big "Thank You" to the community for the help that it gave us during the holiday season. With the economy as bad as it is and the amount of people that we had to serve, we thought that it would be pretty dismal this year but you came through with toys, clothes, baked goods, decorations, and food to make things here brighter. Thanks to you we provided Christmas to 86 women and 142 children.

Thank You !!!



Joy is picking up a pajama collection by the Bazetta Police Department and their staff. Thank you.

According to the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crimes

Human Trafficking Fuels Violence Against Women



25 November 2009 - As the world marks the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, UNODC is drawing attention to how human trafficking fuels violence against women.

In its *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons* UNODC revealed that two thirds of the identified victims of trafficking were women.

In his message for the day, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon stressed that whether the crime against women is rape, domestic violence, genital mutilation or trafficking for sexual exploitation, it is inexcusable and must be stopped.

Human trafficking is, indeed, one of the worst forms of violence against women and girls. Traffickers may use violence to intimidate and subdue the victims. Once recruited, the women usually find themselves in situations with severely curtailed freedoms. Many times they suffer extreme physical and mental abuse, including through rape, imprisonment, forced abortions and physical brutality at the hands of their so-called "owners". The victims become isolated, losing ties with their former lives and families.

With a better understanding of why women in particular are vulnerable to trafficking and how traffickers operate, and by providing the necessary legal and technical assistance to ensure that effective countermeasures are in place, this crime can be stopped.

Violence against women does not only concern women. It concerns everyone, and the work to combat it must be done by all. Women around the world are the linchpin keeping families, communities and nations together. Eliminating gender discrimination and gender-based violence will enhance the dignity and human rights of women and girls and help prevent their being trafficked.

Addressing human trafficking cuts across all fundamental issues. It is about human rights, peace and security, development and family health. In the most basic sense, it is about preserving the fabric of society. We all have a role to play, either in raising awareness, building partnerships, providing information, protecting victims or bringing the criminals to justice.

In 2008, Secretary-General Ban launched the UNiTE to End Violence against Women campaign, which aims to prevent and eliminate violence against women and girls in all parts of the world. UNiTE calls on Governments, civil society, women's organizations, young people, the private sector, the media and the entire United Nations system to join forces in addressing the global pandemic of violence against women and girls.

This year, as part of the UNiTE campaign, the Secretary-General started the UNiTE Network of Men Leaders to End Violence against Women. The Network consists of men - young and old - who have pledged to work to end violence against women and girls. These men will add their voices to the growing global chorus for action, and each has pledged to take concrete steps in his community of influence and create partnerships with women to end this violence.



RIHANNA AND CHRIS BROWN REVISITED



In the Nov. 23, 2009 Volume 15, Issue 15 of the Family Prevention Fund's Speaking Up we revisit Rhianna and Chris Brown. Rihanna broke her silence about the assault she suffered at the hands of Chris Brown in a November 6 interview with Diane Sawyer on ABC's 20/20, and in the December issue of *Glamour Magazine*. The popular singer told Sawyer, "When I realized that my selfish decision for love could result in some young girls getting killed, I could not be easy with that part... I couldn't be held responsible for telling them to go back. If Chris never hit me again, who's to say that their boyfriends won't? Who's to say that they won't kill these girls? These are young girls. I just didn't realize how much of an impact I had on these girls' lives until that happened."

She said she still struggles with what happened: "The thing that men don't realize when they hit a woman... the face, the broken arm, the black eye, it's going to heal. That's not the problem. It's the scar inside. You flash back. You remember it all the time. It comes back to you all the time whether you like it or not, and it's painful."

Rihanna was named one of *Glamour Magazine's* Women of the Year 2009. In an interview with the magazine, she said the leak of the photo of her bruised and bloody face that was featured on the Internet and in media outlets across the country was humiliating. "That is not a photo you would show to anybody. I felt completely taken advantage of. I felt like people were making it into a fun topic on the Internet, and it's my life."

"Domestic violence is a big secret," she continued. "It's one of the things we will hide, because it's embarrassing. My story was broadcast all over the world for people to see, and they have followed every step of my recovery. The positive thing that has come out of my situation is that people can learn from that. I want to give as much insight as I can to young women, because I feel like I represent a voice that really isn't heard."

Over the past few months, Brown has made a few public statements about the incident. He was widely criticized after a September 2 appearance on CNN's Larry King Live for saying he did not "remember" assaulting Rihanna.

In a more recent interview with MTV News Correspondent Sway for the MTV news special, "Chris Brown: The Interview," Brown refused to address the details of the assault. But he did say that, when he thinks back on it, he wonders, "Like, 'what was I thinking? What is wrong with you?... How do you learn from your mistakes, turn it into a positive and help other people with the situation and at the end of the day becomes the person that you want to be?'"

When asked about his advice for other young men in similar situations, Brown said, "Reevaluate the situation and if it's going to get to that point, you've got to leave. You've got to back up. Make sure the relationship is healthy because if you don't have a healthy relationship, it's not a relationship."

In the past, Brown has talked openly about the abuse his mother suffered, and what it was like to be a child growing up in a home with domestic violence.

Safety Tips for Teen Dating Violence Victims

Dating violence is not just hitting. It can be yelling, threatening, extreme jealousy, incessant name calling, constant calling or paging, and even sexual abuse and other tactics used to control you.

Warning signs: Are you a victim of teen dating violence?

- Does your boyfriend get jealous when you talk to others?
- Does he put you down?
- Does your boyfriend want to know where you are at all times?
- Does he try to control what you wear to school or when you go out?
- Does your boyfriend say he can't live without you?
- Does he frighten or intimidate you?
- Does your boyfriend try to make you choose between him and family, school or friends?
- Does he lose his temper, throw or break things when he's mad?
- Do you feel like you have to apologize for or explain your boyfriend's behavior?
- Do you feel like you have to justify your behavior to your boyfriend?
- Are you afraid to break up with your boyfriend?
- Does he threaten to kill himself if you break up with him?
- Has your boyfriend ever hit a wall or a locker near you?
- Has he ever destroyed your stuff?
- Has your boyfriend ever held you down, shoved, hit, or kicked you?

Strategies for safer dating

- Stay in touch with friends and stay involved in activities you enjoy.
- Listen to your instincts and believe in yourself. Trust your own judgment if you have concerns about someone you're dating.
- Learn about teen dating violence and know the warning signs.
- Learn about and seek out healthy relationships.
- Have money and/or a phone or some way to call for help or leave by yourself if you need to.
- Go out in groups or meet up with others when you go out.

Safety tips for teen dating violence victims

- Make and keep a list of helpful phone numbers, like supportive friends, hotlines, etc.
- Keep a dated record of abuse.
- Plan and rehearse what you need to do if your partner confronted you or became physically abusive.
- Go out to public places, meet other people or let other people know where you'll be.

Protecting yourself after the breakup

- Try not to be alone.
- Tell teachers, counselors, coaches or security guards what is happening.
- Change your routine, ask to rearrange your class schedule.
- Change your cell number.
- Change your route to and from school.



2008 Illinois Attorney General

Governor Strickland Signs Dating Violence Bill



Local school boards are now required to adopt policies to prevent and address abusive student relationships, train staff on the subject and add lessons in dating violence prevention to 7th through 12th grade health classes under a bill signed by Governor Ted Strickland.

House Bill 19 that the governor signed on Monday, December 28, 2009 has been called "Tina's Law" after 18 year-old Tina Croucher, a Middletown area teen was shot and killed by her abusive ex-boyfriend four days before Christmas in 1992.

Her parents, Jim and Elsa Croucher of Monroe, backed the legislation. The couple started Citizens Against Domestic Violence (CADV) 14 years ago to educate teens and parents about abusive relationships.



February is National Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month

Since 2006, February has been observed as an important time to raise awareness about the serious issue of dating violence in high schools, colleges and communities across the nation. In 2008, the US Senate unanimously approved S. Res. 710 declaring the first week of February as "National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week."

IRA CHARITABLE ROLLOVER EXTENSION NOW LAW

President Bush signed a \$700 billion economic bailout bill (H.R. 1424), which included a two-year extension of the IRA Charitable Rollover Provision originally enacted as part of the Pension Protection Act of 2006.

The Provision will be made retroactive to Jan. 1, 2008, and will apply to gifts made from that date through Dec.31, 2009.

This provision exempts from taxable income any funds transferred (rolled over) from an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) to a charitable organization. The following limitations apply:

- The donor must be age 70 ½ or older.
- The cap on annual IRA rollovers is \$100,000.
- The contribution must be a direct gift to a charity (no planned gifts).

Please contact your financial planner or IRA consultant for more information.

Thank you for considering a new way to assist domestic violence victims in Trumbull County.

Ohio Valley Limousine Associations

On December 6th, Jennifer and Darlene had the pleasure of going to the Ohio Valley Limousine Associations (OVLA) annual Christmas party. They had collected toys for our kids for Christmas. It was arranged by Chris Golec from Jubilee Limousines.



Audience is listening intently



Chris is giving Jennifer some toys



Alicia of Someplace Safe is presented a donation by the Ohio Federation of Women's Clubs. Left to right: Yvonne Ford, NED Secretary; Linda Crish, NED President; Mary Lou Jarrett, President Warren Jr. Women's League; E. Carol Maxwell, OFWC arts Chairman; Alicia; Julie Vugrinovich, OFWC Staff Director of Juniors.

Here is a food donation collected by the students of Howland Middle School.



Someplace Safe has a need of the following items:

LARGE HEAVY DUTY TRASH BAGS

LAUNDRY DETERGENT, DISH SOAP & CLEANING SUPPLIES OF ALL KINDS, LYSOL SPRAYS, COLD MEDICINES

DISPOSABLE DIAPERS AND BABY WIPES



PAPER TOWELS & TOILET PAPER

SUGAR, FLOUR, SPICES



SPAGHETTI SAUCE



CANS OF RAVIOLI, SPAGHETTI-O'S, SLOPPY JOE'S, ETC.

HAMBURGER HELPER, TUNA HELPER, ETC.



CANNED VEGETABLES, FRUIT, MEATS AND SOUP

PEANUT BUTTER AND JELLY



PRESWEETENED DRINKS, COFFEE AND TEA

KETCHUP, MUSTARD & MAYONNAISE



BATTERIES OF ALL SIZES



MOPS AND BROOMS



THE STEPPING STONE



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

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
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Warren, Ohio

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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-HR
CRISIS INFORMATION.**

Someplace Safe's Crisis Line & Shelter is Staffed 24-hours a Day.

All services that Someplace Safe 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!**