

SAFE House Sun



Spring 2011

Message From The Director

A new survey conducted by the National Network To End Domestic Violence reveals telling information about domestic violence services in the U.S. On September 15, 2010 – one 24-hour period – domestic violence victim advocates served more than 70,000 adults and children and answered more than 20,000 emergency hotline calls. During the same 24 hours, more than 9,000 requests for services went unmet, largely due to lack of funding

Though the economy does not cause domestic violence, factors associated with economic uncertainties can increase the severity and frequency of abuse. At the same time, options for survivors to escape can be more limited. More than 80 percent of local domestic violence programs reported an increased demand for their services while nearly the same number reported decreases in funding.

“The economy is exacerbating domestic violence, and victim advocates across the country are struggling to do more with less,” said Sue Else, president of NNEDV. “Despite the immense challenges, local programs are providing life-saving services to so many survivors of domestic and sexual violence.”

Each year, NNEDV conducts a 24-hour survey of local domestic violence programs. In addition to the number of victims served, more than 30,000 individuals attended 1,240 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs to help prevent violence.

Across the nation on September 15, 2010, three women were murdered by their intimate partners. Thirty-six babies were born to mothers living in domestic violence shelters. Three hundred ninety one survivors started new jobs. Three men committed suicide – one after murdering his wife, another after a failed attempt to kill his girlfriend, and the third after holding his partner hostage and a standoff with the police.

In 2010, 1,747 local domestic violence programs, or 91 percent, submitted their 24-hour counts for September 15. The full National Domestic Violence Counts 2010 are available online at <http://www.nnedv.org/census>.



*“ There are no shortcuts
to anyplace worth going.”*

- Beverly Sills

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Whats Going On

TONI & GUY.
HAIRDRESSING ACADEMY

ALBUQUERQUE PRESENTS:
CAPELLI DEL MONDO
AN AVANT GARDE HAIR SHOW

IMAGE FROM
2010 TONI & GUY
PHOTOGRAPHIC
AWARDS-AMERICA
WINNER
MARGUERITE
NAJERA

FOR MORE INFO:
505.842.8646
AUGTICKETS@TONIGUY.COM
BENEFITING S.A.F.E HOUSE

FRIDAY
APRIL 29TH, 2011
5:30 - 8:00 PM

AFRICAN AMERICAN
PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
310 SAN PEDRO NE
ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87108

Save the Date!

**Saturday
October 8, 2011**

Music by Lawyers, Guns & Money



DENIM
Diamonds



Fundraising Recap



This year's Annual Birdhouse for SAFE House was a huge success! St Clair Winery & Bistro set the scene for a night of good music, food, wine and fun! Jake Finkelstein helped auction off 28 hand painted birdhouses, a few of which were painted by some SAFE House staff members. Gift baskets prepared and donated by Kathy Williams were used in the silent auction and caused a bit of good-hearted competition among attendees. The evening ended with Max Blom's birdhouse selling for \$555.00! The evening's total was over \$11,000! Thank you to all our sponsors, artists and attendees it was another great event!



A Closer Look: Resident Services Program

Our program consists of 13 advocates. We handle all calls coming into our statewide crisis line.

By asking a series of questions we can determine if a caller is eligible for our services, and if so, arrange to bring them safely into shelter. We can pick them up in a public place if need be.

Once in shelter, we gather information on the history domestic violence, advise new intakes of our policies/rules and orient them with shelter life.

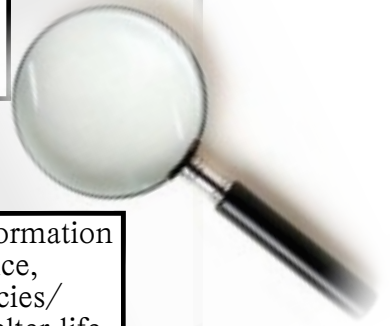
We make sure all residents have clean linen, toiletries and clothing, as many times survivors come in with absolutely nothing but the clothes on their backs.

We are staffed 24/7 to ensure our residents' needs are met. We offer informal crisis intervention, day bus passes, voicemail boxes and transportation in emergency medical situations.

Safety is our priority and in addition to monitoring security cameras we control all access onto shelter premises, conduct grounds and room inspections and keep all medication stored in a locked room.

All files are reviewed by our advocates to ensure quality and accuracy.

By working with all departments in shelter, we can support our residents in meeting their goals and living lives free of violence.



Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

CONTRIBUTOR'S CORNER BIRDHOUSE AUCTION

Alb Woodworkers Association
Jim Templeton
Jerry Wall
Tom Rigirozzi
Jack Thompson
Earl Simon
Van Barta
St Clair Winery & Bistro
Ben E Keith
Jake Finkelstein
Kathy Williams
Santa & Mary Claus
George Baca
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WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO WORK AT S.A.F.E. HOUSE

By: Jennifer Tripp, Human Resources Director

Working at S.A.F.E. House is, in many respects, very different than working in most any other setting. Many of the attributes we look for in potential employees are typical of other workplaces. However, there are some attributes that are especially important in this setting. This is not a place for the “faint of heart”. People who are looking for reinforcement or appreciation and acknowledgement of their *good works* are not likely to last long in this setting. Likewise people who want to “save the world” or worse, “save those poor unfortunate women” are also not likely to do well in this setting. Statistics show that women go back to their abusers an average of 7 to 9 times before leaving permanently. That means that many of our residents return to their abusers when they leave shelter. Leaving an abusive situation is a process not an event. Often times we don’t even know where residents go once they leave shelter.

People who want to be able to see the impact they’ve made in someone’s life are not going to find much fulfillment in that type of ambiguity.

So what *does* it take to be successful working in this setting? One of the most important characteristics is **flexibility**. There is no such thing as a *typical* day here. People who like to know exactly what they will be doing every day; who thrive on consistency and routine will generally feel quite unsettled and out of place in this setting. One day seldom looks like any other. The unexpected is what we come to expect.

Another critical characteristic for staff here is that they must have excellent **boundaries**. It’s one thing to show compassion for others. It’s quite another to be willing to do anything to help them. Our job is to empower people to help themselves; not to “save” anyone. Boundaries are sometimes crossed blatantly; for example by an employee loaning money to a resident; or more subtly by an employee developing a friendship with a resident. People who cross boundaries not only jeopardize their ability to be effective in their jobs but they also lose perspective and may end up doing more harm than good. It is also vitally important that staff maintain healthy boundaries in terms of their own work-life balance and self care. Anything less can lead to burnout.

Surviving and thriving in this environment also requires the ability to stay **calm under pressure**. There’s a plaque in the resident services area that reads “Stay Calm and Carry On”. That aptly expresses what is needed to be effective in carrying out this work. There is enough drama in the work itself and in the lives of our participants without injecting our own personal panic and crises in to the work we do.

Some other characteristics that make for a successful SAFE House employee include the ability to effectively **juggle multiple priorities**, a willingness to **admit and learn from one’s mistakes** and the ability to apply **good judgment and common sense** to routine and unusual situations. **A thick skin**, a strong work ethic in terms of **reliability, dependability** and a **willingness to do whatever is needed** are also attributes of star employees. Thriving in this setting also requires the ability to accept what I call the **grey areas**. People who need everything laid out in black and white with little or no variation are not likely to feel comfortable in this environment. There are many other characteristics that are desirable employee attributes. These include **integrity, self-confidence, effective communication skills** and **respect and compassion** for others. Finally, our most effective and successful employees don’t have a big “Ego”. They **understand how their job fits within the organization** and they understand that it is not about them. This work requires **individuals who are willing to put themselves out there; to take calculated risks and yes, to sometimes fail**.

This may sound like an unrealistic or unattainable list of attributes. Or it may sound like we are looking for perfect people. But that is not the case. I know because it just so happens that we have about 37 people currently working at SAFE House who display most, if not all of the attributes listed. And I count myself lucky to be able to work with such a dedicated and professional group of employees.

If you think you have what it takes to succeed at S.A.F.E. House, please contact Human Resources at 247-4219 for a listing of current job openings.





S.A.F.E. House
 P.O. Box 25363
 Albuquerque, NM 87125

Phone: (505) 247-4219
Fax: (505) 224-9695
24-Hour Crisis Hotline: 1-800-773-3645

S A F E H O U S E S U N

Yes, I am ready to help provide safety and support for survivors of domestic violence and their children in our community.

I want to be a part of S.A.F.E. House's mission to break the cycle of violence in New Mexico.

I would like to make a donation of:

\$1,000 \$750 \$ 500

\$250 \$75 \$50

Other: \$ _____

Your donation can be made by:

Enclosing a check (made payable to S.A.F.E. House) to P.O. Box 25363
 Albuquerque, NM 87125



OR, by going to our website at www.safehousenm.org and making a secure, on-line donation.

The return on your investment will be a brighter, safer community. With your help, one more mother will have a place to lay her weary head, one more child will know peace, one more family will have a chance at life.

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