

Quarterly newsletter, 4th issue/Nov., 2017

## Safe Passage, Inc.

[www.safepassageinc.org](http://www.safepassageinc.org); 812-933-1990/877-733-1990

*Serving domestic violence victims and providing prevention programming to six counties*

### We Help. We Heal. We Hope

Our major fundraiser is Dec. 2 and we are grateful to all the businesses, individuals and volunteers who have donated time, talent or treasure to support us in this endeavor.

#### Round the clock for domestic violence

Safe Passage is a 24/7 operation. Domestic Violence doesn't pause for holidays or weekends, nor because it's past business hours.

There is always someone on duty at our 30- bed shelter, and someone on-call should a DV crisis occur. Case managers Cindy Studt and Stephanie Varble, along with directors Kim Bohman and Melody Belcher, rotate the on call duties each week. Shelter Director Kim Bohman said the crisis calls they receive after hours are usually client centered. A client may need to take her sick child to the ER, or a victim calls the crisis line and needs transportation to the shelter.

The biggest challenge with a 24/7 shelter is staffing, particularly around holiday shifts. While domestic violence occurs in all seasons, it can also be challenging to man the shelter due to inclement weather. Case managers and advocates have been known to sleep here when other staff members couldn't make it in due to bad weather..

There is only one advocate on duty at night. Gloria Eversull, who works the third shift four to five days a week. Lisa Sweet-Uphaus also works one night shift, mainly preparing the meals for the week for clients, and cleaning the shelter.



Gloria Eversull works the night shift as an advocate and has for over 6 years. She says of her role that "nothing is routine." What she loves about the job, is "Giving clients insight, and the little things that make a difference in their life."

**Grateful for grants!**

#### Grants help with new vehicle purchase

Dearborn Community Foundation, Rising Sun Regional Foundation, Decatur Co. REMC and the Batesville Eagles provided funds to purchase a new economical vehicle to transport Safe Passage clients and for outreach services. This Ford Focus Hatchback was purchased from Jim True Ford in Brookville. We are grateful for their support! This is the third vehicle in our fleet, one being a minivan with 98,000 miles on it, and another is a leased Ford vehicle with restricted mileage.



Safe Passage staff members Morgan Tedesco, Jane Yorn, Bridgitte Taylor, Mel Jobst and Lindsey Polly show their thanks to our grantors for the vehicle purchase..

#### It's in the bag!

The fifth annual **Handbags 4 Hope** was held in Batesville on Aug. 12 and the first **Handbags 4 Hope** in Brookville was Sept. 30 at Third Place Restaurant in Brookville. Both events were extremely successful, raising about \$15,000 for Safe Passage. The Batesville event had a record crowd of 202 people who bid on 77 purses, and a record amount of money raised at over \$8400. The Batesville United Methodist Church and St. Mark's Lutheran Church were instrumental to the success, as they sponsored the event for Safe Passage. For next year, the Community Church (Batesville campus) has agreed to sponsor the event for SP at Batesville.

For Brookville, a 5 person committee helped collect acquisitions, fill seats, decorate the venue and package the 50 purses. Robin Lee, Missie Klei, Liz Stenger, Becky Oglesby and Ruth Rowlett are all very busy people but managed to find time to support our cause. Plans are in the works for the next Brookville Handbags event.

We appreciate the support from the businesses and individual donors, the bidders, the attendees, and the volunteers from both groups!

Beside the vehicle grants as mentioned above, Safe Passage has been awarded several grants in the past quarter. They include:

- Duke Energy \$8846 for Prevention materials
- Community Foundation of Jefferson Co./Madison, \$5000 for shelter services
- SE REMC, \$2500 for shelter and prevention
- United Way Greater Cincinnati, \$14,136, and United Way Jefferson County, \$21,300, United Way Franklin County, \$10,000.
- Brookville Foundation, \$10,760, DV services.
- Belterra Funds, through Batesville, \$12,000.

**We couldn't do what we do without this support! Thank you.**

## Making Christmas for our clients

The season of giving is approaching, and while we receive support year round, we like to make the holidays just a little brighter for our shelter and non-residential clients by giving them Christmas gifts provided by the community.

Client parents tell our case managers the needs and wants and we ask that no more than \$30 be spent on each person. Last year we had sponsorship for 160 clients, thanks to our generous community.. For some, these are the only presents they will get this year, and for others it's just a little added bonus.

To sponsor a family call Safe Passage at 933-1990 and ask for Stephanie (or email her at svarble@safepassageinc.org). Let her know how many people or members of a family you would like to sponsor, and she will then provide a wish list from the family, with a deadline to return the gifts wrapped and marked. Safe Passage elves will distribute the gifts.

**Client Christmas party** will be Dec. 13 at Batesville United Methodist Church. Santa will be there for photos and to hand out presents.

## Shop and Donate!



Robin Lee delivers a purse to the winning bidder at the Brookville event. It was held at Third Place Restaurant, thanks to the generosity of owners Mick and Jenny Wilz.

Handmade edible "purse" cookies at the Batesville Handbags 4 Hope event.



## Domestic Violence Awareness month

October was Domestic Violence Awareness month. Safe Passage placed banners in the local communities, such as Batesville, Versailles, Madison and Lawrenceburg, and hung purple ribbons up also for awareness. On Oct. 30 law officers were invited to a Lethality Assessment Plan training



presented by ICADV's Caryn Burton in Lawrenceburg. Mayors in Batesville, Lawrenceburg and Madison issued proclamations for the month. The Safe Passage Teen Council presented messages at their schools about healthy relationships. Local businesses such as Amack's Well allowed us to decorate their cup wrappers with a DV awareness message, and Bird in a Tree boutique in Batesville gave 10 percent of sales from Oct. 27 and 28 to Safe Passage.

The Batesville Rotary, and several other organizations, sponsored the Critical Issues Series on Oct. 26 at the Batesville YMCA which focused on domestic violence and included a panel to discuss the impact it has on schools, businesses, health care and law enforcement.



Left, Melissa Burton with BCSC, Ashley Brattain with Batesville, State Trooper Jamey Sperle, Liz Leising and Trish Hunter, with MMH, and Jane Yorn made up the DV panel. Over 50 people attended the forum.

## A letter from our Executive Director...

Dear friends,

Another year is coming to a close and my heart is over-flowing with gratitude for all the wonderful things that have happened at Safe Passage in 2017. With our financial support, a record number of survivors moved into safe, permanent housing; we are helping four women further their education with a college

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Safe Passage was founded in 1997....20 years of helping domestic violence victims in Southeast Indiana.



scholarship program; the "Mobile GAC" (Growing Assets Center) is bringing Prevention programs into communities throughout Southeast Indiana; our building renovations are complete and allowing us to counsel and support more clients than ever. These - and hundreds more - points of light have broken through from some of the darkest situations imaginable.

If you are reading this, you have probably supported Safe Passage in some way and share in these accomplishments. *Thank you!* Our team members and Board are currently working on our vision and goals for the future because we know that our reach is not fully extended. I hope you will continue to walk alongside us in the year ahead so that help, healing, and hope can illuminate more shadows of need in our corner of the world.

Wishing you the richest blessings throughout this holiday season,

Jane

### November 10 Day of Giving

Donate on November 10 to the Ripley Co. Community Foundation and you can **double your impact and help Safe Passage**. The RCCF has a 50% match on donations to endowed funds not to exceed \$5,000 per fund. For Safe Passage supporters, please note that the Gillman Endowment Fund is designated for Safe Passage. Anyone who donates \$20 or more to an RCCF fund between November 1 and December 31 will be entered into a drawing to win a \$2,000 grant for a qualifying organization of his or her choice.

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