

Volume II • Issue 2 • Summer 2014

What Do You Plan to Do on Your Summer Vacation?



Maybe you are planning a beach getaway, visiting family members and friends or enrolling your children in various summer camps. Maybe you are asking yourself...what am I going to do this summer? Domestic abuse survivors are planning for the summer too.

Many survivors delay leaving their abuser until summer to provide an easier transition for their children

into Harbor House's safe short term housing and to avoid disrupting their schooling. In fact, Harbor House sees a 20% increase in the number of survivors and children from June through August, which is why your generosity is so critical during the summer months.

If you have some free time this summer, why not consider helping survivors of domestic abuse who have fled their homes out of fear of safety and who will be spending their summer, not on vacation, but at Harbor House? You can give your time and volunteer, make a donation or get trained on how to recognize, respond and refer survivors of domestic abuse to resources that can help. You can even get your children involved by participating in our Lemonade Days!

How can I help Harbor House?

You can donate items specifically to the children staying in our safe short term housing and help us provide every child a super summer blast pack equipped with all the tools needed to have a super fun summer!

Packs contain: a bathing suit, sunglasses, sunscreen, flip flops, beach towel and super bubbles.

Don't have time to create a super summer blast pack? You can still donate any of the above items to Harbor House. To schedule a time to drop off your donation visit www.harborhousefl.com/inkind-donation or contact Shirley Draper at sdraper@harborhousefl.com.

Please contact Shannon Batten at sbatten@harborhousefl.com for volunteer opportunities or visit www.harborhousefl.com/volunteer for more information. [HH](#)



Lemonade Days

Parents are always looking for innovative, exciting and even meaningful activities for their children over the summer. Harbor House's "Lemonade Days" was created to help inspire children to give back to their community and other children in need.

Harbor House works to teach children safe bystander intervention and positive communication techniques in order to create a new generation of peaceful, non-violent community members and to eliminate domestic abuse in Central Florida.

The concept is simple: during the months of June through August, children can host a lemonade stand and designate the proceeds to Harbor House.

We have a flyer, lemonade recipe and more information available on our website. All children need to do is host a lemonade stand and have fun knowing their hard work is going to help other children who are not as fortunate.

You can create a fun and meaningful summer project with your children. Just go to www.harborhousefl.com/lemonadedays to get started. This is a great opportunity to show your children the importance of being involved in their community. [HH](#)



Focus On: Community Awareness

At Harbor House, involving the community in our efforts to reach individuals and inform them about domestic abuse through participation in events and programs is embedded in our mission. We are fortunate to have relationships with many charitable partners, allowing us to plan events that involve the community and increase awareness. We appreciate the support of the community and in turn, we want to give back and provide crucial education on domestic abuse. Every event we sponsor supports our programs and services addressing the ever-changing needs of survivors, and acknowledges that through education and community awareness we can accomplish our goal of social change.



Men and women walking in heels downtown for Walk a Mile in Her Shoes® Orlando

Walk a Mile in Her Shoes® Orlando, which was held March 13th, was a fun way to engage community members in the topic of domestic abuse. The event featured more than 300 brave individuals who walked in heels down the streets of downtown Orlando. The event raised \$20,000—enough to provide 300 nights of safe housing for survivors in crisis.

Our **4th Annual Paws for Peace Walk**, which took place on April 26th at Blue Jacket Park, was pawsitively amazing! 330 pet lovers from across Central Florida along with their dogs walked to raise awareness about the correlation between domestic abuse and animal cruelty. \$28,523 was raised for

Marvin's Fund, which was created in honor of the event co-chair, Marvin Diaz. The beloved boxer of Orlando Sentinel writer George Diaz and his wife Theresa, Marvin passed away unexpectedly last May. Marvin's Fund provides emergency medical care for pets staying in Harbor House's Paws for Peace Kennel and helps us keep our kennel operating year round. Since its opening in December 2012, the kennel has been a temporary home to over 70 pets.



Participants and their dogs walking and browsing vendors at our Paws for Peace Walk

Leaders of Courage Graduation took place May 6th at Oak Ridge High School. 50 students were honored for their commitment to helping end domestic abuse by recognizing the signs of dating violence and bullying. These young adults now have the knowledge to be proactive bystanders, breaking the intergenerational cycle of domestic abuse in our community and proving the value of early intervention.

Harbor House has seen significant success with Leaders of Courage at Oak Ridge High School and plans to expand the program into eight additional Orlando high schools this fall. [HH](#)



2014 Leaders of Courage Graduates

A New Twist on Wedding Gifts

The first bridal boutique in Central Florida to partner with Harbor House, Something New Bridal Boutique is committed to making all women feel confident and believes a happy and safe home starts with family and the community.

Looking for a way to involve Harbor House in your big day? In lieu of receiving wedding gifts you can ask your friends to donate to Harbor House and give our survivors safety and shelter. Visit www.harborhousefl.com/your-campaign for more information.



In addition to accepting direct donations for Harbor House, Something New Bridal Boutique will match dollar for dollar any donation made in their store, up to \$500, at the time of a wedding gown purchase.

Together we are helping so many survivors of domestic abuse find their own happily ever after.

For more information about Something New Bridal Boutique visit www.somethingnewbridalboutique.com or call (407) 622-0707 to schedule an appointment. [HH](#)

Program Spotlight: Children Services



Did you know that the majority of people who stay in our safe short term housing are children? Our Children Services program serves

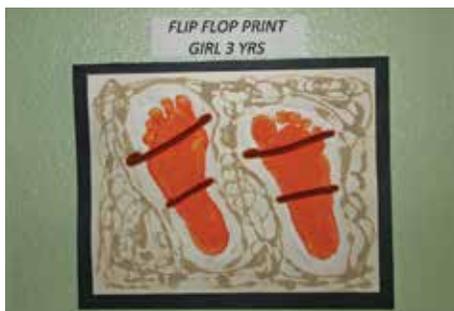
around 265 children annually and provides a continuum of services to children in Central Florida who have been impacted by domestic abuse.

Over the past few years, due to the expansion of our facility, the number of children served in the Children Services program has nearly doubled. As part of this program, Harbor House provides a DCF-certified crisis child care and after school care program for all children in residence. The Children Services program provides age-appropriate safety planning, onsite counseling with licensed trauma therapists, case management, tutoring, group counseling and recreational programs.

One child in particular, Michael has benefitted as a result of the Children Services program.

Michael is a baby who attended Harbor House's child care program for six weeks. Although he was approaching his first birthday, many of his motor and social skills were underdeveloped as a result of the turmoil in his home environment. After receiving weeks of personalized care and services, Michael and his mom safely transitioned out of safe short term housing with Michael having no disadvantage to any other child his age.

Because of the wrap-a-round and holistic approach that Harbor House has developed to meet the special needs of children who have experienced domestic abuse, **93.9% of their mothers did not return to their abuser when they transitioned out of safe short term housing.** [HH](#)



Children Services Manager, Evelyn Cosme (top left). Therapeutic artwork created by the children in the Children Services program (above).

1st Annual Preach-In

Harbor House takes seriously the impact that healthy relationships of families have on future generations. We are excited to announce the 1st Annual Central Florida Healthy Relationship Preach-In, which will be held the weekend of October 3-5, 2014.

Congregations and leaders, spanning a wide range of religions in the community, have already stepped forward to participate.

The first step in building a stronger community, in creating healthier children, is to have a common definition of what healthy relationships look like and what someone should expect in their relationships. This is where we need our community to come forward.

Visit www.harborhousefl.com/preachin to see if your place of worship is participating. [HH](#)

1 Corinthians 13: 4-13

**Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ²It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ³Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁴It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.*

CEO CORNER



CAROL WICK, CEO

Imagine a community where every faith leader opens the discussion on what is expected of us in our relationships with support offered for those who are struggling. Most of us, regardless of where we worship, have heard the passage from 1st Corinthians; love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It graces artwork, hangs in entryways of homes and is given as gifts at weddings. Yet, do we really use this standard of what love is in our own relationships? Are we teaching our children what a healthy relationship looks like? Together we can make this happen.

Over the past 38 years, Harbor House has been on the forefront of ending abuse in families and relationships in Central Florida. And for the past four years, we have been working with faith leaders to help change the way members



of our community understand healthy relationships.

80% of incidents of abuse occur in secret, with no one but those involved ever knowing what happened. Often times the couple may not even see that what is happening is abuse because the definition of what healthy is has been defined by what they witnessed as children or experiences in their culture. In order for these individuals to know whether or not they might need help, they need to understand abuse.

That is why we are partnering with strong faith leaders in Central Florida. We look forward to your participation in our collaborative efforts as we build a healthier community. [HH](#)

Your Gift Will Help Families in Need Right Now

You have the ability to help domestic abuse survivors right now—women, men, children and pets. Those in need are struggling to rebuild their lives after experiencing the horrors of emotional, physical and sexual abuse. Many survivors have endured years of abuse, and the process of recovery is long and difficult. Children who have grown up in households mired by domestic abuse suffer tremendous trauma and struggle to cope emotionally, developmentally and academically. Pets are often victimized by batterers and arrive at our facility in extreme distress.

New survivors come to us every day, and we never turn away a single one. But our policy of never turning anyone away requires substantial support. Please take a look at the opportunities available for you to help. **Your donation can save a life.**

Thank you for providing hope, help and safety for survivors of domestic abuse in Central Florida.

For more information, please contact:

Harbor House of Central Florida
P.O. Box 680748
Orlando, FL 32868
407-886-2244
www.harborhousefl.com
admin@harborhousefl.com

 facebook.com/harborhousefl

 @harborhousefl

24-hour Crisis Hotline: 407-886-2856

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Our signature annual **Purple Door** event, held during Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October, is filled with inspiration, uplifting messages of hope and captivating stories of survival and transformation. Join us on October 22nd from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. at First Baptist Church Orlando. For more information visit www.harborhousefl.com/purpledoor.

It Takes Courage — Are you ready to raise awareness in our community about domestic abuse? Join Harbor House, Orlando Police Department and Orange County Sheriff's Office on November 15th from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. For more information and to register visit www.harborhousefl.com/ittakescourage.

Planning Your Legacy



Michael Santistevan has always been a supporter of Harbor House. A professional photographer (and systems analyst by day), Michael has donated his talents as well as numerous hours at events and functions for Harbor House, capturing the inspiring work we do. Recently, Michael made it certain that the care and concern he feels for survivors of domestic abuse

and his support of Harbor House will continue beyond his lifetime. It is Michael's thoughtful and selfless nature to provide for survivors of domestic abuse through his estate plan and we are so appreciative for his contributions both now and in the future. Thank you Michael for all that you do for Harbor House!

Include Harbor House in your estate plan, and leave a legacy behind that will benefit survivors of domestic abuse as they start their new life, a life free of abuse.

Contact Michelle Palmer to learn more about planned giving: mpalmer@harborhousefl.com. [HH](#)

Photo(s) courtesy of MichaelCarlosPhoto.com.

DONATE TODAY!

Yes, I would like to help you fulfill your mission of eliminating domestic abuse in Central Florida. You can count on my support to help survivors right now.

- \$1,000** sponsors a family's entire stay in Safe Short Term Housing
- \$500** provides child care, activities and three healthy meals a day for a child's stay in Safe Short Term Housing
- \$250** provides one consultation with an attorney for a survivor seeking an injunction for protection
- \$125** sponsors one night of Safe Short Term Housing for a family in crisis
- \$65** sponsors one night of Safe Short Term Housing for a survivor in crisis
- \$27** provides a survivor with emergency safety planning with an experienced crisis advocate

I would like to donate \$ _____ every month to help support domestic abuse survivors.

CHECK (payable to Harbor House of Central Florida)

Please bill my credit card.

VISA MASTERCARD DISCOVER

NAME ON CARD: _____

_____ Exp. _____ / _____ CVV# _____

NAME: _____

HOME ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

CORPORATE OR ORGANIZATIONAL AFFILIATION: _____

HarborHouse
of Central Florida

GIVE ONLINE AT:
www.harborhousefl.com

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