

Volume 1 • Issue 3 • Winter 2013

What is Your Favorite Part of the Holiday Season?

Decorations? Welcoming family and friends? Or even just the sounds of children's laughter as they see bright, shiny packages with their names on them?

Imagine during this holiday season, having to flee your home in order to get to safety. Our Emergency Crisis Shelter is home to around 60 children and their parents. Last year, one little boy asked, "Will Santa be able to find me here?" The most important thing to his mother, of course, was their safety. Once in shelter, she wanted to make sure he also didn't miss the excitement and joy of the season. That's where our donors and volunteers came in.



His family was adopted by a group of employees from a local company. They filled his wish list and even made sure his mother had a gift card to get something for herself. Another group of volunteers helped him "shop" for a present for his mother and even helped him wrap it with a pretty bow.

While holidays can be very stressful, to others they can be deadly. Thank you for all you do to help make sure the holidays are safe, warm and joyous for our survivors.

Go online to www.harborhousefl.com/giftsofhope for more details about giving the gift of hope this holiday season.

Please join us and make this a time of newfound joy for our families escaping domestic abuse. You can make the difference to families who need your support, especially during this holiday season. Your generosity will ensure that each of the Harbor House children and their family members experience a sense of belonging and hope for the New Year. [HH](#)



There are many ways you can help the families staying at Harbor House this holiday season.

- [Adopt a Family](#) for \$1,000 and sponsor their entire stay in shelter.
- Select items from our [Gifts of Hope Wish List](#) (available online). Make your list, and check it twice and you will lift the spirits of families who need your help the most.
- Spread holiday cheer. Gather family, friends or colleagues to fill care packages. (Hint: Many people host holiday parties and ask guests to bring a gift from the wish list.) Then schedule a drop-time according to our [holiday drop-off calendar](#) (see below).
- Purchase a Welcome Home Basket for \$80 that is filled to the brim with the basic items our survivors need while they stay with us.
- No time for shopping? [Give any amount](#) to Gifts of Hope and we will do the shopping for you! We will also wrap the gifts and place them into grateful hands.

Imagine the transformation you can make in the life of a survivor simply by giving this holiday season.

~ December 2013 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 10am-7pm	4 10am-4pm	5 10am-7pm	6	7 10am-2pm
8	9	10 10am-7pm	11 1pm-4pm	12 10am-7pm	13	14 10am-4pm
15	16	17 10am-7pm	18 10am-4pm	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	Final day of accepting holiday donations			

If you need additional information, please contact Shelley Rodgers at 407-886-2244 ext.231 or srodgers@harborhousefl.com.

Focus On: Community Awareness

At Harbor House, involving the community in our effort to reach individuals and inform them about domestic abuse is central to our mission. We are fortunate to have relationships with many charitable partners, whose support helps us educate targeted populations about how to prevent and end domestic abuse. Every event we sponsor supports our programs and services and addresses the ever-changing needs of survivors. Through education and community involvement we can accomplish social change.



Our first **Men of Courage Breakfast** was held September 5th at the Citrus Club in downtown Orlando. The event brought together

more than 125 prominent community leaders and business executives to discuss domestic abuse in the workplace. We were thrilled to have Verizon as our event sponsor and Chief Security Officer, Michael A. Mason, as our keynote speaker. Mason shared with the audience Verizon's commitment to the issue, encouraging each man present to evaluate their workplace policy and take a stand against domestic abuse.



Lydia Gardner's family accepted the Barbara Moore Award at the 37th Annual Purple Door Luncheon.

The **37th Annual Purple Door Luncheon** was held October 11th at SeaWorld's Ports of Call and was once again the event of the year! This year's luncheon was especially poignant as Harbor House posthumously honored Lydia Gardner with the Barbara Moore award. Her legacy is one of the largest domestic violence support service programs at any courthouse in the country. Gardner, who passed away earlier this year, brought in domestic abuse advocates and wove them into the day-to-day operations of the civil injunction process through her position as the Orange County Clerk of Courts.

Sharon Love was the event's keynote speaker. Love's daughter Yeardeley Love, was murdered shortly before her graduation from UVA by her ex-boyfriend. After Yeardeley's

death, Sharon Love and her daughter, Lexi, co-founded the One Love Foundation to raise awareness about relationship violence through education and technology and to honor her daughter's spirit.



Volunteers gather at the Orlando Fashion Square Mall to kick off It Takes Courage.

It Takes Courage was held on Saturday, November 9th. 724 volunteers participated in the largest domestic abuse prevention event in the history of Orlando. Launching out of the Orlando Fashion Square Mall, 45 teams fanned out across the city visiting apartment complexes and housing subdivisions. In just three hours, 20,323 door hangers were placed at residences with the message "It Takes Courage To Stop Abuse!" In the 48 hours following the event, Harbor House experienced a **200% increase in hotline calls. Eight adults, five children and one pet entered Emergency Shelter** and **36 people filed injunctions for safety** and protection. The efforts of our amazing volunteers created a huge impact in our community and gave hope to survivors of domestic abuse. [HH](#)



Looking for that perfect holiday gift for the pet lover in your family? Why not honor their pet by creating a tile for the main entrance of our Paws for Peace Kennel? For a donation of \$100, you can design your own tile with a picture of the pet and a personalized message. For more information visit www.harborhousefl.com/donate and select "Paws Kennel."

Program Spotlight: Community Based Housing

Did you know, in addition to Harbor House's Emergency Crisis Shelter we have a Community Based Housing Program that is helping 76 survivors in the community as they transition from living in shelter to living on their own? The Community Based Housing Program empowers survivors to achieve self-sufficiency through supported rent and job placement.

With the assistance of United Way, HUD and Allstate, Harbor House has been able to help survivors as they start their new life free of abuse.

The Community Based Housing Program has become one of the most successful Community Based Housing Programs in the nation, with 100% of our survivors achieving permanent housing.

All participants in the program have requested and received a copy of their credit report and are working on resolving at least one outstanding debt. In addition, participants have opened a savings account and have maintained (at least) a minimum balance.

One participant was accepted into



Community Based Housing Specialist, Leota Young works with survivors helping them become empowered, control career and financial situations and create a safe environment for themselves and for their families.

nursing school and as a result, her employer is working with her so she can graduate. Another participant has been promoted at the restaurant where she works. These are just two examples of how survivors are helped to become self-sufficient through programs at Harbor House. [HH](#)



Happy Birthday Paws for Peace Kennel

If you had to flee your home at this moment, who would you bring with you? Nearly 60% of survivors delay leaving their abuser because they cannot bring their pet.

Sadly nearly 10% of our survivors have suffered the loss of a pet at the hands of their abuser. On December 6, 2012, The Paws for Peace Kennel opened and welcomed our first pet, a guinea pig, just two days later.

Since then, 44 dogs, 14 cats and one bird have been residents of the kennel. Their owners know that their pets are not only safe, but housed in a beautiful facility complete with its own cat porch and dog park.



Happy 1st birthday to the home of our furry friends!

With the help of caring partners like Orange County Animal Services, PetCo and SeaWorld, our new home for survivor's pets is making a difference here in Central Florida and across the country. [HH](#)

CEO CORNER



CAROL WICK, CEO

Our "All It Takes is a Box" campaign helps us provide all the basic needs for our families who often arrive without even the shoes on their feet.

On December 6, 2012, Harbor House opened the doors of the Donation Center. A multipurpose facility, the center allows Harbor House to bring in large quantities of donations such as cleaning supplies and paper products that are used to run one of the largest domestic abuse shelters in the U.S. allowing us to save dollars.

Our "All It Takes is a Box"

campaign helps us provide all the basic needs for our families who often arrive without even the shoes on their feet.



Donations delivered for our Gifts of Hope Celebration.

With the tremendous support of local investors and the Dr. Phillips Charities, the Center is making a difference. Just one year later, we are celebrating the generous spirit and support of the community with an amazing \$468,806 worth of goods invested in our mission.

But this facility goes one step further; it shelters what little survivors are able to escape with and allows our donors to help them start again. Each family receives all that they need for their new, safe home upon exit.

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:

Walk a Mile Orlando — Thursday, March 13, 2014, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. in downtown Orlando. More information is available on our website www.harborhousefl.com.

Key Business R3 Training — Learn how you can have a profound impact on the lives of your employees in addition to reducing health care costs, absenteeism and lost productivity due to stress and injuries from domestic abuse, all of which ultimately affect your organization's bottom line. Human resources, management and security staff are highly encouraged to attend the next free "Domestic Abuse in the Workplace" training on February 20th from 10 am to 12 pm. To learn more about the Key Business Initiative please visit our website. To RSVP for the next free training contact Stephanie Kresl, Community Education and Training Coordinator at skresl@harborhousefl.com or 407-353-3268.

Volunteer Highlight

Volunteers really do make the difference. They are the backbone of Harbor House and their work is crucial to creating a comfortable environment for our survivors staying at the Emergency Crisis Shelter.



Own your tomorrow.

In May, a group of volunteers from Charles Schwab came out to lend a hand and help make improvements to our facilities. They painted the hallways in one of the houses, assisted with landscaping, sorted items in the donation center and even brought ice cream treats for all the children, which they enjoyed at the end of the day sitting around the playground. This wonderful group of volunteers from Charles Schwab also participated in the It takes Courage event in November. They are an amazing group and their participation in these projects helps Harbor House fulfill our mission and save lives.

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 shelter
\$500 provides child care, activities and three healthy meals a day for a child's stay in shelter
\$250 provides one consultation with an attorney for a survivor seeking an injunction for protection
\$125 sponsors one night of safe shelter for a family in crisis
\$65 sponsors one night of safe shelter 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. / CW#
NAME:
HOME ADDRESS:
CITY, STATE, ZIP:
PHONE: EMAIL:
CORPORATE OR ORGANIZATIONAL AFFILIATION:

HarborHouse of Central Florida

GIVE ONLINE AT: www.harborhousefl.com