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choices

ELIMINATING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Winter 2007 / Issue #56



CHOICES Executive Director Gail Heller, consultant Jane Sadusky, Huckleberry House Executive Director Becky Westerfelt

CHOICES Partners with Huckleberry House to Address Violence in Young Adult Relationships

CHOICES has partnered with Huckleberry House to develop an unprecedented initiative for helping young adults in abusive or violent relationships. The project, called the "Columbus Curriculum," explores intimate partner violence among runaway and homeless youth and young adults, a group that is often understudied and underserved.

The curriculum, which is currently being tested and planned for a January rollout, will be used to train individuals who work with young adults who are experiencing intimate partner violence. The training content combines information on adolescent development, neuroscience, social pressure, relationship factors, cultural issues, and the legal system to help workers make sense of this complex issue.

The training also incorporates feedback from a panel of young women who have experienced violence in their intimate relationships. When asked to share their stories, the women explained how individual workers often miss important ways to reach out to them. As one young woman on the panel stated, "I want to feel like I can just talk and not be judged, or have somebody tell me what I 'have' to do."

Project consultant Jane Sadusky says that, after a nationwide search for material on the subject of young adult intimate violence, little information exists to address this particular group of young women. Sadusky believes that some of the most important differences can be that these teens may

have to deal with parenting and custody issues, financial dependence on an abuser, and other complications typically experienced by adults. "There's not always a supportive adult [in these girls' lives] to get upset or intervene if violence is occurring," Sadusky stated. "Agencies and workers need to adjust their thinking from the typical teen relationship to adequately meet these girls' needs."

CHOICES and Huckleberry House staff will provide the training to local agencies in central Ohio, with the objective that the training becomes a permanent part of agencies' training repertoires. The project is generously supported by the United Way of Central Ohio, the Franklin County ADAMH Board, the Youth Forum, and the Columbus Coalition Against Family Violence.

For additional information about the Columbus Curriculum, please contact CHOICES at (614) 224-7200.



CHOICES' Hannah Ely and Huckleberry House's Lara Palay will serve as Columbus Curriculum facilitators.

our mission *To interrupt the cycle of violence in this community and advocate for social change*

24-hour Crisis & Information Line
Temporary Shelter
Counseling & Support Groups
Legal & Community Advocacy
Education & Training Programs



United Way of Central Ohio
Member Agency



Dear Friends,

Thirty years ago, the Phoenix House – now called CHOICES – opened as the first shelter for battered women and children in central Ohio. Since the day our shelter doors first opened, CHOICES has continued to be a leader in the fight against domestic violence in this community by expanding its offering of direct services for those in need.

This holiday season, it is with gratitude that we reflect on the loyalty and continuing support we receive from local corporations, the United Way of Central Ohio, the Franklin County ADAMH Board, numerous foundations and individual contributors, as well as our many agency partnerships.

We are also thankful for the commitment of our board members and the hard work of the dedicated CHOICES staff and volunteers, whose tireless efforts help us make a difference in the lives of families in our community each and every day.

For the past 30 years – and for years to come – CHOICES will continue to help domestic violence victims and survivors right here in central Ohio. It is our holiday wish that we can count on your continued support into the New Year and beyond.

Happy Holidays!

Gail Heller

Gail M. Heller, LISW



Gail M. Heller, LISW,
Executive Director

How Your Donation Dollars Are Spent

Ever wonder where your donation dollars go when you give to CHOICES? As responsible members of the non-profit community here in central Ohio, we feel a strong obligation to keep our donors informed and connected. CHOICES is proud of the cost-effective and efficient way we manage our resources. The following is a breakdown of how your gift is allocated.



70% goes to direct program expenses, including personnel costs for over 30 advocates, clinicians, and shelter staff.

17% goes to bringing our mission to the community and developing resources.

13% goes to administrative support and facilitation of our mission.

100% Helps eliminate domestic violence in central Ohio.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR CHOICES

WBNS-10TV and Huntington Bank Sponsor Cell Phone Drive for CHOICES

In support of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, WBNS-10TV and Huntington Bank sponsored "Lifelines," a cell phone drive through the month of October to help victims and survivors of domestic violence. All cell phones collected will be refurbished for emergency use by domestic violence victims. Thank you to WBNS-10TV's Show You Care, Huntington Banks, and all who helped us collect over 2,100 phones for this worthwhile cause.

Studio Fovero Salon Hosts "Cut-a-Thon" to Benefit CHOICES

On Sunday, October 7, Studio Fovero Salon and Spa in German Village hosted a "Cut-a-Thon" to benefit CHOICES. The salon offered a variety of services at regular salon prices, with all proceeds given to CHOICES. Thanks so much to Studio Fovero for organizing this event, which raised over \$600 in support of Domestic Violence Awareness Month and CHOICES' 30th anniversary. Visit Studio Fovero at www.studiofovero.com for more information about the salon and their services.

Grandview Avenue Physical Therapy Offers Classes for Donations to CHOICES

Grandview Avenue Physical Therapy is offering free fitness classes to the public in exchange for a donation benefiting CHOICES. The classes – taught by the clinic's Certified Personal Trainers – include Pilates, yoga, and similar activities that incorporate cardiovascular exercise with resistance training. Contact the clinic at (614) 488-2225 to learn more about these classes...and check the CHOICES' Wish List at www.choicesdvc.org for a list of items you can donate.

MOMS Club of Hilliard-North's Community Service Project Benefits CHOICES

For their fall community service project benefiting children and families, MOMS Club of Hilliard-North published a cookbook of members' favorite recipes with proceeds benefiting CHOICES. The project, which was the MOMS Club's most successful fundraiser to date, raised over \$1600 to help families facing domestic violence. Thanks so much to the organization, which donated the remaining 11 cookbooks to CHOICES' shelter residents.

CHOICES Holiday Wish List

This holiday season, we are accepting the following items (new items only) in unlimited quantities. Unfortunately, due to current toy recalls, we will not be accepting toy donations. Thank you for supporting CHOICES!

Children's Items

Pajamas, all sizes, new
Slippers, new
Hats, gloves, and scarves
Baby bottles and brushes
Pacifiers
Pack 'n Plays
Umbrella strollers
Sticker books and stickers
Coloring books
Christmas stockings
Backrest pillows
DVDs
CD players
Sidewalk chalk
Basketballs/footballs/soccer balls

Kitchen/Household Items

Silverware sets
Heavy-duty plastic cups, bowls and plates
Twin-sized bedspreads
Twin-sized sheet sets
Bath towels
Kitchen towels and dish rags
Fleece throws
Nightlights
Alarm clocks/clock radios
Small lamps
Shower curtains
Pillows

Cleaning Items

Empty spray bottles
Toilet bowl cleaner
All-purpose cleaner
Lysol disinfectant spray
Mr. Clean Magic Erasers

Gift Cards/Gift Certificates

Grocery store gift cards
Target/Kohl's/Wal-Mart gift cards
Phone cards
COTA bus passes
Passes to entertainment venues (COSI, AMC theaters, Magic Mountain, Franklin Park Conservatory, skating)
Gift certificates for McDonald's, Burger King, Wendy's

Women's Items

Sweaters, all sizes, new
Robes, all sizes, new
Slippers, new
Hats, gloves, and scarves
Pajamas (including larger sizes)
Jewelry, watches

CHOICES Gift Registry:

Target
Wal-Mart
Babies-R-Us
Kohl's
Bed Bath & Beyond

Miscellaneous Items

Used cell phones
41¢ stamps
Journals
Umbrellas
Colored copy paper

HOLIDAY DROP OFF DATES

Items can be delivered to the CHOICES Administrative Office at 475 E. Mound Street, Columbus. Please contact Beth Freeman, Development Coordinator, at (614) 224-7200, ext 103, to schedule an appointment.

CHOICES Celebrates 30th Anniversary at the 2007 Peacemaker Awards Luncheon

On Tuesday, October 30, 2007, CHOICES officially began its 30th year as the primary service provider to central Ohio families experiencing domestic violence during the 2007 Peacemaker Awards Luncheon. A special commemorative event, the luncheon recognized the leadership role that CHOICES' supporters and advocates have played in the fight against domestic violence in our community.

The annual Peacemaker Awards Luncheon addresses the widespread effects of domestic violence and recognizes those individuals who make positive strides to respond, educate,



and advocate for change. In conjunction with the Luncheon, the Peacemaker Awards were established in 1995 to recognize those who work diligently to make our community a safer place. This year, in celebration of 30 years serving families in central Ohio, CHOICES recognized domestic survivors everywhere, both past and present, who have found the courage and strength to break free of abuse.

Steve Ford, son of President Gerald Ford and Mrs. Betty Ford, was the special keynote speaker at this year's Luncheon. A noted actor who has navigated a successful 20-year career in Hollywood, Steve is also a nationally-recognized speaker on the importance of personal leadership and character. In his one-of-a-kind presentation for the CHOICES Peacemaker Awards Luncheon, Ford shared his family's very personal connection to the issue of domestic violence. Both emotional and entertaining, Ford's presentation was an inspirational call-to-action for community involvement in CHOICES' mission to eliminate domestic violence and advocate for social change. In appreciation of Steve's participation in this year's commemorative event, Gail Heller, CHOICES' Executive Director, presented Steve with a special Peacemaker Award.



Laura Warren, President of CHOICES' Board of Directors, closed the luncheon by unveiling the CHOICES "Circle of 30" Giving Circles initiative. The "Circle of 30" Giving Circles are an opportunity for individuals to pool resources with colleagues and/or friends who share a common interest in eliminating domestic violence from our community.

CHOICES would like to thank everyone who attended the 2007 Peacemaker Awards Luncheon. We'd also like to thank those organizations who so generously supported the event, including our VIP Reception Sponsor, Limited Brands, and our Lead Sponsor, Nationwide. With the continued support of our community, we can maintain our commitment to excellence in serving domestic violence victims and survivors right here in central Ohio.



2007 Peacemaker Awards and 30th Anniversary Sponsors

*CHOICES would like to thank the following organizations and individuals
for their generous support of the 2007 Peacemaker Awards Luncheon and 30th Anniversary Celebration*

VIP Reception Sponsor:

Limitedbrands

AURA SCIENCE / BATH & BODY WORKS / EXPRESS / HENRI BENDEL / THE LIMITED
NEW YORK & COMPANY / VICTORIA'S SECRET / THE WHITE BARN CANDLE COMPANY

Lead Sponsor:



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Peacemaker Partners:

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Peacemaker Advocates & Contributing Sponsors:

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Diane Daniel
Babette Gorman
Huckleberry House
Netcare Corporation
OhioHealth
Prime Engineering & Architecture, Inc.
Verizon
Vorys, Sater, Seymour & Pease LLP

Special Recognition:

Kelly Szoke, Hyatt Regency Columbus
Mike Fisher & Robin Antes, Kenwel Printers
Nadia McGaughy, Nadia's Studio LLC
John Page, pagetech limited
Sally Robison, Robison Art
Sawmill Florist by Sonya
CHOICES Board of Directors, Volunteers, and Staff

CHOICES Invited to Present at National Organization for Victim Assistance Conference

In July, CHOICES accepted an invitation to present at the National Organization for Victim Assistance (NOVA) Annual Conference in Reno, Nevada. Gail Heller, LISW, Executive Director of CHOICES, and Sandy Allen, LSW, Program Director, presented the workshop, "The Lonely Little Petunia in an Onion Patch: How to Manage Fund, Program, and Licensure Requirements."



NOVA is a private, non-profit organization of victim and witness assistance programs and practitioners, criminal justice agencies and professionals, mental health professionals, researchers, former victims and survivors, and others committed to the recognition and implementation of victim rights and services.

The annual conference features educational opportunities for beginning, intermediate and advanced advocates, as well as a series of workshops concentrating on experienced and beginning program managers and assistant managers. Through this annual conference, NOVA insures continuing growth in the field of victim rights and services as members from across North America and elsewhere focus on invigorating victim assistance programs and enhancing relationships with traditional and non-traditional partners.

Congratulations and thank you to Gail and Sandy for representing CHOICES in such a prestigious national forum! ~

CHOICES 's No Ball Returns!

CHOICES is pleased to announce that, after numerous community requests, we will once again be hosting the 's No Ball, the only holiday ball in central Ohio where there is nowhere to go, no ties to tie, no heels to strap on. It's the non-event that asks for a donation in lieu of the expenses usually incurred when attending a "real" holiday ball.

Your response to this non-event will be used as a raffle ticket, with prizes awarded at the CHOICES Annual Meeting on January 31, 2008. The Annual Meeting is attended by nearly 300 individuals, including government officials and community leaders. All proceeds will be used to provide lifesaving services and programs to domestic violence victims and survivors right here in our community.

Contact CHOICES at (614) 224-7200 to learn more about the 's No Ball and how you can participate.

CHOICES Volunteers Recognized on One-Year Anniversary

In August, the staff and Board of Directors of CHOICES recognized three volunteers on their one-year anniversary with the agency.

Marcia Garcia, Alexis Harmon, and Betsy Thornburgh began with CHOICES just over a year ago, and their roles as volunteers over the last year have been important in helping us achieve our mission. Through strong partnerships with individuals like Marcia, Alexis, and Betsy, central Ohio victims and families have access to an unparalleled network of support.

Congratulations once again to our volunteers, and thank you from the CHOICES staff and clients who benefit so greatly from your commitment! ~

CHOICES Unveils “Circle of 30” Giving Initiative

During the 2007 Peacemaker Awards Luncheon, CHOICES unveiled an exciting initiative for involving the community in our mission of eliminating domestic violence. In honor of our 30th anniversary, CHOICES has launched the “Circle of 30” Giving Circles Initiative.

In the past few years, thousands of friends, neighbors, co-workers, and community members around the country have been forming independent groups to engage in a new form of philanthropy characterized by shared giving. These groups – known as “Giving Circles” – combine donations in order to have a greater impact on their chosen causes. In a CHOICES “Circle of 30” Giving Circle, members pool resources with colleagues and/or friends who share a common interest in eliminating domestic violence from our community.

The advantages of joining a CHOICES “Circle of 30” Giving Circle are many. Members will deepen their understanding of the issue of domestic violence and how it impacts our community. They’ll learn more about philanthropy as a vehicle for social change and will participate in a social network of people who share similar interests and values. Finally, participation in a CHOICES “Circle of 30” Giving Circle will help families who are experiencing domestic violence create lasting change for themselves, and for central Ohio.

Hosting a “Circle of 30” is easy: CHOICES will provide a Giving Circles Starter Kit, which includes an overview of giving circles, a step-by-step guide for starting your CHOICES “Circle of 30” Giving Circle, key points about CHOICES to share with your circle members, and ideas for making your event fun.

For more information on starting a CHOICES “Circle of 30” Giving Circle, contact Beth Freeman at (614) 224-7200.

And remember – your “Circle of 30” has the power to help eliminate domestic violence in central Ohio communities!

CHOICES Board Chair Laura Warren shares the “Circle of 30” Initiative with Peacemaker Luncheon attendees.



In 2006 alone, giving circles granted \$13 million for community needs.¹

Currently, there are an estimated 800 giving circles nationwide.²

¹ More Giving Together: The Growth and Impact of Giving Circles and Shared Giving by Jessica E. Bearman, Washington, DC: New Ventures in Philanthropy initiative of the Forum of the Regional Associations of Grantmakers (2007).

² “Just Causes - The Giving Back Gang” by Linda Daily, Delta Sky Magazine (January 2007).

CHOICES 2007 Board of Directors

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Calendar of Events

January 29, 2008

Breakfast Series Seminars—The Columbus Curriculum:
Addressing Violence in Young Adult Relationships

The Fawcett Center, 8:00-10:00am
For reservations, call
(614) 224-7200, ext 115

January 31, 2008

CHOICES 30th Annual Meeting

Limited Brands, 6:00-8:00pm
Donation: \$15 per person
For reservations, call
(614) 224-7200, ext 103

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advocate for social change*

24-hour Crisis & Information Line

Temporary Shelter

Counseling & Support Groups

Legal & Community Advocacy

Education & Training Programs

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