

SAFE PLACE NEWS

*Promoting safe places, consistent with the character of Christ,
for women and their families to heal and grow*

Issue 35
February 2009

For the Children's Sake

*Let the little children come to me
and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of
God belongs to such as these.*

Mark 10:14

Across America each year over one million women seek counseling and supportive services for domestic abuse. Fifty to sixty-five percent of these are mothers of children 18 years old and younger, over ninety percent of whom have witnessed acts of violence in their home.

The word *witness* (as defined in the Collegiate New World Dictionary) *a person who saw, or can give a first hand account of something* connotes a passive observation of events. Children who live with violence, on the other hand are not passive observers.

Children who live with violence are actively engaged in:

- interpreting
- predicting
- assessing their role in causing the violence
- worrying about the consequences
- problem solving and/or
- taking measures to protect themselves, their siblings or parents

As children mature and their interpretation and coping mechanisms change they often begin to play more active roles in attempting to prevent or intervene which puts them at greater risk for becoming victims of the perpetrator's verbal, emotional or physical assaults.

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SPM Annual Dessert & Benefit Auction

Monday, March 2, 2009
BSU Student Union Building
Jordan Ballroom
6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Tickets are now
available ~ \$10 per person
Please call or e-mail the SPM
office to purchase tickets.
323-2169 ~ splace@spro.net

*We will be able to accept
Mastercard, Visa and Discover debit
and credit cards for auction items,
raffle tickets and purchases.*



Quilt raffle tickets will only be sold at the
Dessert \$5.00 each or 6 for \$20.00

Dessert Buffet
Silent Auction



WE COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOU !

One year ago we shared with you our dream of a Campus Community that would address our client’s needs for housing, safety, transportation and childcare. We envisioned three facilities that would meet the needs of our clients: a Supportive Services Center, Transitional Housing, and a Children’s Center. One year later, thanks to the generous support from many of you, the first part of the dream is reality. We moved from our old leased space into our new building during the last week of August and began serving clients in our beautiful new home the following week. Our hearts continue to overflow with gratitude for God’s provision through each of you.

Total individual giving made up \$37,440 of our total building income and we want to say thank-you again to each of you who gave to make this first phase possible. The remaining funds were generously provided by the following Foundations: The Papé Foundation, The Laura Moore Cunningham Foundation, Anonymous Foundation, The M. J. Murdock Foundation and The Washington Group Foundation.

We would also like to thank the following individuals and businesses for their generous in-kind donations: Sonotrol, Rick Pierce Painting, Prestige Homes, Wellborn Cabinets, Sparks Construction, SparkWeb Interactive, Eastside Community Fellowship, Scott Zierler, Rick Hills, Cherol McMonigle, Dustin Hills, Tyler Edwards, Austin Labato, Jill Allen, Dustin Hills, Dana & Cathy Danzer, Tim Rosenvall, Vicki Jones, Bob West, Diana Doolan, Justin & Gail Rubelt, Allen & Nancy Setler and Nikki Adams.



| INCOME — GRANTS AND FOUNDATIONS | |
|--|-------------------------|
| Papé Foundation | \$ 7,500.00 |
| Laura Moore Cunningham | 25,000.00 |
| Anonymous Foundation | 392,000.00 |
| Polk Family Foundation | 2,500.00 |
| M. J. Murdock Foundation | 300,000 .00 |
| Dividends | 2,000.00 |
| Washington Group Foundation | 5,000.00 |
| Pre-paid Lease | 261,151.00 |
| Total Giving/Grants and Foundations | 995,585.64 |
| Total Individual Gifts | <u>37,440.00</u> |
| GRAND TOTAL | \$1,033,025.64 |
| EXPENSES | |
| Purchase | \$1,000,000.00 |
| Tenant Improvements | 26,422.23 |
| Furnishings | 2,271.52 |
| Bank & Legal Fees | <u>1,207.12</u> |
| GRAND TOTAL | \$1,029,900.87 |

For the Children's Sake

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As stress levels rise, the child is also actively developing strategies to cope with the stress. Most of these strategies work well during times of crisis but become obstacles to healthy growth and development over the course of the child's life. These are just a few of the many strategies that researchers identify in children and adolescents living in abusive homes:

Mentally blocking the event or disconnecting emotionally

- Numbing emotions or blocking thoughts
- Tuning out the noise and chaos, learning not to hear it, being oblivious
- Concentrating hard to believe they are somewhere else
- Drinking alcohol or taking drugs

Physical avoidance

- Going into another room or leaving the house
- Finding excuses to avoid going home
- Running away from home

Taking charge through caretaking

- Protecting brothers and sisters from danger
- Nurturing siblings, taking on the parent role
- Nurturing or taking care of his or her mother

Looking for love in all the wrong places

- Falling in with bad friends
- Having sex for the intimacy and closeness
- Getting pregnant in order to have



someone to love them

Re-directing emotions into positive activities

- Sports, running, fitness
- Writing, journaling, drawing, poetry, acting, being creative
- Excelling academically

Reaching out for help

- Telling a teacher, neighbor, or friend's mother
- Calling the police
- Talking to siblings, friends, or supportive adults (but not necessarily about the violence)

Crying out for help

- Self-injury
- Lashing out in anger/being aggressive with others/getting into fights
- Suicidal gestures

Making it better through fantasy

- Planning revenge on the abuser
- Dreaming about a happier life with a different family
- Fantasizing about life after a divorce or after the abuser leaves
- Hoping the abuser will be in a life-threatening accident
- Fantasizing about being rescued by super heroes, police, or Prince Charming

While much of the research focuses on the effects of abuse, many are far more concerned about the long term effects of what these children are *not* experiencing — homes where there is genuine love, where children are loved and accepted for who they are, where discipline is loving and consistent, where they can learn to trust their parent's affection.

Twenty-five years ago, Chuck Swindoll, author and pastor, wrote a book for parents in which he listed four demonstrations of love that must be present in the home to produce a love relationship: (1) the way we listen to our children, (2) the way we talk to our children, (3) the way we discipline (train) our children, and (4) the way we develop our children.

Taking the time to listen carefully to what our children are saying, and having real discussions with them affirms their dignity and worth as people. Teaching, training, and discipline help them move with confidence towards finding their unique gifts, skills and places of service in the world.

These four demonstrations of love are often missing or severely compromised in homes where domestic abuse is occurring. Once safety is restored, however, and the abuse has stopped, these four ingredients have proven to be very effective in helping children recover and move into brighter futures and healthier relationships.

Albertson's Community Partnership Cardholders

If you have been supporting SPM through your purchases at Albertsons, you will need to relink your cards by February 28, 2009 in order for your contributions to continue.

Here's how: Log on to WWW.ALBERTSONSCP.COM

1. Enter the Preferred Card number. (If you do not know your Preferred Savings Card Number please call: (877) 932-7948)
2. Enter the group's Community Partner's ID #: 49000121977

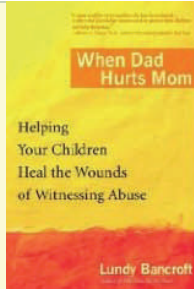
Thank-you for your continued support

UPCOMING TRAINING - RESOURCES - SUPPORT

When Dad Hurts Mom: Helping Your Children Heal the Wounds of Witnessing Abuse

Lundy Bancroft

Written by the author of *Why Does He Do That: Inside the Minds of Angry and Controlling Men*, Bancroft takes a comprehensive and compassionate look at how domestic violence affects the children who experience it. Bancroft offers valuable insight in ways to protect children and help them heal emotionally; provide them with love, support and positive role models and; increase the chances of protecting your children through legal proceedings.



Spring 2009

NURTURING NETWORK**PARENTING CLASS**

FOR MOMS AND KIDS (ages 5-12)

Come join us once a week for 12-weeks as we explore ways to nurture children who have been exposed to abuse.

Costs for materials: \$15.00

\$10.00 per week class fee

For more information

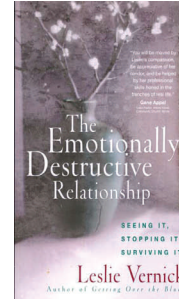
please call or

e-mail Jodi or Linda at the SPM office

208-323-2169 ~ splace@spro.net

Annual Dessert & Benefit Auction

Monday, March 2, 2009



The Emotionally Destructive Relationship
Leslie Vernick

Leslie Vernick is an author and Christian counselor who understands the effects

of verbal and emotional abuse in families and relationships.

Her latest book is a concise and wise guide in giving biblical definitions for emotional abuse and helping victims see beneath the abuse to what is going on in the mind and heart of the abuser. She includes very practical advise about how to respond in ways that invite change and how to get safe and stay safe while making difficult choices when seeking to minimize the effects of abuse.



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Place
Ministries

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SPM, P. O. Box 4892, Boise, ID 83711 or call 208-323-2169.
An annual tax deductible gift of \$10.00 is welcome to help cover expenses.