

SAFE PLACE NEWS

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

Issue 36

August 2009

Housing and Abuse: What's the Connection?

Susie's husband sleeps with a loaded pistol in his bedside stand. He has made it clear that he will use it if she tries to break free of his coercive control and intimidations. Susie is not allowed to leave the house without his permission and each excursion away from home is timed. He has purposely moved her away from family and friends so that she has no support system. She has no job and no access to the family resources. As she faces into the enormous challenge of staying safe and eventually getting free from her abusive partner she tries to piece together a plan but cannot come up with any viable options as to where she could live. She can't afford to move into traditional housing. She has no credit history and no money for a deposit or first months rent. All public housing options in Boise are full and the waiting list for Section 8 vouchers is approaching 4 years.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Jeremiah 29:11 NIV

Mary is 8 years old. Her father has been sexually abusing her since she was five. In spite of his threats she musters up the courage to tell her mother. Her mother believes her and begins to take steps to stop the abuse, protect Mary and get her the help she needs. She reports the abuse to the police. Dad is charged, prosecuted and eventually sent to prison for 5 years. Victim's Compensation provides counseling for Mary but Mom is faced with other challenges that are overwhelming and threaten to destabilize her family even more. Mary's mother has been a stay at home mom and actively involved in the lives of her three children. Soon after Dad was arrested the family lost the bulk of

their income and at some point during the trial Mary's mom realized that because he was going to prison they would receive no child support. How in the world is she going to support her family and keep a roof over their heads?

There is a strong connection between abuse and housing needs. Often victims of abuse (both women and children) are financially dependent on their abuser. Large numbers of women stay in abusive relationships in order to maintain housing and once a woman and her children leave an abusive situation the acquisition of safe housing, both initially and in the long term, is a critical determinate of whether she can create and maintain a safe and healthy future for herself and her children. Some women who make the choice to leave an abuser actually end up homeless. Indeed, 50% of all homeless women and

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NEIGHBORS NEEDED

SPM has office space for lease




Awesome Class "A" Building with great location has spaces available for lease. Two second floor spaces, each available at 1,140 sq. ft. for \$950 per month. One main floor space available at 2,100 sq. ft. for \$1,750 per month. Ample parking. Three to Five year term. Modified gross lease. Please contact Scott at 344-0813 for details and questions.

"SAVE THE DATE"



Our annual Benefit Auction and Dessert will take place the evening of Monday, March 1st in the Jordan Ballroom at Boise State University. If anyone is interested in donating an item for the auction and/or volunteering please contact either Cris Polk at 385-0403 or email pspolk@gmail.com or Alasya West can be reached at 939-0719 or email alasyaw@aol.com.

 Shop For A Cause is a shopping event fundraiser on October 17 at Macy's Boise Towne Square. Tickets are \$5 each and every dollar goes directly to SPM. This exclusive shopping pass includes 20% or 10% off most purchases all day long and 25% off a single purchase. If you would like a shopping pass please contact the office either by phone or email.

"The Power of Prevention"

A Personal Safety Class for Women

Presented by: Boise Police Department

Hosted by: Cole Community Church Women's Ministry and Safe Place Ministries

Class will include personal, home, vehicle, and internet safety. It will be held at Cole Community Church, 8775 Ustick Road, on Saturday, October 3rd from 10 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. There is no cost, but please email SPM at splace@spro.net to let us know if you are attending.



Practical Ideas



We need help with our operating expenses in August.

- Tabloid paper: 98 bright, 24 lb.—\$22 per ream
- HP Ink 10: Black—\$42 per cartridge
- Mailing seals: 1" circles—\$7 per pack of 600
- Legal pads: college ruled—\$7 per pack of 6
- Security envelopes no. 6 3/4—\$22 per box of 500
- HP Ink 11: Yellow, Magenta, or Cyan—\$42 per cartridge
- Publishing paper: 96 bright, 24 lb.—\$8 per ream
- Multipurpose paper: 92 bright, 20 lb.—\$3.50 per ream
- Telephone expenses—\$140.00
- Web Hosting and DSL expense—\$41.00

Financial Snapshot for August

Income Received as of 8/14/09:	\$6,715
Budget for Month of August:	\$16,500

Housing and Abuse: What's the Connection? *continued from page 1*

children in America are fleeing domestic violence (J. Zorza, 1991) and 92% of all homeless women have been abused by their partner at some time during their lives (A. Randall, 2004).

At Safe Place Ministries our mission is to provide a safe place for women and their children to heal and grow. As a rule we do not tell our clients what to do, including whether or not they should stay in or leave a destructive relationship. Instead we provide a safe environment, education, resources and support with the goal that women will have the strength and clarity to make healthy choices. We want women to have the freedom and opportunity to make choices consistent with their faith that they believe will lead to life for themselves and their family. Viable housing options are critical to this process.

Housing for Victims of Abuse in Boise

As we have shared, there is a significant connection between abuse and housing but there are serious gaps in the housing continuum of care in Boise as it relates to the needs of victims of abuse. Housing is traditionally divided into three categories: emergency, transitional and permanent. Emergency housing exists primarily in the form of shelters and safe houses that are usually available for 30 to 90 days for individuals and families who are homeless. Transitional housing exists to help those who are homeless or in emergency housing to get to the point where they can acquire and maintain safe

permanent housing. Transitional housing traditionally lasts for 6 to 24 months. Permanent housing has no restrictions on how long a person can stay.

There are several emergency shelters in Boise that can accommodate women and children including those who are fleeing abuse, but there is a critical need for more transitional housing for these families. Currently all local transitional housing options have restrictions on their programs that potentially exclude women and children coming directly from a domestic abuse situation. Restrictions include such things as: “no children”, “must be recovering from chemical dependency”, “must be on the street or in a shelter”. These restrictions help housing programs to target the homeless, but exclude most women and children who are victims of abuse. Indeed **ninety six percent of all women who are victims of domestic violence never go into a shelter** (J. Edleson, 2008). In order to provide real choices and opportunities for women with children to leave and stay safe, more transitional housing that targets families fleeing domestic abuse are needed.

SPM Plans to Help

Many of you are aware that we purchased and moved into a new building last year. What you may not know is that this building is the first phase of a three part Campus Project that will eventually include six transitional housing units and a Children's Center. Proposed housing units

would fill the niche we have described in this article and would target two groups: 1) women with children fleeing domestic abuse and 2) children (and their families) who have been abused by their mother's domestic partner whose family consequently comes to need housing and support.

Even though the economy is still depressed we believe it is the right time for us to begin our capital campaign for our new transitional housing units for the following reasons:

1. The housing shortage in Boise is becoming more critical and directly affecting the safety of women and children who have fled or are thinking of leaving an abusive situation.
2. Property and construction costs are down.
3. Most funding sources for capital campaigns are distinct from sources for operating funds. For this reason, initiating a capital campaign for transitional housing will not negatively affect our operating budget.
4. A larger transitional housing program will actually stabilize the SPM operating budget over the long term.

If you are interested in knowing more about this project we would love to spend some time with you. Prospectuses for this Transitional Housing Project should be available next week, so call (323-2169) or email (splace@spro.net) us at the office if you would like a copy. If you would like to donate toward our Transitional Housing Project, please identify your gift accordingly.



Safe
Place
Ministries

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We want very much for *SAFE PLACE NEWS* to be a helpful resource for many people. With this in mind, permission to duplicate this newsletter for free distribution is granted. Any quotations or references to it should give proper credit to SAFE PLACE MINISTRIES. We encourage input and suggestions. Send correspondence to:
SPM, 723 N. Mitchell St. Ste 101, Boise, ID 83704, or call 208-323-2169.
An annual tax deductible gift of \$10.00 is welcome to help cover expenses.

SAFE PLACE MINISTRIES

PUBLISHED 2 TIMES ANNUALLY

UPCOMING TRAINING - RESOURCES - SUPPORT

GROUPS - CLASSES - TRAINING

“FOOLPROOFING” GROUP

Kapri and Judy will be facilitating a 12-week educational support group focused on identifying abusive patterns in relationships and understanding our responses to abuse. The group will explore ways to maintain safety, sanity, integrity and making wise life choices.

Groups starts Tuesday, September 22nd from 1:00 - 2:45 at the SPM office.

PERSONAL GROWTH AND MINISTRY CLASS (PGMT)

This weekly class will meet from October through April. The goal of the class is to help participants appreciate the sufficiency of the Christian faith in understanding life, people, and pain.

Class starts Monday, October 5th at the SPM office.

VICTIM ADVOCATE TRAINING

This 14-hour training is designed to equip church and community leaders to understand and support victims of domestic abuse, sexual assault, and childhood sexual abuse.

Scheduled for Saturday, October 24th and November 7th from 8:30-4:00.

For more information about either group or to reserve a spot, please call 323-2169 or email us at splace@spro.net

SAFE PLACE MINISTRIES, INC.

Annual Report July 2008 thru June 2009

FOUNDED AND INCORPORATED IN 1995

MISSION STATEMENT

To promote safe places, consistent with the character of Christ
for women and their families to heal and grow.

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Gail Rubelt
Office Assistant
Jodi Goettemoeller
Counselor

Safe Place Ministries exists to provide exceptional, affordable services to women who are recovering from abuse (domestic abuse, sexual assault, and childhood sexual abuse), their children, and their care providers. SPM is a ministry based on Christian principles. We serve everyone regardless of their ability to pay or their beliefs. We share, with all who desire it, a Christian perspective on life, abuse, recovery, and health. Safe Place Ministries seeks to promote safe places for individuals to heal and grow by offering two programs with accompanying services.

DIRECT CLIENT SERVICES

At our office in Boise, SPM offers a “safe place” for primary and secondary victims of abuse with a variety of services that address client needs from the crisis phase, through stabilization and recovery. This year we served approximately **196 adult victims** and **166 of their children**. Types of services offered include the following:

- ◆ Assessments and referrals
- ◆ Social Services (housing, clothing, child care, medical care, transportation etc.)
- ◆ Advocacy (supporting and accompanying clients through the legal system, mainstream social services and other systems and/or advocating for clients in a variety of situations)
- ◆ Case Management (assessing client needs, developing a care plan and addressing client needs)
- ◆ 1:1 Support (education, mentoring and spiritual care)
- ◆ Educational Support Groups
- ◆ Transitional Program: (case management, social services, vocational assessment and training, housing, and life skills classes)
- ◆ Permanent Housing Program (case management, life skills, social services and Section 8 housing voucher)
- ◆ Professional Mental Health Counseling for women and children
- ◆ Psychiatric Medication Management for women and children

EDUCATION RESOURCE NETWORK

As with our Direct Victim Services, the Education Resource Network is available to anyone who would like to use it. Our niche and focus is to equip and support church leaders in responding with wisdom and compassion to victims of abuse in their congregations and communities. We also work with doctors, attorneys, local hospitals, law enforcement, victim witness coordinators, social service providers, and other victim service providers. This past year SPM served approximately 279 care providers and distributed 3906 resources. We offer the following services through our Education Resource Network.

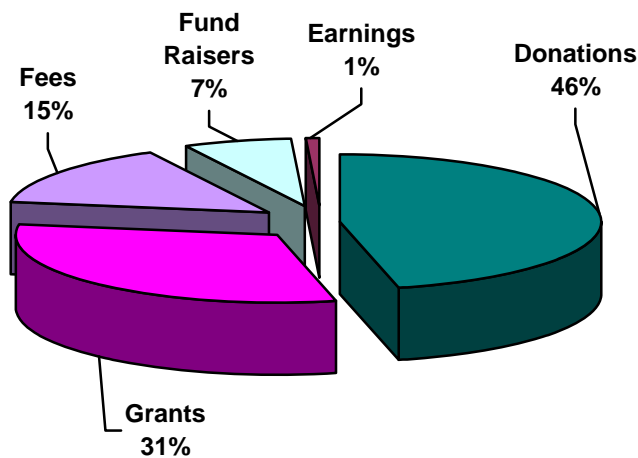
- ◆ Introduction to Domestic Abuse for Church Leaders
- ◆ SPM Network Workshop (half-day)
- ◆ Victim Service Provider Workshop (half-day)
- ◆ Victim Advocate Training (15 hours)
- ◆ Personal Growth and Ministry Training (weekly for 8 months)
- ◆ Ada County Resource Directory AND Statewide Victim Services Directory
- ◆ Resource Library and Catalog
- ◆ “Quicklook” educational handouts
- ◆ Outreach Cards
- ◆ Website: www.safep laceministries.com
- ◆ Toll free phone number: 1-888-776-4443

HIGHLIGHTS

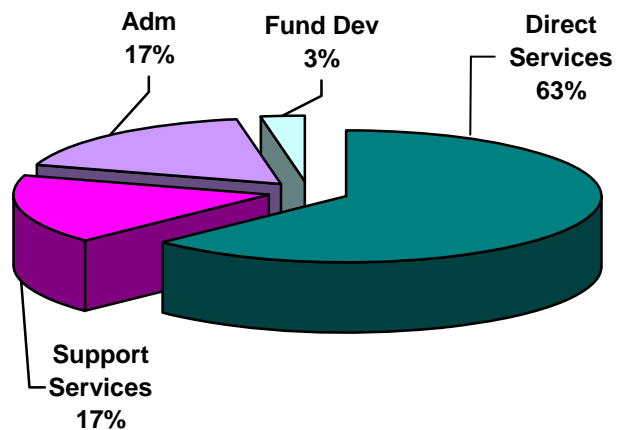
- ◆ We offered the Nurturing Parenting Program for women and children recovering from domestic abuse.
- ◆ We provided *permanent* housing and supportive services for 11 homeless women and their 9 children.
- ◆ We provided *transitional* housing and supportive services for 5 women and their 14 children.
- ◆ We maintained all staff and services in the face of the economic downturn.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Operating Income
\$180,332



Operating Expenses
\$207,350



In addition to our operating income we also received \$45,755.00 for special projects: \$1,500.00 went to replace carpet in one of our transitional housing units and the remainder went to finish paying for and furnishing our new Supportive Services Center.