

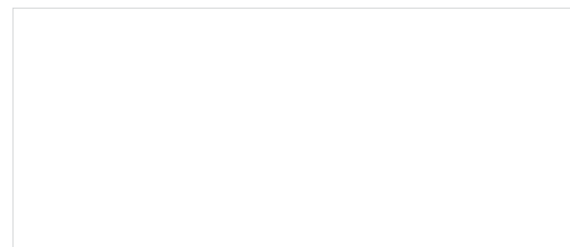


**SAFE HARBOR
OF SHEBOYGAN
COUNTY, INC.**

P.O. Box 582
Sheboygan, WI 53082-0582

24 hour crisis hotline
920-452-7640
800-499-7640
info@sheboygansafeharbor.org

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To remove your name from our
mail list please call 920-452-8611
or email us at the address below.



Safe Harbor is funded by:



**We thank our generous newsletter sponsor:
St. Nicholas Hospital**

I support a violence-free Sheboygan County...

Every day, people in our own community know the terror of domestic violence and sexual assault. Safe Harbor provides crisis advocacy, shelter, food, legal referral, support groups and more, all at no cost to the families served.

We invite our community to stand with us against the cycle of violence.

I want to help Safe Harbor offer hope for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

Here's my tax deductible donation Do not publish my name as a donor

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Please charge my account below for \$ _____

MC/VISA No. _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

Please detach and mail to: Safe Harbor, P.O. Box 582, Sheboygan, WI 53082-0582

Thank you!

SAFE HARBOR OF SHEBOYGAN COUNTY, INC.

Spring 2008



SAFE HARBOR NEWS

Sexual Assault Awareness Month Activities

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month. If you pay any attention to happenings in Sheboygan County, you know that hardly a week goes by without news of a sexual assault attempt, report or trial in the area.

Safe Harbor works to reduce the incidence of sexual assault by providing information on healthy relationships and dating violence to schools and groups in the area. Some examples include:

- Awareness posters distributed in public places throughout the county
- Group education sessions at Plymouth High School and South High School

Information booths and education materials and activities at schools, including teal ribbon "tattoos" for teens.

Also this year, as part of Sexual Assault Awareness Month, Safe Harbor staff will participate with other community agencies and individuals in a Teen Dating and Sexual Violence Summit.

Sexual assault is common and commonly misunderstood. For more information on sexual assault-related resources and **how you can help end** sexual violence, go to the Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault website at www.wcasa.org.

MISSION STATEMENT

Safe Harbor is dedicated to the prevention of all forms of domestic abuse and sexual assault in the community through raising awareness, education, and providing safety, shelter and support for all victims.

Our Shelter Will Relocate in 2009

Safe Harbor is in the process of buying and remodeling a building which will eventually replace our current domestic abuse shelter. It is a 2-story building in the central city of Sheboygan with enough space for administrative offices as well as shelter accommodations. For several years we have been renting office space because our current shelter doesn't have enough room for our staff. Having a larger building will allow us to merge our shelter and administrative functions, saving us about \$1,000 a month in expenses.

Safe Harbor has grown in response to community needs. Unfortunately we don't anticipate those needs declining. In addition to the crisis care and shelter we provide there is a large unmet need for education and prevention services. The future facility will allow us to expand our work in those areas.

We feel sure you, our supporters, will want to know how you can help Safe Harbor with this major undertaking. We are planning a capital campaign which, along with the eventual sale of our current shelter, will provide the funds we will need to proceed with our plan. We will keep you advised.

Safe Harbor's Sexual Assault Coordinator Is A Free Community Resource

Brenda Powers, Sexual Assault Program Coordinator, presents information and education about healthy relationships to groups and school classes free of charge. She loves doing it, and kids and their teachers love having her! A licensed Social Worker, Brenda has run Safe Harbor's Sexual Assault support and prevention program for 4 years. Here are comments from some of the attendees of her presentations and workshops:

"I thought the presentation was excellent. Information was up-to-date and statistics were alarming."

"This really gave me alot of advice. I think I needed this and would recommend having this workshop next year."

"I was glad I came to this session because I got to share some deep thoughts that I thought that nobody would ever know about me."

"It was cool because we talked about dating."

"It was really informational and fun. The speaker was hilarious."

"I felt comfortable sharing my stories."

"Take this workshop."

For more information on our sexual assault prevention program or to arrange for Brenda to present to your group, contact the Safe Harbor Admin office at 452-8611 x308.

Safe Harbor has a MySpace page

Find us at www.myspace.com/safeharbor53081

"Heard It Thru the Grapevine" 2008



Thank you to everyone who supported the 10th annual *Heard It Thru the Grapevine*, Safe Harbor's own fundraiser. Whether you attended or sent a donation, we appreciate your support. We also thank co-chairs Michelle Gentine and Peggy Hansen for their many hours of work on behalf of the event. It was a lovely evening that raised over \$50,000! We want to take this opportunity to thank the event's corporate cash donors:

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Johnsonville Sausage LLC | Bitter Neumann Appliance-TV-Furniture |
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Thank you auction item donors, purchasers and event volunteers!

A Moment with Mary

During April, Sexual Assault Awareness Month, it's appropriate to look at some **myths** about sexual assault: *Rapists are typically strangers. Rapists are often deranged or mentally ill.* The idea that sexually violent people are crazy strangers wearing ski-masks hiding in dark alleys is seductive because it allows us to feel safe as long as we lock our doors and stick to well-lit areas.

The reality is the vast majority of sexual assaults are perpetrated by individuals known to their victims. They may be friends-of-friends, neighbors, dates, cousins,

spouses, parents, teachers, coaches, therapists, or anyone else the victim knows. Because of the relationship that exists prior to the assault, victims are typically more trusting and do not "have their guard up."

Sexual assault is a rare occurrence, or only happens in urban areas.

The reality is that sexual assault occurs in both rural and urban areas. Victims often choose not to report the assault for a variety of reasons, including fear of being blamed or not believed, fear of retaliation, shame about the nature of the crime or pressure from family or friends.



Mary Fontanazza, Exec. Director

Victims in rural areas may report at even lower rates because of confidentiality concerns due to living in a smaller community.

We encourage you to learn more about sexual assault and how to keep yourself and your children safe, at www.wcasa.org.

"...the vast majority of sexual assaults are perpetrated by individuals known to their victims."

Mary Fontanazza

From the Shelter Advocates' Desk



Sometimes we are asked about stalking. Here are examples of **stalking behaviors**:

- Repeated and unwanted phone calls
- Waiting at the victim's workplace or in their neighborhood
- Spying on the individual
- Collecting information by searching public records or the victim's trash
- Cyber stalking (via the internet)
- Surveillance
- Sending romantic (candy, flowers, lingerie) or bizarre (pornography) gifts
- Stealing victim's mail
- Violation of restraining orders
- Threatening the victim with violence.

If you suspect you are the victim of a stalker, there are things you can do to protect yourself. Call the shelter at (920) 452-7640 for free, confidential help.

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