

A Time of Thanks

As we end this year, all of us at Advocates would like to **THANK YOU** for your support of the women and children, **and yes**, some men who find the courage to leave abusive relationships and begin new lives. This year Advocates had 619 active clients, an increase of 57% over 2006. The letters below are just a few we received thanking us, and all of you, who provide us with vital support through your gifts, volunteer time, and advocacy.

About a week ago, I had some food, some clothes, and my sleeping bag. I sat there contemplating how I would manage living out of my car. I have friends who offered a couch or a spare room, but I knew this would be a temporary offer and I was reluctant to bring my problems into their lives. Advocates allowed my friends to remain friends, and allowed me a safe place to begin making changes in my life. Advocates offered food, clothes and a safe place to stay. Not only were my immediate physical needs cared for but also my emotional needs were also important. One-on-one counseling, group, and discussions with other clients have proven invaluable. Even after I leave, Rosemary House Advocates will continue to help me with legal advocacy, transitional living services and referrals to other agencies and resources to assist me. Abuse strips you of your self-esteem. Advocates provides you with faith in yourself, hope and love.



From the moment I walked through Advocates' door I felt a sense of peace. It was as if my mother was welcoming me home and telling me it was okay to let my guard down. Thank you for being there.

Advocates was the best thing that ever happened to me. Advocates showed me that there is always someone to lean on; they gave me hope. I regained so much self-worth knowing I can help my children and myself. The things I learned are great tools and there is a weekly group to give me support and keep reminding me. Always having someone to talk to helps, more than people can imagine. I can do it and be strong.



The only people with whom you should try to get even are those who have helped you.

~John E. Southard

I would like to share my thoughts on how Advocates has made a difference in my life. Advocates has and still is helping my family. They provided a warm and loving environment with a wonderful staff who are always there to listen and to help no matter what problems occur with me or my children. I'm very thankful for Advocates.

Thank you for supporting us through another year!

Paper Bag Princess Luncheon and Fashion Show



Photo courtesy of News Graphic, taken by Deb Kranitz.

Maddy Kacmarik, 9, this year's Paper Bag Princess, is pictured above alongside her mother, Laura, selling raffle tickets to Laura McGourthy at the event. Nancy Byers (left) has been the chairperson of this very successful and fun event for the last eight years, raising an amazing \$43,000 this year! We would like to thank Nancy, her co-chair, Robin Dworak, their team of helpers, and generous sponsors who once again made this annual luncheon a tremendous success.

Jim Bohn

Award winning singer/songwriter

Holiday Concert

Sunday, December 9th, 2007 - 6:30 PM

Also featuring...

Ozaukee Idol Winner - Windy Hope

with special guests Anna Bohn, Norb Gries, Michael Hecker, Rick Piontek, and Tom Port

Alliance Bible Church

13939 Cedarburg Road, Mequon

Donations of new gifts will be accepted for children to give to their moms. Suggested donations include slippers, pajamas, jewelry, gift cards, socks, wallets, purses, scarves, hats gloves, etc.

JOIN A SUPPORT GROUP

Groups are open to all women and their children who need not be shelter residents or current clients. *Please call for more information.*

Domestic **V**iolence

*Tuesdays
6:30—8:00 p.m.*

*Children's Domestic
Violence Support
Group meets at the
same time. It is open
to children of all ages.*

Sexual **V**iolence

*Thursdays
6:30—8:00 p.m.*

*Children's Life Skills
Group meets at the
same time. It is open to
children of all ages.*

Teen Girls **S**exual **A**ssault

and

Secondary **S**urvivors

*Call for more
information.*

**262.284.6902 or
1.877.375.4034**



Willy Porter Benefit Concert

Willy Porter will return this year for a concert at the Cedarburg Cultural Center on Saturday, February 2, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. Porter's performance will benefit Advocates, providing funding for services to women, children, and men who are living in the midst of domestic or sexual violence.

Tickets will be \$25 in advance or \$35 at the door and will be available December 1st at all Ozaukee Bank locations in the county, directly from Advocates, or online at www.advocates-oz.org. Seating is limited so get your tickets early! If this show sells out, it is possible that a second show will be added.

*"Willy Porter's greatest songwriting attribute lies in his quietly reverberating stories."
— Billboard Magazine*

*"Milwaukee's Willy Porter is a dazzling acoustic guitarist with a moody baritone..."
— The Washington Post*

"...one of today's most dexterous acoustic axe men..." — Relix Magazine

Visit our website: www.advocates-oz.org

ADVOCATES' W I S H LIST

- ◆ TVs - 27" and 32"
- ◆ DVD/VCR combo
- ◆ 15" TV with DVD player
- ◆ DVDs – new releases rated G, PG, or PG-13
- ◆ G-rated games for Playstation
- ◆ Upright vacuum cleaner with hoses & attachments
- ◆ Gifts for teens
- ◆ Family games including ones that teens would enjoy
- ◆ Gift cards for any store or gas station
- ◆ New socks, underwear, pajamas and slippers in a variety of kid & teen sizes
- ◆ Laundry baskets, laundry soap, and dryer sheets
- ◆ Kitchen items including a deep fryer, a set of kitchen knives, silverware sets, set of pots and pans, cookie sheets, and other baking items
- ◆ Haircut certificates
- ◆ Taxi vouchers which can be purchased through Shared Ride Taxi at 284-8108
- ◆ New bras, especially larger sizes
- ◆ Pull Ups and larger size diapers

United Way Day of Caring 2007



We can always depend on the employees from Rockwell Automation to work hard when they come out on Day of Caring and this year was no exception. They spent the day on a variety of projects, including installing a new security door and digging out under the swing sets to put down a bed of rubber chips



to provide cushion for any kids' falls while playing there. They worked in the gardens, cleaned, and made a shed much more usable by applying a barrier to keep the wind and snow out.

Some of the projects on Day

of Caring were made possible due to a donation from The Home Depot in Grafton.



We are extremely grateful to the United Way volunteers who come out each year. We look forward to their friendly faces once again.



**Thanks to United Way, Rockwell Automation,
and their hardworking employees,
as well as The Home Depot!**



Anyone who knows me knows how I obsess about the health of my wonderful lab mix dog and how I mourned when I had to say good-bye to my two other animal companions because of illnesses of old age. At one time, I happily told people I had 2 kids, 2 dogs, 2 cats, and a horse. So I really do love animals and was as horrified as anyone to hear the tales of cruelty and abuse coming out of the story of Michael Vick's dog fighting saga. I'm thrilled that people responded with such horror as information was revealed.

It makes me hopeful that people will respond in the same way when once again, and it is inevitable, we hear of an athlete brutally beating his wife or girlfriend or being involved in a sexual assault. Unfortunately, the stories of domestic and sexual abuse have become so common that we seem to respond with more of a "here we go again attitude" than with the outrage that is deserved. If crimes against athletes' wives and girlfriends were seen at the same level as the dog fighting, who else wouldn't be playing in major league sports right now?

It is time for all of us to remember that domestic violence, family violence, and sexual assault are not just crimes against one innocent person but crimes against us all. They are crimes against society as a whole and they damage every aspect of our community lives. So please store that rage somewhere close so we can all champion the cause of the next crime against women that sadly but surely will come.

LINKS BETWEEN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & ANIMAL ABUSE

Each day thousands of animals are abused. When animal abuse occurs the animal is often not the only victim. A 1997 survey of the 50 largest domestic violence shelters in the U.S. found that 85% of women and 63% of children reported incidents of pet abuse within their family. (Ascione, F.R., 1997) Abusers often threaten, abuse, or kill animals in order to accomplish the following, which are the core dynamics of domestic abuse:

- To demonstrate power and confirm control over the family
- To isolate their partner and children
- To eliminate competition for attention
- To force the family to keep the violence a secret
- To teach submission
- To retaliate for acts of independence and self-determination
- To perpetuate the context of terror
- To prevent the victim from leaving or coerce him/her to return
- To punish the victim for leaving
- To degrade the victim through involvement in the abuse

Victims of domestic violence can protect their pets by establishing an emergency plan for sheltering the pets, themselves, and their children. Advocates of Ozaukee, like many shelters, utilizes area veterinary clinics to shelter pets. Victims should also obtain an animal license and proof of vaccinations in their name in order to prove ownership of the pets prior to leaving. Local law enforcement may also provide assistance if an animal is being abused or may be able to assist in reclaiming a pet that has been left behind.

If you need assistance in developing an emergency safety plan for your family and pets please call Advocates of Ozaukee at 262-284-6902 or 877-375-4034.



All the donations we receive are very much appreciated. Once in a while, though, one stands out. We were very happy to hear that three teenagers Paige Sanduski, Corey Andrus, and Kat Stuehrk, (pictured above with Mary Knetter, Sexual Violence Victim Services Director), decided to have a party to collect donations for Advocates' clients instead of receiving presents themselves! The party was done through the new service group they created at Homestead High School called R.E.A.C.H. (Rebuilding Environments and Creating Hope) whose mission is "Creating opportunities that allow students to make a positive difference in their lives and the lives of others by connecting through service." Through this and similar programs at other schools, teens can make a difference in the simplest ways. We would like to thank them for working with us to help out others in need by collecting a truckload of things for our clients.

Simple ways **YOU** can help earn extra funds for Advocates' programs!

Sentry Community Dollar Program

Collect your receipts from Sanfillippo's Sentry in Port Washington and send them to us quarterly. We will receive a check back for a percentage of the total amount collected. Please mail them to us by January 10th for the fourth quarter of 2007 rebate.



For those of you who shop at Pick 'n Save Stores with an Advantage Card, please register for the 'We Care' Program at the service desk and name Advocates of Ozaukee as the recipient of funds to be distributed.

Our number is 014750



Community Checking & You

Each year Ozaukee Bank will make a donation to all designated schools, churches, and charities, based on the average balances in Ozaukee Checking accounts as of December 31st.

Go to www.ozaukeebank.com for more information.

WELCOME TO THE BOARD!

Jorjan Loos recently joined Advocates' Board of Directors. Jorjan lives in Cedarburg and has been very active in her community over the years including being the Chairperson of the Strategic Planning Committee at Crossroads Presbyterian Church, volunteering in a Jail Ministry program for two years, and as a Career Coach for young adults. She also participated in a Habitat for Humanity build in Csurgó, Hungary in October of 2006. Advocates is very lucky to have another very compassionate person on our board.



Cell Phone Collection

You can help Advocates by collecting old cell phones from your relatives, friends, and co-workers. Some of the phones collected are distributed to Advocates' clients to call 911 if needed. The rest are recycled for cash to support our programs.

You can drop off phones at any area Ozaukee Bank or Grafton State Bank, or call us to arrange for a pick-up!



2007 Conference

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Each year during the month of October, Advocates hosts a conference to provide education and awareness surrounding issues of domestic violence and sexual assault. This year, the conference focused on Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder in women and children who have been abused. Advocates brought in Lee Shipway M.S.W., L.C.S.W. therapist and Co-Executive Director of Peaceful Solutions Counseling in Wausau, WI to speak on this subject

This conference brought together therapists, police officers, advocates, guidance counselors, and social workers who all work with survivors in different ways. We would like to thank Lee Shipway and all who attended for the great work they do with survivors of abuse.



Check us out at www.advocates-oz.org/youth

Advocates of Ozaukee recently brought live its website for the youth of Ozaukee County. The site includes information on both sexual and dating violence that can be very helpful and eye opening. The site includes a discussion board; the current information on the discussion board gives the signs of healthy v.s. abusive relationships. In addition the site gives some basic information on relationships, such as the characteristics of an abusive relationship and statistics on how prevalent these situations are.

An abusive relationship is characterized by an imbalance of power that is maintained through intimidation, coercion and violence. Over time the victim in an abusive relationship loses self-confidence and supportive relationships with friends and family members.

Numerous studies demonstrate that abuse in teenage dating relationships is common and even considered normal by many young people. Abuse can happen to anyone, at any age, no matter what their race, religion, level of education or economic background. For example:

- * 1 in 5 female students reported being physically and/or sexually abused by a dating partner.
- * Dating violence can occur in any kind of relationship. However, in 2000, the rate of violent victimization was highest among people ages 16-19.
- * Out of 2000 8th and 9th graders surveyed, 35.5% reported being a victim of at least one act of nonsexual dating violence.

Please visit Advocates at www.advocates-oz.org/youth and encourage your tweens and teens to do so also.

Advocates of Ozaukee

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www.advocates-oz.org

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Please use the enclosed envelope
to make a much-needed and
appreciated donation to help
fund our programs.



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Special thanks to the following foundations, corporations, and organizations for their tremendous support!

- Miracle on Canal Street – Potawatomi Bingo for a gift to support our children's programs.
- Greater Milwaukee Foundation - renewal of a \$20,000 gift to support our hotline and counseling for sexual assault victims.
- The Mary Kay Ash Foundation for a gift of \$20,000 to support general domestic violence programming.
- Northwestern Mutual Foundation - \$15,000 for the domestic violence program.
- R.A. Stevens for their renewed gift of \$14,000, supporting general operations and outreach.
- Randall & Susan Erickson - \$5,000 for general operations.
- Cedarburg Light and Water - \$3,000 for utility assistance.
- Pati & Jim Ericson - \$3,000 for operations.
- Rockwell Automation \$2,500 to support Advocates' outreach and education.
- McNabb & Risley for their many donations of beautiful furnishings.
- Mequon Police Association - \$2,500 for general services.
- Jane Bradley Pettit Foundation - \$2,500 for shelter operations.
- Ralph J Hurias Family Foundation - \$2,500 for domestic violence intervention and prevention.