



# Survivors, Inc.

Volume 2, Issue 4

Fall 2008

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A proud member  
of the Pennsylvania  
Coalition Against  
Domestic Violence,  
Pennsylvania Coalition  
Against Rape and The  
National Coalition  
Against Domestic  
Violence.

## Thoughts from the Executive Director

### *Survivors, Inc. receives part of a \$3 million nationwide grant from The Mary Kay Ash Charitable Foundation*

Survivors, Inc.'s Claudia House Shelter has been chosen to receive one of 150 grants awarded by a leading national anti-domestic violence organization, the Mary Kay Ash Charitable Foundation (MKACF). The \$20,000 grant will be used to complete essential repairs to ensure the shelter continues to be a resource to the community.

Shelters across this country are feeling the impact of a weak economy. According to the Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University, shelter donations are down, but the

need for services is increasing. To help make sure needs are met, the foundation started by the late Mary Kay Ash is donating a total of \$3 million in grants to shelters in all 50 states.

This grant gives much-needed cash and hope at Claudia House. The problem of domestic violence in the Adams County community isn't going away and neither is the need for funding. Programs to help battered women and their children require a lot of resources. We're grateful that the Mary Kay Ash Charitable Foundation is stepping up to the plate in helping us help families in Adams County.

According to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV), domestic violence affects 1 in every 4 women in the United States. Nationally:

- The cost of intimate partner violence exceeds \$5.8 billion each year, \$4.1 billion of which is for direct medical and mental health services;
- Boys who witness domestic violence are *twice as likely* to abuse their own partners and children when they become adults;
- 84 percent of spousal abuse victims are female.

The statistics in Pennsylvania are just as startling. According to the NCADV:

- 91,545 victims received services from the 62 local programs in Pennsylvania between June 2006 and July 2007.
- 64 women were killed as a result of domestic violence in 2006.
- 39,371 protection from abuse orders were filed in Pennsylvania in 2005.

"Claudia House has helped so many women and their families in the Adams County area. We know they will use these funds to benefit even more domestic violence survivors and their children," said Jennifer Cook, MKACF board member. "Mary Kay Ash wanted her foundation to help enrich women's lives. All the tragic stories and statistics we hear about domestic violence encourage us to do our part. We know



Terri Hamrick can be reached  
at 717-334-0589, ext. 22  
or via e-mail at:  
[terri@survivorsservices.org](mailto:terri@survivorsservices.org)

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## Survivors Staff

First, we would like to recognize Terri Hamrick's two year anniversary as the Executive Director of Survivors. Knowing that the shelter is "home" to the women and children who go through the doors, Terri's main focus has been the beautification of the Claudia House shelter. The process has not been easy, but her diligence and commitment has paid off. The shelter now has a state of the art security system, central air and an interior that is welcoming and safe for all who enter. Terri has brought efficiency, organization and professionalism to both the administrative office and the staffing of Survivors, Inc. She can often be found on her laptop, searching for and applying for every grant and fund available and as per the cover story, she isn't done yet!

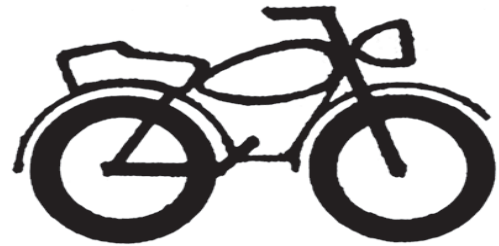
We would like to welcome Mellisa Reyes as a full time client advocate. Mellisa joined us as a part-time employee after the completion of the spring training and has recently accepted a full time position with us. Welcome Mellisa!!

Again, we are fortunate to have a student intern with us. Maria Sykes, a senior at Mount Saint Mary's, is currently taking the JARS training and is interested in participating in prevention education, event planning and victim services. "I would really like to work with victims of domestic/sexual abuse and to make a difference in society. Not everyone will escape from abusive relationships but I would like to make a difference in at least a few

We are currently looking for several key in-kind volunteer positions to assist in specific areas such as;

- Volunteer Coordinator
- Prevention Education
- Event Planner

If you are interested in any of these volunteer positions, please contact Terri Hamrick, Executive Director @ 717-334-0589 or e-mail: [terri@survivorsservices.org](mailto:terri@survivorsservices.org).



We would like to thank all of you who volunteered at the water and soda stand during 2008 Gettysburg Bike Week. Your efforts were rewarded when we received a check for \$1500 from the Gettysburg Bike Week coordinators. We thank our volunteers and a special thanks to Nora Farrel, the volunteer coordinator for GBW.

## Volunteer Spotlight

We would like to recognize Ron Gotwald in our volunteer spotlight. Ron has volunteered in various ways since his training class in 2006. Ron has given self-defense classes to the women in support groups, answered hotline and participates in training to further his knowledge and understanding in the areas of domestic violence and sexual assault. Ron recently went to an all day training for Men Against Sexual Assault and has shown interest in being a part of this new chapter. When I asked Ron what his thoughts were he said, "We are all survivors, starting at birth until the day we pass on. In the short period of time we are here helping others is what I believe we are to be doing. Things do not always turn out the way we want them too but we must not stop trying, it is all part of life's way. It is easy to look the other direction when help is needed, lets not take the easy way out, we must not loose site of empathy". Ron is a true volunteer and we are proud to have him work with us.

## Attention Teens

We are looking for teens ages 13 – 17 to participate in establishing a RYOT Against Rape chapter in Adams County. Rallying Youth Organizers Against Rape (RYOT) was started in 2003 as a statewide youth advisory board to help guide the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape's (PCAR) Teen Sexual Violence Prevention Campaign. Out of these teen focus groups PCAR was able to produce *Xpose the Truth* CD, *TeenEsteem* Magazine and the Emmy winning video "Gonna Make It."

PCAR has chosen Survivors, Inc. as one of seven agencies in the South Central Pennsylvania to assist in the development of a RYOT Against Rape chapter. RYOT empowers teens to speak out against sexual violence, educate others, and reach out to teens who have been sexually victimized.

Once the members are trained, they will be a part of educational presentations geared towards teens and public awareness on such topics as sexual harassment, sexual violence, dating violence and media exploitation. These presentations may include socio-drama, music, poetry and other innovative techniques, all driven by the teens themselves. You can check out more on RYOT by going on the web @ [www.teenpcar.org](http://www.teenpcar.org) and hit the RYOT tab.

### JARS Training Class

#### Justice, Autonomy, Restoration and Safety

Survivors, Inc has many opportunities to volunteer and serve our clients and their families. In order to volunteer with Survivors, Inc you must complete a 64 hour sexual assault/domestic violence counselor advocate training. The fall class is currently underway and will be completed on October 25th. The next scheduled training class is February 7th through March 28th from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 pm.



Now that school is back in session our prevention education schedule is filling up fast. Several programs are available for grades K – 12 with age appropriate curriculum. For K – 2 we have *10 Things to Do Instead of Hitting* which helps the children realize that being angry is okay but hitting is not okay. They are given 10 strategies for handling anger in non-destructive ways. For grades 3 – 4, the program *Real Kids: Handling Anger* which focuses on appropriate and inappropriate ways to handle their anger.

For the grades 5 – 6, *Gum in My Hair, How to Cope With a Bully*, gives the children 5 techniques which help them cope with bullying behavior. This is an innovative way to handle a common problem. The children will practice these techniques through role plays and discussion.

Ongoing presentations for 7 – 12<sup>th</sup> grades are available for teachers, health teachers and guidance counselors to request. Our prevention education offers programs on such topics as; bullying, sexual harassment, dating violence, statutory rape and cyber bullying.

*For information on the programs, presentations or community groups please contact, Dawn Edwards, Community Education Specialist at 717-334-9777 or e-mail; [dawn@survivorsservices.org](mailto:dawn@survivorsservices.org).*

## Getting Involved . . .

On August 21<sup>st</sup> five men were brought together under one cause, to change the odds and take a stand against sexual violence. It was the first meeting for the Adams County MASV task force, an initiative of Survivors, Inc. and Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape.

The meeting opened with introductions and although from varying backgrounds and occupations, all were there for social change. Those represented included a senior at Gettysburg College, an adult probation officer, a retired physician and a long-time volunteer of Survivors, Inc. The meeting was co-facilitated by Jesse Miller, Program Coordinator of NOVIS (Non Violence Intervention Services) and Dawn Edwards, Community Education Specialist of Survivors, Inc.

The mission of MASV includes two components:

1. Engaging, educating, and reculturing men to recognize and put an end to behavior patterns that encourage, propagate, and support a culture of rape and sexual violence.
2. Expansion of services available to male victims of sexual assault ranging in age from youth to adult.

*"It is exciting to be a part of a group of men who are taking steps toward addressing the horrific problem of violence against women in our society. This is only one of the baby steps to the cultural shifts that need to take place for true change to happen, but this is a great movement to be a part of!" Jesse Miller, NOVIS.*

If you are interested in being a part of the local MASV chapter, contact us for the location and time of our next meeting.

### Take a Stand Take the Pledge

#### I understand . . .

- **That what I do and say can either encourage or discourage stereotypes that can lead to sexual violence.**
- **That sexual violence can happen to anyone.**
- **That men and women are victims of sexual violence.**
- **That sexual violence can be prevented.**
- **That the overwhelming number of sexual offenders are men.**
- **That real men don't use their power to rape.**
- **That men must play a critical role in breaking the cycle of sexual violence.**

#### So, I promise . . .

- **To take a stand and never commit, condone, accept, or stay silent about sexual violence.**
- **To challenge other men to recognize that they can be powerful without making others powerless.**
- **To encourage all men to work together with women, using their collective voices and resources to END sexual violence – not only in Pennsylvania but across the nation.**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

**Please sign and return this pledge card to  
Survivors, Inc.  
P.O. Box 3572  
Gettysburg, PA 17325**

*Continued from cover story*

### Wish List

New towels and washcloth sets

Two computer desks

Computer tower for the children's room

Twin sheets sets

Twin mattress covers

Paper products

Curtains

With the holidays right around the corner the need for gift cards from WalMart, clothing stores, gas cards and phone cards are always appreciated.

### Special Request

*We are in need of a pickup truck, in fair condition, for the purpose of picking up donations and to assist in relocation of those we serve. Thank you.*

Claudia House/Survivors, Inc. will use these funds to stop domestic violence, and provide help and hope to battered women and children in the Adams County area.”

#### *About the Mary Kay Ash Charitable Foundation*

The Mary Kay Ash Charitable Foundation was created in 1996 and its mission is two-fold: to fund research of cancers affecting women and help prevent domestic violence while raising awareness of the issue. Since the Foundation's inception, it has awarded nearly \$18 million to shelters and programs addressing domestic violence and \$10.8 million to cancer researchers and related causes throughout the United States. To learn more about the Mary Kay Ash Charitable Foundation, log on to [www.mkacf.org](http://www.mkacf.org) or call 1-877-MKCARES (652-2737).

### Help End Domestic Abuse

**For the month of October when you schedule an appointment with your Independent Beauty Consultant with Mary Kay cosmetics, you will be benefiting Survivors, Inc. of Adams County.**

**Contact Colleen Tindall to schedule with a beauty consultant closest to you  
717-357-1527 or email: [catindall@marykay.com](mailto:catindall@marykay.com)**

### Domestic Violence Task Force

The Adams County DVTF meets the second Friday of every month from 11:30am-1pm in the Children and Youth Services conference room in the Gettysburg Courthouse. If you are interested in participating in the DVTF you may contact the co-chairs, Kate Colgan the supervisor of Direct Services ([kate@survivorsservices.org](mailto:kate@survivorsservices.org)) or Jesse Miller, Program Director of NOVIS ([novis@planetcable.net](mailto:novis@planetcable.net))

## Domestic Violence Awareness Month

The first Domestic Violence Awareness Month was held in October of 1987 and in that same year the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV) established the first national toll-free hotline. In 1989, the first National Domestic Violence Awareness Month Commemorative Legislation was passed by the United States Congress. In support agreement with this, Adams County Commissioners have declared a proclamation that Adams County also observes October as DVAM.

Throughout the month, Survivors, Inc. will be honoring the victims who have fallen as a result of domestic violence. On Wednesday, October 1<sup>st</sup> at 9:00 a.m. in the courthouse, the commissioners will be signing the proclamation for Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Adams County.

On Friday, October 3 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m., there will be informational tables at Lincoln Square and Ragged Edge in Gettysburg.

On Wednesday, October 8th from 3 - 5 PM, Mount Saint Mary's College is recognizing DVAM with "Walk a Mile in Her Shoes", White Ribbon campaign and Empty Place at The Table.

On Friday, October 15<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m., in the Gettysburg College ballroom Survivors will be the host of Domestic Violence Awareness Night. Please cut out the announcement on this page for a reminder to join us for the evening.

Throughout the month, you may notice the Silent Witness display at various locations; the courthouse, YWCA, Gettysburg College Library, Gettysburg Hospital. The Silent Witness exhibit features life-size red silhouettes that outline individual stories of victims and also a black male silhouette for those who commit suicide after committing homicide.

In honor of DVAM, you are encouraged to support the victims of domestic violence either through your local agency or through other programs which benefit victims.

### *Domestic Violence Awareness Night*

*Wednesday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008  
6 – 8 PM*

*Gettysburg College Union Building  
Ballroom*

*Join Survivors, Inc. in celebration  
for those who have survived  
domestic violence and to honor  
those who have suffered and died at  
the hands of their abusers. The  
evening will include performances  
from Encore Star Productions and  
three Gettysburg College choirs;  
Four Scores, Drop the Octave and  
Upscale. There will be community  
awards and honorary recognition.*

*Refreshments and hors d'oeuvres  
are being provided by The Campus  
Kitchen at Gettysburg College.  
Childcare is provided.*

## Our Story . . .

written by Jennifer Collins

My brother and I were abused children who were failed by the American Justice System. Remarkably our mother, a former battered woman, found the courage to rescue us. We fled to Europe where we received asylum in the Netherlands.

In 1992 custody of my brother (9) and I (7) were reversed to our abusive father because my mother denied visitation. In 1994 she 'kidnapped' us back and went underground. We fled the United States and were apprehended in The Netherlands for having inadequate traveling documentation. After living in refugee camps for 3 years, we were finally granted asylum in 1997. We have been living (in secrecy) in Europe for 13 years. In May 2007 we were discovered by the United States Federal Bureau of Investigation. The American authorities are trying to have our mother extradited back to the United States as a common criminal, but the Dutch government has refused. {We are trying to get the charges dismissed so we can return home safely to the United States of America.}



My brother is 24 and I am 22. We are the "victims!" We want to be heard! We don't think that our mother should be punished nor silenced any longer. We want to expose the injustice, help rectify the inadequacies of family court and find a way to insure the protection of bruised and beaten children.

First we need to help our own mother who faces criminal charges for protecting us. Surely it is an affirmative defense that she reasonably believed that she was protecting us, when the judge even found in a court order that my father was abusive!

It is truly amazing that this shy, insecure, defeated, battered, young woman was the first American to receive asylum in Europe! It is embarrassing that our country fails to protect the most vulnerable citizens! Things need to change! We need to make a difference!

Sincerely,  
Jennifer

We slipped mom notes in my mom's pockets during visitation which said the same thing over and over again:

*"HELP ME!*

*Come Get Us!*

*Mommy, don't you want us anymore?"*

TERRIFIC NEWS – On September 22, Holly Collins returned to Minneapolis to answer the charges against her for fleeing the country 14 years ago to keep her children safe. The District Attorney dismissed the felony charge of custodial interference. Instead, Holly plead guilty to contempt of court. As Holly said later in an interview, she admits to having contempt for a court that failed to protect her children. After Holly's story was featured on Stop Family Violence webpage more than 8000 activists sent messages urging that the charges against her be dropped. This was truly long overdue but justice was finally been served. *Welcome home Holly and family!*

To read more about Holly Collins and her case go to; [www.stopfamilyviolence.org](http://www.stopfamilyviolence.org).

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 Anonymous Donor  
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 Carrie-Ann Barrow  
 Mary Baskerville  
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 Yvonne Fair  
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 Carl Frantz  
 Fun In The Sun  
 Gates & Gates, PC  
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 Green Acres  
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 HACC  
 Linda Hall  
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United Way of Central  
 Maryland  
 Upper Adams United  
 Methodist Church  
 VNA Home Health Care  
 Sandi D. Viands  
 Joddie Walker  
 Donald E. Weaver  
 Women of the ELCA  
 Zion United Church of Christ

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## Stay Informed . . . and vote

### Legislative Corner

Highlighted below are a few pending legislative issues that are of interest and could be of significant benefit to those who are impacted by battering and sexual violence.

**SR 245-** Proposing Study of the Secondary Effects of Sexually Oriented Businesses- this bill would direct the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to prepare a report on the potentially secondary effects of sexually oriented adult businesses on communities in the Commonwealth. SR 245 could possibly look at the often unintended and detrimental impact of proposed 'sin taxes' or 'pole taxes' on the workers- many ladies who have or are currently are experiencing domestic violence or sexual assault.

**Proposed Bill-** Assault by Strangulation- This would raise the recommendation and sentencing matrix for strangulation from simple assault to a stronger penalty.

**HB 2726** Bill to Prevent Unauthorized Access to Electronic (Phone) Records – this bill will close an unfortunate loop hole in cell phone billing and records.

**SB1400/HB2600-** Pennsylvania Housing Affordability and Rehabilitation Enhancement Act (PHARE)- legislation that amends the existing Housing Finance Agency Law to develop programs to build rehabilitate and preserve homes for low to moderate income individuals and families, seniors and people with disabilities.

### **UPDATE- Victims of Crime Act**

The VOCA Cap issue continues, with a strong need for advocacy. Survivors, Inc. utilizes VOCA funds for the hotline and legal advocacy. With the current cap, and the proposed costs that allowed to come in under the cap, PA will incur significant cuts, and services to victims across the state will be impacted adversely if Congress fails to restore vital federal dollars to help thousands of crime victims across Pennsylvania.

This act, passed in 1984 under President Ronald Reagan, created the Victims of Crime Act Fund, commonly referred to as VOCA. VOCA uses dollars derived from fines and penalties on offenders at the federal level to provide financial support to victim assistance programs. Nationwide, nearly four million victims of crime are served by more than 4,000 local and state victim service agencies funded by VOCA each year. These funds provide support, counseling and other services to victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, child abuse, elder abuse, survivors of homicide, and many more.

While the amount in this fund fluctuates from year to year, since it relies on offender penalties and fines, Congress created a special reserve of VOCA dollars to use in leaner budget times to ensure its stability for years to come.

However, in 2007, funding for VOCA was cut by \$35 million, despite higher than expected deposits into the fund from the previous year. That same year, Pennsylvania's allocation was \$14.6 million – down almost 8 percent from 2006. This year, our share is now down to \$12 million – that's a nearly 18 percent decrease from 2007 figures, and a 26 percent overall cut in funds, compared to VOCA dollars Pennsylvania received in 2006. At the same time that state allocations of VOCA dollars are being cut, the actual VOCA fund itself continues to grow. The US Department of Justice estimates that by the end of 2008, the fund will reach more than \$2 billion dollars. Adding more insult to injury: victims in Pennsylvania are worse off this year than in previous years, due to these continued cuts to programs and services.

Further cuts to VOCA could have an adverse impact in other human service areas. Unaddressed trauma among victims of crime could lead to increased demand on services for drug and alcohol treatment. This could lead to government paying even more for other treatment services and programs. In addition, victim advocates and volunteers – those who provide these essential, life-saving services to victims — will become discouraged, and could possibly leave the field altogether.

It is time that Washington remembers its promise to victims, made more than twenty years ago, to protect them and provide the vital support to programs to help them heal in the aftermath of crime. While the caps placed on VOCA have been successful in ensuring a stable level of funding for the future, the actions by Congress in recent years in reducing the amount of financial support to these centers has been substantial.

Congress must be urged to support a cap on VOCA of \$770 million, not the \$590 million cap that has been proposed by the Bush Administration. This amount will ensure that victim service providers will continue to offer counseling, treatment and referral services victims of crime need and deserve.

Victim service providers and volunteers should be concentrating their efforts on helping victims heal...and less on fighting for funds to keep their doors open.

Survivors supports those who experience domestic violence or sexual assault and strives to create a world in which violence against women and children is unthinkable.

Survivors, Inc.  
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We are on the web!  
[www.survivorsservices.org](http://www.survivorsservices.org)



Donations are welcomed by Visa/MasterCard or check made payable to Survivors, Inc.: \_\_\_\_\_\$25 \_\_\_\_\_\$50 \_\_\_\_\_Other

Name (as it appears on card)  
\_\_\_\_\_

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The official registration and financial information of Survivors, Inc. may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free (800)732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement. Our registration number is 3789.

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