

SafeNet NEWS

SafeNet Center Counseling, Education, Legal Advocacy, & Hospitality House Emergency Shelter

UPCOMING EVENTS

Garden Party in the BBY – August 14, 2015 from 7-10 pm in the 200 block of East 9th St.

Erie Gives — August 11, 2015 go online at www.eriegives.org

100 Women Ruby Slippers 2
Fall 2015, location TBD

Boo Run — October 25, 2015 at Presque Isle State Park

WISHLIST

Thank you to the readers who fulfilled the wish list from the March 2015 newsletter. We appreciate your generosity.

The Wish list for this newsletter includes:

Books:

- Why Does He Do That by Lundy Bancroft
- The Gift of Fear by Gavin De Becker
- Walking Prey by Holly Austin Smith

We use these books regularly. We also give them to clients so we will request them often.

DVDs:

- Gaslight
- Sleeping with the Enemy

Items needed for shelter:

- Single sheet sets
- Blankets & comforters
- Bath towels/hand towels
- Wash cloths
- Pillows
- Toiletries/bath and body
- Toothpaste/toothbrushes
- Pack & play fitted sheets

Outdoor needs:

- Plants and particularly spring/summer bulbs for Rain Garden and Big Backyard

Where Do Homeless Young Mothers Go?

Sometimes all that's needed is a little TLC.

Since 1990, at SafeNet “TLC” stands for Transitional Living Center. This is a residence for homeless young mothers, ages 16-21, who are already parenting no more than one child or who are in the third trimester of pregnancy.



Teenage mothers who come to SafeNet face unique challenges. Often many have dropped out of school. They may lack basic education, work history, life experience, and life skills. In addition, they have the responsibility of an infant or young child. These mothers need nurturing, structure, and a plan for the future.

TLC provides a secure, stable, supportive living environment and offers residents counseling and weekly individual case advocacy. Also offered are parenting and educational group meetings; life skills and healthy relationship instruction; information and referrals to access community resources, as well as assistance in obtaining permanent housing.

But how did TLC start at SafeNet?

In providing services for domestic violence parents, SafeNet realized the need for this underserved population and wanted to do something to help.

In 1989 Wayside Presbyterian Church congregants joined in the cause and agreed to address this problem as their mission for the year. The McKinney Homeless Assistance Fund aided in substantial renovation of two properties adjacent to shelter. The first was donated by Mary Ann and Paul Brugger.

Wayside provided substantial matching funds and volunteer service, including planning. The TLC facilities are attached to shelter, thereby providing safety and security without the investment of additional staff for overnight and weekends. Then Congressman Tom Ridge cut the ribbon in 1990 and supported the project as a way to address the generational cycle of poverty which often begins with teen pregnancy.



Eligible individuals are those young women, who are self-motivated and goal-oriented, who are seeking to obtain safe, affordable permanent housing for their families and are

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SafeNet's Mission Statement

SafeNet is committed to ending domestic violence, affirming human dignity and delivering comprehensive direct services to victims of domestic violence. SafeNet provides sanctuary, support, education, advocacy, and promotes changes in legislation and social policies. We believe every individual has the right to be respected and to live a life free from abuse.

What is PFACS



Protection from Abuse Coordinated Services

Trying to get free from a domestic violence situation can be a difficult journey. For many people, an important step is getting a Protection From Abuse Order from the courts. Housed at SafeNet, PFACS is a separate nonprofit 501(c)3 organization which provides preparation of PFA documentation, legal representation and options counseling. The program guides hundreds of victims through the PFA process each year.

Some victims of domestic violence hire a private attorney to help them; but the majority seeking protection from abuse file with no legal assistance.

Incredibly, 795 people requested PFAs in Erie County in 2014. The staff at the PFA office in the courthouse can legally provide clerical assistance only. So those filing on their own may have many

*We Seek Justice, Autonomy, Restoration,
and Safety for Victims of Domestic Violence
Through Legal Services.*

unanswered questions about how to prepare for their court appearance and what exactly a PFA can and can't do to protect them.

To address this problem, PFACS and the Junior League of Erie created a video, detailing the PFA processes for Erie County to answer procedural questions. To view this video, go to the PFACS website, www.pfacs.org.

Victims may access PFACS services directly through an appointment or walk in at 1702 French, Erie. They can also be referred by any system or organization. A legal advocate is available at 1702 French to assist with preparing the petition and to accompany the victim to court for the initial hearing. A PFACS or contracted attorney is available to represent the victim at the final hearing.



Where Do Homeless Young Mothers Go?

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dedicated to becoming self-sufficient members of the community. These young women must also be willing to enroll in an educational program if they do not have a high school diploma or GED. All TLC residents must be in an educational program or be employed for a minimum of 20 hours each week.

This semi-communal project, which can house six mothers and six children, emphasizes literacy and basic life skills. In this program, completing an educational program is a priority. Some residents, who came as high school drop outs, were able to complete professional degrees because of TLC!

Bridging the GAP with LECOM



Danielle Zachar

Since 2002, clients at SafeNet have benefited from LECOM's Bridging the Gaps Community Health Internship Program (BTG CHIP). In this 7-week program, first year medical students are placed at social service agencies to assist the underserved.

"BTG seeks to provide service to those individuals most

vulnerable in terms of health; those for whom services are often limited, difficult to access, or non-existent. Our students provide a unique perspective as physicians in training to each site by assisting the staff in conveying information and encouraging individuals to live more healthy lives." (Sarah McCarthy, Director of BTG)

Each student is responsible for developing a new project that benefits the nonprofit they serve. Projects may include physical health, oral health, mental health, and maternal, infant and child health.

In 2014, Danielle Zachar was assigned to SafeNet. She

originates from Farrell, PA, and is a graduate of Gannon University. Her primary project was to develop and implement an emotional wellness/stress management curriculum for SafeNet clients. She also created an interviewing-skills workbook and volunteered at SafeNet's Big Birthday party in the Big Backyard.

Danielle returned on her own time in October to volunteer at SafeNet's Halloween party. This was over and above the requirements of the program.

Projects done by other interns focused on nutrition, oral health, cooking groups for kids and

adults, and the development of healthy recipe manuals.

"Bridging the Gaps is a fantastic program that allows our medical students to interact with the community on a more personal level. We hope this experience helps our students become more compassionate and understanding physicians in the future" noted McCarthy.



SafeNet Plays Scrabble

It was truly a night of good food, good fun, and good-natured frustration at the Ambassador on March 23, 2015.

SafeNet's (and Erie's) first ever Scrabble Tournament was a big hit. 275 guests enjoyed scrumptious appetizers, massive Chinese and silent auctions and playing America's favorite word game.

There was an eclectic makeup of guests! Young and old, men and women, corporate tables, and tables of friends were all guests at Scrabble.

The method of play used by SafeNet was unique. Each table of ten played as one team, using one game board. Half the table was side "A" and half side "B". They played as if they were 2 players. The total table score was then combined and used to compare to the scores from the other tables. After 2 rounds of play, a winner was chosen.

This provided collaboration and excitement. Guests were standing over their teammates shoulders throughout the tournament yelling out words. Some teams were VERY competitive.

While there was much excitement, strategizing, and thoughtful game-playing among the teams, the winning table had a regular "Words with Friends" player which might have helped them. The winning team included friends Kathleen Horan, Marilyn Renkes, Kathy Dammeyer, Jane and Tom Yusavage, Judi Lambertson, Frank Grzegorzewski, Jeanne Phillips, Phyllis R zodkiewicz and Barb Keim.

They now have bragging rights for one year!

Kathy Dammeyer's daughter Anne (whose team came in 2nd place) is already gunning for an upset next year. The good-natured rivalry between mother and daughter should provide for an additional level of entertainment in 2016!

SafeNet wishes to thank our media sponsors, the Erie Times-News/GoErie.com and JET TV/Fox 66/YourErie.com, our venue sponsor Scott Enterprises, the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority and our many friends and host sponsors. For a complete list of sponsors, go to our website, www.safeneterie.org.

Thanks, too, to the fabulous 10 chefs who prepared delicious hors d'oeuvres as their donation, to the donors who provided prizes for the winners, and to the many Chinese and silent auction donors. They are all listed on our website.

Because of this unmatched generosity, SafeNet raised over \$28,000 to benefit the children's programs.

The success of this event was also thanks to a wonderfully talented planning committee, which included Noel Burgoyne, Geri Cicchetti, Susan Furr, Molly Herr, Krista Ott, Amy Pound, Kelly Reams, Mary Schmidt and Cheryl Vicary.

Thank you to all who made this possible.



Cindy Hessinger and Susie McAllister strategize intensely.



PFACS volunteer Chad Vilushis (standing), his wife Amy, Donnie Schmidt, and Brett Swanson help their team play a word.



The Scrabble Tournament provided a night of good food, good fun, and good-natured frustration for 275 guests!

Photo Gallery



Nina Wroblewski (center) designed Easter Baskets for SafeNet Children. Employees (L-R) Erika Muhammad and Sue Kuliowski admire Nina's handiwork.



Penn State Behrend students (L-R) Robert Rutkowski, Joseph Rock, Andrew Dick and Nursazlin Sidek gave Geri Cicchetti \$2043 from their Celebrity Bartending event.



Millcreek students create pillow cases in sewing class for SafeNet.



Students and teachers from St. Benedict's Child Development Center participated in SafeNet's Pinwheels for Prevention.



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www.safeneterie.org



Erie's Only Accredited
Domestic Violence Agency



SafeNet Selling Country Fair Coupon Books

Country Fair, in celebration of their 50th Anniversary, printed coupon books for local nonprofits to sell.

SafeNet was given 200 coupons books to sell at \$5 each with the \$1,000 in proceeds going to SafeNet.

The coupons are for \$25 worth of discounts on coffee, snacks, sandwiches and drinks. The coupons expire August 31, 2015. To get your coupon books, call SafeNet at (814) 455-1774.

Please Remember **SafeNet** during **Erie Gives 2015**

On August 11, 2015, SafeNet will once again participate in Erie Gives Day.

How does it work? It's simple.

From 8 a.m. to 8 p.m on August 11, friends can go to the website, www.eriegives.org, to make an online gift to SafeNet. The Erie Community Foundation will then match a percentage of each donation made. The more donations made to a nonprofit, the more matching funds that nonprofit will receive.

And here's the easiest part. You can go online today at www.eriegives.org and ask for a reminder email. When you do, an email will be sent to you on August 11, 2015, reminding you to make your gift. Simple.

The minimum gift is \$25 and there is no maximum. Visa, Master Card and Discover will be accepted and donors will receive an email receipt of their gift for tax purposes.

Last year, SafeNet friends donated a record setting \$33,778.80 during Erie Gives 2014 and SafeNet received the 10th highest dollar amount of donations from 316 nonprofits!

Thank you to our SafeNet friends and please remember SafeNet for Erie Gives 2015!

