

SafeNet NEWS

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

Roar on the Shore



Helping Our Children's Garden Bloom

Motorcycle enthusiasts from far and wide will cruise into Erie this summer for the 2010 **Roar on the Shore** bike rally. The event, now in its fourth year, will draw thousands of riders to the area for three days of scenic rides, concerts, contests, bike displays, and camaraderie. There also will be a parade of motorcycles stretching from I-90 to the Bay-front led by a celebrity grand marshal.

Roar on the Shore was started in 2007 by the **Manufacturer & Business Association** and the **Erie-Western Pennsylvania Port Authority**. Fun and exciting from the get go, the event also serves as a community fundraiser, generating a significant amount of money each year for a local charity.

Last year, Roar on the Shore raised over \$50,000 to help soldiers returning

from Iraq and their families. This year, we are thrilled SafeNet's **Big Backyard Children's Garden** has been chosen as the event's charitable cause.

Look for Roar on the Shore in rumble into town **July 15-17**. The hub of action will be Perry Square and downtown State Street. This year's concert headliner will be southern rock band **Molly Hatchet**, widely known for their hit song *Flirtin' With Disaster*. They will perform in Perry Square on Saturday night, July 17 at 9 p.m.



Lots more entertainment is planned throughout the three-day rally. Check www.roarontheshore.com online for everything that's happening.

During the event, SafeNet will have a booth in Perry Square and will need many volunteers to hand out information. If you can help, please call Rick Liebel at 814-455-1774.

Today motorcyclists come from every walk of life and every social and economic level, so the stereotypes of the past no longer apply. Some of the most generous groups, in fact, are comprised of bikers, who significantly contribute to worthwhile causes in communities like ours every year.

We are so grateful to the organizers, sponsors, and everyone participating in Roar on the Shore. Because of you, our Children's Garden will blossom and give kids from abusive households a safe place to play, learn, and heal in ways only nature can bestow.

At any given time, children make up 50% of the victims of domestic violence in our shelter and counseling programs.

Some are physically abused at home. Others have been traumatized seeing their mother beaten right before their eyes.

Our goal every day is to help children find positive ways to work out their sadness and anger; to help them gain self-confidence; and give them a safe, comfortable environment where they can relax and be themselves.

Your support of our garden project will go a long way toward helping these children heal physically and emotionally. Like spring following winter, kids who are hurting will see in nature that beautiful possibilities can follow a difficult time.

—Thank you!

AGAINST ALL ODDS: Young Mom Strives for Success

Not long ago, Carla and her 10-month-old son were living with other family members in a chaotic household where both physical abuse and criminal activity were part of every day life. Carla was just 17 herself. She hoped for things to get better though they never did.

It would take courage to leave. She knew she had to find a safe place where she and her baby could live. But without a steady income and an infant to care for, where would she go?

Her search led her to SafeNet's Transitional Living Center (TLC). The program offers residential and supportive services to young women, 16 to 21 years old, who are pregnant or parenting. The women must also be homeless. Or compelled by circumstances to leave home. In Carla's case, it was for the safety of her child.

In the months that followed, Carla was able to go back to high school and even maintain a part-time job because of the stability and support TLC provided. She also participated in TLC education sessions, which focused on parenting, money management and other daily living skills.

Carla was linked to community resources that further increased her self-sufficiency. She also received help from TLC in her efforts to find permanent housing. After a year's time, she moved into her own apartment, "making a dream come true," she says.

Since then, Carla has graduated from high school. She attended a Health Careers Camp at the Mercyhurst North East campus and was awarded a \$2,000 nursing scholarship. She is currently taking college courses at Mercyhurst while raising her son who also is doing very well.

Carla says while at TLC, "I learned that I am loved and valued. That's really made a lasting difference in my life."

I learned that I am loved and valued...



Special thanks to the employees of Asera Care for their donation. Picture from left are Holli King, Jennifer Maloney, SafeNet CEO Linda King, and Vicky Wieder.

This is a true story. The name has been changed to protect the identity of the young woman and her child.

People...

SafeNet CEO Linda King was awarded the Liberty Bell Award at the Erie County Bar Association Law Day Luncheon. The award is bestowed each year by the local bar association to someone who is not a lawyer, yet has strengthened the American system of freedom under law. Congratulations Linda!



Our 4th Annual Chili Cook-off in February raised an amazing \$15,000! The Judges' Choice award-winner was the team from the Bayfront Grille at the Sheraton Hotel (pictured above). Judges for the event were Cassandra Garrison from WJET-TV, Gannon University Provost Keith Taylor, and Zoo Guy Scott Mitchell. The People's Choice award went to Brewerie of Union Station. Contratulations to the winners and sincere thanks to everyone who participated and attended the event, making it such a huge success.

We Salute Our Property Volunteers

Area students, members of fraternities, and church groups donate thousands of hours each year helping maintain the buildings and grounds of SafeNet's campus. **Freshman Days at Mercyhurst College** brings us a couple dozen willing workers to clean grass from parking areas and rake and trim our landscaping. **Gannon's Give Day** is another contributor of large numbers of enthusiastic volunteers who tackle heavy outdoor work. Twenty local high school students from **Villa Maria Academy** and **Cathedral Prep** spent 5 hours on our campus on a recent weekday. An amazing amount was accomplished from washing vehicles and mulching the rain garden to organizing our used-clothing closet.

Churches have been part of our volunteer workforce since we began 35 years ago. **Grace Baptist** has chosen SafeNet as one of its ServErie causes.



How lucky we are. This dynamic group has electricians, plumbers, carpenters, gardeners and many willing hands to help.

Any list of our property volunteers would not be complete without mention of the Pikes. The **PI Kappa Alpha fraternity at Gannon** has adopted SafeNet and regularly helps out. One recent Saturday the fraternity sent 32 volunteers. They built saw horses, painted apartments, ripped out carpeting, created a metal traffic barrier, then removed a huge dirt pile by hand and sorted through the debris!

We are so grateful to each person who gives their time to help us maintain our property. We also appreciate the our staff members — **Jerry Brace and Don-**

na Kindle — who make this engine work and give up a lot of Saturdays to coordinate these efforts.

When asked to quantify the value of our property volunteers service over a year's time, we know it adds up to tens of thousands of dollars. But we also know their help give keeps our buildings secure and women and children safe. Moreover, the proper upkeep of our facilities and grounds imparts a sense of dignity to the victims of domestic violence. In this way their gift is priceless.

Thank you all for your truly appreciated contribution.

In The News



Rose Barr has been named Program Supports Coordinator for TLC PLUS. She is developing and managing programs that assist people living in SafeNet's transitional housing plus those trying to establish a permanent residence after being homeless. Previously, Rose worked at Family Services. She also managed Project Connect, which supplies donated home furnishings to people in need. She continues to coordinate

Project Connect in her new position at SafeNet.

Jessica Edmunds, a graduate from Allegheny College, is working at SafeNet through the Volunteer in Service to America program (VISTA). While at Allegheny she earned her degree in Psychology with a minor in Value Ethics & Social Action. Her focus at SafeNet has been on developing a Whole Mother/Whole Child mentoring program connecting young mothers and their children with college students.



Attorney Patrick Kelley has joined our staff as our new Civil Legal Representation lawyer. Patrick earned his bachelors degree in Labor Studies & Industrial Relations at Penn State and his law degree at Cleveland-Marshall College of Law in Cleveland. He then opened a private practice in Erie, focusing on criminal defense and domestic relations. At SafeNet, he will continue to represent clients in matters of custody, support and divorce. Patrick is chair of the Erie County Bar Young Lawyers Division, and is a Certified Collaborative Law Practitioner in the area of divorce.



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Please Remember The Victims Of Domestic Violence When Planning Your Estate

SafeNet has established the **Family Violence Prevention Fund** as a way for you to leave a legacy of hope for victims of domestic violence.

Our fund covers a critical area of our mission — programs to help children from abusive households. It also helps with ongoing property maintenance, which is essential the dignity and safety of the abused women and children in our care.

Get your copy of our **Legacy of Hope** brochure by calling SafeNet Center at 814-455-1774. It will give you and your attorney or financial advisor all the facts.



Other Fun Summer Happenings

In addition to Roar on the Shore, mark your calendars for SafeNet's **4th Annual Poker Run** on **June 20** and our **Downtown Block Party** by Scully's Pub on **August 26**.

We're also making plans for our big **Summer Party** on **July 31**. The party will take place at Hagerty's Bar and

Dinor located at 1930 W. 26th St. We'll have music, free pizza, tacos, Greek dogs, burgers and beverages. Plus you'll have chances to win gift baskets, gift certificates, \$100 gas cards and our top prize — a 32-inch LCD HDTV!

The community hosts for our celebration will be **Greg Karle**, **Ernie Scutella**, and **Dave and Mary Lombardozi**. The fun will start at 5 p.m. and continue to 11 p.m. Proceeds will benefit activities and counseling for children in our Hospitality House Emergency Shelter.

Buy a Brick Help Create Our Children's Garden



Send your donation today in the gift envelope provided in this newsletter. Thank you!

4"x 6" Stepping Stone - \$50

Two lines of text with up to 10 characters per line (including spaces, numbers and punctuation marks).

YOUR NAME
HERE

7"x 7" Stepping Stone - \$75

Four lines of text with up to 9 characters per line (including spaces, numbers and punctuation marks).
OR your company logo.

WRITE
YOUR
MESSAGE
HERE

8"x 13" Stepping Stone - \$150

Four lines of text with up to 15 characters per line (including spaces, numbers and punctuation marks).

JOY IS A
FLOWER
THAT BLOOMS
WHEN YOU DO...

Questions?
Call 455-1774

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