

SafeNet

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



During the course of improving our shelter, a great new way to help children at SafeNet presented itself: We were able to acquire a number of lots adjoining our property. Together these lots will allow us to create a **Big Backyard Children's Garden** where kids can safely play, learn, and heal in ways only nature can bestow.—Any way we can improve our ability to comfort and help children from violent homes is always worthwhile and welcomed.

Find out more ►

Helen Klauk *Dedicated Her Life To Helping Others*

Everyone at SafeNet was deeply saddened by the death of Helen Klauk in May. Helen dedicated her life to helping others, always putting them before herself.

Helen was an important part of our agency since the early 1970's. She was there almost from the start when SafeNet's Hospitality House opened and was one of the first refuges in the United States for women in need and their children.

Helen served on our board of directors from 1975 until 2005, including five years as president. Throughout that time, she supported many new projects that met the diverse needs of battered women and children such as helping establish SafeNet's Bridge House, one of the first transitional housing facilities for women in the state.

Helen also volunteered a full day each week as a trained domestic violence counselor for more than 25 years at our emergency shelter. She even brought fresh vegetables and flowers to

the shelter in the summer from her husband Herman's garden—little gifts to nourish the body and spirit. In the winter, Helen was known to come to her volunteer job even before the snow plows got through.

Helen treated her volunteer service every season of the year as a dedicated professional treats her job—the commitment always came first. She volunteered thousands of hours and spoke millions of words of comfort and encouragement. She had a genuine understanding of the needs of abused women and children in crisis.

Helen last volunteered at our shelter answering hotline calls just two weeks before she died.

Helen not only cared for others—she respected them. That respect extended to every victim of domestic violence who came to our door as well as to every member of our staff, board, and team of volunteers.



Helen Catherine Klauk
1922-2009



Helen Klauk will be long remembered by those she helped and those she inspired. Erie is a

better place, and in fact, Pennsylvania is a better place to live today because of her kindness and strength of character that truly made a difference. Thank you Helen for everything. We will miss you dear friend.

Big Backyard Children's Garden

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.

Nature Restores And Heals

Our **Big Backyard Children's Garden** will be a place where kids can be happy. Is there anything that engages a child's attention and imagination more than water, sand, mud, rain, clouds, birds, butterflies and plants?

Children who spend time outside are refreshed and calmer. Plus they benefit from vigorous physical activity and can enjoy moments of wonder far surpassing anything on TV or in a text message.

Pleasurable time spent in nature contributes to children's ability to focus, remember things, and solve problems. It inspires imaginative play, which contributes to healthy social and psychological development.

Nature is a great teacher too. Spring follows winter—showing



children who are hurting that beautiful possibilities can follow a difficult time.

The Garden Design

Our Children's Garden will feature natural materials, plus flowering trees and plants that let children reconnect to the textures, smells, beauty and patterns of the natural world. At the same time, it will have a mix of engaging activities for children to enjoy.

Here are a few of the garden's activity areas:

- **Climbing/Crawling Area** will help young children gain self-confidence and a sense of control over their environment.
- **Messy Materials Area** will encourage kids to use their imaginations, experiment with a variety of natural objects, practice carrying heavy objects and feel a sense of accomplishment and personal mastery over their environment.
- **Building Area** will be equipped with building blocks, giving children the chance to strengthen their visual spatial, mathematical and abstract thinking abilities.

- **Nature Art Area** will be outfitted with pencils, paper, clay, chalk and watercolor paints, encouraging kids to develop close observational skills, classification skills and a sense of appreciation for the beauty of the world around them.

- **Music & Movements Stage** will be an area allowing improvisation and creativity through music and dance.

- **Gardening Area** will let kids grow flowers and vegetables. They will learn about the seasons and gain a sense of responsibility as they care for the each plant. Who knows, they might even come to appreciate eating fresh fruits and vegetables.

- **Gathering Area** will be the spot for group activities, counseling sessions, and maybe even visits from special guests to the garden.

- **Dirt Digging Area** will let kids be kids and have fun digging, playing and imagining. It will also be a great way for kids to reconnect to nature on the basic level of experiencing the rich feel and aroma of the earth.

- **Tricycle Track** will let young children enjoy the sunshine as they three-wheel around a paved course in a pretty corner of the garden.

- **Teen Space** will give older children their own special spot where they can get together and talk.

Welcoming Our Neighbors

Many children who live in urban environments of glass and concrete get disconnected from nature. This can lead to childhood obesity, dislike and fear of the outdoors, and increased reliance on behavior regulating medications.

SafeNet will open the gate of the Big Backyard Children's Garden to students (supervised by their teachers) from neighborhood grade schools and nearby programs on a regular basis. These children, who otherwise might not ever get the chance, will be able to play, learn, exercise, and reconnect with the joys of the natural world around them.

When children are in the garden, activity areas will be supervised by a teacher, counselor or other responsible adult. Children in SafeNet programs and children from the neighborhood will use the garden at separate times.



Be Part Of Our Garden

Our Big Backyard Children's Garden will be funded by money raised from Phase 3 of our \$2 million capital campaign. We're so close...Please help us create a place where kids from abusive households can safely play, learn, dream, heal and grow.

Please send your donation today in the gift envelope provided in this newsletter.

Thank you!



Legal Conference

One of the world's top experts on domestic violence, Lundy Bancroft (third from left), was the chief presenter at Erie's

2009 Legal Conference sponsored by SafeNet, PFACS, Quinn, Buseck, Leemhuis, Toohey & Kroto, Inc., and the law offices of Gery T. Nietupski. Pictured from left are PFACS director Janet McCormick, Atty. Melissa LaFata Pagliari, Lundy Bancroft, SafeNet CEO Linda King, Atty. Brad Enterline, and Atty. Keith Clelland. The conference was attended by probation and parole officers, social workers, law enforcement officers, court staff, attorneys, drug and alcohol treatment counselors and victim services providers.

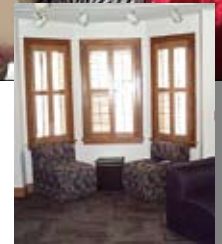


State Helps Shelter

State Senator Jane Earl (inset) and Representatives Pat Harkins (l) and Flo Fabrizio



toured our renovated shelter and new shelter annex on separate occasions with SafeNet CEO Linda King. These recently completed construction projects, which received \$277,000 in state funding and tax credits, have greatly alleviated overcrowding and improved living conditions for Erie's battered women and children who come to us for help.



The Good Guys

Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity brothers from Gannon University helped SafeNet with a number of painting and landscaping projects during the United Way's annual Day of Caring. Pictured here (back row from left) are Greg Delost, Nate Eberly, David Zimmer, Justin Studley, A. J. Anderson, and Brian Akuszerski. (Front row l-r) Nathan Newarn and Robert Winger. *Thanks guys!*



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Please remember SafeNet in your will. Thank you.

Welcome Summer Interns

Mark Carlucci, a student at Pittsburgh University majoring in marketing and finance, is working as an intern this summer in our accounting department.



Janae Butler, a Journalism Communications major from Gannon University, is doing her summer internship in our Public Relations Department with Rick Liebel.

Lauren Davidson is a medical student at LECOM who's working at SafeNet this summer as part of LECOM's Bridging the Gap program, which places health professional students at community sites to provide service to underserved populations.



Dmitry Zolotovskiy, a Criminal Justice/Political Science major at Edinboro University, is working in our Protection From Abuse Coordinated Services area with PFACS director Janet McCormick.

Best Chili In Town

Rizzo's Restaurant, located in North East, won the Judge's Award, and Calamari's in downtown Erie won the People's Choice Award, at SafeNet's 3rd annual Chili Cook-Off.

The event, which took place at Union Station, raised close to \$10,000 for victims of domestic violence. Above right are the owners and chefs from Rizzo's.



At left are the chefs from Calamari's. Each winning team received a beautiful soup tureen from Campbell Pottery.

Our special thanks go out to everyone who participated in this

year's event and helped make it such a resounding (and tasty) event including these businesses: Brewerie at Union Station, Cabot Cheese, Calamari's Squid Row, George's Restaurant, Kelly Hotel, Latino's, Plymouth Tavern, Make it Fabulous, Rizzo's Italian Family Restaurant, Scully's Pub, and Victor's at the Bel-Aire.

SafeNet Board of Directors

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