

A Challenge to Local Businesses

Domestic violence is an issue that no employer can afford to ignore! Domestic violence does not stay at home. In fact, it impacts the workplace through increased absenteeism, decreased productivity and higher costs to employers.

In observance of Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM) in October, Safe Nest is issuing a challenge to businesses and business leaders in Southern Nevada to **make domestic violence a priority issue in the workplace by joining the *Paper the Town* campaign.** This is an easy way for businesses to make a huge difference in the lives of their employees, their customers, and the quality of their work environment.

By participating in *Paper the Town*, local businesses will have an opportunity to provide valuable and potentially life-saving information to employees and customers, in addition to showing leadership in working to end domestic violence in the Greater Las Vegas community.

All participants will be given pamphlets, posters, magnets and other materials about domestic violence and the services available to victims and survivors. Businesses are asked to distribute and post these materials in waiting rooms, staff break-rooms, lounges, and other visible locations. Participating businesses will receive special recognition on Safe Nest's website.

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A Baby Shower!

The Thomas and Mack Co. and Nevada Financial Center recently held a successful "Baby Shower" donation drive for shelter babies. At left, Thomas and Mack employees, Safe Nest Board Member Aggie Knoblock (right) and Julee Ebert, display some of the many gifts.

DV Awareness Month Luncheon

To mark Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Safe Nest will hold its 22nd annual luncheon on Friday, October 21st at 11:30 a.m. at the Suncoast Hotel and Casino

Joan Meier, law professor at George Washington University Law School and Executive Director of DV LEAP (Domestic Violence Legal Empowerment and Appeals Project) will be the keynote speaker. She has co-authored several pieces of federal and state legislation, and speaks frequently to state Bars, judicial and advocacy organizations. Most recently, Ms. Meier filed an amicus brief on behalf of five police organizations for the first domestic violence case ever heard by the U.S. Supreme Court, *Town of Castle Rock, Colorado v. Jessica Gonzales*. She will discuss *Legal Hurdles Facing Victims of Domestic Violence*.



Attorney Joan Meier (pictured in front of the Supreme Court)

The case drew extensive media attention, including a 60 *Minutes* segment and a Washington Post opinion article by Professor Meier, who noted, "While I am disappointed that the Supreme Court has not recognized that mandatory arrest laws mean what they say, and that battered women have a right to minimal fair treatment by the police, I am not surprised given the conservative inclination of this Court. However, many police departments have been and will continue to use proactive and protective measures to protect victims of domestic violence. For the others, state laws and constitutions still provide meaningful avenues for holding the police accountable."

KVBC Channel 3 news anchor and Safe Nest Advisory Board member Nina Radetich will serve as the mistress of ceremonies. Philanthropy and service awards will be presented during the afternoon event which will also feature a survivor testimonial and a silent auction.

Reservations for the annual luncheon can be made online at www.safenest.org or by calling 877-0133, ext. 228.



Interfaith Candlelight Vigil

The **Interfaith Candlelight Vigil** is held each year to commemorate DVAM, celebrate survivors of domestic violence and remember victims; it is part of a community-wide effort to call attention to the serious problem of domestic violence in congregations and communities. The third annual Candlelight Vigil will be held on Thursday, October 20 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Palm Mortuary, 7600 Eastern Avenue.

This year's keynote speaker, Shiloh Edsitty, age 13, is a former Las Vegas resident who was critically wounded and orphaned in November 2004 during a knife attack that killed his mother. The public is invited to the vigil to show support for Shiloh, for those who have been injured or killed by their intimate partners, and for those who have survived and continue to reach for freedom.

The Candlelight Vigil is an opportunity for the community to come together around a common goal: ending domestic violence. This year, members of churches, temples and mosques will join together in remembrance of the suffering of victims of domestic violence, and to pray for the healing of the victims in the Las Vegas community. From the opening prayer to the songs and survivors' reflections, this evening will educate and promote healing for victims and their families.

For more information, call 877-0133, ext. 233.

By Doris Turrentine, Interfaith Project Coordinator

A Challenge to Local Businesses *(continued from page 1)*

Domestic violence affects all businesses, large and small. Given that one in four American women report being abused by a husband or boyfriend at some point in their lives, it often spills over into the workplace when the violence prevents an employee from doing her job.

Businesses are affected when a victim is harassed at work or when violence occurs in the workplace. According to a recent study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the costs of domestic violence exceed \$5.8 billion each year, \$4.1 billion of which is for direct health care expenses-much of this cost is absorbed by employers.

Like any other serious issue that impacts business, domestic violence has a negative effect on the health and safety of employees and customers, and on the bottom line. But through prevention and intervention, business leaders can make a difference.

If you are a local business leader ready to improve how your workplace responds to domestic violence, become a partner in *Paper the Town* by calling 877-0133, ext. 245 to sign up.

Training Opportunity: Safe Nest provides free training on domestic violence in the workplace, call 877-0133, ext. 234 for more information.

We Are Not "Those Women" We are You

By Kathleen Brooks

This is not a job,
this is 26 years of one woman's journey.
Walking amongst the morass of indifference,
misunderstanding, labeling, shame and judgment
to reach the core of understanding.

I am formerly battered. I was raped.

At 17, I met my abuser,
a man who offered to "help me."

He punched me, he kicked me.

He bought me clothes, he brought me flowers.

He loved me.

He called me names, he followed me.

He ran me off the road in my car.

He wanted to marry me.

I have permanent nerve damage in my neck
because he loved me.

I know "domestic violence" on a cellular level.

I have lived the stories in my own way until
they have become a part of my soul.

I have mourned deaths. I have saved lives.

I have had the gift of empowerment given to
me and I have passed it on to the women who
have shared their stories - thousands of stories
- millions of lives.

I know domestic violence on a cellular level.

If you are battered it is not your fault.

We must teach ourselves and other women to
know empowerment.

To speak our truth and to know we all have a
responsibility to speak out - it is not your fault.

Speak your truth.

Know your personal power to end violence
wherever you find it.

This is not a job - it is my way of life.

Carp Anyone?

It stinks to be a fish, especially when a hook baited with delicious Cheetos sinks your way during the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) fishing clinic at Floyd Lamb State Park.

On a summer Saturday, kids, moms and volunteers from the shelter were invited to attend an angler education program.



Learning to fish at Floyd Lamb State Park

The day started early. First, the kids learned how to identify which fish to throw back and which to keep. Next, instructors taught the kids how to cast their reel and bait their hooks with Cheetos. Then the fishing began.

The first fish to come out of the water received a

perfunctory “kiss” which started a tradition of kissing the first catch. One six year-old puckered up and caught his fish square on the mouth; a teenage girl caught the “trophy” fish of the day and everyone threatened to tell her friends that she kissed it. She was mortified until she learned that she won the prize for the biggest catch.

By noon, the kids were ready for games, snacks and prizes. NDOW made sure that everyone was a winner and the kids faces lit up when they received fishing poles, tackle boxes, waist pouches and other great prizes donated by WalMart.

Summer activities like this fishing trip provide children and moms in shelter a fun way to relieve stress. Without volunteers and contributors, events like this would be impossible. If you are interested in volunteering during a Saturday field trip, contact the Safe Nest Volunteer Coordinator at 877-0133, ext. 251.

By Cindy Bagunu, Volunteer Coordinator

Birdies for Safe Nest Tee-Off November 10th

Put your company name in the spotlight as a Corporate Sponsor for the 7th Annual Birdies for Safe Nest Golf Tournament scheduled for November 10, 2005 at the Silverstone Golf Club and try your luck at the \$10,000 Hole-in-One to take home a 2006 car donated by Findlay Automotive Group. The four-person best ball scramble begins at 8:00 a.m. followed by a fabulous awards luncheon and lively raffle featuring an impressive array of prizes.



A morning drive at last year's tournament.

This links-style course is home to the annual Celebrity Classic, so register today at www.safenest.org or call 877-01332, ext 228 and enjoy a morning on the links to support Safe Nest.

Calendar of Events

- *October:* **Paper the Town**
At participating businesses
- *October 20:* **Candlelight Vigil**
6:00 p.m. - Palm Mortuary
7600 Eastern Avenue
- *October 21:* **Domestic Violence Awareness Month Luncheon**
11:30 a.m. - Suncoast Hotel and Casino
REGISTER ONLINE
- *November 10:* **Birdies for Safe Nest Golf Tournament**
8:00 a.m. - Silverstone Golf Club
REGISTER ONLINE

More information online at:
www.safenest.org

Legacy Circle

As we strive to serve the needs of a growing population, planning for the future becomes more important. Please consider naming Safe Nest in your will, trust, or in other planned giving options. You will have the satisfaction of knowing your gift will sustain Safe Nest's mission to help families experiencing domestic violence reclaim their lives. For more information, call 877-0133, ext. 228.



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P.O. Box 43264
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Domestic Violence Hotline: 646-4981
Las Vegas Counseling Office: 877-0133
Mesquite Counseling Office: 702-346-1944
Boulder City Advocacy Center: 293-7836
Administrative Office: 877-0133
In-Kind Donation Center: 257-3800



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Shelter Wish List

- **Baby Care Items** - diapers, wipes, pull ups.
- **Hygiene Products** - deodorant, feminine care products, toothbrushes, toothpaste.
- **Personal Products** - socks and underwear, over-the-counter medications.

*For a more complete list of items on the Shelter Wish List
or to make a secure contribution on-line, visit www.safenest.org.*

Donation Bin

Cleaning Out Your Closets?

Safe Nest accepts in-kind donations of used clothing, toys, or household items. Please call 257-3800 to schedule a pickup or visit www.safenest.org to find a donation bin in your neighborhood.

Holiday Gift-Giving Campaign

Three ways to make a difference this holiday season!

◆ **Sheltered Wishes**

Gifts for women in the shelter

◆ **Children's Holiday**

Gifts for children in the shelter.

◆ **Adopt-a-Family**

Gifts for women and children who are counseling office clients



To become a donor, call 877-0133, ext. 225

Mission: *To be the leading advocate in promoting the eradication of domestic violence by providing confidential assistance including shelter, food, clothing, counseling, education, and other services to individuals and families*