

FROM THE EXECUTIVE'S CORNER.....

Peggy Payne, Executive Director

As this is our first newsletter I would like to explain where Safe Passage, Inc. has come from and what our vision for the future encompasses. The story began in early 1982 when a group of local citizens saw a need for safe housing for victims of domestic violence and their children. Twenty-five women attended training and opened their homes to this special population. The word spread in our community; the demand became too much for twenty-five women to address, so they approached the Salvation Army to build a partnership. Tri-County Sister Help was formed in 1983 under the umbrella of the Salvation Army. Natalie Simpson was named as the first director. The shelter opened in a rented two-story, 3,200 square foot single family home. The shelter consisted of three bedrooms, two baths, a kitchen, and living room. The shelter's offices were housed on the enclosed front porch. The shelter remained in this location for more than sixteen years.

I was hired as the new Executive Director in July 1997 and moved from Paducah, Kentucky to Rock Hill. At my first Board Meeting – just two days after I started this new adventure, the Board of Directors gave me my first task: to find a building that would be suitable for a new shelter. After searching for a number of years, the Board had not been successful in finding the “right” building that would meet code. I drove around the City and looked through the windows of vacant buildings that I thought might work. I reported back to the board that I could not find a building and asked if they had considered building a Spec Building? After much discussion about what we needed to begin this process, Ned Albright began to show me vacant lots that might suit our purpose. As we were returning from looking at a lot, we found the “perfect” location. The new 7,000 square foot shelter was completed and an Open House was scheduled the weekend after September 11, 2001.

Many people suggested that we cancel and have the Open House another time or not at all, but the Board of Directors decided that victims live in terror every day and why should we allow terrorists to keep the women and children we serve in sub-standard housing when we had a beautiful facility just waiting for them to move into? Congressman John Spratt attended and about 20 or so other people in the community and when we brought the women and children over from the old shelter, they celebrated and mourned for those lost.

In the early part of 2004, I contacted Mark Ulmer, a local realtor, and asked him if he would look for a building in Lancaster that would be suitable for a shelter. Mark called me about two weeks later and said he had located a building that had been a shelter for children and we made an appointment to look at the building. Needless to say, he found a facility much quicker than I had anticipated. Safe Passage purchased the building and began renovations. The renovations were complete in December 2004 and we scheduled the Open House for January 2005. Attorney General Henry McMaster was our guest speaker and the event was attended by most of the dignitaries in the community.

In March 2005, the Board Chair of the Sexual Assault Resource Center, Kevin Brackett, approached Safe Passage's Board of Directors and requested that the two agencies merge. The Boards formed a Merger Committee and the process began. The merger was announced to the public on July 5, 2005. Safe Passage went from being a single service provider of domestic violence services to being a multi-faceted organization that serves child abuse, domestic violence and sexual trauma victims/survivors.

Once the merger occurred, all the staff members (except those employed in the Lancaster shelter) were working out of the shelter location in Rock Hill. So, once again I contacted a local realtor, John Rinehart, and the search began for a building that would become the “public face” of Safe Passage. Mr. Rinehart and I worked with the White Family and Safe Passage purchased the building at 104 Oakland Avenue in the fall of 2006. Renovations started almost immediately and staff was able to move in to the building in July 2007.

As you can see, Safe Passage has had a long history of providing service to Chester, Lancaster and York counties for many years and we look forward to continue to serve the needs of the victims/survivors for many more years.

Board of Directors:

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Lancaster County

Peggy Payne
Executive Director

YES!

**I will help prevent
domestic violence.**

You can choose to help
Safe Passage, Inc. in serving those
affected by domestic violence with
a tax-deductible contribution to
our organization .

Safe Passage, Inc. is a not-for-profit
501(c) (3) partner agency of the
United Way of York County.



SEXUAL ASSAULT AND CHILD ABUSE STATISTICS AND FACTS

2006 STATISTICS— NUMBER OF PEOPLE SERVED BY 16 SOUTH CAROLINA RAPE CRISIS CENTERS

# of new primary victims	4990
# of secondary victims*	3096
# of hotline calls	6538
# of hospital visits	1308
# if victims receiving follow-up care**	10995
# of active volunteers	8284
Community education sessions:	
School age persons	69356
Schools reached	814
Community groups	372

* individuals other than primary
victims

** case mgmt, support groups, aftercare

Compiled by SCCADVASA 01/07

Myths & Facts About Rape

Myth: Rape is a sexual crime, impulsively committed for sexual gratification.

Fact: Rape is a crime of violence and aggression. It is intended to overpower, degrade and humiliate the victim.

Myth: Most rapes are committed by a stranger in a dark place at night.

Fact: The vast majority of rapes, up to 89% are committed by men known by their victims - casual acquaintances, friends, boyfriends and husbands. Nearly half of all assault occur in the victim's home.

Myth: Rapists are sex-crazed "madmen".

Fact: The overwhelming majority of rapists are ordinary men from the complete range of socio-economic classes, occupations and nationalities. They do not suffer from any psychological disturbance and are not the victims of "uncontrollable sexual urges". All men can control their sexual urges if they wish to and no sexual urge ever gives a man the right to rape a woman or child. Most rapes are, in fact, premeditated and well-planned. They are not spontaneous, uncontrollable sexual acts. 71% of convicted rapists stalked their victims.

Myth: Men cannot be raped.

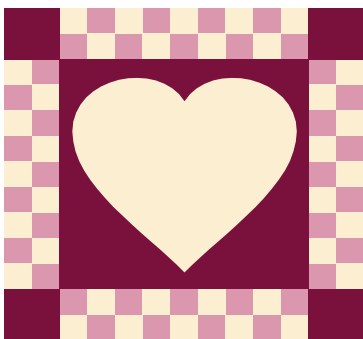
Fact: Men can be raped. One in seven men will be sexually assaulted in their lifetime. Males can be and are raped, primarily by other males. The vast majority of reported sexual assaults of males occurs as cases of child molestation.

Myth: Rape is a woman's problem.

Fact: It is a pervasive societal problem when half the population lives in terror of the other half. Every man has friends or family members who have been raped.

Myth: Men who are raped by other men are homosexual.

Fact: Regardless if it is a man raping man or a woman raping a man, rape is still about sexual preference had nothing to do with rape.



I AM AWARE PROJECT

Make a square; wear a square
to show you are aware.

To celebrate Sexual Assault and Child Abuse Awareness Month, *Safe Passage* and students from Winthrop University made simple quilt squares to show support and raise awareness. These simple squares will be made into a quilt which will be auctioned at a later date to raise funds for *Safe Passage* client services. Students wore a square as a graphic statement of support and to encourage dialog about sexual assault and child abuse.

For more information about the
"I AM AWARE"

project, please contact

Diane Cranford, MSW

803-327-7558



DID YOU KNOW

- 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys are sexually abused before the age of 18
- 90% of the children who have been sexually abused were abused by a family member; someone they trust and love
- Every 2 minutes, somewhere in America, someone is sexually assaulted
- Approximately 62% of rape victims knew their assailant
- Approximately 43% of rape victims are raped by a friend or acquaintance; 34% by a stranger; 17% by an intimate; and

Recognizing Child Abuse and Neglect: Signs and Symptoms

Many of the children who come to Safe Passage to receive counseling services are victims of abuse or neglect in the home. Unfortunately, abuse often goes unrecognized for a long period of time, leaving children to deal with the effects of chronic trauma including anxiety, depression, sleep disturbance, behavioral problems, frequent physical complaints, self-destructive behaviors, difficulty concentrating and relational problems. Children may feel extremely angry or confused about the abuse, but they often do not tell others for many reasons including the following:

- Messages that “family issues” are not discussed outside of the home
- Threats or warnings from the abuser not to tell
- Feeling powerless to stop the abuse, feeling they would not be believed
- Fear that telling may result in family disruption or further abuse
- Sense of hopelessness about their situation or feeling hopeful that the abuse will stop
- Feelings of love for and obligation to the abusive parent/caregiver

The first step in helping these children is to recognize the **signs and symptoms of abuse** remembering that while one symptom may not suggest abuse, clusters of the signs/symptoms listed below are cause for a closer look at the situation.

- Difficulty concentrating not attributed to physical causes
- Sudden changes in behavior or school performance, frequent school absences
- Hyper vigilance: Child is extremely aware of activities and people in their environment
- Child has not received help for problems or issues brought to the parent’s attention
- Child shrinks at the approach of adults, seems to be preparing for something bad to happen
- Unexplained bruises, burns or broken bones or untreated medical issues
- Consider the possibility of abuse or neglect if you notice the following about the parent/caregiver:
 - Parent denies the existence of or blames the child for the child’s problems at home/school
 - Parent describes the child as “bad” or views the child as worthless or burdensome
 - Parent describes their relationship with their child as entirely negative
 - Parent describes using harsh physical punishment, and states that the child “deserved it”
 - Parent rarely demonstrates physical or emotional affection for their child (absence of nurturing behaviors, lack of praise or noticing desirable behaviors and characteristics)



COMMUNITY EDUCATION CORNER



Community education is an important part of *Safe Passage*’s mission. As part of *Safe Passage*’s education outreach, we are available to speak to school classes, guidance counselors, faculty and staff, parent meetings, community groups, churches and businesses. *Safe Passage*’s vast curriculum allows us to adapt to our audiences needs. Presentations are interactive and informative. There is never a charge for *Safe Passage*’s presentations.

To accomplish in-depth education and promote effective prevention, *Safe Passage* encourages groups to schedule multiple sessions. This will allow your group to understand these complex issues better and to discuss what we, as a community, can do together to address them as well as reduce their negative impact. Some suggested topics are;

- [Safe Passage services](#) - what we do, whom we serve
- [Domestic Violence](#) - what is it, how it happens, why victims stay
- [Dating Violence and Prevention](#) - what is it, how to prevent it
- [Internet Safety](#) - precautions to take, avoiding predators, cyber-bullying
- [Healthy Relationships](#) - what they look like, how to develop them
- [Boundaries](#) - taking care of yourself physically and emotionally
- [Bullying](#) - what it is, how to get help for yourself and others; cyber-bullying
- [Sexual Trauma](#) - what it is, where to get help, how to begin healing
- [Child Advocacy](#) - what it is, how children are affected, how we help
- [Gender Stereotyping](#) - What they are, how they hurt
- [Sexual Harassment](#) - what it is, where to get help, how to stop it
- [Perceptions of Self and Others](#) - who we are, what we show, what we see
- [Building Team Perspectives](#) - working together, win-win vs. win-lose

*Education is not
the filling of a
bucket, but the
lighting of a fire -*

W.B. Yeats

Please call or e-mail us to discuss how your organization can arrange a presentation.

(803) 329-3336

e-mail address: pjpayne@safepassagesc.org

Safe Passage, Inc.
P.O. Box 11458
Rock Hill, SC 29731

24 Hour Crisis Hotline **803-329-2800**
Administration **803-329-3336**
Sexual Trauma **803-327-7558**
Child Advocacy **803-980-5437**
FAX **803-329-3515**
Lancaster Crisis Line **803-285-6533**
Chester Office **803-581-0055**

Visit our website:
www.safepassagesc.org

Please Deliver to:

Providing services to victims and families in
Chester, Lancaster, Union and York Counties

Mission Statement



Safe Passage is
committed to providing quality
services and advocacy with a
multi-team approach to victims and
survivors of domestic violence,
sexual trauma and child abuse
in our service area

What we have done for ourselves alone dies with us; what we have done for others and the world remains and is immortal. - Albert Pike



VOLUNTEER NEWS

Myrna L. DeBruyne, Volunteer Coordinator

Featured Volunteer Mary "Jo" Greer

Mary Jo, just call me "Jo", is a native of Fort Mill, SC, lived in Redondo Beach, California for 42 years, moved back to Rock Hill in 1994. Jo is married to Jim, has 4 grown children Michael, James, Tracy and Dani Rose. Jo joined *Safe Passage* as a volunteer in June 2007 after attending a 3 night in-depth volunteer training because she just wanted to help. The staff and clients can rest assured that Jo will be performing her volunteer duties every Monday, Tuesday and Friday afternoon (Thursday is reserved for her hair appointment - a girls gotta have some pamper time after all). When Jo is not helping keep Myrna, *Safe Passage's* Volunteer Coordinator, organized, you might see her performing administrative clerical duties, organizing the food pantry, working with the Victim's/Children's Advocate(s) or encouraging



a client. Jo's friendly, enthusiastic and over-all sense of well being makes her a indispensable volunteer for all of the grateful staff of *Safe Passage!*



CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS -

New Volunteer Orientation - every Monday @ 3:30 pm/every Friday at 10:00 am

Call or e-mail Myrna today to register! mdebruyne@safepassagesc.org

Volunteers needed for our Lancaster Shelter

NEEDS LIST

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Gas Cards | Prescription Drug Cards | Grocery Cards | Telephone Cards |
| Cake Mixes & Frosting | Spring Clothing | Laundry Detergent | Fabric Softener |
| Ethnic Hair Products | Feminine Hygiene Products | Children's Craft Products | Poster Board |
| Diapers | Baby Wipes/Powder | Women's Craft Products | Body Wash |