

The Advocate



Empowering Survivors of Domestic and Sexual Violence



October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

One in Three women will be Victims of Domestic Violence

October is known for Breast Cancer Awareness, however it's not the only campaign in the month. October is also Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM), an opportunity to focus on domestic violence prevention efforts and resources on both the national and state levels and a time to raise awareness of the dangers and harms caused by domestic violence.

Although a lot of people think domestic violence is about anger, it really isn't. It's about trying to instill fear and wanting to have power and control in the relationship. National Domestic Violence Awareness Month is an opportunity to renew our commitment to preventing domestic violence and to assisting those who suffer from its devastating effects.

The rate of domestic violence is difficult to determine because the majority of victims never tell others that they are being abused. Men aren't always the violent counterpart in abusive relationships, 834,732 men are physically assaulted by an intimate partner annually. 50% of men who assault their female partners also assault their children.

You want to talk about deadly? With 1687 deaths per year attributed to domestic violence, that number equates to 4.6 deaths per day and hundreds of others who are assaulted without a death occurring.

Domestic Violence deserves our attention!

SHOP FOR A CAUSE

Saturday, September 20, 2008 at Macy's in Irving Mall



Calling all shoppers! For a \$5 donation to Brighter Tomorrows, you can receive an all-day shopping pass for 20% off all of your purchases at Macy's at Irving Mall on Saturday, September 20, 2008. To purchase your shopping pass, please email Rachel Grigsby at Rachel@brightertomorrows.net or call (972) 263-0506 and have fun shopping while you support Brighter Tomorrows!



A Message From Our Director

Brighter Tomorrows, a domestic violence and sexual assault agency in southwest Dallas County for the last 18 years, serving thousands of men, women and children who are escaping violent situations. We all know about domestic violence because if you read the newspaper or watch the news, almost everyday there are stories about women being killed by significant others, and often their children too.

When Survivors come into the shelter, they receive a safe place to stay, food, clothing, counseling, life skills, parenting, protective orders, referrals, transportation to court and medical facilities, a case plan to get their life back on track. All at no charge!

Most people don't know where funding for shelters comes from. Some comes from the state, federal, and local governments. Fundraisers such as Chocolate & Chic, individual donations, and churches, etc. all help us to come up with the money so that those seeking our services don't have to worry about what they are going to do.

In the last month, Brighter Tomorrows funding from the State of Texas and the City of Grand Prairie has been cut a total of \$240,000. Needless to say, programs and jobs at the agency will have to be cut. We desperately need the help of everyone reading this newsletter to help us continue to provide services in this area.

Are you going to be the one that lets a child with a diaper rash so horrible she screams when she is wet go without help? Will you be the one who tells the woman who is brutally raped and can't even walk down the street without fear, there is no help for her? Are you going to tell the child who is so excited to be in a safe place away from his abusive father, that he has to go back and hide under his bed rather than watch his mother be beat?

We spend millions of dollars on animal shelters, and please don't get me wrong. I have two spoiled rotten dogs that I love dearly, but are our animals more important than our fellow men, women and children. Where are our priorities? What if it were your mother, sister, daughter, granddaughter? What if?

Jana Barker, Executive Director



"Our mission is to empower survivors of domestic and sexual violence."



24 Hour Crisis Line
972-262-8383
National Hotline 1-800-799-SAFE (7233)
TTY 1-800-787-3224

Executive Committee

Deby Brubaker-President David Scott-Treasurer Debbie Pecor-Secretary

Board of Directors

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Visit us on the web at
brightertomorrows.net

Mailing List Corrections:
(972) 263-0506
info@brightertomorrows.net





Hello! I'm Judy Garrison, the new Volunteer Coordinator for Brighter Tomorrows. I've been working with the Volunteer Program somewhat over a month now and have met some of you. I'm so pleased to be a part of the Brighter Tomorrows team. I'm new to this type service but not to the non-profit world or Volunteer Management.

I look forward to working with you all in the near future helping making a difference for Brighter Tomorrows.

VOLUNTEER TRAINING

The next Volunteer Training is scheduled for 8 hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays for 2 consecutive weeks as follows:

Dates: September 9 & 11 & September 16 & 18

Times: 6 pm-8 pm (each night)

Place: Counseling & Resource Center (conference room)

1417 Densman

Grand Prairie, TX 75051

Please contact Judy Garrison at 972-263-0506 or Judy@brightertomorrows.net to reserve a space at the training.

Volunteer applications and background forms can be found on the Brighter tomorrows website www.brightertomorrows.net. Please fax your completed volunteer applications to Judy Garrison to eligible for training at 972-237-2565. Assault & Domestic Violence; Reporting & Documentation and much more.

Join us for an informative four evenings learning how to support and empower survivors of sexual and domestic violence.

Cost for the training is \$25 which covers training materials. There will be a variety of speakers on topics including: Orientation & Overview of Brighter Tomorrows; Volunteer Job Descriptions; Introduction to Sexual Assault & Domestic Violence; Reporting & Documentation and much more.



Matthew Road Baptist Church Youth Group
Thank you for your donation of welcome bags.

SHELTER UPDATES

Our Brighter Tomorrows' shelters have benefited from some hands-on attention the past couple months. A volunteer group from Abbott Labs provided hours of spring cleaning and organizing at the Irving shelter. JC Penney Logistics Department did extensive cleaning, repairs, painting and organizing at the DeSoto shelter. Many thanks to those who gave generously of their time and efforts to enhance the lives of Brighter Tomorrows clients.

There are quite a few community fairs coming up in the fall months. Please call me if you would like to set up and staff our display distributing Brighter Tomorrows information and brochures. Hope to hear from you soon.

Judy Garrison
Volunteer Coordinator



We appreciate the many contributions we receive from our supporters. This list includes donations received from May 1, 2008 through July 31, 2008.

Allstate Foundation	Hurst Farm Supply, Inc.	Patricia Loftis
Anneka Bollman	Jana Jones	Purnell Johnson
Arbonne International	Jane Johnson	Regina Houston
Barbara Lyle	Janelle Bicknell	Rita McLemore
Brad Frederiksen	Jeanine Byrd	Rodney Gooch
Carol Goodwin-Carter	Jerome Miron	Roger Jones
Cedar Hill Rotary Foundation	Jill Vanes	Safeway, Inc.
Christy Hurst	Jimmy's Watch and Jewelry Repair	Saint Francis Catholic Church
City of Grand Prairie	Judi McMillan	Sandy Reyna
City of Irving	Karen Thompson	Sheri Hurst
Crystal Glasgow	Kathlyn Bailey	Shirley Culp
Cynthia Smith	Kent Tapscott	Soroptimist International of Grand Prairie
David Scott	Kime Hurst	Stacie Terry
Debra Carter	Kirkwood United Methodist Church	Stephanie Davis
Desoto Christian Church	Kristen Chapman	Terry Crofoot
Donna Smith	Kyle Brandt	The Dallas Foundation
Dwight Carter	Larry Lawson	Thelma Jones Elementary
Embrey Family Foundation	Leah Looten	Tommy Nichols
F. Soria	Mari Tietze	Tracy Ramsey
First Christian Church	Maurren Plumb	UAW LOCAL #276
First Presbyterian Church	Mayor Bobby Waddle	United Methodist Women
First United Methodist Church	Micaela Briones	Untied Way of Metro Dallas
Geneva Rideaux	Mid-Cities Human Resources Association	United Way of New York City
Grand Prairie Fire Fighter Association	Mike Hathaway	Valerie Phillips
Hackberry Creek Church	Mom's Club of Coppell-South	Verizon
Harvest Temple	Nicole Hemby	Verizon Foundation
Heath Penwarden	Office of the Attorney General	Walmart Optical Lab
Henrietta Rojas	Parmer County Implement Company, Inc.	
Howard Cooper	Pat Echelberger	

Have you ever considered the Impact your donation has?

- For \$25 you provide meals for a mother and two children for three days
- For \$40 you help us answer a day's worth of crisis hotline calls
- For \$125 you shelter a mother and two children for one night
- For \$200 you guarantee counseling sessions for former victims of sexual assault.



In Honor of:
Alpha Phi Omega Spring
Pledge Class 2008



Did you know?
 With every grocery purchase at participating stores, 4% of your food purchase costs will help Brighter Tomorrows. Contact us for the Kroger cards.
 Designate us directly when you enroll with Tom Thumb (#4051) and Albertson's (#49001007507) For more information, contact 972-263-0506



BACK-TO-SCHOOL SUPPORTERS: DELIVER ASSISTANCE



Delta Sigma Theta, Sorority, Inc.
Arlington Chapter

It is that time of year again, and thanks to several of our generous supporters, the children we serve are ready to head back-to-school prepared and ready for another great school year.

- Boy Scout of Pack 126**
- Irving Bible Church**
- Landings of La Villita**
- Mother's Network**
- Delta Sigma Theta, Sorority, Inc.**
- Sonia Nelson**
- Charlene Ensley**
- ATX Group**
- Irving-Las Colinas Rotary**
- Debbie Pecor**
- First Christian Church**



Donation Drop-Off Locations

Brighter Tomorrows
 Thrift Shop of DeSoto
 230 E. Beltline
 DeSoto, TX 75115

Brighter Tomorrows
 Thrift Shop of Grand Prairie
 401 Marshall Plaza
 Grand Prairie, TX 75051



Clean, heavy, usable items in good condition at drop-off locations. No used computers and related equipment. State law prevents us from accepting mattresses and car seats. Pick-ups are limited to items in good condition in Grand Prairie, Irving, DeSoto and the Best Southwest area.

Brighter Tomorrows incurs additional costs in disposing of large, unusable items. **FURNITURE PICK-UPS AVAILABLE-CALL 972-263-0506**

Brighter Tomorrows sincerely appreciates your support!



Each year, Brighter Tomorrows hosts a holiday storefront to receive gift donations for our families in shelter and transitional housing; as well as low income families through our Desoto outreach. The Adopt-A-Family program was designed to encourage individuals, churches, civic groups and businesses to help spread some Christmas cheer by sponsoring a family in crisis at Christmas time. Last year ,the program helped over 300 men, women and children.

Please take a few moments and consider adopting a family, sponsoring a day at the storefront, to receive, sort and distribute the donated items. Your partnership through Adopt-A-Family will create warm, happy memories for these families this holiday season. Contact Rachel Grigsby at (972) 263-0506 or rachel@brightertomorrows.net.

CAN'T ADOPT A FAMILY....YOU CAN STILL BRIGHTEN A FAMILY'S CHRISTMAS BY MAKING A DONATION!

NEW AND EXCITING MARKETING OPPORTUNITES AVAILABLE!!

DO YOU WANT TO GET YOUR COMPANY NAME IN FRONT OF 2000 SUPPORTERS OF BRIGHTER TOMORROWS?

HERE'S HOW?

Brighter Tomorrows in growing and changing and along with that comes new ways of introducing yourself to our new supporters and reintroducing yourself to our long standing supporters. These opportunities are very reasonable.

Sponsor one of our newsletters. The newsletter is mailed every quarter to 2000 of Brighter Tomorrows supporters.



Transitional Housing

Marcella's Story

"I came to a Brighter Tomorrows shelter for my children. I am so grateful to God that he has made people with the hearts of the staff of "Brighter Tomorrows". If it were not for this place and the people who work here I do not know that I would have the courage and strength to continue. While in the program we attended counseling, I become gainfully employed and purchased a car. In the program I was able to save \$15,000. A special thanks to the Transitional Housing Program staff for believing in me, even when I didn't!!!"

"I feel that Brighter Tomorrows has given me the best gifts of all - Peace, Freedom and, most of all, a future for my children and myself."



(l,r) Allsion Sharpe (Director of Transitional Housing), Marcella (Client), Larry Matthews (Case Manager)

Mark Your Calenders

Best Southwest Luncheon

Please join the Best Southwest Advisory Council of Brighter Tomorrows for a luncheon at David's Seafood Grill in Cedar Hill, TX. This event is being held to increase awareness of services offered by Brighter Tomorrows and a call for community action in the Best Southwest Area.

This unique and very exciting event is more than just the typical luncheon. It is a wonderful opportunity for residents and the business community of the Best Southwest Area to partner with Brighter Tomorrows, to empower survivors of domestic and sexual violence; and help us celebrate 18 years of service in Dallas County.

We will have exciting speakers, raffle prizes and a tasty menu.

YOU COULD BE A WINNER OF A 32" HDTV

Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2008

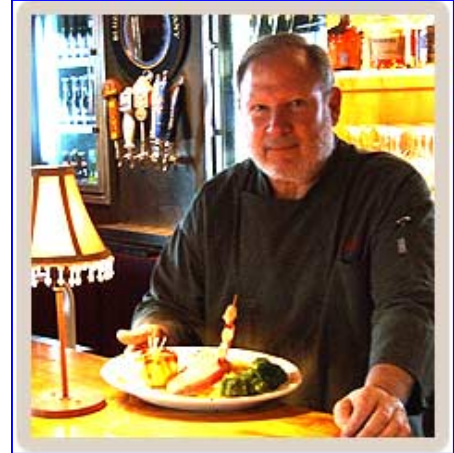
Time: 11:30 am-1:00 pm

Place: David's Seafood Grill

350 FM 1382

Cedar Hill, TX 75104

Cost: \$25.00-Plus one bath/face towel



David



ENJOY A SHORT STACK FOR A TALL CAUSE



You're invited to an Applebee's Flapjack Fundraiser Breakfast to support

BRIGHTER TOMORROWS, INC.

TICKETS: \$6.00

DATE: Saturday, October 11, 2008

TIME: 7:30 AM- 10:00AM

LOCATION: Applebee's

2415 W. I-20

Grand Prairie, TX 75052

***Breakfast will consist of 3 pancakes, 2 slices of bacon and unlimited beverages**

RSVP/PURCHASE TICKETS/VOLUNTEER FOR THE EVENT CALL 972-263-0506.



ADOPT-A-FAMILY FOR THE HOLIDAYS-MORE INFORMATION INSIDE