

# HOPE Coalition

Serving families and individuals affected by domestic violence, child abuse and homelessness.

Spring 2008

# HOPE Happenings

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## Greetings from the Executive Director

I cannot believe how fast this quarter has gone. Some things to note are that the Goodhue, Wabasha and Pierce County United Way funded our programs again, and in addition to funding ACP and THP, they gave funding for our Community Care Fund even though we had not requested funding. I was incredibly humbled by their comments about our organization being a core agency providing vital services to our community. This is a testament to the work that our staff do and I continue to be awed by their dedication to service. I'll let the program director's talk more, but there are a couple highlights I'd like to mention below:

The Abused Children's Program (ACP) has continued to grow. We hired Megan Conway full time to supervise all the children's programming between TWC and ACP to provide a more coordinated service to the kids. Don't worry, Susan is still with us and heading up the program, this will just allow her to focus more on program development for ACP and also allow Sheila to do the same for TWC.

The Women's Center (TWC), the big thing for me is that I continue to be awed by Sheila and the staff in their work with the women and children seeking shelter services. Our numbers served continue to increase and the staff meet the challenge with smiles.

Our Transitional Housing Program (THP) continues to plug away at the issue of ending homelessness in Goodhue County. A new facet of JoAnn's program will now include working at the Jail with Janet Adams and her crew to work on release planning with the folks

preparing for discharge to minimize their potential for homelessness. We are very excited about this new partnership.

On a sad note, long time Board Member, Kathy Boos has decided to resign from the Board. Many of you may not know that when the Coalition was without an Administrator, Kathy stepped in for eight months to run the Coalition while they searched for and eventually hired me. She has been an integral part of this agency and her service will indeed be missed. We wish her the best as she continues her work at Fairview and with her other full time job of running Red Wing Confectionary. If you get a chance, stop in and thank her...and get some chocolates, they are absolutely phenomenal.



As always, thank you to the many donors, private, faith based, businesses and United Way, who make what we do possible. You are ordinary people, doing an ordinary thing, making an extraordinary difference in the life of another. We will continue to be good stewards of your gifts to ensure the needs of our community are met to the best of our ability.

Respectfully,  
*Carl Evans*  
Executive Director  
HOPE Coalition



## Upcoming Events

### HOPE Coalition Golf Outing

June 28, 2008

Mississippi National Golf Links  
Red Wing, MN



\$65 entry fee includes

- 18-holes
- Cart Rental
- Lunch
- Games and Prizes!

**Sponsorship  
opportunities available**

### HOPE Coalition Banquet

August 14, 2008

St. James Hotel, Summit Room  
Red Wing, MN

\$40 per person

- Hours' Devours
- Dinner
- Silent Auction
- Celebrity Servers
- Discounted tickets available for tables of eight or more

### Afternoon Tea and Vintage Fashion Show

October 4, 2008

Mississippi National Golf Links  
Lower Banquet Hall  
Red Wing, MN

\$20 per person



- Silent Auction
- Tea Assortment and light lunch provided
- Table decorating contest

## Child Abuse Vigil an Emotional Night

Over two-hundred community members gathered together for the 9th annual Kids Count Candlelight Vigil to show their support for

ending child abuse.

**"We need to be strong enough to be a voice for someone who's lost theirs"**

The vigil took place April 9th at the Minnesota Correctional

Facility—Red Wing. The event included a candle-lighting ceremony, survivor speakers, poetry, music performed by the Soul of Red Wing, and a ceremony celebrating "safe people" chosen by the children of Kids Count.

Speakers recalled the childhood abuse that impacted their adult relationships and parenting styles. Ray Miller, a guest speaker, spoke of how her experiences have compelled her to focus her adult life on bettering the lives of her children and grandchildren. "We have to be a voice for the children—

ALL children" said Miller.

Stories of family violence evoked emotion in many of the attending community members. As Rebecca B., a vigil attendee remarked; "it touches the hearts of so many of us. Some of us are survivors ourselves, some of us aren't. Either way, child abuse affects us all."

The "Safe Person" ceremony began four years ago. Each child who wants to participate is given a red rose to present to their "safe person" in the audience. A Safe Person is someone who provides support and advocacy for a child in the program. Many of the chosen Safe Persons are volunteers with the program who the children feel a certain "connection" with. This year, two white roses were included in the ceremony, representing the two children from Goodhue County that passed away this year due to or related to child abuse. White roses were presented to Officer Katie Quinn (on behalf of Ty'Shay Staten) and to the Madtson Family (on behalf of Abby, the infant found

in 2007 in Prairie Island Harbor.)

"We need to be strong enough to be a voice for someone who's lost theirs" declared Paul S., a survivor speaker connected with Kids Count through Prevent Child Abuse Minnesota. "The issue of child abuse is important to this community. You can see that by all of the people here tonight; there are over 200 of us here supporting these kids. That is amazing. We are so grateful for everyone who came to show their support for ending child abuse."



Executive Director Carl Evans presents a rose to Jeannie Madtson recognizing her as Baby Abby's "Safe Person."

## Transitional Housing Program

### RELEASE PLANNING

A significant number of inmates from the Goodhue County Adult Detention Center (ADC) return to jail because they do not have stable support systems in place once they are released. Many return to the same situations and make the same choices, only to end up back in jail.

As part of an exciting new partnership, the Transitional Housing program has now branched out to provide outreach services at the Goodhue County ADC.

JoAnn McNamara will be visiting

with local inmates on Tuesdays and Wednesdays to work on release planning.

JoAnn will assist inmates with finding housing, employment, and will work with the detainees on building life-skills. She will also provide follow-up services upon their release. The purpose of this program is to combat the recidivism rates in Goodhue County and teach detainees the skills to make better choices once released.

### COMMUNITY CARE FUND

As a result of rising energy costs, the Community Care Fund has seen a dramatic increase in the

number of families seeking help from the program. Thanks to a very generous donation from St. Paul's Lutheran Church we have been able to assist the majority of these families. As always, the funds fall short of the need, but without this donation we would have had to turn away approximately 20-35 families in need.

### TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

Due to families completing the Transitional Housing Program, we were able to accept four new families during the past three months. All four families are from Goodhue County.

## New Partner—the MN Pajama Program

The HOPE Coalition is now partnering with the Pajama Program—Minnesota Chapter.



The Pajama Program is a non-profit organization that provides new, warm pajamas and

books to children in need.

Book and pajamas from the program will be distributed by Kids Count—Abused Children's Program and The Women's Center.

We are very excited about this opportunity to connect with other charity organizations, and invite

all of our supporters to learn more about this wonderful program.



To donate or host a Pajama Drive, contact Nancy Hagen, Chapter President, at [nancyh@pajamaprogram.org](mailto:nancyh@pajamaprogram.org) or visit the program website at [www.pajamaprogram.org](http://www.pajamaprogram.org).

## Greetings from The Women's Center

Greetings from all of us at TWC! Cabin fever is alive and well in this house! We're waiting for Gina's flowers outside to convince us that warmer weather really is coming! We are putting the finishing touches on our newest program which will allow us to provide safe housing for family pets. You'd be surprised how many victims of family violence do not leave home for fear of what could happen to their pet. Let's face it; today's pets really

are part of the family. We will be seeking foster families, pet carriers, food donations and other supplies to make this happen. If you would like to be a part of this valuable service or have any further questions, please contact Jenny at 385-8601.

Our Children's Program is being developed and refined to include more educational activities, in house groups, and healing opportunities. We've teamed up with Kids Count to ensure all

children receive consistent and continuous support. We are so fortunate to have such a talented and compassionate group of Children's Advocates and volunteers!

Your donations continue to sustain us. A special note to all of you who have given us quilts and blankets: Even though we've been through a very long winter, we were able to give every family member a blanket of their own to keep! I wish you all a happy, hopefully sunny spring!

## Friendship House Open House a success

**O**n April 2 the Friendship House hosted an Open House. This event was open to the community, and saw more than 30 guests. Neighbors, service providers and curious citizens alike shuffled into the conference room to hear how the Friendship House came to be.

“It all started when the parishioners made a conscious decision to give back to the community” explained Dennis Zolondek, from the Church of St. Joseph. Zolondek was the President of the Pastoral Council in 1997 when St. Joe’s Convent was converted into the Friendship House. In the spirit of the nuns

who used to reside there, the building would be used to house local charities who’s missions included giving back to the community.

Teri McLaughlin , Executive Director for Children’s Safety Centers, spoke about why their organization chose the Friendship House over other available office space in Red Wing. “It is a community-like atmosphere—a ‘one-stop-shop’ for clients who need assistance. You couldn’t ask for a better family of non-profits to work with.”

The Church of St. Joseph still retains ownership of the Friendship House, providing

affordable office space to local non-profits like the HOPE Coalition.



**The Friendship House** is located at 480 8th Street in Red Wing. The Statue of St. Thomas Aquinas is placed in the front yard. The beehive signifies a community of people caring for the needs of others which is a fitting symbol to the collaboration of non-profit organizations

## Kids Count ACP

**O**n April 15, staff from Kids Count and the Transitional Housing Program spoke at a WomenCents meeting about homelessness in Red Wing.

The following is a poem about homelessness written by Sheila, a child from the Kids Count program:

### I'M ONLY A CHILD

I’m only a child, there’s no one for me  
No place to call home, I live on the street  
I eat where I can, I barely get sleep  
Is there anyone out there that’s worried  
about me?

I can’t go home, cause it doesn’t exist  
I wish there was a cure for homelessness  
My Mother’s gone, she dies last year  
My Dad died too..., from too much beer  
I think about how jail would feel  
A warm place to sleep, a good hot meal  
Sleeping on benches, living in the park  
Can’t stay in the alley, I’m afraid of the dark

I’m only a child, there’s no one for me  
No place to call home. I live on the street  
I eat where I can, I barely get sleep  
Is there anyone out there who cares about  
me?

If you or someone you know is suffering from child abuse or homelessness, contact the Kids Count Abused Children's Program for help at 651-388-9360, ext 12 or 651-308-8080.

## We need your help!

We are in need of...

Please contact Emily Nelson at 651-388-9360, ext 30 if you are able to assist us with any of the following

- A gently used **laptop** in good condition. This laptop will be used for school multi-media presentations (with a digital projector) and to type up meeting minutes.
- A **digital projector**. If your business or company has an older model you are willing to donate we would be very grateful.
- **Vintage clothing** for our fashion show in October. If you have any items that we can borrow we will gladly gift you with a free ticket to the event. We are looking for anything 1970 and older.
- Volunteers for a **Special Events Committee**. We need energized, motivated and creative people to help us brainstorm community events and fundraisers.
- As always, we are in need of **volunteers**. Contact Staci at 651-388-9360, ext 19.

## Child Abuse Prevention Month



April was Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month. Thank you to all of the

downtown businesses who agreed to display blue ribbons in their windows. We are very appreciative of both United Way and Corner Drug for allowing

Kids Count to create window displays about child abuse for the month of April.

A Child Abuse vigil was held on April 9th (see page 2) and was attended by more than 200 people.

The staff of Kids Count ACP presented educational programs to 47 groups during the month of April.

On April 26th, the Lake City Country Club hosted a golf tournament for the Kids Count Abused Children's Program. We are very grateful for the 30 golfers that turned out to play 18 holes in the snow, wind and sleet! A giant thanks to Tom Lindrud for coordinating the tournament, and to all of our sponsors (denoted with an asterisk below) for their continued support of our programs.

## A BIG THANKS to our supporters for their generous contributions!

January—April 2008

Anderson, Jennifer  
 Apostolic Gospel Church  
 Bernick, Linda  
 Bollum, Elnor & quilting friends  
 Braaten, Candy  
 Buchanan Grocery\*  
 Burgos, David & Quintero, Mayra  
 Christ Episcopal Church  
 Christie, Mary  
 City of Red Wing—Department and Division Heads\*  
 Collins, Robert & Karen  
 Cornerstone Church  
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 Featherstone Real Estate, LLC, Lake City\*  
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 Gilbertson, Donna  
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 Goodhue County ADC Staff\*  
 Goodhue County DFL  
 Hallstroms  
 Harkins Plumbing & Heating, Lake City\*  
 Hill, Tom  
 Huettl's Meats, Lake City\*  
 Jaenke, Marion  
 Jenkins, Kerrie  
 Jenny Lind Bakery  
 Joe's Mobil

Johnson, Diane  
 Johnson, Jody  
 Johnson, Lisa  
 Jordanette Quilt Group  
 Jorgensen, Elaine  
 Jostens Family Foundation  
 Keller, Ameer  
 Kemp Real Estate, Lake City\*  
 Kennedy Snyder Drug, Lake City\*  
 Kimmen, Ron  
 Kraft, Dorothy  
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 Lindrud, Tom  
 Lovedell, Wendy  
 Lyndon, Ruth Ann  
 MCF—Red Wing  
 McNamara, Marlys  
 Meyer, Dale & Michelle  
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 Moen Law Firm, Rochester\*  
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 Noontime Kiwanis Club of Red Wing\*  
 Paulette Conway Daycare\*  
 Red Wing Area Fund  
 Red Wing Chev. Buick Pontiac Cadillac\*  
 Red Wing Chrysler Dodge Jeep\*  
 Red Wing Go Girls!  
 Red Wing Lions Club\*  
 ReMax—Great River Country, Lake City\*  
 Rigg, Lynne  
 River Services – Wanamingo  
 Saunders, Kathy

Schaeffer, Holly  
 Schell, Karen  
 Schoenfelder, Leslie  
 Slumberland of Red Wing  
 Smith, Carol  
 Smith, Sheila  
 Southeast Deanery  
 Spencer, Theresa  
 St. Joes Catholic Church  
 St. Paul's Catholic Church, Zumbrota  
 St. Paul's Lutheran church  
 Stang, Bonnie  
 Starbucks Coffee Co.  
 StarTech Computing, Inc.\*  
 Sturdiwheat, Inc.\*  
 Target  
 Trinity Church  
 Truwe, Marge  
 United Lutheran Church, Red Wing  
 Valentines Assisted Living  
 West End Liquors\*  
 Westeby, Patsy  
 WomenCents  
 Witt, Elizabeth  
 WMF of Our Saviors  
 Zohn, Lori



The HOPE Coalition is a United Way supported organization

Is everything correct? As hard as we try to get the spelling correct and all of our donor names listed, mistakes do happen. If a mistake was made, we sincerely apologize, and ask that you contact Emily at 651-388-9360, ext. 30 so it can be corrected. Thank you!

HOPE Coalition  
480 8th Street  
Red Wing, MN 55066

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HOPE Coalition

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Spreading **HOPE** to those in need.

## Contact Information

**The Women's Center**  
1-800-369-5214 Crisis Line  
651-385-8601 Business Line

**Kids Count**  
**Abused Children's Program**  
651-380-0380 Crisis Line  
651-380-9360, ext 12 Business Line

**Transitional Housing and  
the Community Care Fund**  
651-388-3960, ext 28

**HOPE Coalition Development  
and Special Events Office**  
651-388-9360, ext 30

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A warm welcome to our new and  
returning Board Members:

*Guy DeLeon (returning),  
Nicole Miller and  
Laura Blair*

### Executive Director:

Carl Evans