



HAWC

Healing Abuse **Working for Change**

Home-a place of safety and support; where we find rest and renewal. But what if home is filled with fear and abuse?

HAWC is launching a Building Campaign to renovate our newly purchased emergency shelter for victims of domestic abuse and their children made homeless due to violence.



Creating Safety

Domestic violence is one of the leading causes of homelessness for children and families. Emergency shelter is a last resort for families escaping violence and the lives of children are especially disrupted as they leave behind all that they know – home, pets, best friends, teachers, favorite playgrounds.

“HAWC is the reason I am alive today. If my story touches just one person living in an abusive relationship, I want to offer them a message of hope. Because of the continued support of donors and the community, people like myself are able to come out of the darkness.”

Each year HAWC's shelter provides safe refuge to approximately 100 individuals – 50 adults and 50 children made homeless due to domestic violence. They stay for several months while they recover from trauma and develop plans for employment, housing, education and childcare to create violence-free, autonomous lives for themselves and their children.

Children staying at our shelter often experience sleep and eating disorders; some are sad and withdrawn; others are aggressive and hyperactive. Many have experienced developmental delays and academic disruptions as a result of the abuse. In an effort to ease the anxiety that accompanies leaving behind all that is familiar and entering a strange new environment – including a new school – HAWC staff work to ease their transition from fear to safety. ♦

Providing Shelter

Our old shelter was purchased in 1985 and served as a refuge from violence for over 2,400 people during its 24 years of service. Because of its age, small size and the high level of use, it became increasingly difficult to maintain and was not handicapped accessible.

We are pleased to announce that we purchased a new shelter in July 2009 after two years of searching for the right building. The previous month we had to vacate our old shelter due to disrepair and are currently renting temporary space. The new house is close to shopping, public transportation, schools and parks. It will meet all of the programmatic and accessibility requirements of residents of all ages including a training room for job readiness; homework area for teens and play space for children. Each family will have a private bedroom and will share a living room, dining room and kitchen.

We are launching our Building Campaign to raise money for the accessibility, fire and safety renovations required for us to occupy the new house as well as for program expansion. ♦



Stopping the Cycle of Violence

Domestic abuse occurs more frequently than one might expect. Nearly one in four women experience domestic violence at some point in their lives.

Since 1978, the mission of HAWC has been to create social change by taking action against personal and societal patterns of violence and oppression. HAWC provides services and support to victims of domestic abuse and their children residing in the 23 cities and towns on the North Shore so that they may make informed, independent decisions about their futures.

HAWC provides the information, tangible resources and emotional support necessary for moving forward after abuse. Survivors are able to discuss their situation in a non-judgmental setting, explore their options, develop safety plans, identify support systems, set their own goals and re-enter the economic mainstream to support violence-free lives for themselves and their children. ♦

Healing Abuse

A home of fear robs a childhood. The Department of Children and Families estimates that 43,000 Massachusetts children are exposed to domestic violence annually.

Children witnessing the abuse of a caregiver suffer in numerous ways often resulting in post traumatic stress disorder. Some children feel responsible for stopping the abuse, putting themselves between the perpetrator and the victim thereby compromising their own safety.

HAWC, in collaboration with North Shore Children's Hospital, works to stabilize the children of those who seek our services by re-connecting them to the protective parent whose confidence and resilience have often been broken down by the perpetrator. Intervening early and addressing trauma in the life of a child who has witnessed abuse can break the cycle that may lead that child to become a perpetrator or a victim.

Once a child sees the parent who cares for them regain hope and strength, the child is able to be a child again. By re-affirming the parent/child bond, both can recover more quickly. ♦

Instilling Hope

Perpetrators of abuse use isolation and intimidation to entrap victims—their own family members—into thinking there is no way out. Often we are asked, “Why do they stay?” More often we hear from victims, “I never thought I could get out alive.”

In hostage situations, help must come from the outside. The same holds true for domestic violence. Leaving is the most dangerous time for victims of abuse. Most have been threatened with injury, loss of their children, their job, reputation, even death. Victims who have assistance to plan the safest way to leave are better able to avoid these dangers.

HAWC not only helps victims get out alive, we help them thrive. All of us—neighbors, friends, colleagues, educators, congregations, extended families—are the outsiders who can help someone get free from a batterer. Without us, victims have no hope of escape. With us, they can move on to recover from trauma, rebuild their strength and create homes of safety and love. ♦

Our Services

HAWC's offices are in Lynn, Salem, Gloucester, Beverly and Ipswich. In fiscal year 2009, HAWC provided the following services:

Hotline calls

3,733 callers

Counseling and support groups

780 individuals

Parent/child trauma recovery

123 families

Youth Violence Prevention

7,870 youth

Legal Advocacy in

6 Area Courts

2,146 individuals

Education and Training

3,939 residents and professionals

Housing and Homelessness Prevention

Emergency Shelter

54 adults and 46 children

One-year Rental Assistance

11 adults and 15 children

Rental Down-payment/Utilities

19 adults and 37 children

HAWC also owns Rerun

Boutique, a retail consignment store, in Beverly.

Visit Rerun at 330 Rantoul Street in Beverly. Thursday through Saturday, 10 am - 6pm. 978-922-5422. ♦

Making a Significant Difference

Domestic abuse impacts us all. It will take all of us to make a difference.

It spills over into our schools, neighborhoods, workplaces and places of worship and takes its toll on us personally and financially. Domestic violence cuts across all socioeconomic, cultural, racial, political, gender, sexual orientation and religious lines. It impacts all aspects of our lives – from children's education and academic achievement to business and community vitality.

The community looks to HAWC for leadership in response to this intractable social problem. We are one of the premier domestic violence agencies in the state with an impressive array of innovative programs to meet the needs of victims. We are integral to the well being of the North Shore community.

Ask around. There are few in the area who have not heard of HAWC and many who have used HAWC services or know someone who has. We have joined forces with health care providers, police departments, court personnel, educators and local officials to create response systems that protect victims. These partnerships have raised awareness about abuse and the local resources available. Together we have created a legacy of community collaboration.

We are asking everyone in our service area to help protect victims of abuse by making a contribution to HAWC's Building Campaign. Your gift will help us continue to provide emergency shelter as well as enhance services, including hiring a full-time attorney to represent victims in court and expansion of our youth violence prevention program. We are confident that together we can meet this funding challenge.

HAWC has not approached the community for this level of support since 1985, a quarter century ago, when we purchased our first shelter. We hope you will consider playing a critical role in our community's ability to help all who seek protection from abuse by supporting this effort to turn despair into hope, fear into safety, a wish into reality.

By supporting HAWC's Building Campaign, you are helping to create a community that values respectful relationships and a safe, nurturing home environment for everyone, especially children. ♦



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