



Target employees volunteer at Purple Dove Resale Center to benefit Micah's Place with store manager Don Nichols (left). Open M-S, 10am to 6pm. 1002 S. 14th St., Fernandina Beach



Micah's Place

Micah's Place is a not-for-profit community based organization providing a multi-faceted program geared towards eliminating domestic violence in our community.

Services include shelter, individual and group counseling, youth programs, advocacy, and community and prevention education and training.

24-Hour Crisis Hotline
1 (800) 500-1119

Micah's Place
Administrative Office
Post Office Box 16287
Fernandina Beach,
Florida 32035

Phone: 904-491-6364
Fax: 904-491-6362

E-mail:
development@micahsplace.org

Please help spread the word about Micah's Place services and programs by displaying our brochures, posters & flyers in your place of business.

Call 904-491-6364, and we will gladly bring materials to you.



Micah's Voice

CRISIS TO CONFIDENCE • MORE THAN A SHELTER
THE MICAH'S PLACE NEWSLETTER

Survivor Story

by Micah's Place Advocate Faye Jones

She called late at night and was surprised to have someone actually answer the phone. She said she was going to leave a message because she was so desperate to talk to someone, even if it was only a machine. Relating her story of many years of abuse, she just needed someone to listen and not judge her for not leaving her abuser. The main reason was her daughter who loves her Daddy very much. I gave her as much information as I could on how we could help her when she gets ready to leave, and let her know we talk to women every day in similar situations - there is help available for her. As always I safety planned with her for herself and also her daughter.

During the conversation I was able to let her know she was not alone and we answer the hotline 365 days a year and 24 hours a day, so she doesn't ever need to feel alone because we are just a phone call away. Her court advocate said that Micah's Place had a support group which would greatly benefit her. I gave her more information on our outreach services and the phone number.

She thanked me for listening and giving her hope since she had very little support from anyone in her life right now. She was very thankful someone had picked up the phone at this wee hour of the morning because she felt much better now and could finally get some rest (which we all know is something survivors have very little of).

Once again, I am appreciative of the opportunity to work in an organization which is actively involved in daily empowering women in so many areas of their lives, but especially in giving women the support they need to finally leave an abuser when they are ready to do so.

From My Heart

By Cathy Blake, Lead Advocate

I work real hard to keep you safe.

I try my best to remind you of hope.

I offer you knowledge from my past.

I believe in you when you feel lost.

I play quietly with your children to give you peace.

I sit back and let you scream to get it all out.

I hold your hand to help you balance your life.

I call you my sister when you are orphaned.

I hear your voice when I defend our laws.

I see your face when I feel overwhelmed.

I open the door when the rest are slammed shut.

I hear your whispers and answer your call.

I wipe the blood and bandage the pain.

I give you the tools to mend your heart and spirit.

I see the scars that still remain.

I understand that you still love him.

I smile brightly when you walk out the door.

I smile even more when you walk safely back in.

I quietly disappear when you no longer need me.

I stand back to watch you stand tall.

Please always remember I am here for you...

I am your advocate.

And you are my reason to be proud.

Letter from the President

Micah's Place Board President Sandy Sproat

Micah's Place is blessed by the talent and leadership of our new board members

Dan Dunleavy, Don Hughes, Joy McCabe, Eileen Searle and Bea Walker. And we are fortunate to have continued commitment with our newly elected officers President Elect Jake Posey, Vice President Dr. Bill Amos, Secretary Elisa Simpson, Treasurer Roger Martin and Member At Large Bea Walker.

The support and insights of the entire board are a blessing to me as President. They inspire confidence with their wisdom and offer hope to the families crushed by domestic violence in our community. Let me assure you that your donations and contributions are in good hands with this outstanding group of board members as well as our dedicated staff.

During our upcoming, professionally led strategic planning day, we will address the future of Micah's Place. "Micah's Place mission is to provide prevention and intervention services to victims of domestic violence and to provide education within our community to effect change in behavior and attitudes relating to domestic violence."

I recently visited a brand new domestic violence shelter in upstate South Carolina and was inspired by their enthusiasm and can-do attitude. A bonus for me was to realize that Micah's Place has reached a higher plateau with our staff, the programs and services we provide, our fundraising achievements and our visibility at the Purple Dove Resale Center. Our maturity brings new opportunities and challenges, and the road ahead is so hopeful. We've come a long way friends, and I thank you for being there all of the way.



Micah's Place volunteer Joyce Jones (left) wins PGA Award and is congratulated by former First Coast News TV anchor-reporter Charlene Shirik.

Letter from the Executive Director

Micah's Place Executive Director Shandra Riffey

The success of Micah's Place cannot be measured by numbers served, dollars spent or donations gained. There is no number great enough to illustrate the value of a life – a woman or child who has been saved because our services were available. There is no way to measure how many children's lives we have touched through our prevention programs in our schools. How does one measure success?

The teen who sees the warning signs of a potentially dangerous relationship before the first physical strike is made. The woman who tells us that after her first night in our shelter, she slept peacefully for the first time in years. The child who realizes that home shouldn't be a place filled with anger or violence. We at Micah's Place measure our success by the individual.

Micah's Place was created by the community to make a difference in the community.

We have sheltered victims, provided valuable education, and insured that our children have a safe place to call home. Together we made a difference – you and Micah's Place. Your donations, time and support were critical and helped so many individuals live a violence free life.

Our work is not done. Our mission of ending family violence in Nassau County has yet to be realized. But Micah's Place is up to the task. Can we count on YOU to be a part of our success story?



Victims Rights Week – Micah's Place Executive Director Shandra Riffey shares the stage with other notables at Nassau County Courthouse

In Appreciation of Our Donors

Micah's Place always appreciates the generosity of all of our donors. Businesses in the area which regularly donate their goods and services to support survivors of domestic violence and their children are:

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Absolute Fabrics & Home | Latitude Coffee Roasters and Tea Merchants |
| Amelia Graphics | Lee Chiropractic |
| Amelia Lock and Key | Lott's Furniture |
| Capps Sutton | Martex Services |
| Cat's Angels | My Nassau Sun |
| Changes Hairstyle | Nader Pest Control |
| Daniel Cab | Nassau County Record |
| Fernandina Beach News | Red Otter Outfitters |
| Leader | Starbucks |
| Hairworks | Westside Journal |
| Joy to the Children | |

An important part of our funding comes from grants. We thank the following for their support:

- | | |
|----------------------|----------|
| Comcast | Target |
| Players Championship | Wal Mart |
| Rayonier | |

What have we been doing?

During our last fiscal year, Micah's Place provided:

- **3,303** days of shelter
- Community educational presentations to **2,391** people
- Safe alternative shelter to an additional **201** survivors since our own shelter was full to capacity
- **1,899** safety plans
- 24 hour crisis hotline to **1,061** victims
- And information and referrals to **3,066** people needing assistance

Auxiliary Volunteers

If you are interested in donating your time and talent to Micah's Place, our Auxiliary needs you! Consider one or more volunteer committees: Cookbook, Hospitality, Home and Garden Tour and Purple Dove. Call 491-6364 extension 102 or email development@micahsplace.org to get started.

Volunteer Spotlight



As a Micah's Place emergency shelter volunteer, Claudie Speed's impact is felt by everyone who meets her and not just within our agency. Many people on the street know Claudie and her zealous passion for life. Claudie demands respect as well as showering it among everyone who has the pleasure of crossing her life's path. It is for this reason, the victims of domestic violence and their children have their lives changed when encountering Claudie – she allows them to feel valued.

"My life is enriched each time I come into the shelter. I feel the love and respect shared by the residents and staff. The responsibility of answering very distressing hot line calls is balanced when the caller realizes that we are sharing a bond of love and need. Many issues in my own life become insignificant when compared to the trust given to me. My faith in mankind is especially renewed when I see the courage of mothers to leave familiar surroundings to give their children a safe future. My days at Micah's Place are very special," Claudie proudly notes.

Claudie has been consistently volunteering longer than most other volunteers, volunteering once a week for 7 years. Even before the shelter opened, Claudie used her own cell phone to initially help victims of domestic violence who called for help. Advocates note that Claudie is allowed to, and is capable of, doing all volunteer activities, from advocacy to child care. She is always the first to volunteer for new trainings and in-house fund raisers.

Our thanks to Claudie. She motivates others to volunteer, she encourages staff and most importantly, she is the ultimate advocate for survivors.



Post Office Box 16287
Fernandina Beach, Florida 32035

Phone: **904-491-6364**

Fax: 904-491-6362

Email: development@micahsplace.org

Purple Dove Resale Center

1002 S. 14th St., Fernandina Beach
261-5227

Open Monday - Saturday, 10 am to 6 pm

Outreach Locations:

Callahan: 904-879-6270

Fernandina Beach: 904-879-6270

Hilliard: 904-879-6270

(by appointment)

Yulee: 904-548-4646

24-Hour

Domestic Violence Hotline

1-800-500-1119

Local hotline

904-225-9979

Board of Directors

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Jake Posey, President Elect
Bill Amos, Vice-President
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Katey Breen, Development Director
Heather Jones, Financial Director

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT #162
FERNANDINA BEACH, FL 32034

Event Calendar

- **October:** Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM)
- **October 18, 2008:** Super Wal Mart Steakout in observance of DVAM, 4 pm to 6:30 pm. Free food and fun.
- **October 23, 2008:** Annual Campaign Luncheon, Ritz Carlton, noon to 1pm. Call 491-6364 for information.
- **February 28, 2009:** Amelia Island-Fernandina Beach-Yulee Chamber of Commerce first annual Health and Wellness Expo, Journey Church on Sadler Road in Fernandina Beach, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call Lori Hoerl at 904-261-3248 for more details or to reserve your table.
- **March 10, 11, 2009:** Home and Garden Tour, Micah's Place signature fund raising event coordinated by the Auxiliary. Amelia Island Plantation, 9:30 am to 4:30 pm each day. Call 491-6364 extension 102 for more information.
- **April 16, 2009:** Donor and volunteer acknowledgment event. 5 pm to 7 pm, Fernandina Beach Women's Club. Wine and hors d'oeuvres.