Micah's Voice

CRISIS TO CONFIDENCE - MORE THAN A SHELTER

The Micah's Place Newsletter • Volume 3, Issue 3

Weavers Look To Micah's Future

J. Wayne and Delores Barr Weaver recently selected Micah's Place to receive one of many personal grants. The grant was not only generous, it was extremely thoughtful because rather than direct how the funding should be used for the organization, the Weavers asked Micah's Place staff to decide. Staff identified the two top needs for which funding was unavailable elsewhere and provided definitive evidence that the organization was successful in its mission. The Weavers wished to remain anonymous at the beginning to avoid influencing grant recipients but their identity was revealed at a ceremony in June where Micah's Place received this considerate support.

Micah's Place intervention and prevention programs for survivors of domestic violence continue to require unrestricted funding for day-to-day operations. This recent large contribution from the Weavers will affect but not reduce this need. The greater part of the Weavers' donation is directed to begin an endowment. The remaining amount of the contribution is devoted to staffing in order to increase direct services to survivors.

The Weavers' initial gift several years ago helped us build our shelter to ensure emergency housing for those who need it. Their most recent gift will ensure that the doors stay open.

J. Wayne and Delores Barr Weaver (center) with Community Foundation of Jacksonville staff

Survivors' Thanks

"I just wanted to thank you for the wonderful time I and the other residents had yesterday. As you know, our trip to the fire department got cancelled and you arranged for us to go to Fort Clinch and eat dinner. We had the best time. All of the adults and children went to Fort Clinch and spent the afternoon touring the fort and seeing the sights there. Afterwards we went to Pizza Hut and we were able to feed everyone there by ordering a Family special. Everyone had a great time and it was so nice to get out and have that time of fellowship. Thank you so much for a wonderful time." — ***Survivor***

"I just wanted to thank you for all of the wonderful ways you helped me this Easter. We had such a wonderful day and it would not have been possible without your help. The Easter baskets for the boys and myself were so nice and the boys were so excited when they woke upon Easter morning. It was such a blessing to have those things provided for us. I also wanted to tell you how nice it was coloring Easter eggs with Amanda. She was so thoughtful and creative with the boys. Thanks again for everything." — ***Survivor*** *(Amanda is Micah's Place Youth Program Manager)*

IN THIS ISSUE: Welcoming Shandra • Welcome Ya'll to the Fall Ball • Domestic Violence Awareness Month • Shelter Wish List & More!

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:
Micahsplace_dd@bellsouth.net

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.

From the President

–Sandy Sproat, Micah's Place Board President

Twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, three hundred and sixty-five days a year, there are children in tears, women cringing in fear and elderly begging for mercy. There are calls to 911 and to the Domestic Violence Hot Line. There are court hearings, broken bones and scenes of horror that make us weep.

And there are also supporters of Micah's Place, who hear these calls for help and work as a team to continually provide assistance and the hope of a brighter future to these families torn apart by domestic violence. Our Micah's Place team involves hundreds of men, women and children: paid staff members and volunteers alike. We're like brightly colored beads on a strong chain.

Our chain is the mission of Micah's Place – "Crisis To Confidence ~ More Than A Shelter" and it is enhanced by these beads that vary in color, shape and size. We are the sunshine yellow beads of our Auxiliary members; the clear blue beads of our dedicated paid staff members; the silver beads of our Advisory Council; the shiny green beads of the Board of Directors; the ruby red beads of generous donations from the residents of Nassau County and the warm orange beads of businesses and social agencies in our community.

I am willing to bet that you are represented by one of these beads. The mission of Micah's Place remains the same. The strength of the chain endures and the beauty of the beads is a reality that is recognized and appreciated. I am proud to serve as the President of the Board for Micah's Place because I know that we are all doing the right thing in the right place for the right people.

From the Executive Director

–Shandra Riffey, Micah's Place Executive Director

"We Go Where Our Vision Is" – Joseph Murphy. As the new executive director I have spent the last few weeks getting my bearings, learning about fabulous Nassau County and assessing the needs of Micah's Place. What I have also had is an incredible opportunity to learn not only of Micah's Place as it is today but to learn of the very rich history of the organization. Past and current board members, community members and survivors have given me a clear understanding of our beginnings. It all started with the vision of a small group of concerned citizens who saw the need for local services and a shelter for survivors of domestic violence and their children. This vision grew into a reality. Without this vision, our neighbors, sisters, mothers, friends and coworkers would not have a local refuge from the violence in their lives.

As we enter a new year, Micah's Place still depends on our community and its support and generosity to move forward towards the next phase of our vision. My responsibility is to help define that vision. To that end, we will establish an outreach center to facilitate services and support for survivors. We will provide affordable transitional housing in an attempt to remove the roadblock for women and children wanting to lead safer lives. Our vision of sustaining our current work and increasing our services all hinges on your support of our mission. I ask that you, as a supporter of Micah's Place, join us in our ultimate vision for Nassau County, a county free from family violence.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

October 2 - *Painting a Brighter Future* annual campaign luncheon, Ritz Carlton of Amelia Island *(by invitation)*

October 5 - Peace Breakfast, Golf Club of Amelia, 7:30 am

October 10 - *Fall Ball Come on Ya'll* fundraiser, Bowling's property on Bells River, 5:30 pm to 9:30 pm *(by invitation)*

October 13 - Wal Mart Steakout, Super Wal Mart in Yulee, 4:00 to 6:30 pm

October 13 - Stein Mart Sanctioned Run/Walk (Call Sandy Scott, 904.206.4480)

October 18 - Prayer Vigil First Presbyterian Church, 9 North 6th St., F.B.

October 31 - Vigil/Walk, Callahan 6:00 pm

November 1 - Stein Mart Girls Night Out (Call Sandy Scott, 904.206.4480)

November 15 - Auxiliary Luncheon, Ocean Club
October 31 - Vigil/Walk, Callahan 6:00 pm

March 11, 2008 - Micah's Place Auxiliary Home and Garden Tour, 9:30 am – 4:30 pm

March12 - Micah's Place Auxiliary Home and Garden Tour, 9:30 am – 4:30 pm

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When you have finished reading this newsletter, please pass it along.

A Thank You from Outreach

– by Cathy Blake, Outreach Advocate

Micah's Place Outreach would just like to share a warm thank you to the community for all the donations we receive each and every day. Donations are such a big support to our program. When survivors leave the shelter or move out on their own, it is a very scary time both emotionally and financially. However, with the help of this gracious community, Micah's Place Outreach can continue to ease some burdens by providing furniture, household items, and other new home needs.

Over the past few weeks, Outreach has been able to provide televisions, microwaves, blankets, clothing, toiletries, and school supplies. By providing these items, the survivor can then focus more on the payment of everyday bills, thus keeping the survivor in a safe home and decreasing the feeling or need to revitalize a relationship with their abuser.

So please continue to remember us with your donations. Remember, every donation that you make is advocacy for each survivor it touches. And please know that survivors always express their gratitude and thanks.

Welcoming Shandra

On Friday July 20, the community welcomed Shandra Riffey as the new Executive Director of Micah's Place. The event was hosted by Steve and Carol Scavatto at their Your Place Restaurant and guests included leaders in law enforcement, judicial system, churches, schools, health field and other non profits all of which partner to provide services for victims of domestic violence. Ms. Riffey was previously the director of the domestic violence center for Putnam County, FL and during the event she encouraged guests to share their ideas for improving collaborations and efforts to eliminate domestic violence in Nassau County.

New Outreach Center

Thanks to the generosity of the Town of Hilliard, Mayor David Buchanan and the Sheriff's Department, Micah's Place has a new Outreach Center and will be open Thursdays and Fridays. It is located in the Sheriff's substation and former Town Hall building, and will afford victims of domestic violence in the area a much more accessible location for services. Micah's Place offers its huge appreciation for this important opportunity.

MICAH'S PLACE AUXILIARY

– by Iris Jacobsen Auxiliary Chair

Plans for our "party with a purpose" hosted every two years are underway. The date of the party will be Wednesday, October 10, 2007. This year's party will be a more casual party, we are calling it "Come on Ya'll to the Fall Ball." The Bowlings have graciously offered their beautiful Bells River property as a location. The party will have a country theme with the Mike Miller Band, dancing in the barn, oyster roast, barbecue, hayrides, boat tours and live auction. Eileen Shannon Moore, Fall Ball Chair has assembled a fantastic team. Members – look for your invitation mailed in early September. Proceeds from this party will benefit Micah's Place and its programs.

COME ON YA'LL TO THE FALL BALL!

We also have begun making plans for our November 15th luncheon at Amelia Island Plantation's Ocean Club. This year's emphasis will be on children. Our speaker will let us know about the exciting new programs being implemented into the school system for adolescents about the danger of violent relationships.

Micah's Place Auxiliary invites you to join our group; it is a great way to meet fabulous people, have fun and give to a wonderful cause at the same time. We need you! Invitations to participate in all Auxiliary activities are mailed to the membership only. Please call 491-6364 for further information, or go online to www.micahsplace.org, or just mail you membership check made payable to Micah's Place for $37.00 to P.O. Box 16287, Fernandina Beach, FL 32035

October is DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

Throughout October, please help observe Domestic Violence Awareness Month by participating in events, learning more and educating others. Visit local retail stores for your free purple ribbon pin to recognize and honor victims of domestic violence and celebrate survivors. Or call 904.491.6364 or micahsplace_dd@bellsouth.net. When you see law enforcement wearing a purple ribbon, thank them. Take time to view student artwork exhibited in local area banks and libraries which illustrate their hope for healthy, respectful relationships. Donate your old cell phones which can be used by victims to dial 911. Drop off centers include:

- First Coast Community Bank
  1750 S 14th St, Fernandina Beach
- Radio Shack
  Amelia Plaza, Fernandina Beach
- Super Wal Mart
  464016 St. Road 200, Yulee
- Verizon Wireless,
  474315 SR #200, Fernandina Beach

DON'T FORGET! Mark your calendars for these Collections of Stein Mart sponsored Dignity U Wear Events

Annual Campaign Launched

– by Jim Shaw, Annual Campaign Chair

Painting a brighter future – that is the hope that Micah's Place has for its mission to end family violence. It is also the theme of this year's annual campaign. On October 2, 2007, we will launch our campaign to inspire support by informing the community about the services provided at Micah's Place. We want you to trust that we are good stewards of your contributions and have been successful on behalf of the victims of domestic violence in Nassau County. With your financial assistance, we are certain that we will reach our goal of $250,000.

Micah's Place intervention and prevention programs for survivors of domestic violence continue to require unrestricted funding for day-to-day operations. A recent large contribution from Delores and Wayne Weaver will affect but not reduce this need. The greater part of the Weavers donation was directed to begin an endowment to insure that Micah's Place doors will always be open. The remaining amount of the contribution was devoted to staffing in order to increase direct services to survivors.

You'll be receiving our annual report and pledge card. As campaign chair, I invite you to partner with me in our mission to stop family violence. If you are as troubled by this terrible crime as I am, then I ask you to join me by making a pledge. When you do, we come that much closer to painting a brighter future.

DID YOU KNOW?

Are you aware of the partnership of Dignity U Wear and Micah's Place?

Each Stein Mart Store selects a qualified charity in their neighborhood. Collections of Stein Mart has selected Micah's Place as their recipient charity. The creative fundraising efforts of the Stein Mart associates throughout the country and here on the Island help fund the distribution of the brand new clothing provided by Jacksonville based charity Dignity U Wear.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Dignity U Wear welcomes your participation.

4th Annual Benefit 5KRun/Walk – Saturday, October 6, 2007 – Registration @ 7:30 am, Run/Walk @ 8:00 with awards and refreshments afterward. Registration forms may be obtained in advance at Collections of Stein Mart or you may register online at active.com. We would love to see Micah's Place supporters join in this event.

Girls Night Out - Sunday, November 11, 2007 at Collections of Stein Mart from 6 to 9 pm. Join in this fun action-packed evening with food tasting by Chili's, makeup makeovers by Chanel, hair cuts, nail techs, microderm specialists, chair massages, artist sketches, silent auction and more. Your $10 ticket donation goes to Micah's Place. Silent Auction proceeds go to Dignity U Wear. Tickets may be purchased at Collections of Stein Mart.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

- by Jim Hurley, Fernandina Beach Police Department and Micah's Place Board Member

As a veteran police officer, having served for almost thirty years, I remember all too well those first ten years or so when domestic violence was not discussed openly anywhere in polite society. Back then, police officers weren't exactly first responders; we were more like the responders of last resort. More often than not, we saw the tragic results of domestic battery up close and personal and we resented that we were powerless to do much about it.

We tried, of course, but reasoning with a drunken batterer at 2:00 o'clock in the morning was never very successful in the long run. The best we could hope for was a temporary cease-fire, and we knew intrinsically that we were doing nothing to solve the real problem.

There are many reasons why domestic violence was allowed to occur unabated in our neighborhoods, towns and cities, even with our general knowledge. Micah's Place has outlined many of the financial, emotional and psychological causes for remaining in bad situations. Meanwhile, many of the social and legal reasons for our apathy are grounded in the misguided concept that "A man's home is his castle" and the determined stance by the state not to encroach on the "sanctity of marriage." Well, even rookie street cops in 1980 understood that when a marriage includes domestic violence, it is far from sanctified; it's very much broken or severely wounded.

Fortunately, a lot of good things have happened over the past fifteen years. Most notably (from a law enforcement perspective) have been the monumental changes to state law that finally gave police officers the ability and direction to arrest batterers based on probable cause, even when misdemeanor offenses are not committed in our presence. Today we have groups committed to education and outreach support, we have emergency shelters, and programs designed to make it possible for victims to reenter society once they leave their batterer.

Interestingly enough, the response to domestic violence now serves as a model for other social problems, such as homelessness. Quite simply, Micah's Place, and the many shelters like it around the state and around the country, is a tremendous success story!

But we should not be complacent or stop trying to improve the various education, response, and legal components that took so long to develop. Even now we have recently created a new Countywide Domestic Violence Task Force designed to identify areas that require our energy and focus. We must continually search for new and creative strategies, as well as new partners.

I commend the many caring individuals and local businesses, like Daniel Taxi to name just one, for stepping up and offering their services at no cost when called upon by our shelter employees. So many other community stakeholders have demonstrated their support in so many ways. I'd also like to commend Micah's Place for taking the lead by providing education and outreach to those of dating age in our high schools and also thank the School Board for being forward-thinking enough to recognize the need for this kind of training. What a great intervention strategy and perfect age to focus on stopping the cycle of violence!

I also commend Micah's Place for continuing to offer first responder training to police officers and deputies throughout the County. The Fernandina Beach Police Department is certainly committed to the goal of reducing incidents of Domestic Violence. We are currently examining methods for analyzing our records data for early identification of potential victims of domestic violence. This type of Threat Abatement has been successful in other jurisdictions and is well worth examining locally.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS & OFFICERS

Michael S. Mullin, Linda Starr, Iris Jacobsen, Roger Martin, Myra Brock

Shandra Riffey, Executive Director; Don Riney, Treasurer; Audrey Schiebler, Secretary; Bill Amos, Vice President; Sandy Sproat, President

CAUSE CHANGE

Domestic violence touches all of us. You may have had a personal experience; witnessed the heartbreak of a child who witnessed violence in the home; or lost workforce hours as an employer of someone in an abusive situation. You are vital to our effort to bring hope, help and healing to victims of domestic violence. Volunteer with us, or please consider a donation. **YOU** can cause change. Thank you.

Name _____

Street _____

_____

City _____ **State**____ **Zip**_____

☐ Yes, I would like to volunteer. Call me _____

☐ Enclosed is $_____, my tax deductible donation
(please make checks payable to Micah's Place)

Send to:

Micah's Place, P. O. Box 16287
Fernandina Beach, FL 32035

DONORS - May 1, 2007 through June 30, 2007

Our work at Micah's Place would not be possible without the generosity and support of so many in our community…

Cecil & Ann Allf
Connie Arthur
Baptist Medical Center Nassau
Sydney and Anne Barbanel
Bill & Sue Bartholomae
Joan M Blanchard
Joel Blanchard II
Ronald & Leah Bork
Stephen & Sue Braddock
Maureen A Brands
Russell & Susan Bryant
Vincent & Anastasia Chirico
Barbara Clausen
Elaine Coats
Clerk of Court
Henry & Imogene Coleman
Sherry E Conner
John & Emily Crawford
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Janice G Davis
Department of Financial Services
John M Drew
Eva Edwards
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Barbara D Graham
Lois Hill
David & Peggy Harlow
Lois C Harman
Hazel Allen Group of WMU
Richard and Jean Heinrich
Hermance Family Foundation Inc
Max & Queet Hertweck
William & Dolores Higginbotham
Hudson City Savings Bank
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E E & Marilyn Jones
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Edward & Sandra Sproat
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The Community Foundation
Virginia Meade Taylor
Clifton & Melissa Thomas
Brantley & Kathleen Thomas
Marie B. Tyree
VOCA
Anna L Voss
Betrina Winton
Ann M Young
Steven & Ruth Zellers

SPECIAL DONATIONS

IN MEMORY OF
Jean Dunaway
Mike Luke

IN HONOR OF
Derek Miller
Susan Murray
Alice Wells Payne

Special Thanks To:

- The Golf Club of Amelia for hosting and underwriting the annual Peace Breakfast
- The Ritz Carlton Amelia Island for sponsoring a luncheon to launch our ***Paint a Brighter Future*** annual campaign
- The Domestic Violence Task Force and the Nassau Record for five weeks coverage of domestic violence, full page spreads!
- To Latitudes Coffee for providing all of the coffee – all of the time – for our emergency shelter residents
- Our partners at the Fernandina Beach News Leader, Nassau County Record, Nassau County Neighbor and Westside Journal for constant coverage of Micah's Place events and issues.
- Amelia Lock and Key, Changes Hairstyle, Daniel Cab, Hairworks, Kelley Pest Control, Martex Services, and PC Resurrection for their continuous donation of services to help victims of domestic violence.

Our sincere apology to Pat and Fred Gieg who were omitted from the donor list in our last issue.

Please notify us if we have listed you incorrectly or inadvertently omitted your name.

Christmas in July
Northeast Florida Regional Council

Super Wal Mart recognized for outstanding support

Christmas in July
Lee Chiropractic Clinic:
Charity Baye-Gatz, April Shubert, Mandy Shubert, Dr. Joseph Lee, Dr. Elizabeth Lee, James Harrelson

Fernandina Beach Wal Mart recognized for outstanding support
Robert Hawk and Karen Williams

Christmas in July

Santa may be taking a rest, but Lee Chiropractic Clinic and the Northeast Florida Regional Council (NEFRC) certainly aren't. During July, they both celebrated "Christmas in July" by asking patients and staff respectively to donate toys to Micah's Place.

Lee Chiropractic Clinic patients who donated a toy received a free readjustment, a child's exam or new patient exam on designated days to encourage participation. Karolen Merritt, with the Nassau County SHIP program coordinated the toy collection for the NEFRC and added school supplies so that children would be prepared when the new school year started.

"Micah's Place gives each child a toy when they enter our emergency shelter. Since we do that throughout the year, we run dangerously low on toys during the summer months," notes Amanda Rolf, Micah's Place Youth Program Manager. "These toys came just in time because we are also experiencing full capacity at the shelter. The staff thinks this is great but the ones who are the most appreciative are the moms and their children - everyone has a big smile on their face. The children not only truly love these toys, but toys make the shelter feel so much like home."

Scout Troop *collects "Change for Babies"*

Women's club sponsored Little Women *donate 87 cell phones*

SHELTER WISH LIST

Children's Items
Arts & Crafts, Baby Wipes, Car Seats (new), School Supplies, Book Bags, Toys

Clothing
New Underwear/Bras All Sizes

Household Items
Dishwasher Detergent, Dishwashing Liquid, Glass Cleaner, Laundry Detergent

Paper Products
Disposable Diapers, Tissues, Toilet Paper, Paper Towels, Paper Napkins

Hygiene/Health Products
Shampoo/Conditioner, Feminine Hygiene Products, Shaving Gel, Disposable Razors, Toothbrushes, Toothpaste, Deodorant, Lotion, Bath Soap, Body Wash

Miscellaneous
Phone Cards, Gift Cards, Grocery Gift Certificates

CALL US IF YOU CAN HELP.

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Domestic Violence Hotline
1-800-500-1119

Special points of interest:

- DVAM
- Christmas in July
- Welcoming Shandra

Volume 3, Issue 3

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Informacion Imporatante

¿Qué es la violencia doméstica? La violencia doméstica es el abuso por parte de alguien cercano, padre, esposo o pareja sexual de una persona. Puede tomar muchas formas. Aquí les describimos algunos tipos de abuso: el abuso físico es el uso de la fuerza física; el abuso sexual quiere decir cualquier actividad sexual forzada; el abuso emocional incluye amenazas, crítica constante y degradaciones. Controlar el acceso al dinero y las actividades son otros comportamientos abusivos.

Para esas víctimas de violencia doméstica, que necesiten ayuda, por favor llamar al la línea de emergencia durante las 24 horas del día.

1-800-500-1119

You can help to reduce costs by opting to receive the Micah's Place newsletter by e-mail only. Please send an e-mail to micahsplace_ed@bellsouth.net, with your request.

FCADV
Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Please donate your used cell phone to Micah's Place. We accept any phone, regardless of age or condition. Please call (904) 491-6364 for more information