



Micah's Voice

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



Survivor Stories

by Micah's Place Advocates

Earning a living wage is one of the greatest barriers a woman faces in leaving a violent relationship. Often abused women are not allowed contact with the outside world. The isolation prevents them from furthering their education and entering the workforce.

At Micah's Place women are afforded the chance to pursue their dreams. One such woman came to the shelter just a few months short of completing a school that would open the doors to a wonderful career path, a career that would enable her to prosper both financially and emotionally. She entered in crisis, seeking a place of peace and found that she had also entered a place of opportunity. This courageous woman completed her schooling and found a secure and fulfilling profession. Micah's Place advocates recently had the pleasure of reuniting with this woman. She kindly attributed her ability to succeed during those difficult times to the advocates who worked with her at the shelter during her stay. She mentioned that there was always someone ready to help and encourage her; whether it was just someone to talk to, or someone to sit with her and help her study. Her fond reflection of those advocates is a reminder of the significant impact that Micah's Place has on each woman who enters shelter. She successfully made it through the difficult, and at times, seemingly impossible circumstances to become the survivor that she is today.

A woman came to Micah's Place who is doing very well moving forward with her life in

the face of great difficulties. Her child needs round-the-clock care. She had difficulty keeping a job because the child often needed hospitalization. This, in turn, made it difficult for her to leave her abuser. She wanted a better job but did not have a high school degree and so she downloaded GED practice tests and shelter residents and advocates helped to quiz her. She also found tutoring assistance for the entrance exam. Within a few days she had passed the test and since the school gave her a partial scholarship, she went straight to class. Happy to be there, she was the only one without a uniform but didn't care. When she gets established, she wants to find another lady who needs help and "pay forward" what Micah's Place has done for her.

Much earlier, another timid young lady came to Micah's Place with her children and who was in a nursing program. The difficulty she was having about leaving her abuser involved breaking family ties. She would leave early every morning for work, go to school and then she would return very late to the shelter and carry both her boys in from the car asleep from the sitter's. The next day it would all start again. She not only finished her schooling but had been totally transformed in the process.

As it turns out, the second woman became a nurse for the first woman's disabled child and was the one responsible for encouraging her to seek help from Micah's Place.



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.

Letter from the Executive Director

Micah's Place Executive Director Shandra Riffey

The end of a fiscal year always brings about a certain amount of reflection on the past years accomplishments, challenges and triumphs. As Micah's Place ends the 08/09 Fiscal year I can only look upon our year with a deep feeling of gratitude to our community, board of directors, volunteers and staff. You were always there when Micah's Place and the women and children we serve needed you. Whether it was assisting us in the recovery of our devastating shelter fire, working at The Purple Dove Resale Shop, answering the hotline or donating much needed funds, this community continues to embrace the mission of Micah's Place. Your time, talent and support assisted us in painting a brighter future for women and children in our community.

Current economic conditions could make 2009/2010 one of the most difficult years for those in need of our lifesaving services and for our agency. Please know that your past support is greatly appreciated but there is much more work to be done!

On behalf of survivors of domestic violence in Nassau County I thank you.

In Peace

Shandra L. Riffey

Time, Talent & Treasure

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. You can assist at our shelter, help with administrative duties or assist at our Purple Dove Resale Center. The Auxiliary needs volunteers for their annual fund raising projects.

Your in-kind donations are needed. Donated cell phones are given to survivors for emergencies. Gently used furniture and household items are sold at the Purple Dove Resale Center to support Micah's Place services and are also given to survivors of abuse who are starting a new life.

Please consider a monetary donation. Your investment in Micah's Place transforms lives, especially those of children who are our future for a violence free community.

For more information call Katey at 904.491.6364 extension 102 or development@micahsplace.org

Announcing Our New Primary Prevention Campaign

Micah's Place has partnered with Children's Episcopal Service's Head Start Program in an effort to end domestic violence before it begins. The program is based on identifying emotions, healthy responses, gender stereotyping, bullying and healthy peer relations. Each center provides services for 40 children ages 3-5 and the centers are located in Fernandina Beach and Callahan.

There have been several memorable instances with the children. The most unforgettable lesson learned is that they are open to everything and do not have preconceived ideals on how the world operates. The children are excited to learn that girls can be firefighters and boys can be chefs. One little girl ran over to the dress up center and put on the firefighter outfit. She quickly ran over to me and told me that girls can do everything that boys can do and boys can even do the laundry!

The children are so open minded and excited to engage in all the activities we present.

In the beginning of the program, an "Emotions" poster is presented with pictures of children's faces with the words identifying that emotion underneath. The Head Start staff has now developed their own posters for each room using the children's pictures. The children love to run and tell how they are feeling that day. The Head Start staff has also incorporated a space where children can move their name markers to a board that will identify their feelings.

It has been a pleasure working with these children and the staff at the Nassau County Head Start program. These children are inspirational to our own Micah's Place staff and community because we can observe that even a 3 year old can make a difference in ending domestic violence.

Denise Brown Speaks

Join us on January 28, 2010 to hear featured speaker **Denise Brown**, sister of Nicole Brown Simpson who was the wife of O.J. Simpson.

Denise will tell her story of how domestic violence impacted her family. Learn about her dedication to ending this horrific crime. Call 904-491-6364 extension 102 for more information.

Where Can You Find the Best Volunteers? At Micah's Place, of Course!

The past year has been extremely busy with many challenges for Micah's Place. As we weather the economic storm that has touched non-profit organizations, we continue to be blessed with the most wonderful volunteers in the world. Our volunteer base has grown during the last 12 months.

Micah's Place had six volunteers complete the required 30 hour Core Competency Training Program allowing them to assist our advocates by working in the shelter and answering our 24-hour emergency hotline.

Nearly 30 volunteers enjoy working at the Purple Dove Resale Center and keeping our store appropriately staffed every day of the week. Many of them work a regularly scheduled shift averaging 5 to 8 hours per week, although everyone remains flexible and often works far more hours when they know extra coverage is needed.

Another eight volunteers routinely work in our administration office an average of 3 hours per week. And with over 100 total volunteers ready to assist with various projects and events, we always know that every time we put out a call for help, that call will be answered.

Currently the estimated dollar value of a volunteer's time is near \$20.25 per hour, so it is easy to see just how much our volunteers contribute to Micah's Place. These women and men truly understand and appreciate how important our mission is for the victims of domestic violence who rely so heavily on our services. Simply put, we love each and every one of our volunteers so much, and because of them we are able to make a big difference in the lives of many people.

If you are interested to learn more about becoming a Micah's Place volunteer, please contact Volunteer Coordinator Ruth Zellers at 904-491-6364, extension 106 or hr@micahsplace.org. The road ahead is so hopeful. We've come a long way friends, and I thank you for being there all of the way.

Volunteer Spotlight



"Everybody can be great. Because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and your verb agree to serve.... You don't have to know the second theory of thermodynamics in physics to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love."
~Martin Luther King, Jr.

A heart full of grace describes Iris Jacobsen. When you see her, Iris exudes kindness and gentleness – but don't be fooled. There is an underlying strength that has served her and Micah's Place well. During the last two years, Iris has been at the helm of the Micah's Place Auxiliary. It is a mighty task but during that time she made significant changes which kept the original integrity, beauty and hard working core but transformed the group by expanding membership and establishing new and defining processes.

In addition, Iris has served on the Micah's Place board of directors (among her other many responsibilities in the community and to her family.) Her wit has gently alerted us to improvements when needed while putting a smile on our faces. When a new event is proposed, Iris is first in line to make sure she is involved to ensure a success.

There when you need her? Every single time. It is with pride that our volunteer spotlight is on Iris Jacobsen.



Volunteers were recognized at the annual holiday party at the Williams House B&B.

Shelter

The Micah's Place emergency shelter is a warm welcoming house, filled with women's voices, children's laughter and a strong sense of peace. Women in crisis are relieved to come through these doors into a safe place away from harm. This safe place is made possible by a caring, giving community who came together after our emergency shelter's devastating fire at the end of last year. Because of this support, Micah's Place was able to re-open our doors to serve the victims of Nassau and surrounding counties. Micah's Place provides hope and solace to those who may otherwise have nowhere else to turn.

The shelter has seen a steady rise in residents throughout the past few months, and in the last 30 days we have been full beyond capacity on most days. This increase in admissions may be due to the unsteady economy and a rise in unemployment and stress. With the loss of employment, many abusers are left home, stressed and unable to cope, which leads to more abuse and victimization.

Micah's Place Hotline has also seen an increase in calls from victims of domestic violence, who are not only seeking shelter but many times are looking for a calm voice on the other end of the line. Many women who call are just looking for someone to listen and offer advice. Micah's Place advocates offer not only shelter to callers, but referrals to other community services that victims may need as well.

Micah's Place is staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year with caring advocates who are passionate about helping women in crisis. There is always someone available who wants to listen and who can help.



In October, our emergency shelter experienced a fire which destroyed the kitchen; smoke and water damaged the rest of the shelter. By December, Donna Lynne Custom Homes had led the way completing the renovation of the shelter.



2009-2010 officers were elected for the Micah's Place board of directors: President Roger Martin, President Elect Joy McCabe, Vice President Elaine Coats, Secretary Carol Ann Atwood, and Treasurer Mike Mullins.



One of the 1st place winners Abby Hamilton artistically expressed her "A Future of Peace" for the Domestic Violence Awareness Month student art contest.

The Year in Pictures



Mayor Buchanan presents a check from the Town of Hilliard to Micah's Place Executive Director Shandra Riffey, past president Sandy Sproat, board member Joy McCabe and president Roger Martin.



Timberland employees selected Micah's Place for their employee's annual project, painting fences and porches, building picnic tables and making the children's playground at the shelter a work of art.



Sue Bartholomae receives the annual Rayonier "Concerned Good Citizen" Volunteer Award.



Barbara Bookman enjoys author Mary Bea Sullivan who generously awarded proceeds from her book sales and reading to Micah's Place.

Purple Dove Celebrates One Year Anniversary

April marked the first anniversary of the Purple Dove Resale Center which sells donations of gently used clothing, home goods, furniture and more. 100% of the proceeds generated by the store go to Micah's Place for the crucial services provided to survivors of domestic violence.

Many women come to shelter with nothing but the clothing on their backs. The Purple Dove serves as their department store so that they have the opportunity to shop for their preferences and sizes - for free. In the past year the Purple Dove has given 85 women and their children the opportunity to select what they need to start a new life, free from domestic violence.

The Purple Dove does not stop with our mission to end domestic violence. We help several other agencies in our community as well. In the past year we have donated assorted men's and children's clothing, household goods and toys to the Hope House. We also have supported the Humane Society with donations of items useful to our animal friends.

Help us make the next year a greater success, three different ways! Please donate your gently used items of furniture, household items or ladies' apparel to help domestic violence victims and other non-profit agencies in our community. Or spend a few hours shopping at the Purple Dove and know that you have contributed. Finally, feel great about helping others and have fun while doing it by volunteering with us! For more information, volunteer opportunities or to make a donation to the Purple Dove Resale Center, please call 904-261-5227.

Special Thanks To

CSX for supporting our youth program
Comcast for funding our billboard
Chardonnay Foundation for general support
Lucy Gooding Charitable Foundation Trust for supporting our youth program
Mary Kay Ash Charitable Foundation for supporting our Court Advocacy program
Rayonier for supporting our educational programs
Sontag Foundation for funding our program to remove barriers to self reliance

Advocate Highlight



Experience, dedication and a beautiful attitude towards Micah's Place. This is why we highlight Faye Jones as this year's outstanding advocate. The women she helps and the assistance she provides to her co-workers make her a valued and irreplaceable member of the Micah's Place team.

Faye truly does it all at Micah's Place, whether it is cleaning, completing intakes and hotline calls, or keeping track of daily tasks that keep the office running soundly. She has also accomplished important networking within the community for Micah's Place producing strong relationships for the organization. Faye is always enthusiastic about training and expanding her skill sets to advocate against domestic violence. Fortunately, she has been able to attend numerous trainings over the years and has shared her diverse knowledge with our new advocates who she has helped train.

Throughout Faye's time as an advocate at Micah's Place, she has blossomed into an extremely well-versed, experienced and knowledgeable advocate. She is not only able to communicate and assist the women and children in shelter with precise skill through her extensive experience, trainings and knowledge of community resources, but takes a great amount of time to keep the shelter running smoothly.

Bills for a Billboard

Through the generosity of individual donors and Comcast, a billboard now appears on SR 200 in front of the Super Wal Mart which asked "Does Your Partner Hurt You?" and offers the Micah's Place hotline. The billboard is in English and Spanish. As a result, incoming hotline calls have increased and even doubled during some months. If you would be interested in supporting this effective educational tool, please contact Katey at 491-6364 extension 102.



The Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence states that domestic violence is a pattern of assaultive and coercive behaviors. The intent of these behaviors is for the batterer to establish power and control over the survivor. The behaviors are more than an isolated incident. Domestic violence almost always involves various forms of control; physical, sexual, psychological, economic, etc. Domestic violence is not isolated to people who are married; it occurs with dating adolescents, same sex couples, adults living together, etc. The defining characteristic is that they share an intimate relationship.

Auxiliary Successes



Current and past Auxiliary chairs Marie Smith and Iris Jacobsen celebrate at the spring Auxiliary luncheon.

The past year has been a series of triumphs for the Micah's Place Auxiliary. Fulfilling our mission to raise critical funds for the women and children of domestic violence was not only accomplished, we had great fun doing it! Our spring and fall luncheon collected donations and Wal Mart gift cards which shelter residents often need to regain their independence. Despite hard economic times, the Home and Garden Tour accommodated almost 800 guests. And everyone enjoyed themselves at our wine tasting at Brett's Waterway Café and wine dinner at Thyme.

The Auxiliary is not resting on our laurels. Premiering in November is our "A Savory Place, Culinary Favorites of Amelia Island" cookbook with over 100 presales already in place (please see this newsletter's back cover to place your presale purchase.) We also want you to know that the Shrimp are coming! This is an art project to raise funds for our shelter and programs and will have associated events throughout the year.

With all of this fun, don't you want to join us? Log onto www.micahsplace.org and click "get involved/auxiliary." Or call 491-6364 extension 102.

The Proof is in the Statistics

During our fiscal year July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009, our shelter was closed for almost two months due to fire. Despite this setback, Micah's Place sheltered 59 adults and 65 children providing 2,650 nights of safety at the shelter. Unfortunately, we were so often full to capacity that we have to find safe havens at sister shelters for 127 people. We received 751 hotline calls and conducted 1,833 safety plans.

Home & Garden Tour

Sue Braddock, Event Chair



Anna Boswell, Iris Nicholson, Lynette Perlis, Auxiliary Chair Marie Smith, and past Auxiliary Chair Iris Jacobsen prepare for the Home and Garden Tour.

As chair of the 2009 Home & Garden Tour, I would like to thank all Micah's Place Auxiliary members for the time they volunteered to help make this year's tour such a success -- we could not have done it without you! The ninth Home and Garden Tour will be held March 16, and 17, 2010 and I hope you will continue to support this major fundraiser. Thank you.



Pat VanAmerongen, Tippi Fisher, Leah Bork and Brett Carter enjoy a taste of wine at the Auxiliary's wine dinner at Thyme.





Micah's Place

Post Office Box 16287

Fernandina Beach, Florida 32035

Phone: **904-491-6364**

Fax: 904-491-6362

Email: development@micahsplace.org

Outreach Locations:

(by appointment only – 800-500-1119)

Callahan Outreach

Hilliard Outreach

Yulee Outreach

24-Hour

Domestic Violence Hotline

1-800-500-1119

Local hotline

904-225-9979

Board of Directors

Roger Martin, President

Joy McCabe, President Elect

Elaine Coats, Vice President

Mike Mullin, Treasurer

Carol Ann Atwood, Secretary

Iris Jacobsen, Fund Development Chair

Eileen Searle, Director at Large

Charles Albert

Sue Bartholomae

Susan Casillas

Muriel Creamer

Carol Higginbotham

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James T. Hurley

Bill Morris

Jake Posey

Tony Quattrochi

Sandy Shaw

Marie Smith

Sandy Sproat

Linda Starr

Marilyn Evans-Jones, President Emeritus

Susan Little, Honorary Member

Iris Nicholson, Honorary Member

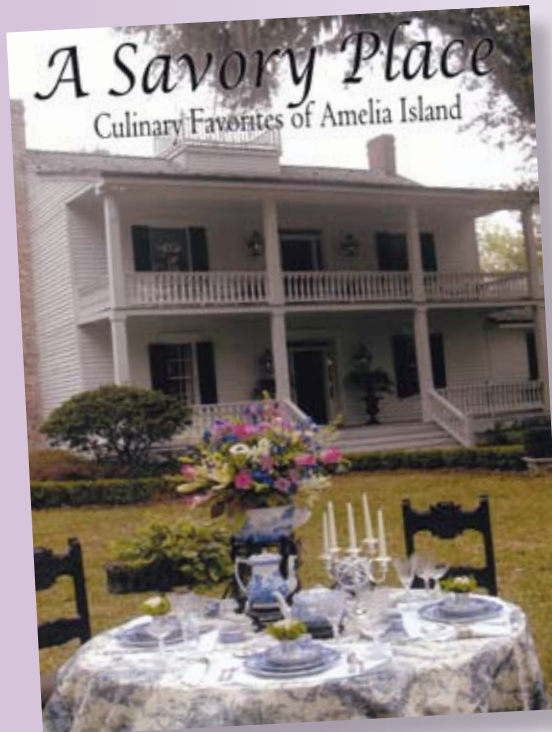
Audrey Schiebler, Honorary Member

Shandra Riffey, Executive Director

Katey Breen, Development Director

Heather Jones, Finance Director

A New Cookbook to Benefit Micah's Place



Only \$24.95!

A Savory Place cookbook is a project of the Micah's Place Auxiliary which conducts important fund raising efforts to support the many programs serving survivors of domestic violence and their dependants.

Sales from the cookbooks will benefit Micah's Place programs.

**Purchase your advanced sales copy now
online at www.micahsplace.org
or charge by phone at 904-491-6364 extension 120**



Purple Dove RESALE CENTER

Benefiting victims of domestic violence and their children

Hours: Monday-Friday

10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Saturday

10 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Eight Flags Shopping Center,
14th St., Fernandina Beach, FL

WE NEED YOUR DONATED

- Gently used furniture, household and decorative items
- Time and talent as a volunteer

Please call to schedule a pickup

(904) 261-5227



Micah's Place