

Director's Message



FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION CENTER

Violence Free Messenger

Dear Friends of FVPC,

October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month

You are invited to come and join us as we remember victims and celebrate their strengths.

On October 1st, the *Day of Unity*, we are hosting the Candlelight Vigil, ***Pause for Peace***, starting at 6 pm at Shawnee Park in Xenia. Come to share and be inspired to participate in the dynamic energy focused on awareness and prevention of the travesty of domestic violence.

Purple is the color designated to show support for survivors and raise awareness. On October 5th, at 8pm we are hosting a ***Purple Balloon Glow*** walk in connection with the Xenia First Friday's event. This is an opportunity to join together and powerfully make a statement in the community to show support for those who are experiencing domestic violence.

Purple Light Nights - Please consider adding a purple light in your window or the exterior of you home. We want your friends and family to ask, "What is with your purple light?"

Our **Annual Meeting** is November 8th at the Department of Job and Family Services, Media Room at 5 pm. Come and here our annual report to the membership of FVPC.

Additional information in articles throughout the newsletter will provide more details about these events and others.

Thank you for continued support of survivors through your support of FVPC. Our sheltering services continue to be at capacity with a waiting list - proof of the strong need for our services within Greene County. For more information on ways you can



Debbie Matheson
Executive Director

Help FVPC While You Shop for Groceries at KROGER!

Register your **KROGER** card online at www.krogercommunityrewards.com (click on sign in/register, or create an online account if you don't have one).

Follow the directions online to select FVPC; our number is **81623**. When you've enrolled, you'll see FVPC's information on the right side of your information page.

Swipe your registered **Kroger Plus** card when you shop at **Kroger**. THAT'S IT! From then on, each purchase you make with your **Kroger** card generates support for the work of Family Violence Prevention Center. THANKS!



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Upcoming October Events

First Fridays – FVPC will be participating in Xenia First Fridays on October 5th. Stop by our tent downtown and say hello!

Domestic Violence Awareness Month Activities

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Support FVPC or honor a loved one during the month by participating in one or more activities described below to help raise awareness about the epidemic of relationship violence.

Purple Light Nights – Join neighborhoods and cities around the world during the entire month of October to spread the message that “Domestic Violence has NO Place in Our Community.”

By shining a purple light on your porch or illuminating your business window, you will help remember the victims who lost their lives from domestic violence, support survivors as they rebuild their lives and give hope to those still living with abuse. See how many purple lights you notice in Greene County this fall!



Candlelight Vigil - On October 1st, we will host our annual Candlelight Vigil, beginning at 6pm, at the tranquil Shawnee Park Pavilion in Xenia. Join us as we remember those who have either been victimized or lost their lives to relationship violence.

The Clothesline Project – This array of decorated t-shirts, displayed on a clothesline, visually addresses the issue of relationship violence, sexual assault and stalking. The Clothesline Project is used as an outlet for survivors and their children to express their emotions through art. The Clothesline Project will be on display at various locations in Greene County during the month of October.

Balloon Glow – In conjunction with Xenia’s last First Friday of the season (October 5th), FVPC will sponsor *Purple Light Nights Balloon Glow*, a night walk along the bike path and through downtown Xenia. Purple glowing LED balloons will be available for \$5 at the FVPC information booth from 5-9pm. Reserve your balloon by calling 937-376-8526 ext. 17.

Summer Fun!

Contributed by Erika Carlson, Child and Family Specialist

Summer’s been busy in the Children’s Department at the FVPC. When families arrive, we make sure that immediate needs are met. Children are cared for by staff while mothers are meeting with their case manager or counselor. During that time, there are meaningful and developmental activities provided for the children including arts and crafts, outdoor activities, games, and free play.

Thanks to community support, the FVPC has been able to take clients and their children on various field trips. On July 19th, the **Boonshoft Children’s Museum** in Dayton, provided the agency with tickets for admission. On August 2nd, the clients and children went on a swimming trip to the **Kettering Recreation Center** pool thanks to 20 free admission passes into their water park. Then, on August 16th, some of the clients and older children went to **Kings Island** with 10 free tickets through the “Kings Island Cares” program. **Dayton First Church of the Nazarene** provided their church van for the trip.

The end of the summer brings requests for school supplies. A generous donation of school supplies was given by the **Memorial United Presbyterian Church** in Xenia and **Zeta Phi Beta Sorority** in Springfield. The **Universal 1 Credit Union** in Dayton also had a school supply drive for us. **Huntington Bank**, on Ludlow in Dayton, also donated 20 new book bags for our children.

This summer we also had a number of visits from Ms. Gracie, a Great Dane therapy dog, and her handler Karen Loar, from the **Miami Valley Pet Therapy Association** (MVPTA). Other MVPTA pets are scheduled to visit the shelter in the upcoming months, including Sarah Jane and her handler Patty Boyle.

As we approach the fall, we have even more fun activities planned! If you would like to provide a special outing or activity for our families, please

Site Under Construction: Update on FVPC Unfinished Area

Contributed by Sara Holbrook, Office and Facility Manager

The current safe house building opened its doors in 2001. A portion of the building on the second floor, which is the residential area, was never completed and has remained unfinished inside for more than 10 years. The process of making this area into new living spaces has begun and Phase 1 has been completed. This phase consisted of installing rough plumbing, electrical work, framing for 3 new bedrooms, a bathroom in each room, and a storage space. The current storage room will be transformed into a lounge area where residents can relax, read a book or watch TV.

The new bedrooms will allow FVPC to house up to 9 additional individuals. Currently our residential area has 6 dormitory style bedrooms and is equipped to serve 22 individuals who are seeking safety. The addition is necessary as the need for safety in Greene County rises. In 2009, FVPC began a waiting list for individuals and families seeking shelter due to the amount of shelter requests and is still ongoing. Safety planning is provided to victims on the waiting list.

Funding to complete this phase of construction was awarded by the **Dayton Foundation** and the **Sunshine Lady Foundation**. FVPC is currently in the process of seeking additional financial support to move forward with the second phase of



View of the unfinished area from outside.



Looking through the length of the unfinished space.



Client rooms from another perspective.



View of the 3 new client rooms.



Welcome Sean Barrett!

Sean recently joined the FVPC staff as a Family Advocate with the *Marriage Works! Ohio* collaborative, where he helps build healthy families and communities by providing marriage and relationship education for couples.

Sean holds a Master's degree in Marriage and Family Therapy from Liberty University. He and his wife, Darlene, have been married 15 years and have two daughters, Raelyn (9) and Laynee (5). Sean and his family attend Dayton First Nazarene Church, where he has been a youth leader for the past 10 years and volunteers working with mostly inner-city youth. Sean stated, "We have a heart for young people and their families and enjoy inspiring them to grow mentally and spiritually."



Special Squarez Hits Facebook August 2012

Contributed by Cherie Dixon,
Prevention Coordinator and DV Intervention Counselor

The Family Violence Prevention Center has been providing Prevention Education services free of charge to Greene County Public Schools for nearly twenty-five years. For the last eleven years, Prevention Coordinator Cherie Dixon has spread the violence free relationship message to all Greene County junior high and high schools through her mixture of serious hardcore facts and obnoxious behavior. The next logical step was to meet the students where they were: on their iPads, Smartphones, and other electronic devices they are looking at when they are not looking at real people.

In August *Special Squarez* became its own Facebook page. The name "*Special Squarez*" came from a song the students sing with Mrs. Dixon that reinforces the fact that your body should always be respected by whoever you are in a relationship with. Whether you are a boy or a girl, you have special squares; what's inside the squares is different. Mrs. Dixon reminds her students that it is only up to them who should touch their special squares - that no matter how many times someone says "I love you" or asks "please," no means no! The *Special Squarez* Facebook page is updated almost daily by our senior intern, Sarah Dahlinghaus, with new quizzes, games, facts and videos about teens and dating.

The Prevention Program was fortunate to have a college senior volunteer intern with us this year to help us launch a social media campaign. Sarah Dahlinghaus is a criminal justice major at Wright State University who heard Mrs. Dixon's lecture to her criminal justice class. Sarah was inspired by this work and will be starting graduate school in the fall of 2013. She hopes to pursue a career in prevention programming and is thrilled to be working with Mrs. Dixon.

In addition to Facebook, we will be using other outlets in our social media campaign, including Flickr, to keep the students we reach interested in healthy relationships and extend our teaching beyond the school day. Be sure to "like" us on Facebook, keep your eyes open for photographic projects on Flickr once the school year gets underway and drop us a line of email at specialsquarez@gmail.com!

CareSource Foundation Awards Grant for Residential Program

FVPC was recently awarded a \$7,500 grant from the **CareSource Foundation** in support of our Residential (shelter) Program. Through the generosity of **CareSource**, victims of relationship violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking, and their children will continue to be provided with a safe place to stay, food, clothing, personal care items and assistance with legal or medical services and employment and/or life skills. FVPC is grateful to the **CareSource Foundation**, as well as all businesses and individuals who join with us to assist the more than 9,000 individuals who use our services each year.



CareSource Community Education Representative, Charlene Luken, presents a \$7,500 grant award check for shelter support to FVPC Director, Debbie Matheson.

Four Ways to Remember the Family Violence Prevention Center

Contributed by the Greene County Community Foundation

There are many ways to remember the **Family Violence Prevention Center** in your estate plan, and you may be surprised to discover how inexpensive most of these are to accomplish. Here are four options to consider:

1. Amend an existing insurance policy to add the **Family Violence Prevention Center** as an additional beneficiary. You could also purchase a new policy for **Family Violence Prevention Center's** benefit.

2. Visit your personnel office and ask to amend your group life insurance policy or retirement plan to add the **Family Violence Prevention Center** as one of your beneficiaries.

3. Instruct your lawyer to prepare a simple, inexpensive codicil to your existing will, creating a bequest for the **Family Violence Prevention Center**.

4. Leave written or verbal instructions for your surviving spouse to include the **Family Violence Prevention Center** when redrawing his or her will (which will be necessary).

Some of the gift arrangements are revocable and others cannot be changed once established. Some work better with cash and others with appreciated assets. There are many variations, enough so that a giving plan can be tailored to your needs, desires and capabilities.

Although we do not practice estate planning, we do work with Ed Marrinan of the **Greene County Community Foundation**, who can sit down with you and explain these things so you get the ball rolling. For your protection, he will urge you to check with your professional advisor(s) before completing any planned gift. He is also available to meet with your advisor(s) to assist in the process. You can call Ed Marrinan of the **Greene County Community Foundation at 937-562-5552**. You will appreciate his knowledge about planned giving, and his commitment to honor your wishes.

Client Stories

Contributed by Pam Gibson, Youth Therapist/Case Coordinator

What many people know is that the Family Violence Prevention Center serves many clients each year by providing them with safe housing from people in their lives who are abusive. While victims of abuse are in the safe house there are many opportunities to make new plans for their lives with the help of case management, counseling and other services provided.

What may be less well known is that after a person leaves the safe house, they can continue receiving services as an Aftercare client. Many of the same services they received in the safe house can also be continued after they leave the Center and begin new lives. Through Outreach services, clients may also receive help from FVPC without living in the shelter. We are here to help.

Aftercare Story

Natalie* was in the safe house for 9 months. As a single adult female she had worked hard to obtain employment and housing. Currently Natalie is independent and working, but still struggles with making ends meet. It is difficult to survive on her income and meet all of her responsibilities and she worries about being homeless again. As a person struggling alone on a low income, Natalie has found she still needs Aftercare services at FVPC. Natalie meets with a counselor and attends the Aftercare support group every week. She reports that she would be lost and alone if she didn't have the support from her counselor and group to stay on track. Natalie hopes to move up in her job so she can earn more money and no longer worry from paycheck to paycheck.

Outreach Story

Carolyn* suffers as a victim of domestic violence, and as a victim, she has chosen to not come to the safe house, but take advantage of other services offered by FVPC. Carolyn asked for help to create a plan to leave her husband, who is abusive, and move on to a new non-violent life. Carolyn was encouraged by a friend to attend Healthy Homes, the domestic violence education group offered at FVPC. Carolyn came to the registration for the group and the counselor learned that Carolyn had been a victim of domestic violence for over 20 years and was still living with her abuser. Carolyn had endured several types of abuse including physical, emotional, psychological, sexual and financial abuse. Being a victim in a relationship can be confusing, but Carolyn was affirmed through the registration and Healthy Homes classes.

Carolyn has since decided she is going to leave her situation and has found support and assistance to make a safe plan of exit through services available at FVPC. Carolyn has used the Healthy Homes education classes to help obtain housing, police protection and legal safety. She is also growing as a result of the support of a therapy group by having others in her life to hear and understand her, as well as provide affirmation during this difficult journey. Although there are risks and dangers involved, with the help of FVPC, Carolyn will soon be free to pursue a violence free future for herself.

*not the client's actual name

Community Investors

We are grateful to everyone who gives to FVPC and are pleased to acknowledge their contributions here. Please accept our apology if your name is missing, misspelled, or listed in the incorrect location. Please call 937-376-8526 ext. 17 to correct this error. Visit our website at www.violencefreefutures.org to make an online donation. *This list reflects donations received from January 1, 2012 through August 31, 2012.*

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Jo Anne Earley
Colin and Nancy Kowalski
Mills Family Foundation
Mary C. Nutter
Trust of R.C. Russell
Jerry Sutton and Sandy McHugh

Silver Dove

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Gifts in Honor or in Memory

In Honor of Martha Castle
In Honor of Dana Griffith
In Honor of Erica Johnson
In Honor of Angela Kaffenbarger
In Honor of Terri Spahr

Other Community Support

City of Xenia
Clark County Auditor
Department of Public Safety
Greene County Auditor
Mile High United Way
United Way of Central Ohio

United Way of Clark,
Champaign and Madison
Counties, Inc.
United Way of the Greater
Dayton Area

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Christine Atkins
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Beavercreek Women's League
Bellbrook Police Department
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Leah Hayes
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Rehabilitation Center
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Sugarcreek Police Department
James Tinch
Jennifer Totten
Universal 1 Credit Union
Joe Vendetti
Veterinary Associates, Inc.
Nicole Walton
Cheryl Whittican
Xenia Chrome Divas
Xenia Water Treatment
Mr. and Mrs. Tom Zoller



The donations we receive from our "wish list" each month help stretch our shelter dollars .

Currently, items most needed are:

All-purpose spray cleaner	Lysol spray and wipes
Toilet bowl cleaner	Bleach
New white bath towels	Paper Towels
White vinegar (1 gallon size)	Dish Soap
Make-up	Snacks and desserts

Larger donations such as furniture and appliances are needed on occasion, when a client is ready to start their new life. Please call 937-376-8526 to inquire as to whether these items are currently needed.

For the safety of our clients, donations are accepted M-F from 9am-4pm at the Katherine K. Hagler Center by appointment only. If you have questions or need directions, please call 937-376-8526.



2012 Dove Club



I wish to express my commitment to the goals and mission of the Family Violence Prevention Center (FVPC) by joining the 2012 Dove Club. To fulfill this commitment I will make a sustaining gift during 2012 of:

☐ \$500 -\$999 White Dove ☐ \$1,000 -\$2,499 Silver Dove ☐ \$2,500 or more Gold Dove

\$ _____ is my personal commitment to the 2012 Dove Club

\$ _____ is the amount my company will match (*please include a matching gift form from your company*)

\$ _____ is my TOTAL 2012 Dove Club Commitment

☐ I wish for this gift to remain anonymous.

☐ Check Enclosed (made payable to FVPC)

☐ Credit Card

Visa | MasterCard | Discover | AmEx

Name: _____ Address: _____ Phone: _____

City/State/Zip: _____ Email: _____

Card #: _____ Exp: _____ Sec. #: _____

\$ _____ in Oct. '12

\$ _____ in Nov. '12

\$ _____ in Dec. '12



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I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A GIFT OF:

☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$75 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$250 ☐ Other \$ _____

PAYMENT

☐ Check (payable to FVPC) ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover ☐ AmEx

CREDIT CARD NUMBER

EXP. DATE

NAME ON CARD

SIGNATURE

☐ I enclose a matching gift form from me/my spouse's company.

☐ I understand that I may qualify for substantial tax savings through planned giving or by including FVPC in my will.



DONATION GIFT FORM

☐ I wish to subscribe to "Violence Free Messenger" FVPC's quarterly newsletter.

☐ Please check here if you do not wish to receive any acknowledgment of your gift.

☐ I wish to receive electronic updates from FVPC which may include press releases, volunteer opportunity updates and domestic violence news. *(email must be included in form)*

Please fill out this form and mail with your donation (payable to FVPC) to:

Family Violence Prevention Center
380 Bellbrook Avenue • Xenia, OH 45385
OR FAX TO: 937-376-8529

A portion of the cost associated with the publication of the **Violence Free Messenger** donated by:
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