



# HARBOR LIGHTS

SPRING 2004

## MISSION

*To lead a communitywide partnership in the awareness and prevention of domestic violence and abuse and to offer safety and support to diverse families in crisis.*

## 20 YEARS OF HAVEN, HELP, HOPE

### OUR HERSTORY

On December 10, 1984, Harbor House Domestic Abuse Programs first opened its doors to families experiencing domestic violence. Throughout this year, we will be reflecting on those 20 years, taking a look at how far we have come and sharing thoughts for our vision of the



years to come.

Harbor House has a unique history. We began as a program of the Outagamie County Department of Human Services. One of only two programs in the state connected to county government, our relationship with the county was the cornerstone on which we were able to build a promising future.

It all began in June of 1984. The Outagamie County Department of Social Services (now Health & Human Services) agreed to establish countywide programming for domestic abuse services. The main focus at that time was the establishment of a shelter and a Domestic Abuse Program Advisory/Planning Committee. The committee, representing the broad public interests in Outagamie County, took on the responsibilities of program development, implementation and ongoing monitoring.

Throughout that summer and fall, the committee, along with Social Services personnel, worked to secure a shelter facility, hire staff, and increase public awareness and support. On December 10, 1984, the doors of Harbor House were opened to battered women and their children.

Within a few years, it became evident that the original Harbor House, a two-bedroom facility located adjacent to the courthouse, did not adequately meet the needs of the many victims seeking services. After a long search for a more adequate existing building, it was decided to build a new Harbor House. Located in the town of Grand Chute, the new six-bedroom (capacity of 20) Harbor House opened its doors on April 10, 1989. Since 1989, all program areas have increased by more than 50 percent.

Throughout 1992 and 1993, the privatization of the program was studied in detail. It was concluded that this course of action was the best way to meet the growing community need of providing services to combat domestic abuse.

In 1995, the program began a two-year transition period

to become a private nonprofit agency by January 1, 1997. For two years, staff, board and Department of Health & Human Services personnel worked together to explore issues such as funding, public relations, legal issues, personnel concerns, and facility needs in detail. On January 1, 1997, we became Harbor House Domestic Abuse Programs, Inc., a new private nonprofit agency. In 1998, Harbor House opened an outreach program in Chilton to better serve the needs of Calumet County families. All agency services, with the exception of shelter, are also provided at the Chilton location. Given the increasing demands for shelter and services and after a decade in its present location, Harbor House concluded that its facility was too small to meet the growing needs of the families in our area.

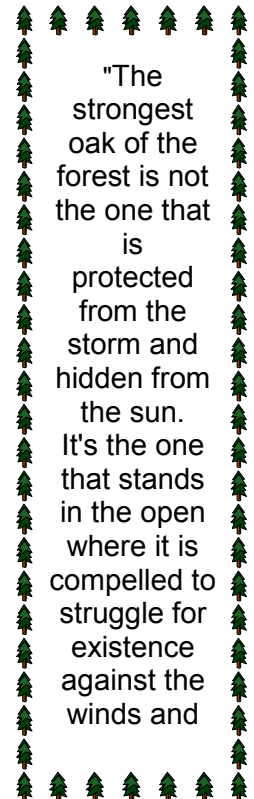
In 1998, Harbor House began discussing its space needs with United Health (now ThedaCare), which was then developing new plans for Peabody Manor, a skilled-care nursing facility located in Appleton. In early 1999, after consideration by both organizations, ThedaCare agreed to transfer the Peabody property to Harbor House, once it vacated. In March 2000, Harbor House kicked off a capital campaign to raise \$2.9 million to redesign and renovate the facility to meet growing demands for shelter, to expand existing services, and to develop new programs in response to regional needs. On September 5, 2001, Harbor House moved to its current location at 720 West Fifth Street in Appleton.



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Calumet County Insert



"The strongest oak of the forest is not the one that is protected from the storm and hidden from the sun. It's the one that stands in the open where it is compelled to struggle for existence against the winds and

# DID YOU KNOW?

20 YEARS AGO	TODAY
Harbor House served 228 women and children in shelter for 1,664 days of care	Harbor House served 413 women and children in shelter for 11,237 days of care – that is an increase of 81 percent in the number of people served, while days of care provided have increased more than 5-fold
The average shelter stay was one week	The average shelter stay is 27 days
Harbor House received fewer than 2 crisis calls each day	Harbor House receives more than 14 crisis calls each day
Harbor House had no specialized programming for children who witness domestic abuse	Harbor House has a comprehensive Children’s Program that provides individual and group support, advocacy and education to 500 resident and nonresident children and over 5,000 children and teens in the classroom
Harbor House had no organized Community Education Program	Harbor House provides information, education and training to more than 300 service groups and professionals each year
It cost a battered woman over \$100 to obtain an order restraining her partner from abusing her and coming to her home for two years	A battered woman no longer has to pay anything for restraining order protection and is entitled to the order for four years
If a battered woman called the police to her home, the response was unpredictable, as the abuse she experienced was not always considered a crime	All 50 states have adopted Mandatory Arrest Laws requiring law enforcement to arrest when domestic violence has occurred
Volunteers donated 5,713 hours to Harbor House	Volunteers have increased their commitment to helping victims of domestic abuse by 54 percent, donating 8,794 hours in 2003
Perpetrators of domestic violence were dealt with inconsistently—often told to take a walk and calm down	Perpetrators of domestic violence are now held more accountable for their crimes, through an organized Domestic Violence Intervention Program coordinated by Harbor House. They are arrested, spend time in jail and are court ordered into treatment groups
Every 18 seconds, a woman was battered in the United States	Domestic violence has now been identified as the number one health issue for women in this county and it is estimated that a woman is battered every 9 seconds
Harbor House was a 2-bedroom, 8-bed facility, in a location that was not advertised	Harbor House is an 8-bedroom, 32-bed facility at 720 West Fifth Street

We have mixed feelings about the statistics shown above. Domestic violence and our work to end it is always a mixed bag of good and bad. Good in that we have more services, better laws and more space in which to provide services. Bad in that the problem still exists. It is always a question of are more women being battered today versus 20 years ago, or are we doing a better job of making it safe for battered women to come forward, speak up and ask for help. We believe it is a little bit of both.

## RISING NUMBERS

The need for crisis services is still clearly needed. Harbor House has been in its current location for less than three years and already we have seen a sharp increase in the number of requests for 24-hour safe shelter. The days of care provided just in the last year rose by over 40 percent. Harbor House is now facing an over capacity situation on a regular basis. During the last five months of 2003, all 32 shelter beds were occupied more than 60 percent of the time, with daily shelter censuses reaching the forties and fifties. Our need for additional shelter beds seems imminent. Harbor House will be working to more clearly identify and respond to this need in 2004.

### **Here is how you can help in our 20<sup>th</sup> year and in the years to come:**

- Buy a domestic violence postage stamp (pictured right)
- Obtain a Harbor House needs list (Call Cheri at 832-1667)
- Become a volunteer
- Help raise awareness by asking us to come and speak at your church, school, or business
- Donate money to Harbor House Domestic Abuse Programs



## Victims' Rights: America's Values

"But *I'll* never be a victim of crime! Crime is something that happens to *someone else*. Crime is certainly a societal problem, but not one that *affects me* personally."

If these statements were only true! The reality is that *most* people in America will be a victim of or witness to a crime in their lifetime. The threat and impact of terrorism have had a profound effect on Americans' feelings of safety and security. The reality and threat of being a victim of violence is, indeed, *personal*.

April 18-24 marks the 24<sup>th</sup> commemoration of National Crime Victims' Rights Week. For seven days, victim service providers, justice professionals and others seek to promote greater public awareness about a serious problem that affects our nation and its people 365 days a year. For one week, we share the opportunity to have a serious national dialogue about victims of crime and the impact on us as individuals, communities and the nation as a whole.

When we take time to identify and meet the needs of victims and survivors of crime, we commit to our shared values for justice in America:

- When you value our right to live in peace in our homes, neighborhoods and communities, *you value victims' rights and services.*
- When you value our children and their hopes for a life of opportunity that is free from violence, *you value victims' rights and services.*
- When you value justice for *all* people who live in America, *you value victims' rights and services.*

Plans are under way for the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Crime Victims' Rights Ceremony in Appleton to be held on April 20, 2004. Harbor House joins the Outagamie County Citizen Review Panel, Outagamie County Victim Witness Assistance Program, Appleton Probation & Parole Office, and the Sexual Assault Crisis Center of the Fox Cities to sponsor this commemorative event.

## **January 2004 First Stalking Awareness Month**



The National Center for Victims of Crime announced that January 2004 was recognized as the first annual National Stalking Awareness Month, focusing on the serious and deadly crime that victimizes more than 1 million women and nearly 400,000 men in America each year.

Stalking is a crime that often occurs in the context of domestic or sexual violence. Stalking can also occur in other contexts such as among people who are acquaintances or strangers. Stalking of an intimate or former intimate partner is the most common and prevalent form of stalking. In the report, "Stalking and Domestic Violence: The Third Annual Report to Congress under the Violence Against Women Act" (1998), it is reported that 62 percent of female stalking victims were stalked by a current or former spouse, current or former cohabiting partner, or by former dates/boyfriends. This compares with 30 percent of the male victims being stalked by some type of intimate partner. Although stalking is a gender-neutral crime, by and large stalkers tend to be male. Ninety-four percent of stalkers identified by female victims and 60 percent of stalkers identified by male victims were male. Methods of stalking are wide and varied and can include following, monitoring, appearing at a person's home or workplace, making harassing phone calls, leaving written messages or objects, vandalizing a person's property, and using computers to monitor a victim.

In Wisconsin, law enforcement and prosecution have indicated an interest and willingness to charge stalking crimes. Recent reform of the stalking statute (§940.32) in 2002 has led to a significant increase in the number of stalking cases investigated and charged criminally.

A new bill proposes a number of key reforms to the existing stalking statute (Wis. Stats. 940.32). These reforms continue to enhance and strengthen protections for victims while giving law enforcement and prosecution a stronger tool with which to hold stalkers accountable. Reforms include adding to the definition of stalking such as photographing and videotaping of victims and causing serious emotional distress.

## **The Silent Witness Project**

The Silent Witness Program began in 1990 when the deaths of at least 26 Minnesota women could no longer go unnoticed. These women were murdered by husbands, boyfriends, intimate partners, and acquaintances. Their deaths inspired a national initiative to end domestic violence murders in the United States by 2010. Along with the initiative, there are four goals of the silent witness project:

### **Remembering...**

To honor the women and children who were murdered in acts of domestic violence

### **Awareness...**

To raise the awareness in our communities of the extent of domestic violence

### **Advocacy...**

To help connect people with local resources for ending violence in their lives

### **Legislation...**

To encourage community and legislative action to end the violence in our society

In keeping with the goals of the national project, we have created a local Silent Witness Exhibit to commemorate those killed in Outagamie County as a result of domestic violence. With the help of students from Appleton West High School and donations from Stock Lumber, we have been able to construct silhouettes honoring the ten women and one child who have died in our community since 1990. Working with the families of these women, we are giving a voice to those who have been silenced. The exhibit will appear throughout the community to help raise awareness as well as provide education about domestic violence and the resources available to those victimized by it. These silhouettes will be unveiled at the Crimes Victim's Rights Ceremony on April 20, 2004, honoring the victims and their families.

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domestic abuse programs

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Harbor House is supported by United Way

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Kathy Connolly	Women's Advocate
Kathy Fredericks	Community Ed. Coord./Outreach Advocate
Wendy Gehl	Legal Advocate
Dawn Gooding	Weekend/Overnight Advocate
Crystal Harrison	Weekend/Overnight Advocate
Emerald Hauser	Weekend/Overnight Advocate
Joy Hoffman	Weekend/Overnight Advocate
Tammy Jewson	Weekend/Overnight Advocate
April Kent	Weekend/Overnight Advocate
Cory Kuehl	Weekend/Overnight Advocate
Amanda Kreklow	Weekend/Overnight Advocate
Ann Landwehr	Weekend/Overnight Advocate
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 Paper provided by Appleton Coated  
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