



**Friends
of the Family**

Denton County Friends of the Family

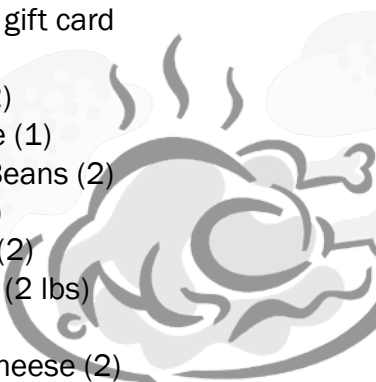
Imagine

Fall 2009

Creating safety for victims of relationship violence and sexual assault since 1980.

Thanksgiving Food Basket:

Turkey or Turkey gift card
 Stuffing Mix (2)
 Canned Broth (2)
 Cranberry Sauce (1)
 Canned Green Beans (2)
 Canned Corn (2)
 Corn Bread Mix (2)
 Dry Pinto Beans (2 lbs)
 Dry Rice (2 lbs)
 Macaroni and Cheese (2)
 Flour (5 lb bag)



Canned Yams (2)
 Canned Fruit (2)
 Canned Pumpkin (2)
 Evaporated Milk (2)
 Pie Crust Mix (2)
 Sugar (4 lb bag)
 Turkey Baking Bag
 Large Disposable Pan
 Potatoes (5 lb bag)
 Bag of Oranges
 Bag of Apples

Approximate Cost: \$40-\$45

Donations are needed by November 12th. Feel free to donate all or part of a basket. We will gladly accept gift cards from a grocery store in place of turkeys and/or food baskets. For more information contact Sarah Martinez at 940.387.5131 X. 231 or at sarah@dcfof.org.

Thank you to all who supported the
DCFOF Back-2-School Drive!

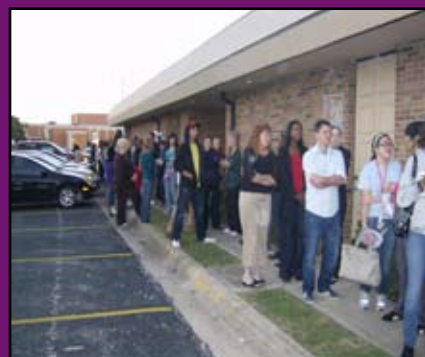


This year DCFOF provided new backpacks filled with school supplies to over **150 children** in Denton County!

The Haunting of Relationship Violence

October is relationship violence awareness month which is commemorated annually with a vigil to honor and remember those survivors and victims of relationship violence. October 15, 2009 marked a new beginning for Friends of the Family in the first "Haunting of Relationship Violence". This year's event included a simulated haunted house that traded ghouls and ghosts for realistic relationship violence experiences. The rooms included an actual 911 call, dramatizations, chilling images, and poetic messages of warnings on the effects of relationship violence.

(continued on pg. 5)



Denton
940.387.5131

24-Hour Crisis Hotline
1.800.572.4031

Lewisville
972.221.0650



Adopt~A~Family 2009



The holiday season can be very difficult for survivors - we need your help to provide a happy holiday for these families. Each race car, babydoll, warm sweater and canned good has a very special meaning at this time of year.

If you or your group are interested in adopting a family or would like to collect needed items please contact Sarah Martinez at 940.387.5131 X 231 or sarah@dcfof.org

Other Ways to help...

- * **Make a Holiday Contribution to DCFOF** - relationship violence and sexual assault affect us all, honor a victim through a monetary donation.
- * **Donate to the Thrift Store** - when you're cleaning and making room for any surprises from Santa, the Thrift Store is the perfect place to donate your tax-deductable used items.
- * **Volunteer Your Time** - during the holidays we're all busy but it doesn't take long to make a difference; alone or with a group, we can all give back.

Jessica's Story...

I am a thirty-four year old single mother with two children, and this is my story. The day I arrived at the DCFOF women's shelter I was devastated that I had let my life come to this point again. This was not my first rodeo, but I was determined to make it my last. My first marriage lasted seven long years. I was ridiculed and embarrassed in public, and beaten behind closed doors. I was afraid he would kill me because he just became more violent as time went on. He started using methamphetamines and was eventually diagnosed with drug-induced psychosis. I was so afraid to leave him that when I finally did, I left the state. My sister lived in Texas and begged me to get in my car and leave before I ended up dead. All I packed in my Saturn was clothes for the kids, a pillow, and change of clothes for me; I figured that was all I needed. I drove from Minnesota to Texas in a car with bad tires, expired tags and no insurance. I am positive God was riding shotgun the whole time.

I started a new life here. I soon got a job, a place to live and renewed my license plates I filed for divorce, and it took eight months before it was final. I was proud of myself for holding my head high, and being able to make a better life for my boys and me.

Then, I met my second husband. He was charming and funny and we had all the same dreams. Well, at least that was what he led me to believe. Soon after we were married, he was drinking heavily and started using cocaine. I am not innocent in all of this, as I, too, drank more than normal and every once in a while I would use cocaine with him. He started with verbal abuse by calling me names and saying that he wanted me dead. There were only a few physical altercations and I became increasingly distressed. I knew I needed to leave, but I did not feel I had the strength or the resources. One night, the police were called while he was throwing things at me. My kids heard and saw most of the incident. I called Friends of the Family and spoke to a few different advocates about my options. When I was told CPS may have to take my kids away from me, I realized how serious this was. No man is worth losing my children and I didn't deserve to live with abuse.

I left my home and took my children to the shelter, where we lived for the next forty-four days. I had help filing for protective orders and finding a house. I managed to keep my job through all of this, which was a blessing. I filed for divorce while I was in the shelter, and now it is final. It was not easy, and at times I broke down and cried and did not want to carry on, but I had hope for my family's future. My kids are so happy now, and we are all doing great. I am determined to raise them to be good, respectful, genuine and caring men.

I feel lucky. The reason is simple: hundreds of women are murdered by their abusers each year. These deaths are preventable. It is hard to have confidence in yourself when someone is constantly beating you down; I know, I have been there twice. The most important thing to remember is that you will never change an abusive person. They have to want to change and actually get help. It is also important to know that it is not your fault that they are abusers. Never believe them when they say they are sorry, or that it will never happen again, because it will and it will be worse. I am lucky to be alive, and I thank God every day. I hope to inspire and give hope to women who are in need.

THANK YOU

Al Dozier

for donating a car to DCFOF.

We appreciate your generosity.

Rhapsody In Blue 2010 Update

We are currently seeking committee members, donations and sponsors for Rhapsody in Blue. Last year, we brought in \$97,180.00 to victims of sexual assault and relationship violence and we are hard at work to make next year's event a greater success! For more information please contact Carol Gage at 940.387.5131 ext. 228 or carol@dcfof.org.

Chair Circle of Giving

The Chair Circle of Giving is a special group of dedicated supporters who commit to contributing \$750 or more to Denton County Friends of the Family each year. The agency is most grateful to these generous donors. For information about joining the Circle, contact Carol Gaige at 940.387.5131 ext. 228 or carol@dcfof.org.

Dennis Bloom	Innovative Transportation Solutions, Inc.	Pro-Tow Wrecker Service
Carol Brown-Elliott	Alonzo & Elisabeth Jamison	Robson Ranch Women's Club
Lawrence Bunyard & Heather Paton	Norma Johnson	Sally Beauty
William & Heather Cheek	Judith's Jerseys	Mary Saunders
Gayle Clift	Carolyn Kelley	Carrie Skeen
David Conklin	Lakeview Bible Fellowship	Gary Skeen
CornerStone Staffing	Joseph Lenard	Kelly Sokoloski
E.R. Craig	Lorine Loder	Dr. Wayne & Dr. Jan Spence
Dr. Fred Cummings	Judith MacMorran	St. Andrew Presbyterian Church
Ronetta Cummings	Dr. David & Dr. Linda Marshall	St. Philip's Women's Club
Sheryl Dorsey	Don & Dana Moody	Taylor Realty Children's Charities
Al & Linda Dozier	Annette Mulkey	John & Donna Taylor
John Ertmer	Tina Murphy	The Medical Clinic Of North Texas, P.A.
Dr. Kandace Farmer	Melissa Northern	The Williams Foundation
Teresa Felderhaff	NorthStar Bank	The Women Of Flower Mound
First Christian Church Lewisville	Marcia Oakes	Trophy Club Women's Club
First Rate	Philip Paolino	Larry & Ann Tubbs
Goodson Engineering	Parker Square	University Of North Texas
Virginia Guthrie	Janet Pittman	Ruth Wester
Dr. James & Sheila Haley	Richard & Theresa Portales	Amy Williams
Lloyd & Lorrie Harper	Cheryl Price	Dr. Laura Vogel & Jeff Zimmerman
Steve & Ronda Horstman		

Honoraria & Memorial Donations

In Memory of Dave Howard

In Memory of Beverly Deines

In Memory of Bobbie Skeen

In Memory of Joyce Short

In Memory of Jacqueline Stevens

In Memory of Lonnie Yarbrough

In Honor of Miriam Ferguson

In Honor of Michael Morris

In Honor of Hunter Rauso & Jen Rowland's Wedding

In Honor of Olivia Hope Starface

THRIFT STORE Volunteers continue to WOW!

We would like to thank the outstanding volunteers who have continuously worked to keep the DCFOF Thrift Store tidy and looking great. We appreciate your time and diligence.

Diane Campbell
Michelle Harper
Jane Hutton

Marilyn Kocurek
Yvonne Mesta
Jessica Romo

Alice Sidor
Kathy Sprayberry
Necie Stubblefield

Haunting (continued from pg. 1)

Over 200 community members experienced the “Haunting”, some reliving painful memories, others appreciative that their children could benefit from a relatable experience, and others moved to volunteer on behalf of DCFOF’s mission. Upon entering DCFOF’s Denton outreach offices for the “Haunting” community members were met by life-size “Silent Witnesses” representing the 136 Texas women that were killed by an intimate partner in 2008 which represented a 20% increase from 2007; thirty two of those victims were in the DFW area.

Texas Council on Family Violence reports in 2008 there were 193,505 family violence incidents in Texas up from 2007 where there were 189,401, also Health and Human Services Commission estimates that 1,130,164 Texas women were battered in 2008. Unfortunately, eleven children lost their lives and 96 children lost their parents to family violence. DCFOF would like to call attention to the memory of Maria Villanueva of Carrollton, 36, killed on 9/14/08. Maria was beaten to death by her boyfriend Juan Diego Delores Rodriguez, 28. Her body was found in her bathtub.

Finally, what can you do to commemorate relationship violence awareness month in remembering and honoring those survivors and victims...

- Volunteer with DCFOF
- Schedule educational trainings at your faith institutions, PTA meetings, community organizations and schools
- Donate your time, resources, and talents to DCFOF
- Place DCFOF brochures at your place of employment
- Provide appropriate accountability to offenders
- Promote non-judgmental support to victims



Volunteers work diligently making cotton candy treats for the crowd.



Hateful words highlight a table depicting verbal and emotional abuse.



Viewers see the ultimate horror of relationship violence, a coffin.

Connect to Protect

On September 16, 2009, Denton County Friends of the Family held their annual Law Enforcement Luncheon at the Lantana Golf Club. The event honored the law enforcement community and their efforts in working with victims of relationship violence and sexual assault. Law enforcement officials from 10 different cities including Argyle, Denton, Corinth, Krum, Lewisville, Double Oak, Highland Village, Roanoke, and Frisco participated in the event. The program began after lunch with an introduction by Director of Outreach Advocacy and Legal Services, Donna Bloom. Ms. Bloom discussed the various services offered by DCFOF and went on to acknowledge the following elected officials for their attendance; Constable Mike Truitt, Commissioner Andy Eads, Commissioner Hugh Coleman, Chief of Lewisville PD Russell Kerbow, Chief of Argyle Police William Tackett, Lewisville Councilman John Gorena, Lewisville Councilman Lathan Watts, Double Oak Chief of Police Derrick Watson, Double Oak Councilman Todd Pidcock, Denton Police Chief Roy Minter, Denton Mayor Mark Burroughs, Highland Village Mayor Dianne Costa, Denton County District Attorney Paul Johnson, and Commissioner Bobbie Mitchell.

The main speaker of the event, Senator Chris Harris, District 9, spoke about the importance of law enforcement and community organizations working together. He also praised law enforcement officers for their difficult work as the frontline response to victims of relationship violence and sexual assault. After Senator Harris concluded his address Shareen Howard, Director of the Violence Intervention and Prevention Program at Friends of the Family took to the podium to share a story from one of the VIPP participants. The story detailed the importance of law enforcement in his case and how his interaction with them helped to change his violent behavior. In this case, the police had been called to his residence several times before he was actually arrested and required to attend battering intervention classes. Of course, in the beginning the client resented having to go to classes but that eventually changed as one day he ran into his arresting officer in the community. The client took the time to thank the officer for taking action against the violent behavior, forcing him to get the help he needed to become non-violent in his relationships.

DCFOF would like to thank everyone who attended the Law Enforcement Luncheon, especially the sponsors

DFW Alarm, Point Bank and Lewisville Family Urgent Care



Argyle police officers enjoy lunch before Senator Chris Harris takes center stage.



Senator Chris Harris leads a discussion on the importance of law enforcement officials in relationship violence situations.



Our sponsors from DFW Alarm and Point Bank pause for a quick shot before the luncheon.

Special THANK YOU to Frenchy's Lawn and Tree Service for assisting the Shelter after a storm brought down a tree! His crew was much appreciated as they removed the tree and cleaned the debris.

Shelter Holiday Wish List

Cookware set	Socks for all sizes
Flatware	Underwear for all sizes
Non-breakable dishes	Teen gifts
Non-breakable cups	Infant toys
Bath Rugs	Push and Pull toys
Bedroom Rugs (3X5)	Dolls
Living room rugs (5X8)	Cars
Entryway runners	Trucks
Crib Sheets	Coffee MAKers
Car seat for over 25 lbs	Toasters
Booster Seats for over 40 lbs	Irons
Baby monitors	Can Openers
Alarm Clocks	Hairdryers
Radios/CD players	Teen Gift cards (Old Navy, movies, Target)
Warm clothing for all sizes	Board Games
Pajamas for all sizes	

Corner Thrift Shop

1014 W. University, Denton
940.387.1750

The Friends of the Family Thrift Store offers furniture, housewares, appliances and clothing. If you haven't been by lately, drop by TODAY to see our treasures!

Donations are always accepted.
Furniture donations are especially appreciated.

Volunteers are always needed to help customers and sort donations.

THANK YOU PJ's Party Supply & Rentals



For organizing a costume drive to benefit DCFOF. With your help, several clients were able to enjoy halloween in a way they otherwise, would not have been able to.

LOR Volunteer Spotlight:

The Lewisville Outreach office would like to recognize [Chirjivan Turner](#) and [Lawnda Bynum](#) as outstanding volunteers! Ms. Bynum started as a childcare/administrative volunteer and completed training to become a member of the Survivor's Advocacy Team. Ms. Turner has been an outstanding administrative volunteer, working several hours a week answering phones and taking care of various office duties. She also went through the Survivor's Advocacy Team training and has proven to be a very active member. Ms. Turner was essential to the success of the Law Enforcement Luncheon. Through her efforts, the event was at it's highest attendance. Both Ms. Turner and Ms. Bynum have been a blessing and we thank them for their hard work and dedication.

“Denton County Friends of the Family is dedicated to providing compassionate and supportive services to those impacted by relationship violence and sexual assault while partnering with our community to promote a society free of violence.”

Thank You to the
**Spinal Decompression
Center**

for adopting DCFof as their
Charity of the Year!
We appreciate your support!



Save the Date
Tiffany & Co.

is back for
~ Rhapsody in Blue ~
April 10, 2010

~ Donate on the Web ~

You can now make a donation on the web to support victims. Visit www.dcfof.org and click on donor opportunities.

Imagine is published by Denton County Friends of the Family.
For comments, suggestions or more information, please call 940.387.5131.



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P. O. Box 640
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