

GET HELP

SUPPORT CASA

CASA SERVICES

ABOUT CASA

RESOURCES



### CASA RESOURCES

"At CASA I learned how to make a safe place for myself and my daughter."

Domestic Violence Links

Newsletter

Site Map

## CASA Newsletter August 2009



Call our 24-hour help line.  
Local: **(727) 895-4912**  
National: **(800) 799-SAFE**  
7 2 3 3

### Get Help Now.

Are you abused?  
Do you know someone who needs help?

### Make a Donation.

Make it your business to help stop the abuse.

## *Volunteers, Donors and 'A Desperate Need'*

This month's CASA Newsletter displays a variety of recent activities at CASA, and a new 'first person account' by a shelter resident who just celebrated her third month as an independent, working member of the St. Petersburg community. See and *join* the vibrant and committed people who are taking Community Action to Stop Abuse! Call **Tuesdi Dyer**, CASA Development Director, at **(727) 895-4912 x 114** or e-mail her at [tdyer@casa-stpete.org](mailto:tdyer@casa-stpete.org) and tell her how *you'd* like to help!



***Phyniece Rich and Kera Campbell hanging a clock at the CASA shelter. Niece and Kera have been participating for 5 weeks in the SYIP program sponsored by the City of St. Petersburg and Junior Achievement. Both girls are juniors, Phyniece at St. Petersburg High School and Kera at Dixie Hollins High. The program provides job skills training for youth from St. Petersburg, and CASA benefits by adding two willing temporary workers to its staff!***



***Lorraine Krepfle and Sue Kelley, Staff and Manager at Patchington's in the Isla Del Sol Shopping Village in Tierra Verde. Sue and Lorraine created a breakfast event at the store where shoppers could bring back-to-school supplies for children at CASA. Pictured is a small portion of the outpouring of supplies provided by Patchington customers and staff to the kids who are living at CASA.***



*Kim Del Rance added some beautiful color in the form of painted flowers to the fitting room doors at the CASA Collections Thrift Shoppe. Kim peeks out between two of her masterpieces at the end of last month*

## **In Desperate Need**

**by Carol Jurmain,**

*Recent CASA Shelter Resident*

.June 28, 2009, 6:22 AM

The peace and solitude of sitting on the deck watching the sun come up with the squirrels playing on the telephone wires overhead...being visited by every mosquito in the county...how do you put a price tag on this gift? I have not been this happy or felt this kind of contentment since I was a very young woman. When I was in college, I would go outside the dorm in the early morning and write (longhand, by the way - centuries before "laptops" were invented!). My subjects were much different then. I was undecided about becoming a teacher. I made the decision that I did not want to be a teacher after 2 years of college. Life has a funny way of choosing our destiny.

Here I sit now, no longer a resident of CASA, wanting to teach other women that there can be a very fulfilling life after domestic violence. Wanting to teach the general public that domestic violence *does* exist and that the community needs to step up and take action to protect the women and children of our society from this devastating trend.

My method of teaching is unorthodox. I draw on my own experiences.

I have discovered that I am very fortunate in that I am educated and have work experience. I have heard people say that domestic violence only happens to uneducated women. Domestic violence knows no such boundaries. Domestic violence occurs in all walks of life, from the very poor to the very wealthy. From the poorest families living in the hills of Appalachia to the richest families living in Hollywood 90210. CEO's, judges, lawyers, police officers, farmers, auto mechanics...domestic abuse rears its ugly head in *all* walks of life. Educated, uneducated, white, black,

brown, yellow and everything in between are the targets...and the victims.

In my opinion, education and support systems are the keys to halting this devastating trend. Before you can fix something, you need to acknowledge that it is broken. The community needs to accept and believe that domestic violence is very much a part of today's society and that the scars it can leave on its victims are real, even if they cannot be seen. There are women who, once they leave their abuser, are literally afraid to step outside the protective walls of the local shelter. I was one of those women not too many months ago. These women are traumatized beyond belief. They do not feel there is a safe place in the world for them. They do not think about anything beyond their day to day existence. All they want to do is hide - from the world, from their abuser - and from themselves.

In my time at CASA, I experienced a full house at the shelter more than once. During those times, how many women called CASA looking for a safe place for themselves and their children and were told "I'm sorry, we have no beds." My prayer every day is for God to please watch over these women and keep them safe until there is a bed available for them at CASA.

Please share your thoughts and ideas for our E-News by emailing [info@casa-stpete.org](mailto:info@casa-stpete.org)

We encourage you to forward this newsletter to your family, friends, and colleagues.

[To subscribe to CASA's E-news please click here.](#)

[make a safety plan](#)

[sign up for our e-newsletter](#)

[message from the executive director](#)

[CASA wish list](#)

Visit the CASA  
Thrift Store.  
Your donations  
support survivors.

**CASA, P.O. Box 414, St. Petersburg, FL 33731**  
**Site designed by Blue Reef Digital Studios**

