



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear SPARCC Friends,

We are so grateful for the support we receive from all of you. Whether you are one of our fellow community organizations, a volunteer, a donor or any combination of the above, you are a valuable partner in our goal to end domestic and sexual violence. As is noted in one of the articles in this publication, domestic violence is on the rise: in our community, in Florida and around the country. While it is always important to hold batterers accountable for their actions, there is no denying that the economy is having a detrimental effect on already fractured relationships. Unfortunately, the economy is also having a detrimental effect on social service agencies' bottom lines and SPARCC is no exception. There has never been a greater need for services and for financial support from the community. Recent studies show that agencies are relying more on assistance from many, rather than major donations from a few. We are proud to have earned your support in the past and hope that we can count on you to continue to be a champion for this important cause.

With much appreciation,

SAVE THESE DATES

- ▶ **October 2, 2010**
Stepping Out Against Domestic Violence Walk
- ▶ **December 12, 2010**
Sparccle for the Holidays
- ▶ **January 17, 2011**
Scramble for SPARCC Golf Tournament
- ▶ **February 10, 2011**
Second Hand Rose Fashion Show
- ▶ **April 16, 2011**
Princesses & Pirates Ball
- ▶ **May 5, 2011**
SPARCCle on the Links Golf Tournament

A CALL FOR ACTION

Please donate your used cell phones to help victims of domestic and sexual violence. Phones should include chargers and be cleared of all personal numbers and information.

**Donations accepted at
SPARCC's Outreach Office
2139 Main St, Sarasota,
Monday - Friday 8:30 - 5:00**

SPARCC Welcomes New Board Members

SPARCC is proud to have a group of dedicated and talented volunteers to serve on its Board of Directors. The sixteen member SPARCC Board of Directors ensures the financial health of the organization and assists in the development of agency policies. This year, SPARCC welcomes the following new members to its board: LaShawn Houston, Jill Raleigh, Sandra Lindqvist, and Kathleen Walker.

Additionally, longtime board members Barbara Kelleher and Michelle Witzer recently retired from the Board. Thank you to the incoming and outgoing board members for your commitment to SPARCC and to ending domestic and sexual violence in our community.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- REV. BRUCE WISMER: PRESIDENT**
- MARTHA HONEY: 1ST VICE PRESIDENT**
- SUSAN LANIER: 2ND VICE PRESIDENT**
- GLORIA WEBEL: SECRETARY**
- AMY BOOHAKER, ESQ.: TREASURER**
- LISA WALSH: IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT**

CAPTAIN JEFF BELL

JEAN GAY

LASHAWN HOUSTON

SUSAN KELLEY

CHIEF TERRY LEWIS

SANDRA LINDQVIST

JILL RALEIGH

MARY ANN ROBINSON

KATHLEEN WALKER

DEREK WILSON BILLIB

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BARBARA KELLEHER

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LOUISE NEHER

TANA SANDEFUR

JENNIFER SASLAW

DELIA SMITH-ORTH

AMANDA STIFF

MOLLY SCHECTER

SANDRA STROM

ANNE WAGNER

NANCY WEINS

SANDY WERFT

MARGARET WISE

MICHELLE WITZER



Safe Place and Rape Crisis Center
2139 Main Street
Sarasota, Florida 34237

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Statewide Increase in Domestic Violence Homicides

The Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) released the 2009 Uniform Crime Report in April, showing a 39-year low in Florida's crime rate. The one area of exception was domestic violence, which reflected a stunning 15.6 percent increase in domestic violence-related murders and a 71.4 percent increase in domestic violence manslaughters. Overall, domestic violence represented 40.7 percent of all comparably reported violent crimes last year. These statistics are clear evidence that prevention and intervention services are more important than ever.

"These statistics are devastating, but we must remember they're not just numbers on a report - each report represents women, men and children whose lives have been turned upside down by someone who is supposed to love them," said Tiffany Carr, President/CEO of the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence. "We must never forget that 232 people were killed by someone they once trusted, someone they once loved."



Additionally, the FDLE report highlighted an increase of almost 32 percent in stalking, a typical precursor to homicide. More than 116,500 individuals reported a domestic violence crime during the past calendar year. "Domestic violence is an epidemic in Florida, and communities must come together and stop this heinous crime," said Carr.

Carr pledged to continue working with legislative leaders to address the rising deficit in the state's Domestic Violence Trust Fund to prevent further domestic violence-related deaths. The trust fund is



supported in part by fees on marriages and divorces, both of which have seen a drop-off in the current economic environment. "The demand for emergency services has never been greater, and the resources have never been less," Carr said.

"The stunning data reflected in the 2009 Uniform Crime Report, coupled with the surge in demand for emergency shelter services, clearly demonstrates the critical needs facing Florida's domestic violence centers," Carr said. "Florida's certified domestic violence centers are in most cases the only safe haven and hope available to victims and their children fleeing violent homes," she said.

SPARCC has seen a rise in the need for services this year; during the month of May there was an 81% increase in admissions compared to the same time frame from the previous year.

If you or someone you know is in an abusive relationship please call the SPARCC hotline at 941-365-1976.

SPARCC 24-HOUR CRISIS HOTLINE (941) 365-1976

Florida Domestic Violence Hotline (800) 500-1119 | Florida Sexual Violence Hotline (888) 956-7273



TREASURE CHEST

SARASOTA'S FINEST RESALE SHOP

Furniture - Collectibles | Antiques - Art - Jewelry | Designer Dresses & Clothing

ACCEPTING QUALITY DONATIONS & CONSIGNMENTS

1426 Fruitville Road, Sarasota
Open Monday thru Saturday 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

941-953-7800

PROCEEDS BENEFIT SPARCC

SERVICES DIRECTORY

Sarasota Outreach & Administration
2139 Main Street
Sarasota, FL 34237
Administration: (941) 365-0208
Hotline: (941) 365-1976

Venice Outreach Office
1531 Tamiami Trail South, Suite 702-A
Venice, FL 34285
Phone: (941) 492-3752

Arcadia Outreach Office
107 West Oak Street, Suite #202
Arcadia, FL 34266
Phone: (877) 365-1976

SHELTER - Confidential Location

SPARCC's Treasure Chest
1426 Fruitville Road, Sarasota, FL 34236
10:00 am - 4:00 pm Monday - Saturday
Phone: (941) 953-7800

SPARCC's mission is to provide services to victims of domestic and sexual violence, and to promote a violence free community through awareness and education.

New Documentary Shows SPARCC's Impact

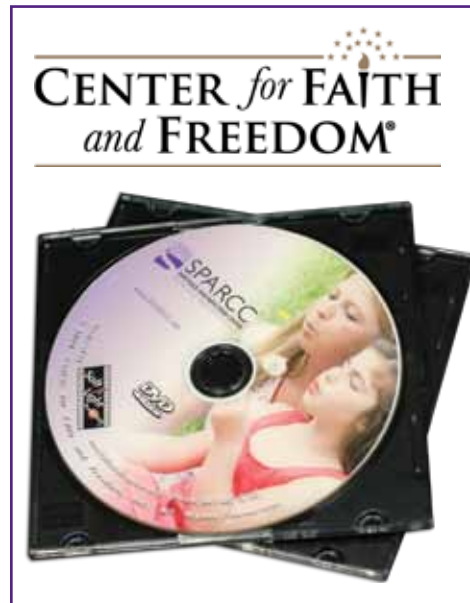
This past year, SPARCC was fortunate to be chosen by The Center for Faith and Freedom® to partner in developing a documentary video about domestic violence and SPARCC's services.

In addition to being extremely well-received in the community, the video was recently recognized at The 31st Annual Telly Awards competition. Salt and Light Productions received 3 awards for its video production for the SPARCC video in the categories of charitable/non-profit, fund raising and social issues.

The core service of The Center for Faith and Freedom is the Emmy® and Telly award-winning Salt and Light Productions®, which produces issue-based documentaries that support non-profit organizations, educational and religious institutions, and our government by creating multi-media presentations – at no cost to the organizations chosen.

"We are dedicated to helping those less fortunate and sometimes overlooked members of society by sharing their stories and testimonies with the community. Our goal is to help inspire and encourage charities by equipping them with the necessary multi-media tools to communicate their message and vision to donors, program recipients and community leaders," said Founder and President Stuart J. Roth.

Due to the fact that so many of SPARCC's clients are in dangerous situations, and because confidentiality is such a vital part of keeping them safe, SPARCC often has difficulty finding ways for clients to share their stories with the community. This documentary gave



some of the agency's past clients an opportunity to share how SPARCC impacted their lives. Filming and editing took place last summer and the final video was unveiled during Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October 2009.

"We were thrilled to be given this opportunity. A video like this would have cost our agency thousands of dollars to produce. We can't thank Stuart Roth and The Center for Faith and Freedom enough for this gift." said Director of Community Awareness Jessica Hays. "I also want to recognize our staff for being so instrumental in the success of this project. They were so helpful during the interview process and provided support and encouragement to the survivors who chose to participate."

In addition to appearing on the home page of SPARCC's website (www.sparcc.net), the video is also available on dvd for distribution to the public and was shown at SPARCC's Second Hand Rose Fashion Show & Luncheon this past Spring. "It's one thing for our staff to stand up and talk about what SPARCC does, it's completely different to hear from someone whose life was saved by these services. A testimony from someone who's been there and emerged triumphant is priceless," said Hays.

For further information about the Center for Faith and Freedom and to see their award winning videos, please visit their website at www.faithandfreedom.org. To view the award-winning SPARCC video please visit www.sparcc.net or www.faithandfreedom.org, or call 941-365-0208 ext. 106 to request a free copy.

SPARCC Shelter Renovations Completed

Thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor, SPARCC's shelter got a makeover this past year. The 26-bed shelter had not been updated since it was built in 1994. Renovations included new carpeting throughout, new tile to replace the linoleum in the kitchen and dining areas, fresh paint, and recovered furniture. Additionally, The Junior League of Sarasota donated all new bedding with coordinating bathroom accessories, lamps and artwork, to give each room a warm, personal touch.

"With so many women and children constantly coming and going, it's

remarkable that we were able to hold off on renovating for so long." said **Olivia Thomas, Executive Director of SPARCC.** **"We are very thankful for this funding and the opportunity to continue to provide an environment that is comforting to families who are in need of refuge."**

The renovations could not have come at a better time either; SPARCC's shelter numbers have been on the rise for the past two years. "When you combine the economic downturn with the lack of affordable housing options, it creates the perfect storm for people to feel trapped in domestic violence situations," said

Thomas. "Providing a safe refuge where they can feel comfortable while working on a plan, creates a better chance of them transitioning to a violence-free life."



(L-R) Phyllis Smith, Pat Knasiak, Marcia Major, Rosemary Cole, and Janet Turov at the 2010 Sparcde on the Links Golf Tournament.



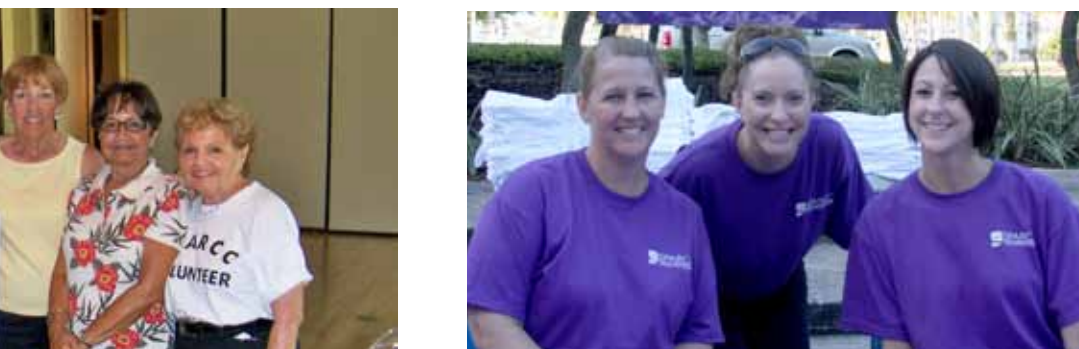
Above: Fashion Show Models get ready to hit the runway wearing fabulous fashions from SPARCC's Treasure Chest. Pictured (L-R): Loren Mayo, Olivia Thomas, Cyndi Riddell, Mary Lou Johnson, Barbara Kistler, Petie Brown, Beverly Nobel, Jane Krombeen, LaShawn Houston and Gay Zuercher.



Above: Event Chairwoman Emily Walsh-Parry and MaryAnn Robinson at the 2010 Second Hand Rose Fashion Show and Luncheon.



Above: Eileen Barber & Earline Joslin sell ornaments at the Venice Yard Sale. The 2010 Ornaments will be arriving soon! Don't forget to stock up on this wonderful gift item before they are sold out. To order, call 365-0208 ext. 106.



Above: Stepping Out Against Domestic Violence Committee Members: Heather Gillespie, Patricia Entsminger, Amanda Marshall. Last year's Walk had more than 300 people in attendance. Don't miss this year's walk on October 2 at JD Hamel Park. For more information call 365-0208 ext. 106 or visit www.sparcc.net/events.htm



Above: The Out of Door Academy's Swimming Team as the "Most Spirited" team of walkers at last Fall's Stepping Out Against Domestic Violence Walk.



Above: Auxiliary President Luisa Goldman presents proceeds from the year's fundraising activities to SPARCC Executive Director Olivia Thomas at the Auxiliary's Annual Celebration Luncheon at Mattison's 41.

THE YEAR IN REVIEW



Above: Shannon Hankin and Chairwoman Erika Quartermaine at the 2010 Prince & Princess Ball.



Above: Prince & Princess Ball attendee Brett makes his bid on the Mercedes pedal car in the silent auction. The car was the hot item of the evening, Colt Chalmers was the lucky little prince to take it home!



Right: Princess Eliza shows off on the dance floor at the Prince & Princess Ball

Below: Ladies from the local "Tea to Tequila" group at the 2010 Fashion Show at the Ritz-Carlton Sarasota.



Hidden Treasures Benefit Victims of Violence



If you have not visited SPARCC's Treasure Chest lately, you must add it to your list of things to do. SPARCC's resale and consignment shop located in downtown Sarasota, is a bargain hunters dream come true. Filled with clothing, jewelry, art, antiques and furniture, there's truly something for everyone. All of the merchandise in the store comes from community donations and consignments, and one-hundred percent of net proceeds from sales go to funding the agency's programs and services.

Longtime SPARCC Shelter Director, Gay Zuercher, has recently taken the position of Manager at the Treasure Chest. Gay is using her strong sense of style and knowledge of antiques to make some exciting changes at the store. Her expertise, combined with the knowledge and enthusiasm of the volunteers, has breathed new life into the Treasure Chest and sales are up! Just step inside and you'll see that the merchandise is displayed beautifully and organized with care. As usual, the deals are abundant!

In addition to serving as a place for the community to shop and donate, The Treasure Chest provides free clothing, furniture and household items to SPARCC clients and their children to help them in their transition to a peaceful life. Whether you are donating or shopping – you are helping SPARCC save lives!



For information regarding donations, please call 941-953-7800 or visit the SPARCC web site at www.sparcc.net