



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear SPARCC Supporters,

We want to thank you, our loyal supporters, for your personal commitment to ending domestic and sexual violence in our community. Unfortunately, this violence

has been on the rise and is occurring in younger age groups. Current statistics show that one in three teenagers has already experienced some form of dating violence. This is becoming a serious community issue and one that can only be addressed through a comprehensive community effort. Mother Teresa said "If you can't feed 100 people, then just feed one." The concept of ending violence is daunting, but there is something each one of us can do to be a part of the solution. Even more encouraging is the fact that when you impact one young person by breaking the cycle of violence, you are impacting future generations. By helping just one, you can save the lives of many.

SPARCC is here and ready to lead the charge, but we need your help. We are only as strong and effective as our community support. While SPARCC provides direct services to all victims of domestic and sexual violence, the agency is also working diligently to promote a violence free community in the future. Through educational presentations in the elementary, middle and high schools, and a myriad of other community organizations, SPARCC's staff is addressing the root causes of these forms of violence. You can help with this effort by: 1) recognizing the cultural and gender norms that promote violence; and 2) bringing awareness to those in your spheres of influence of the need for social change in our community, even if it is just one person at a time.

How else can you support SPARCC's prevention efforts? You can arrange for a SPARCC staff member to speak to your schools/organizations about our prevention efforts. You can donate clothing and household items, or volunteer to work at, the Treasure Chest – the proceeds help fund our programs. And, with decreased grant funding, your financial support to expand these programs is needed more than ever. We hope that you'll be motivated to find at least one way you can take action to make our community one that is violence free. Together, we're saving lives today and tomorrow.....

With much appreciation for all you do for SPARCC,

SAVE THESE DATES

- **October 1, 2011**
Stepping Out Against Domestic Violence Walk
- **December 11, 2011**
Sparccle for the Holidays
- **January 16, 2012**
Scramble for SPARCC Golf Tournament

- **February 9, 2012**
Second Hand Rose Fashion Show
- **April 2012**
Princess & Pirates Ball
- **May 3, 2012**
SPARCCle on the Links Golf Tournament

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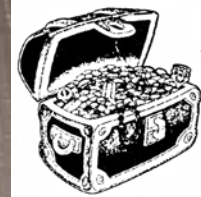
Safe Place and Rape Crisis Center
2139 Main Street
Sarasota, Florida 34237

Why We Give To SPARCC

"Valerie and I met fifty-five years ago and will celebrate fifty-one years of happy marriage in a few weeks. Having read newspaper reports, watched newsreels and movies highlighting the abuse of women and children we made the decision to help locally. We approached Safe Place and Rape Crisis Center and they showed us how we could immediately assist women and children in the shelter. Financially and in whatever way we can we want to support SPARCC in providing assistance, help and encouraging victims to move on with their lives hopefully finding an alternate new safe, friendly and loving future.

There are many other aspects of the SPARCC team's activities in the community where we realize how important financial, spiritual and active assistance is needed so we urge others to 'get involved' to make Sarasota County a better, happier and rewarding place for everyone to enjoy and call home."

Valerie and Roger Button



TREASURE CHEST

SARASOTA'S FINEST RESALE SHOP

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

ACCEPTING QUALITY

DONATIONS & CONSIGNMENTS

1426 Fruitville Road, Sarasota

941-953-7800

Open Monday thru Saturday 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

PROCEEDS BENEFIT SPARCC

20% OFF ANY REGULARLY PRICED ITEM

Please use this ad to receive 20% off any regularly priced item at SPARCC's Treasure Chest. Offer not valid on consignment items. Valid through 12/31/11.

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
22 North Polk Avenue
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.



SPARCC

update

SAFE PLACE AND RAPE CRISIS CENTER

Saving Lives Today and Tomorrow

SUMMER 2011

Pets & Domestic Violence

For victims of domestic violence, pets can often be a barrier to leaving an abusive relationship. Many times, an abusive partner will injure or kill a family pet as a manipulation tactic to gain or maintain control over the other family members. There is documented evidence of the link between animal abuse, domestic violence and child abuse. Human victims often feel they have no choice but to remain in violent households in order to protect their pets. Safe Place and Rape Crisis Center (SPARCC) recognizes the importance of taking care of the entire family, including pets, and addresses this issue throughout its programs and services.

SPARCC is fortunate to have strong partnerships with local organizations that provide shelter to pets of families who are fleeing violent homes. These facilities care for the pets for the duration of time that families are staying in the SPARCC shelter, and help assure clients that their animals will not be harmed during their times of crisis. Additionally, SPARCC includes questions about animals on all of the intake forms, child assessments, and safety plans. Upon arrival at SPARCC for any service (not only at shelter), clients are asked if they need help in making arrangements for pets. Children are also asked if they have pets and if anyone has ever hurt their pets or animals. This is an added measure of safety for not only the animals, but it helps SPARCC advocates to determine the level of violence to which a child has been exposed. Lastly, our local court system, the 12th Judicial Circuit, recognizes the importance of asking about the abuser's history of violence towards a pet as part of the paperwork for an Injunction for Protection.

This helps with the process of assessing the family's risk of imminent danger.

Pets are important members of the families with whom they live; SPARCC and its partners are committed to keeping them safe during times of crisis. One of our recent shelter residents had this to say about her experience –

"I just wanted to write to you and let you know how grateful I am for all the fine care and counseling I received during the 12 days I was at the SPARCC shelter. Not only did I receive excellent help, but my cat Wink was cared for as well by a referral that the staff at SPARCC guided me to. Wink received free room and board with this kennel during my stay at the shelter. I got regular calls from them letting me know she was eating well and enjoyed her "play time" (yes, they have play time!) Wink is 3/4 blind and requires some special care and the staff at the kennel came through for her in a major way!"

The care that my cat received during my time at SPARCC was a huge relief because I had lost a great deal and the last thing I wanted to lose was my dear pet! The fact that I did not have to stress about one additional factor (my pet) allowed me to focus on the things that I needed to accomplish while there! God bless you, your organization and the kennel.

Little Wink and I are doing very, very well! We are now settled in a new place. I have a new job and little Wink comes along with me and lays in the sun (yes, she is allowed to come to work with me!) Thank you for giving the two of us the "leg up" we needed at a very difficult time. Thank you and your staff again!"

Laura and Wink*

**name changed to protect confidentiality*



SPARCC sees pets and animals as an integral part of keeping our clients safe and empowering them to regain independence and control in their lives. It is our hope that through primary prevention efforts to change the knowledge, attitudes, beliefs and behaviors that contribute to violence, we can one day live in a violence-free community where people and animals alike are not in danger. SPARCC is currently working on developing a plan for an onsite kennel facility at the Shelter. If you are interested in contributing to this project, please contact Executive Director Olivia Thomas at 941-365-0208 ext. 108.

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

SPARCC Impact

(Fiscal Year 2010-2011)

EMERGENCY SHELTER – 7,404 nights of shelter were provided to **191 women** and **157 children**.

ADVOCACY - 1,472 victims received services in our outreach offices. Services include: safety planning, crisis counseling, court advocacy, referrals for community resources, and support groups.

HOTLINE - 6,097 hotline callers were provided with crisis counseling and needs assessments.

HOSPITAL TEAM - Volunteers and staff responded to **47 emergency calls** from area hospitals to meet with sexual and domestic violence victims in order to provide support and information regarding SPARCC services.

CHILDREN & YOUTH PROGRAM – 228 child assessments were conducted, and follow-up services were provided as needed. More than **14,000 school children** received violence prevention education.

Shelter Updates

This past year has brought many women and children to SPARCC seeking emergency shelter. Fortunately, we have been able to provide a safe and welcoming environment for these families. There have been several improvements made to our shelter in recent months, including new windows and a playground makeover.



A statewide “shelter hardening” project, funded by The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), has outfitted the shelter with all new hurricane-grade windows. The windows were installed during the month of June, just in time for the storm season. Although we hope there will not be a need for this added safety precaution, we are thankful for the opportunity to make the shelter a safer place for the families living there!

The Shelter playground has also been greatly improved. Over the years, the wooden play structure in the back had become weathered and was in need of repair. In recent months, the playground equipment was repaired and refinished, new benches were installed with paver

platforms, new swings and awnings were added, and a new train engine was added for the children to play on. The project was funded largely by a very generous donation made by Roger & Valerie Button, in memory of their dear friend Jack Wagner of Venice. Volunteer project manager was Angelo Guido, who coordinated all of the activities, including the repairs and purchases. Angelo and his wife, Lisa, also donated funds to the project. SPARCC supporter Tim Muldoon, a licensed contractor, performed repairs and refinishing at no cost to SPARCC. The playground is now safer and more inviting for the children staying at the SPARCC Shelter. Thank you to all who contributed to the success of this project!

THE YEAR IN REVIEW



Luisa Goldman, Mary Ann Robinson (wearing one of the pieces that was auctioned off) & Ray Peper at the Chair-ity Auction



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 Forty-One



Above: Members of the SPARCCle on the Links Golf Tournament Committee with Chairwoman Marcia Major (fourth from the left)



Above: (l-r) Mandi Someson, Heather Miles, Patricia Entsminger, Jennifer Beirau, Amanda Marshall and Alison Gutek



At left: Hundreds of walkers cover the Ringling Bridge at the annual Stepping Out Against Domestic Violence Event to raise awareness during Domestic Violence Awareness Month.



Above: Princess & Pirate Ball Co-Chairs Erika Quartermaine and Shannon Hankin pose with pirates from the Anna Maria Privateers



At right: Little pirate Caden checks out Jon the Pirate at the Princess & Pirate Ball



Above: Event Chair Sandy Strom with Fashion Chair Gay Zuercher at the 2011 Second Hand Rose Fashion Show and Luncheon



Above: Erin Duggan models in SPARCC's Second Hand Rose Fashion Show – “Second Hand Rose Goes Mardi Gras”



Above: Members of the Venice Yard Sale committee (back l-r) Betty Kuhlman, Phyllis Smith, Sandra Brookshire, Janet Turow, Luisa Goldman, Maron Huffmire, Rosemary Cole (front l-r) Kay Hesterbagen & Ruth Wilson



SPARCC Selected to Participate in Empowerment Project

Survivors of domestic violence in Sarasota and Manatee Counties now have new resources for employment, thanks to a pilot program, The Empowerment Project. The Suncoast Workforce Board, which serves Manatee and Sarasota counties, was selected out of 24 regional workforce boards statewide to develop a pilot program that helps domestic violence survivors with job readiness and employment skills.

Using a state grant, Suncoast Workforce is working with SPARCC and Hope Family Services (Manatee County) to provide services such as resume writing, interview skills, aptitude testing, job training and job placement assistance. The domestic violence centers have provided cross-training for Workforce staff on domestic violence and the unique issues that many survivors face when looking for employment. SPARCC has appointed an advocate to serve as a liaison for the program to work closely with both other staff members and the participants.

For some participants, the program has resulted in immediate employment; for others, the program may include life skills training, resume building, and even extended training for a particular trade or industry. Some participants in the program have begun classes to become a Certified Nursing Assistants (CNA). Most recently, the first two of four Life Skills Workshops were completed. This series of workshops offers survivors of domestic violence an opportunity to obtain knowledge, resources, and tools that will enable them to establish control over their circumstances, improve the quality of their lives, and begin a more secure future. Workshops are scheduled to continue into the Fall and will provide valuable skills to many women. One recent graduate said “I have learned so much more than I expected and I think I am better qualified for the positions I am applying for after attending this workshop. I am truly thankful for this opportunity.”

Ultimately, the program seeks to empower survivors to find employment that will provide sustainable wages. The pilot began in December and will last for one year, resulting in a best practices report that will be used as a statewide replication model. We look forward to sharing many success stories as a result of this program!

Sexual Violence Program

WELCOME

SPARCC recently welcomed a new staff member, Concetta Hollinger, as Sexual Assault Victim Advocate. Concetta was



formerly the Victim Advocate Coordinator for the Sarasota Police Department. Concetta has a Masters Degree in Clinical Social Work and will receive her license in the Fall of this year. She is also certified as a Nationally Credentialed Advocate through the National Association for Victim Assistance (NOVA). Concetta is a skilled and compassionate

advocate and is enthusiastic about expanding SPARCC's sexual assault programs and services.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

SPARCC is currently seeking volunteers for its sexual assault crisis response team. A crisis team member provides support and advocacy to victims and their family members at the hospital and over the phone. They provide crisis intervention, help them understand their options, and answer any questions they may have to make their experience less traumatizing. These volunteers are usually on call during nights and weekends but daytime volunteers are needed as well. If you would like more information about this volunteer opportunity, please contact Jessica Hays at 941-365-0208 ext. 106 or jhays@sparcc.net

SPARCC EXPANDING OUTREACH EFFORTS ON LOCAL CAMPUSES

College students face a very real threat today – 1 in 5 college women will be a victim of sexual assault by the time she graduates. New College and SPARCC have recently strengthened their partnership to improve awareness on campus and provide better access to resources. Plans for the coming school year include ribbon campaigns, posters on topics of both prevention and services, and an outreach program with a series of 5 presentations that will focus on sexual violence, dating violence and prevention. By creating a more connected presence, SPARCC and the New College Counseling Center hope to increase the number of students who seek out services, and prevent more assaults from taking place.