



DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICES

OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL SOCIETY

Volunteer Support Group Meeting

Nov. 23 - 7 pm

We have some concerns regarding the help-line, and would truly appreciate the attendance of as many volunteers and members as possible at this meeting. Your feedback is truly important. Our past meetings have not been as productive, due to lack of volunteer attendance.

Please try and be there!

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I was celebrating Thanksgiving with my family and the guys were watching football (I know it happens in all families.) While watching the big screen game, I noticed not the players, but the advertising. On one of the large advertising boards placed along the field was a sign that said 'End violence against women' and a website address. I thought that was an interesting ad to have at a football game and it made me wonder first of all, could we advertise there, what would be the cost, and do they do that for non-profits. But more importantly than that, is the fact that violence against women in our seemingly enlightened culture, still exists and still causes so much hurt and fear.

As I look back over the last four years of being president of DAS, I am very proud of our achievements. As I look to the future, I

have hope that we can achieve more and more in the areas of education and service to our Catholic community and the world around us. Even if domestic abuse does not directly touch our lives, it very much influences our world.

As you can see from the articles in this newsletter, the Society has been very busy. We look forward to our November fundraiser, 'Stepping Out' with its fashion show and silent auction; we profile for you one of the women we were able to help at Eva's house and give you a wish list of items that we need. We continue our presentations at marriage prep, high school, Christ the King seminary, and will be beginning another round of three-minute talks at the parishes. We do this work with a dedicated board of directors, one full-time

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A BLESSING IN DISGUISE

*name changed to protect identity

Susan* applied to Eva's House because she had heard about us through a friend – an ex-resident. She and her husband came to Canada on work visas. She worked as a youth counselor at a church. In the beginning of their time in Canada, her husband

displayed minor controls, and harsh, condescending words towards Susan. But after two years, the abuse escalated.

During one particularly bad fight, in a fit of rage, he pushed Susan

down the stairs. That was

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(...President's Report continued...)

support worker and one part time office staff.

As I look ahead to our AGM and an election of a new board, I am looking for people like you, who would be willing to give their time and talents to be part of our governing board. We are also looking

for dedicated volunteers for our helpline, to help in our office, to help at Eva's House or to volunteer with our newly developed drop-in centre. Every person can make a difference. We know that sin affects our world in negative ways but we also know that good works affect our world for the better.

A special acknowledgment and gracious thank you to all our donors, large and small and our members - without you the Society would not exist. God's blessing on each and every one of you.

Michele Smillie
President

We invite all our members and friends to our November **Fashion Show "Stepping Out"**. Sunday Nov. 20th from 1:00-4:00 pm at Holy Cross High School in Surrey. This is an afternoon of fashions, dessert and fundraising activities including our ever popular silent auction, with all proceeds going to Domestic Abuse Services - Our Lady of Good Counsel Society.

The fashion provider for this show is Suzanne's of Scottsdale Centre in Delta. Suzanne's offers a wide variety of forward thinking designers at prices you can afford. The show will have a wide selection of great fashions to take you into the Christmas season and beyond! Our models, many of them familiar faces, are looking forward to presenting some great new looks!

We are very happy to announce that Laura Lynn Tyler Thompson, inspirational speaker and national television host, will be our guest commentator! Laura is now co-host of 700 Club Canada and appears on The Daily With Mark on Channel 10. Laura Lynn has a big heart and is very supportive of our cause and we are proud to have her on board for this event!

We have a great afternoon planned for you and hope you will take advantage of this opportunity and plan a day with friends. Please, book a table and be a part of this fundraising event! The fashions will appeal to a broad age range and we promise a fun filled afternoon. Tickets are only \$15.00 each and are available through the DAS office or by calling 604-589-9679. Hope to see you there!

Maureen Fadum
Fundraising-Special Events Chair



If you or someone you know needs help, call us confidentially at:

DOMESTIC ABUSE HELPLINE

(604) 640 7549

or

1 888 833 7733

(out of town)

EVA'S HOUSE WISH LIST

- Gift certificates for Superstore (\$25.00 & \$50.00)
- Gift certificates for special occasions
- Gift certificates to restaurants
- Movie passes
- Gift certificates to Tim Hortons
- Family orientated entertainment outings

CLEANING SUPPLIES

- Laundry detergent
- Dryer sheets
- New brooms and mops
- Dishwashing liquid and bleach
- Scrubbing pads
- Windex/Multi-purpose cleaner

PLEASE CALL ANNE (604) 562-6357

HOUSE NEEDS

- Cling wrap
- Aluminum foil

PERSONAL NEEDS

- Unused Deodorant, shampoo and conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrushes, sanitary napkins, tampons, ladies socks, soap(s)

DROP-IN CENTRE

- Journals, spiral notebooks, usable pens, pencils, crayons, color pencils
- New stuffed animals.

(...A Blessing in Disguise continued...)

the final straw. Quietly one morning, Susan gathered up her children, and sought safety in a transition house. To her dismay, her employer revoked her work visa, thus losing her source of income. As Susan did not qualify for income assistance, she pleaded to her brother to support her financially until she could find employment, which was proving to be difficult. At the end of her time at the transition house she applied to Eva's house for a three month stay.

Despite all the obstacles in Susan's path she continued to smile and

“...she continued to smile and faced each mountain head on...”

faced each mountain head on. Her husband moved back to Australia and filed custody papers. Susan applied for legal aid, and was given a lawyer who was well versed in international custody. The two parties agreed to reach a settlement outside of court, which ended up working in her husband's favor and she was to return with the children back to Australia by September 1st.

As much as Susan and her children did not want to return to Australia, she committed her life's journey into God's hands. She would ask me to

pray with her before each meeting with the lawyer.

Some days were more challenging than others but that did not stop her from finding a new church to attend, joining the women's bible study there, establishing new friendships, and during the spring break, volunteering as an assistant in the vacation bible study for children. After seven and a half months at Eva's House, Susan and her children left for Australia with gratitude in their hearts, for the practical and spiritual blessings they received during their stay at Eva's House

Anne D'Cruz
Resource & Facilities
Coordinator



We are very excited to announce that Domestic Abuse Services will be opening up a Drop-In centre in the Surrey/Delta area. The Drop In Center will further enhance the service provided by the helpline. Women with questions about domestic violence will find a safe venue to gather more information, without having to expose themselves to their family and friends, their church, and/or their community at large. For these women a transition house may not necessarily be an option but the Drop-In Centre will provide them with the resources they need to make an informed decision. It will also provide them with a safe venue to share their personal stories, their sufferings and their victories with fellow victims in a group setting.

The subject of abuse is surrounded by layers of denial and uncertainty from all three dimensions: the victim, the abuser, and society-at-large. The drop-in centre will provide women the opportunity to explore the subject at their own pace, in a convenient location, and in a non-intrusive manner.

The Drop-In Centre will be run in at a public library in the Surrey/Delta area and will be open from 6 pm to 9 pm one evening a week. It will be volunteer run. We will NOT be providing Counselling Services but will be providing support in a safe environment.

If you are interested in volunteering at the Drop-In Centre, please e-mail

Anne at anneatevahouse@live.com.

This will involve a six-month commitment.

Once a team is put together, training will be provided.



Enclosed is my donation to Domestic Abuse Services

Name: _____ Donation: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

- I would like to renew my membership (please complete attached membership form)
- I would like to receive Newsletters electronically

Tax Receipts will be issued for donations over \$20.00. Please mail to:

*DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICES - Our Lady of Good Counsel Society
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PLEASE NOTE

Only those who have paid their membership for 2011 will be eligible to vote in the upcoming elections at the 2012 AGM. Date to be announced.