

Spring 2007

Dear Friend and Supporter of Family Renewal Shelter:

I hope that you are doing well and enjoying the first flickering of spring. We couldn't be more excited to see the new life springing up all around us.

One of our faithful regular donors was dropping off household items and food at our administrative center a few months ago and he paused and asked, "Do you think that your shelter is making a real difference?" I didn't pause or hesitate but was able to confidently affirm that we know we continue to make a life saving and life enhancing difference for so many people.

How do we know for sure?

Because they tell us in cards and letters, email, Christmas greetings, phone calls and continuing long relationships and friendships. All the graduations, weddings, house warmings and baptisms we have attended locally over the years as well as the many communications and thanks that have come from across the U.S. and even abroad from those who we have helped to start a new life.

These communications help us to realize the value of what we offer because when families come to us they are usually at the most vulnerable and dangerous times in their lives. Of those domestic violence victims who are killed each year in 70% of the cases they had fled the abusive relationship or were trying to break it off.

Two recent events have reinforced to us the importance of the work we do with your help.

While attending a Criminal Justice Summit in Gig Harbor on March 30th, I was seated at a table with Pierce County Sheriff Paul Pastor, who after receiving a page quickly left the room. An hour later we heard that a murder suicide had just occurred in Gig Harbor.

We later learned that **Turid Bentley**, 66, had been shot dead by John Branden, 62, who had also shot and seriously wounded **Randall Nozawa**, 48, who was a mutual friend of the couple who had tried to intervene when he was shot in the face by Branden. Police later revealed that John Branden had a long criminal history and many false identities.

On April 4th, a woman who had been in hiding from John Branden since 1999 came forward and explained that she had escaped him eight years ago when he tied her up and told her he was going to kill her. Her name is **Kate Jewell** and all those years she has been in fear that he would find her. She had also feared that after she escaped, Branden would find another woman who he would

kill. She only felt safe to reveal her secret life now that John Branden had killed himself. One of the warrants that Branden was running from was for the attempted murder of **Kate Jewell**.

On April 2nd, **Rebecca Griego**, 26, was shot dead by her ex- boyfriend, Jonathan Rowan, 40, in her office at the University of Washington's Gould Hall.

Rowan had made many threats against Rebecca including suicide and threats to harm her again after prior vicious assaults. She had obtained a temporary protection order on March 6th after Rowan had tackled and punched her. The restraining order required Rowan to stay 500 feet away from **Rebecca Griego**, her residence, work place and dog.

These horrible premeditated murders somehow defy belief, while loved ones and friends of the victims are left to struggle and cope with these terrible losses for the rest of their lives.

Many of the victims of domestic violence who seek our help are in equally terrifying situations and are in fear for their lives. We believe that our duty is to do everything possible to identify those who are at most serious risk and to help the individuals for whom protection orders and half measures will not protect them against a determined and obsessed stalker. We believe that it is our responsibility to err on the side of caution and safety when advising those who have come to us for protection.

As is too often the case, many in society don't take homicidal and suicidal threats and escalation of scary behavior seriously enough. Many in law enforcement are frustrated because they cannot intervene in these cases until an actual crime has occurred. Sadly, by that time it is too late.

As we just witnessed at Virginia Tech, those who make threats and fantasize about death and murder need to be taken seriously and innocents need to be offered options.

That's what our shelters and counseling have always been about at Family Renewal Shelter, offering a way to escape and break the cycle of violence, one person at a time. It has been an incredible couple of months for us since before the holidays. We've had many great opportunities to intervene before tragedy happens.

We want to continue to be a resource of last resort for those who need extreme help. That is why we are asking you to consider supporting our efforts with your time and your most generous donations and prayers. Please help us complete our 21st year of ministering to the victims of domestic violence that God sends to us to serve.

If you ever have any questions for us here at Family Renewal Shelter, please call me directly at (253) 475-9010. I'd love the opportunity to talk to you and answer any questions.

Sincerely grateful to you,

Keith Galbraith
Executive Director
Family Renewal Shelter

SAVE THIS DATE-----AUGUST 11, 2007

What has turned into one of the biggest and best rummage sales in Pierce County will take place at the Puyallup United Methodist Church on August 11th from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The \$3.00 a bag sale starts at 3:00 p.m.

Ruth Tervol and the Jane Harvey Circle team have grown this sale into something wonderful over the last six years and all proceeds will benefit our work at Family Renewal Shelter. The church is located at 1919 W Pioneer in Puyallup and there are always a lot of great quality items and a ton of people so come early!

Thanks Ruth and all!

Please visit our new web site: domesticviolencehelp.org

There is a lot of helpful information about domestic violence and our work at Family Renewal Shelter including archived newsletters and directions for donating online. Our greatest thanks for the wonderful work of Chris Pak who designed the web site. We will

be introducing many more improvements and a lot more information in the next few months, so please stay tuned. Thanks again, Chris!

What a day!!!

On Saturday, March 24th, a wonderful group of men, all members of the Painters and Decorating Contractors of America, descended on our administrative offices at 8:00 a.m. with one goal in mind: completely repaint our three story building in one day!

With amateurs like us, we never would have attempted it, but I was amazed to watch thirteen painters representing many different companies spring into action. Rollers, brushes, tape, tarps and paint going on three floors at once.

By 2:00 p.m.,
it was over
and I had the
joy of
watching a lot
of paint dry.
It was
wonderful!
On Monday,
members of
Christian
Biker
Tabernacle



arrived to start laying carpet which had been donated by Vanessa Hurley of Campbell-Cox Carpets. Along with the carpet went a new section of tile.

The end product looks fantastic and it will allow us to provide a newly updated environment for the hundreds of visitors who come to our center each year. This renovation was long overdue on a building we have occupied for ten years.

Our heartfelt thanks to the companies that donated the beautiful paint, the wonderful carpet and all of those who worked so hard to make a real difference.

Painters

Emerson

Curtis Wikstrom

James Ash

Chris Mastropolo

Al

George Irwin

Mark Ficca

Ryan Hunter

Craig Olsen

Gary

Ficca

Elijah Alstron

Gary Deshaw

Colby Phillips

Mike Owens

Paint and Equipment Donations

Parker Paint

Miller Paint Co.

Rodda Paint Co.

Sherwin Williams

Seattle Paint Supply

Kelly Moore Paint

Carpet Donation

Vanessa Hurley of Campbell- Cox Carpets

Carpet and Tile Installation

Tabernacle

Billy, David and Dwayne from Christian Biker



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Tacoma, WA 98408
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Hello,

My name is Lexi. I want to thank you all from the bottom of my heart. My three children and I have traveled 4,000 miles to get away from an abuser who has found us in the past because of his ability to access government files due to his job. Finding people to help us has been hard. We believe God took our broken hearts and spirits and placed them in the welcoming hands of the people at Family Renewal Shelter. You greeted us with open arms, warm beds, food to eat and everything we needed to feel at home. It's been many years since we felt someone truly wanted us to succeed in our quest for freedom from violence. My three children have become calm and secure, not afraid any more, knowing

we're going to be okay. The staff at FRS has spent a lot of time taking us to important meetings, medical appointments, court and praying with us. You even took time to write and mail a special "letter" to my young son who was longing to get mail.

Thanks to God and FRS we are well on our way to being survivors of domestic violence.

FRS is a 501 (c)(3) tax-exempt charity founded in 1986. Our Federal tax identification number is 91-1347741, and we are registered with the state of Washington Charities Division. They can be contacted at 1-800-332-GIVE. We are funded by private contributions from businesses, community service organizations, individuals, and churches. All of our services are free and no monies come from government funding.

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email: staff@dvhelp.org • website: www.domesticviolencehelp.org

Another Woman

The target was this life
that had lived its own dear wildness,
had been loved and not loved,
had danced and not danced.

Today another woman died
and not on a foreign field
and not with a rifle strapped to her
back,
and not with a large defense of tanks
rumbling and rolling behind her.

She died without CNN covering her
war.
She died without talk of intelligent
bombs
and strategic targets.

The target was simply her face, her
back
her pregnant belly.

The target was her precious flesh
that was once composed like music
in her mother's body and sung
in the anthem of birth.

A life like yours or mine
that had stumbled up
from a beginning
and had learned to walk
and had learned to read
and had learned to sing.

Another woman died today.
Not far from where you live;
Just there, next door where the tall
light
falls across the pavement.

Just there, a few steps away
where you've often heard shouting,
another woman died today.

She was the same girl
her mother used to kiss;

The same child you dreamed
beside in school.

The same baby her parents
walked in the night
with
and listened and listened and
listened
for her cries even while they
slept.

And someone has confused his
rage
with this woman's only life.

- Carol Geneya Kaplan