

HOPE Coalition

A safe place to breath, heal and grow.

Spring 2009

HOPE Happenings

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Greetings from the Executive Director

Greetings valued supporters! I think this time around I will let the Directors give you the updates on the programs and I will focus on the fiscal concerns. We recently learned that our funding from the Office of Justice Program which supports Haven of Hope Safe Home and Kids Count Abused Children's Program is receiving a 3% decrease to help balance the budget for the new state fiscal year. Also, our funding from the Department of Human Services (DHS) was cut back last year and we are looking at another round of cuts before year end due to unallotment and the potential for reduced funding for Transitional Housing starting July 1st, 2009. While we don't yet know what the DHS grant will be, we are preparing for significant cuts.

Now more than ever we need your support. A letter recently went out outlining an approach to balance our budget by year end. If every person is able to give **\$10** a month for the next 4 months, we will finish out the year with a **zero balance!!** I have personally committed to giving that much and a little more to start the ball rolling. All the Board members are also giving at some

level to show their unified support for the programming. As we move into budget planning for the next year, I will keep you posted on our opportunities for investment into the community.

Our services continue to grow. Once again we served over 1,400 people from Goodhue, Wabasha and western Pierce counties last year. I would personally like to take this opportunity to thank United Way, the Jones Family Foundation and all the churches, individuals and businesses that continue to support us each year. You are the glue that not only holds us together, but communities we live in as well. Thank you.

Respectfully,
Carl Evans
President
HOPE Coalition



Kids Count ACP • Transitional Housing • Haven of Hope

April Fundraisers a Success!

HOPE Coalition conducted four fundraisers in April: Two Daddy-Daughter Dances, a Golf Tournament and the 30-Hour Famine (in partnership with Christ Episcopal Church.) All three events were a success, and together raised more than \$7,350 for the families and children served through HOPE Coalition programs.

The Daddy-Daughter Dances were held in both Red Wing and Ellsworth with



resounding successes. Together, over 100 Daddy-Daughter “pairs” danced the afternoon away and enjoyed great food and fun games.

The annual Kids Count Golf tournament has grown from 8 golfers the first year to over 40! The day was a bit windy for golf, but a good time was had by all despite the weather.

Congratulations to our tournament winners: Doug Olson, Longest Drive Winner and Mike Hartmann, Closest to Pin and Lowest Individual Score! The Lowest Team Score went to Doug Olson, Dennis Knudson, Joe Liege and Dave Jonas.

A big Thank You to volunteers Laurie

Andrews, Tom Lindrud, Vicky Lambert and Father Charles Uhlik for making these events possible, and to all of our sponsors and supporters who helped make these events a success!

For more information on upcoming HOPE events, check out our website at www.hope-coalition.org.



What's Working and What's Missing?

Here at HOPE, a lot of things are working—we are keeping families safe, helping them heal and giving them the chance to get their lives back on track.

However, there still some things missing here at HOPE. We are currently searching for a **Volunteer Coordinator** to assist us in organization and tracking our amazing volunteers. This would be a great fit for an intern or for someone who would enjoy developing and running a brand new program.

We are also recruiting **volunteers** to fill Family and Children's Advocate roles at the safe home and for our outreach kids groups. If you are interested in either of these opportunities, please visit our

website and fill out an application form. Details about the Volunteer Coordinator positions are also available online under “Employment Opportunities.”

Both our **Fundraising and Events Committee and Marketing/PR Committee** are looking to recruit interested and motivated community members. If you are interested, please contact Emily Nelson at 651-388-9360, ext 30.

We know that not all of our supporters are able to give financially to help out our cause, so we have included our “**wish list**” of some of the things that are in ‘high demand but short supply’ for the families we serve:

- Baby monitors
- Pots, pans and kitchen supplies
- Pillows and twin sheet sets
- Cleaning supplies
- Fun food for kids and mom's groups (pizza, ice cream, etc.)
- Candy and snacks for kids program
- Tickets to events for family outings (zoo, pool, museum, etc.)
- Swim diapers and swimming suits
- A laptop and projector for community presentations

Thank you for supporting HOPE Coalition and its mission to end family violence, child abuse and homelessness!

Transitional Housing Program—Update

During January, February and March of this year HOPE Coalition stopped 46 evictions and 35 utility shut-offs through its Community Care Fund.

The CCF is a partnership between local faith-based organizations and private donors who contribute to a general fund that is distributed to local people in crisis. The fund assists families who are

at risk of losing their housing or are not getting their basic needs met (no food, clothing or inadequate shelter.) Only Goodhue County residents can access these funds, and the number of families we can help is based solely on the number of donations we receive.

If your place of worship or organization would like to support the Community

Care Fund please contact our office at 651-388-9360, ext. 28.



JoAnn McNamara,
Transitional Housing
Program Director

Haven of Hope Safe Home—One Woman's Story

At Haven of Hope we see families, women and children from all different walks of life with different backgrounds. **This in one woman's story...**

An 18 year-old mother found her way to us after fleeing a violent relationship. She was unable to get any help from her parents as they are chemically dependent and neglected her as a child. Filled with fear and anger, she had quite an attitude. It turns out that this attitude was necessary to survive in her world. Her stay in our safe home was long as she really didn't have any odds in her

favor. As our Advocates broke down walls and built a relationship with her, she began to open up. She was given time to process her experiences and feel what she needed to feel in order to move on. Admitting that no one had ever taught her to parent her child, much less how to live as an adult, she allowed us to teach her some basics in both areas. She now lives on her own and has a new outlook on life. She is finishing her high school education, seeing a counselor and working. We follow up regularly with her and she checks in with us as if we were her "surrogate"

family. She plans to work in this field years from now as she wants to inspire other young mothers.

This is just one story of many—thank you to our staff, volunteers and donors for making stories like this possible.



Sheila Meyer,
Program Director
Haven of Hope

Have an old cell phone collecting dust in a drawer?

Donate it to HOPE Coalition!

We turn them in to be refurbished into 9-1-1 phones. Drop off at the Friendship House, 480 W. 8th Street in Red Wing. Call 651-388-9360, ext 19 for more information.

Kids Count—Program Update

Can you imagine being a child and not getting hugs? Not hearing "I'm proud of you." Can you imagine no one cheering for you when you graduate from High School or no one coming to see your end of the year program...that you happen to have a solo in. At times it must feel lonely, that no one cares. Questions come to their minds of... "Am I good



Susan Albarado-Grand
Kids Count ACP
Program Director

enough? Doesn't anyone see me? Hear me? Love me?" In the past few weeks, these are things that we have seen and have been hearing from some of the kids we work with. The answers are... YES we see you, and YES we hear you. We try our best to HUG and LOVE each child that we have

contact with. We tell them often that we are PROUD of them. And they are ALL worth CHEERING for. So parents, grandparents, neighbors and anyone that sees children, tell them how much they mean to you. Love them, care for them and support them everyday! Make them feel like *they* are the BEST part of your day, and last but not least have fun with them. Laugh, be silly and smile. They will remember it forever!

We could use your help...

Now that school is out, we will have kids here every day of the week. Playing, learning and laughing. At times, we get donations of movie tickets or gift certificates for ice cream or a restaurant and we are able to take the kids out to have a little extra fun, making positive memories and showing them that we are here for them always. Some of the kids we work with live in a shelter, while others live in foster homes or maybe with Mom one week Dad the next. Stress is at an all time high for just about everyone because of losing jobs

etc. When stress rises, violence rises. Please consider helping Kids Count Abused Children's Program by donating your time, talent, money, or things such as gift certificates or movie passes in order for us to help create a safe fun summer for the kids we serve. Our goal by the end of the summer is for each child we serve to go back to school with smiles on their faces and stories in their hearts of things they can tell their teachers and friends about their summer break.

A quick thank you! The past few months have been busy with child abuse awareness events and fundraisers. We truly could not have done this without the help of our volunteers! Thank you from all of us at Kids Count. And for those of you that attended our events, thank you as well. They would not have been a success if you didn't take time out of your lives to support ending child abuse by attending. Thanks again and remember, Together, we CAN end child abuse!

Child abuse spikes as U.S. economy founders



By Jason Szep – Thu Apr 16, 11:27 am ET, (Editing by Cynthia Osterman)

BOSTON (Reuters) – One 4-month-old baby was shaken so violently she needed surgery. Another 3-week-old suffered fractured ribs from abuse at home. A 9-year-old diabetic boy stopped receiving proper treatment for his condition.

Those cases reported by Boston hospitals are part of a spike in child abuse in United States during a recession that has driven some families to the brink and overwhelmed cash-strapped child-protection agencies. "In the last three months we have twice as many severe inflicted injury cases as we did in the three months the previous year," said Allison Scobie, program director of the Child Protection Team at Boston's Children's Hospital. Typically, her hospital handles about 1,500 such cases a year. That rose to 1,800 last year. "We're finding that it is directly attributable to what is happening economically," she said. "Many of the hospitals around here report an increase of 20 to 30 percent of requests for consultation regarding suspected child maltreatment."

Many cases bear the imprint of economic troubles, like a 9-year-old diabetic boy hospitalized after his mother, a single parent, could no longer afford insurance co-payments needed to treat his disease. She left him home alone for long stretches on days when he required medical attention. "She had difficulty with the bare bone things that would keep this child healthy," said Scobie. Similar stories have surfaced in other regions, according to anecdotal and official reports. The Illinois department of child and family services, for example, reported a 5.8 percent rise in child abuse cases in the state in 2008. In the Chicago area, child abuse cases rose more than 9 percent last year. "Many of our county agency directors tell us their child abuse reports have risen," said Crystal Ward Allen, director for a child protection agency who relies heavily on local revenue drawn from property taxes, which have collapsed in the recession. "Our basic safety net is really faltering," she said.



Many doctors agree. Seattle's Children's Hospital and the Harborview Medical Center are seeing more children suffering subdural bleeding caused by blows to the head from abuse. In a typical year, they treat about one such child a month. Last year, they admitted nearly three times as many -- or 32 children.

"We have been pretty busy again this year," said Dr. Kenneth Feldman, medical director of the Children's Protection Program at Seattle Children's Hospital. "The vast majority are from families who are struggling financially." A flurry of similar cases startled doctors late last year in Syracuse, New York. "I was just shocked," said Dr. Ann Botash, who heads the Child Abuse Referral and Evaluation Program at State University of New York in Syracuse, a city of about 147,300 people. The medical university where she works treated 19 children with head injuries consistent with beatings or being severely shaken last year, including four who died, up from just a handful the year before. Victims averaged about 7 months old.

In one case, a 4-month-old girl was admitted in a "staring spell" and needed surgery to remove fluid around her brain. The father had been laid off and the mother was working. Money was tight, she said. Some utilities had been shut off in the home. "That clearly is a family that is stressed," she said. The girl was treated a month earlier for similar symptoms and vomiting, but doctors at the time didn't suspect abuse.

"We're getting swamped," said Robert Sage, director at the Boston Medical Center's Child Protection Team, which treated 500 children with injuries consistent with abuse last year. That rate rose 30 percent in the first two months of 2009. "It's pretty much everything. A lot of physical abuse. Some neglect," he said. "I'm seeing more severe physical abuse. In general there's a lot more stress right now in society. And it comes out on the kids. They are the weakest link."

A BIG THANKS to our supporters for their generous contributions!

February - May 2009

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*Thank you to all of our generous supporters who attended our Fundraising Events during April and May!

Consider creating a living legacy for a loved-one.

If HOPE Coalition has enriched your life or the life of someone close to you, please consider remembering us in your Will or through another form of planned giving.

Your generosity in leaving a legacy will enable HOPE Coalition to carry on its mission for generations to come.



HOPE Coalition is supported by the United Way of Goodhue, Wabasha and Pierce Counties

Is everything correct? As hard as we try to get the spelling correct and all of our donor names listed, mistakes do happen. If a mistake was made, we sincerely apologize, and ask that you contact Emily at 651-388-9360, ext. 30 so it can be corrected. Thank you!



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Contact Information

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651-388-9360, ext. 11

Kids Count

Abused Children's Program

651-380-0380 (Crisis Line)
651-380-9360, ext. 12 (Business Line)

Haven of Hope Safe Home

1-800-369-5214 (Crisis Line)
651-385-8601 (Business Line)

Transitional Housing Program

651-388-3960, ext. 28

Legal, Outreach and Volunteer Office

651-388-9360, ext. 19

Development and Special Events Office

651-388-9360, ext. 30

hope-coalition.org



HOPE Happenings

Is the quarterly newsletter
for the HOPE Coalition.

We welcome submissions of
articles, ideas and creative
writing pieces. For more
information or to submit an
article please contact:

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