



SAFE HOMES OF ORANGE COUNTY



Orange County
Family Justice Center

1ST QUARTER 2019 NEWSLETTER

SAFE HOMES 24-HOUR HOTLINES:

Orange County
(845) 562-5340

Sullivan County
(845) 292-5700

In This Issue:

Volunteer Spotlight

Teen Dating Violence
Awareness Month
Art and Essay
Contest Winners

Leadership Sullivan
Fundraising Event

25th Annual
“Love Gently” Dinner

Calendar of Events

Stay in Touch!

 [Facebook](#)

 [Instagram](#)

 [Our Website](#)

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS

January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month, and each year Safe Homes sets aside time to build awareness and support survivors who have been exploited in sex trafficking or labor trafficking. Safe Homes is always exploring methods to enhance service to survivors that allow individuals to connect to the support and safety they deserve and choose. Beyond direct service work, Safe Homes is committed to comprehensive prevention work. In January of 2019, with additional funding from the Orange County Youth Bureau and in partnership with Merakey’s “Center for Hope” and HONOR’s “A Friend’s House” Youth Shelter, Safe Homes launched an Anti-Human Trafficking program for youth.

Love146, a National and International Anti-Trafficking organization, developed a research-based trafficking prevention curriculum for youth. The Love146 *Not a #Number* educational program is an interactive, five-module curriculum designed to teach youth how to protect themselves from human trafficking and exploitation through information, critical thinking and skill development. The curriculum is presented in a manner that inspires youth to make safe choices and utilize the healthy support systems in the community by not focusing on one particular aspect of the issue but instead, focusing on respect, empathy, individual strengths and the relationship between personal and societal pressures that create or increase vulnerability. Love146 is designed to impact youth regardless of where they are on the risk spectrum. It considers all youth inherently vulnerable but also bearers of great potential and resilience.

Safe Homes Anti-Trafficking Case Manager received specialized training from the Love146 organization to facilitate and implement the program. Beginning in January 2019, the program has been facilitated with young people at both the “Center for Hope” in Newburgh and “A Friend’s House” in Middletown. Youth participants have responded positively to the curriculum and topics discussed over the five-week course including trust, consent, vulnerability, and what trafficking looks like in their community. After completing the curriculum, one youth stated, “This program has taught me how to stay safe in my community.”

If you would like to know more about the Anti-Trafficking work Safe Homes is doing locally, the Love146 *Not a #Number* Program, or if you would like to host a workshop at your business or organization, please contact Collaborative Programs Director, Pam O’Dea at (845) 562-5365 ext 126.



WINNERS OF INAUGURAL

"I CAN MAKE CHANGE"

ESSAY CONTEST

Sponsored by Binnacle Books



Isabel L. from Newburgh
Free Academy
"Consequently"



Madeline T. from Valley Central
High School
"Imagine a World Without Abuse"



Matthew S. from Newburgh
Free Academy
"A World Without Abuse"

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS!

Safe Homes Teen Dating Violence Prevention Program held its inaugural "I Can Make Change" Essay Contest. Sponsored by Binnacle Books in Beacon, NY, this essay contest was open to all 9th through 12th-grade students in Orange County. High School Students were encouraged to dive into this year's theme in a way that was meaningful to them and explore what it would be like to *live in a world free from intimate partner violence.*

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: STEPHANIE BERRA

Stephanie has volunteered her therapeutic massage services to residents at our Shelter Program since December 2016.

I look forward to volunteering with the clients at Safe Homes because I believe in the healing potential of human touch. It's especially rewarding to help people when they are facing a tough and challenging time period in their life and self-care is not on their list of priorities. Also, I believe in the importance of re-introducing positive physical touch to an individual who has perhaps been exposed to physical abuse and trauma or never received positive touch to begin with. The people I have met and worked with at the shelter have been extremely appreciative and humble and it makes me feel good to offer them a bit of relaxation and stress relief through therapeutic massage.



FEBRUARY IS
TEEN DATING
VIOLENCE
AWARENESS
MONTH



Throughout the month of February, Safe Homes observed **Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month** with many awareness-raising campaigns and events. Youth Educators hosted “In Their Shoes” and “Escalation” interactive trainings throughout Orange and Sullivan Counties, inviting service providers, parents, community members, and youth to engage in cooperative discourse on the topics of Teen Dating Violence, consent, bullying, sexting, and strategies for eradicating these behaviors in their own communities. Safe Homes’ staff and educators were also invited to multiple radio shows throughout the month in order to spread our message further, and raise awareness in unique and meaningful ways.

As a part of Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month, Safe Homes hosted our **5th annual “Safe Love Is...” Art Contest**, this year inviting Orange County Youth to submit artwork for review which centered on the theme of “Expressing Boundaries”. Middle and High School students submitted artwork which expressed what creating and maintaining healthy boundaries means to them. The artwork hung in **2 Alices Café** in Newburgh throughout the month of February, with winners announced at our Art Show on February 9. First place was awarded to **Naya Vazquez**, of Warwick High School, for her piece titled, “Green Light”. Naya was presented with an enlarged print of her artwork to hang in her school and was featured in the Times Herald-Record.



A special THANK YOU to Amy Stillwaggon of Newburgh Envelope for donating enlarged prints of the winning Art Contest artwork each year!





LOVE SHOULDN'T HURT

On March 21, Safe Homes Teen Dating Violence Prevention Program hosted their 6th annual "Love Shouldn't Hurt" Teen Summit at Mount Saint Mary College. Six school districts across Orange County, along with New Paltz High School, attended the Summit, with over 100 youth and chaperones participating in engaging and interactive workshops. While there, students engaged in conversations on the topics of Teen Dating Violence, Gender Expectations, Human Trafficking, and LGBTQ+ ally-ship, amongst others. This event could not take place without the support of our participating school districts, Mount Saint Mary College, nor without the amazing support of the Orange County Executive, Orange County Youth Bureau, and United Way of the Dutchess-Orange Region.



Leadership Sullivan Class of 2019 Paint and Sip Fundraiser to Benefit Safe Homes

On March 21, Leadership Sullivan Class of 2019 hosted a fundraiser for Safe Homes, including a donation drive. With close to 100 people participating, the evening was lively, filled with laughter and creativity – while serving to benefit Safe Homes. The event took place at the Liberty Firehouse and each participant received two wine glass tumblers to paint with the help of an instructor's direction.

The Leadership Sullivan class members coordinated efforts to make this event a success. Their fundraising goal of \$2,000 was far exceeded – with funds raised to support their project to create hygiene kits to be given out to individuals and families served by Safe Homes in Sullivan County.

Class Facilitator Lisa Schmidt guided the class in organizing the event. “The class project is a culmination of months of collaboration by all class members in order to benefit an organization in Sullivan County,” Schmidt said. “The partnership of Leadership Sullivan and Safe Homes to benefit victims in Sullivan County is something that all class members are passionate about.”

THANK
YOU

Leadership

Sullivan

Class of 2019

and all

participants!





25TH ANNUAL "LOVE GENTLY" DINNER RAISED OVER \$7K FOR SAFE HOMES!

A -felt THANK YOU to PAINTERS RESTAURANT of Cornwall
and to all of our celebrity servers and guests!



The 25th Annual **LOVE** *Gently* Dinner

On Tuesday, March 12th, friends and supporters of Safe Homes of Orange County gathered at PAINTER'S Restaurant in Cornwall-on-Hudson for the 25th Annual "Love Gently" Dinner. Over \$7,200 was raised at this year's successful event. All proceeds will directly benefit the agency's comprehensive services for survivors of intimate partner violence, teen dating violence, and human trafficking.

"It's incredible when you really stop and think about the last 25 years and the impact "Love Gently" has had on Safe Homes. Four high school girls and their advisor created this event, with the commitment and dedication of the owners and staff of **Painter's Restaurant**, that has positively impacted the lives of so many victims and their children and ensured a safety net for Safe Homes in the way of fundraising dollars. It's nothing short of extraordinary," said **Kellyann Kostyal-Larrier**, Executive Director of Safe Homes.

This year's celebrity servers included **Mary Pat Smith**, Assistant to the Orange County Executive; **Brendan Coyne**, Mayor, Village of Cornwall-on-Hudson; **Jim DiSalvo**, West Point-Highland Falls Rotary; **Mary Beth Greene**, Community Volunteer; **Jeanne Mahoney**, Village Clerk, Village of Cornwall-on-Hudson; **Dick Randazzo**, Supervisor, Town of Cornwall; **Dr. Michele Winchester-Vega**, Dr. Michele Winchester-Vega & Associates; **James Ferrara**, J. Ferrara Photography; **Karen Kaiser-Sharp**, Photographer; **Glen Plotsky**, Attorney; **Michelle Pfeffer**, Rand Realty; and **Jacqueline Murray**, Safe Homes Founding Board Member. These "celebrity" servers worked alongside seasoned Painter's servers to engage and entertain guests and help boost fundraising efforts. The event would also not have been possible without the continuing support of the owners of Painter's Restaurant, **Pete and Sal Buttiglieri** and their entire staff.

Run **DMG** (with special appearances by **Bill Jolly** and **David Jolly**) provided live music for "Love Gently" and proceeds from tarot card readings were donated by "**Rozelisa**" **Defabis-Marsh**. A 50/50 raffle and the sale of chocolate covered strawberries from **Commodore Chocolatier** also boosted fundraising for the event. Congratulations to the winner of our 50/50 raffle: **Nancy Farrelly!**



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

4TH ANNUAL BOWL-A-THON

The Monroe-Woodbury Rotary Club will be hosting their 4th Annual Bowl-A-Thon in support of Safe Homes on May 4th from 4:00pm-6:00pm at Colonial Lanes in Chester. There are 30 lanes, 5 people per lane. The fundraising goal is \$100 per person (\$500 per 5-person team). Time slots are from 4:00pm-6:00pm. There will be a grand prize for the person who raises the most money! For more information and to register your team, visit mwrotary.org/batsh

CELEBRATION OF HOPE GALA

Save The Date! Our annual Celebration of Hope will take place on Friday, October 25, 2019, at Anthony's Pier 9 in New Windsor. Sponsorships now available – please contact Jennifer Turner, Events & Community Engagement Manager, for more information at 845-562-5365 ext 101.

SAFE HOMES 9TH ANNUAL

SUMMER YOUTH LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

From Bystander to Upstander:

How do Oppression and Identity
Impact Your Community?

July 15–19 in Newburgh, NY

July 22–26 in Monticello, NY

July 29–Aug 2 in Port Jervis, NY



 **Rotary
Monroe-Woodbury**
**4TH ANNUAL
BOWL-A-THON**
**SATURDAY
MAY 4**
COLONIAL LANES
CHESTER, NY

SAVE THE DATE

SAFE HOMES OF ORANGE COUNTY

2019 GALA

Friday, October 25, 2019

ANTHONY'S PIER 9

sponsorship & ticket information available
safehomesorangecounty.org/gala

