

Haven House News

P.O. Box 4875, Poplar Bluff, MO 63902

www.havenhousepoplarbluff.com

Winter 2021

From the Director's Chair

Dear Friends,

During the past several months, we have been frustrated that social distancing and quarantining has meant that we have had to limit the number of families admitted into the shelter. We have ramped up our out-reach services and our court services are reaching the numbers projected in early 2020. However, that didn't really help us feel better about having to turn families away from the shelter.

So, because when you are given lemons you should make lemonade, that's what we've been doing! We have been updating the shelter and out-reach center with fresh paint and new furniture and flooring, and have organized our storage rooms. It looks like a new place! We could never have accomplished all that if the shelter was at capacity as it usually is, so at least something good has come from our down time!

Other good things have been happening, too. The Blaich family saved our trail ride when it seemed all was lost, and so many of you made sure that our families had a wonderful Christmas. We have received additional funding to help victims of domestic or sexual violence receive counseling services and to assist with unexpected expenses that some of those we serve have encountered this year.

Things will be back to normal soon. And it won't be long until we will need to clean out the storage rooms and the walls will need paint and we have time to do. I'm looking forward to it.

As always, thank you for your prayerful support of Haven House. It means the world to us and we know it's what has kept us going for the past 35 years and will for the next 35.

We are accepting in kind donations Mon-Fri, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. We can accept household items and toys, as well as in-season clothing. Due to your overwhelming generosity, we have depleted our storage space for out of season clothing. As always, cash contributions can be mailed to P.O. Box 4875, Poplar Bluff, MO 63902.

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If you would prefer receiving our newsletter via e-mail, we'd be happy to oblige! We will continue sending it the old tried and true way, but know some would appreciate less paper in their lives! If you'd like us to email your newsletter, or receive it both ways, let us know by contacting us at haven@semo.net.

Volunteer Corner

Even though 2020 may have attempted to throw us a curveball, our dedicated volunteers really knocked it out of the park every time!

Our volunteers assist us with organization, support groups, correspondence, hotline calls, fundraising and staffing the shelter. When we need them, they always step up to the plate!

We are pleased to welcome to our newest team members: Marilyn Martin, Sandy Fox Keeling, Daphne Ahrens, Faith Durden, and Samantha Baugus.

Whether you enjoy being in the midst of what happens on a daily basis inside the shelter or you are more of a behind the scenes personality we can find the perfect place for you!

We are looking forward to our next volunteer orientation in March, for which we already have seven people registered. If you are interested in participating, or would just like to chat about opportunities, I'd love to visit with you. Please contact me at 573-686-4873 or email me at havenhousemelody@gmail.com

Melody Ducote

Interested in earning some state tax credits? We have the answer! Missouri tax payers who make a minimum of \$100 in annual cash donations to Haven House are eligible to receive 50% of their total contributions in state tax credits, in addition to their federal tax deduction. For more information about how you and Haven House can benefit from this program, please call 686-4873 and ask for Jane or Mary Ann.

Thanks for all your patience as we have reduced the number of in-kind donations we can accept during the pandemic, due to limited paid and volunteer staffing and social distancing. Even while navigating the unchartered waters of the pandemic, we did our best to serve women and children victimized by domestic or sexual violence. Social distancing, setting aside quarantine rooms and constant sanitation have helped keep this boat afloat!

Thanks to a hardworking crew, From July 1 to Dec. 31, 2020, we:

- answered 487 calls on the 24 hour hotline.
- served 140 women and children in the shelter.
- provided 2351 bed nights of emergency shelter.
- served 61 victims of sexual assault.
- facilitated 51 support group meetings.
- served 354 victims in the civil court advocacy program.
- served 263 victims in the criminal court advocacy program.
- admitted 17 new participants in the batterers intervention program.
- provided 21 community presentations.



Thanks again to all the sponsors, riders and volunteers who made the Haven House Trail Ride such a success. The Blaich family served as excellent hosts and had even begun planning for the 2021 event before the last pickup and trailer left the grounds! Riders raised nearly \$13,300 to help meet the operating costs of the shelter.



Did you ever wonder what happened to that exciting 35th Anniversary Gala we were hosting almost a year ago...until the unthinkable happened? We haven't

forgotten! And while we are looking forward to it, everyone's safety is our big concern. As soon as we have a date, we will get the news out! Your kind support and generosity never cease to amaze and humble us, but no more than during the Christmas Season. This place looked like Santa's workshop and Amanda like the chief elf as she directed traffic, tagged gifts wrapped by staff and volunteers and checked off lists for 43 families, all who received our services throughout the year and we knew could use a little help during the holidays. Nearly 90 children woke up to a magical Christmas morning thanks to the generosity of 36 local families, businesses and groups who adopted single women, children or entire families. Some people shopped for one special gift, others sent a monetary gift and asked us to use it how it was needed. We appreciated every kindness. And as in every year for the past 34, every wish was fulfilled.



Shopping List

- Coffee
- Sugar
- Coffee creamer
- Trash bags
- Ziploc bags (gallon)
- Shampoo/Conditioner
- Hair brushes
- Pine-sol
- Towels

Daily Support Group Schedule

- Mon. 10am: Women's Health and Self-Esteem Group
- Tues. 9 am: Substance Abuse/Domestic Violence Group
- Tues. 10am: Group for Survivors With Young Children
 - 6pm: Spiritual Healing
- Wed. 10am: Domestic Violence Survivors Group
- Thurs. 10am: Strengthening Life Skills
- Fri. 10am: Peer Support Group for Sexual Assault Survivors

Groups are facilitated by Haven House staff members and community volunteers. Any woman who has survived domestic or sexual abuse is welcome to participate at no charge.

Arby's Foundation Grant

We are so grateful to the local Arby's Restaurant who nominated Haven House for a second grant from the Arby's Foundation to purchase food for families who will reside in the shelter in 2021. The \$4800 award will go a long way to meeting our food budget! With a projected 23,000 meals to be served, we know that we will make good use of the grant!

Please visit us our brand new website at: www.havenhousepoplarbluff.org for all the latest services and news!

Mission Statement:

To end rape and abuse in Southeast Missouri through shelter, support, advocacy and education.

Thank you...

to the following individuals and organizations for their financial and in-kind donations July 20 through December 20

Α

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A gift to the Haven House memorial fund is a special way to give a gift that also helps others. Your gift may me made in memory of a friend or family member, or in honor of a birthday, wedding, anniversary or other special occasion. Acknowledgement of your gift will be sent to the recipient or their family.

MEMORIALS

Trudy Duncan By Ms. Martha Keener

Lelah Medley / Clelah Bradley By Mr. & Mrs. Edward Muniz

Maxine West Belcher By Mr. Mrs. Greg West

Gail West Marshaus By Mr. & Mrs. Greg West



