



P.O. Box 8331, Surprise, Arizona 85374

June 2006 Edition

Message from the President:

Every time I sit down to write the column for the newsletter, I feel our plate couldn't get any fuller. But it seems to. We've already provided over 130 bed nights of shelter for women and their children in our Safe House. Attendance is still small, but someone comes to group every week. The phone is now answered 24 hours a day rather than 4. And the phone calls to volunteer or donate goods continue. The Dynamite Dolls lived up to their name and had a fabulous event for over 300 Red Hat ladies in April and our first poker party is coming up. Local groups continue to be generous with their gifts. Four new women have joined our board.

This rapid growth has not been without difficulties. We know we aren't always returning calls as fast as people would like. The office is overflowing with gifts that we can't get moved or acknowledged fast enough. We can't find a gardener to keep our Safe House yard looking good. Tina, our program manager, resigned to spend more time with her young daughter. Volunteers have left for the summer or for other opportunities. And so it goes.

Starting a non-profit has been a challenge for all of us. Hopefully, by the time this newsletter "hits the streets" we will be meeting some of those challenges. We've advertised both for full time professional staff and for a part-time administrative assistant. Our next class for volunteers is scheduled. Strategic planning will

have helped us identify our next steps. But the bottom line is this – some women and children are safer this year than they might have been last year. For those of you who have been here with and for us, as always, I say thanks!

Marge Clark
President – Eve's Place

Walk to End Domestic Violence

What a gorgeous day for a walk! About 4000 gathered at Wesley Bolin Plaza for the 4th Annual 5K Walk to End Domestic Violence on April 22nd. Reminding everyone why they were there were t-shirts made by survivors and friends and family of victims and life-size cutouts of recent victims. Particularly touching were large groups who wore T-shirts commemorating their loved one who died in a Domestic Violence attack.



Participants came from every walk of life and were young, old and in between. Parents pushed strollers or pulled wagons. Seniors were abundant. Board members Marge Clark, Leatha Martin, and Annie Huston were joined by friend

Sherry. Friend of Eve's Place, Lane Meier, and her sons also participated. Leatha received the highest pledges for Eve's Place Team with Lane in second.

The goal of the walk was to raise \$375,000. Although at walk time it appeared that they would be short of the goal, pledges will exceed last years. Eve's Place will be applying for some of the money that is awarded to Domestic Violence programs.



Family Fun Festival Fund Raiser

The Family Fun Festival to benefit Eve's Place took place on a slightly windy day Sunday, April 9th at Surprise Stadium. It was great to see lots of families from the surrounding neighborhoods come out to enjoy the beautiful weather and we had several folks offer to volunteer and support our cause. We hosted several age groups of kids in an egg hunt where they stuffed their baskets with about 300 candy filled eggs. Everyone enjoyed the Birds of Prey exhibit provided by **EarthQuest Environmental Foundation** as well as the interesting **Renaissance Festival** characters that roamed through the festival grounds.

The primary focus of attention throughout the day, however, were the six bouncies provided by **Kids' Inflata-fun Production LLC**. The adults had a great chance at some neat raffle

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prizes which were announced via phone a week after the event. The lucky winner of the grand prize, a Cruise to the Caribbean, was west valley resident and a volunteer at the festival, Mike Kouts. **CONGRATULATIONS MIKE!**

We would be remiss if we did not thank all of the volunteers and businesses who helped us out including donations from the **Big Lots** on Grand Ave for the Easter egg hunt supplies, **Albertsons** on Grand Ave for providing water for our volunteers, the lively Renaissance Performance Artists too numerous to mention with the notable exception of their organizer, **Ron Krawitz**, a.k.a., Einstein Newton, and of course the **City of Surprise** for allowing us to use their facilities. Also key to the success of the event were our corporate sponsors. Next year we hope to try again and improve our connection with families in the growing neighborhoods throughout the west valley.

Sponsors for the festival were **Global Publishing, Inc.**, and **JDM Consulting**. We would also like to thank **M&I Bank** for their generous donation of \$1,000.

Thanks again to all of our sponsors for this event including:

Ken Meade Realty
Perry & Perry, Surprise
Safeway
Chick Fil-A

Red Hat Luncheon Fund Raiser

Wow! Three hundred Red Hat ladies gathered in one room for fun, food, fashion, and a silent auction. The Dynamite Dolls really know how to throw a party. The event raised money for Eve's Place and a wonderful time was had by all. The slow service just gave us more time to visit.

The "Dynamite Dolls" chapter of the Red Hat Society hosted an "April in Paris" luncheon fashion show at Briarwood Country Club in Sun City West on April 26, 2006. The event featured a red hat decorating contest fashion show and silent auction with all proceeds benefiting "Eve's Place," a domestic violence shelter in Surprise serving the northwest valley.

Fashions were presented by Sher's Clothing in Surprise and the "Dynamite Dolls" models were Rita Baran, Marilyn Fischer, Pat Gorchach, Babs Hawks, Diane Shapiro Lempe, Sylvia Paterno, Jan Rittmaster, Herme Sherry and Charlene Young Stinnette.

A variety of songs dedicated to the shelter were sung by "Dynamite Dolls," Jan Rittmaster (Ms Senior Arizona 1996,) Babs Hawks (Ms Senior Arizona 2002,) and Herme Sherry (Ms Senior Arizona 2004.)

Vernadene Loveland, "Queen Mom" of the "Dynamite Dolls" and a board member of "Eve's Place," said that she hoped this would be an annual affair and that this year's event resulted in over \$5,000 being raised for "Eve's Place."

The following were donors for the Red Hat luncheon fashion show at Briarwood Country Club on April 26th:

Bad Hair Days, Surprise
Care from the Heart, Sun City
Chico's
Cracker Barrel, Peoria
Dillon's
Hampton Inn, Surprise
Hassayampa Inn, Prescott
Hillcrest Golf Club
Lone Star Steakhouse
Maggie Moo's
Mike's Grill, Surprise
Ramada Express, Laughlin
Sher's Clothing
Stress Reduction Center, Surprise
Surprise Nails & Spa
This 'n That, Goodyear Swap Meet
Wooddale Village, Sun City
Wells Fargo Bank, Sun City
Wigwam Golf Resort & Spa
Vernadene Loveland

Poker Tournament Fun Raiser

Eve's Place is sponsoring a Poker Tournament at the Hillcrest Country Club on Friday, July 7, at 6:30PM. There will be a cash dinner and drinks available and the tournament starts at 7:00PM. Please be sure to attend this event! Tickets are \$50.00 per player. We can only accommodate 200 players, so it's first come, first served. To reserve your spot, please call 602-677-7799 for advance ticket purchases. There will be cash prizes for the #1 and #2 slots and all proceeds will go to Eve's Place.

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Wanted List

- Sponsors for our events and newsletter
- Hosts for the fall fundraiser - need one home and 4-5 people who would be willing to send at least 50 invitations to their friends.
- Items suitable for use as auction or raffle events
- An empty garage
- Item Donations
 - A charcoal BBQ of some small size for the safe house, and hopefully it will come with some charcoal briquettes (sp) and mesquite chips.
 - A patio set of any variety including plastic from Home Depot that will have a table and 4 chairs. Any color.
 - A high chair for children (we could really use 2 or a booster seat and one high chair)
 - A portable play child container
 - Plastic flower pots of all sizes
- Service Donations (time or materials)
 - Chiropractor
 - Dentist
 - Hair Stylist
 - Nail Stylist
 - Auto Mechanic
 - Gardner

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Volunteers staff our 24 hour help line (with professional backup) and assist clients in the house with transportation, child care, etc. **The next training will be all day Thursday, June 15th and Friday, June 16th.** Mark your calendars now. Send an email to info@evesplace.us or write to PO Box 8331,

Surprise, AZ 85374 to reserve your spot. Include a phone number so that you can be notified of the exact location and time. If you would just like to know more about Domestic Violence, you are also invited to join us for a stimulating two days of training provided by the Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence.



The Madison Donates Items to Safe House

Safe House

Thanks to many generous friends, our Safe House is open. The White Tanks Rotary gave us a check to buy the few items that hadn't been donated. In two months of operation, 130 bed nights of safety have been provided to women and their children. The cupboards are pretty well stocked but groceries are always welcome as are cleaning supplies, sanitary products, and diapers. We can use gently used children's clothing and this month we wished we had had some maternity clothes.

THANK YOU

**Ken Meade Realty
Perry & Perry
Chick Fil-A in Surprise
Albertsons
Safeway
White Tanks Rotary
Morning Star Presbyterian Church
Dynamite Dolls
The Madison and Pat Horton**