



The LeeShore Lighthouse



A Quarterly Publication of The LeeShore Center
<http://www.alaska.net/~leeshore/>

*Services for Victims of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
Support for the Central Peninsula's Families*

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- LeeShore Wish List
- Thank You
- Volunteers helping out
- Upcoming Events
- Class Schedule
- LeeShore's Clothes Closet
- Volunteer Corner

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

LeeShore Celebrates 25 years	1
Alaskans Choose Respect	2
Sexual Assault Awareness Month	2
Violence Against Women with Disabilities	3
Run for Women	3
Welcome New Staff	4
Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon	5

The Crisis Line is available 24 hours
283-7257

Office hours for The LeeShore Center
Monday - Friday
9 am - 5 pm.
283-9479 phone
283-5844 fax

SUMMER 2010

VOLUME 10 NO. 2

LeeShore Celebrates 25 Years!

Message from Executive Director

The LeeShore Center is celebrating our 25th anniversary and will be holding an open house on September 10, 2010. For those unaware, LeeShore actually began as a grass roots effort in 1977 thanks to a group of five women who believed services for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault were needed in our community. In July of that year, they traveled to Anchorage to attend an International Women's State Conference with the specific purpose of gathering information on how to start a local resource center. Shortly after, they established the Women's Resource Center and began providing educational workshops and meetings on the issues of domestic violence and sexual assault to community members and local social service agencies. Later that fall, they met with representatives from the Abused Women's Aid in Crisis (AWAIC) shelter in Anchorage to learn how to expand local services to better meet victim needs. With guidance from AWAIC, the Women's Resource Center began offering emergency aid to battered women in the form of safe homes and crisis hotline assistance. In 1985, through generous donations of labor and materials pro-

vided by community members, the agency's 32-bed emergency shelter facility was built on land donated by the City of Kenai. Governor Sheffield cut the ribbon at the open house on September 6, 1985. In October 2004, the agency changed its name to The LeeShore Center to better reflect the agency's mission.

From simple grass roots beginnings the agency has grown to provide emergency shelter, transitional housing, crisis intervention and support services, 24-hour crisis hotline, walk-in advocacy services, court-based legal advocacy, child advocacy, community support groups, in-school and youth violence prevention education, volunteer opportunities, and a 48-week state certified batterer's intervention program. LeeShore also administers the Child Care Assistance Program, which assists families with day care costs.

We're very grateful to those five women - it was through their hard work and dedication that victims of domestic violence and sexual assault were provided the advocacy, support and resources they desperately needed.

Please join us September 10th and help celebrate our 25th year! More information can be found on our website.

Alaskans Choose Respect



Mayor Pat Porter, Mayor Peter Micciche, Executive Director Cheri Smith, Commissioner Click Bishop (left to right)

The commitment each of us makes, collectively and individually, that violence against another is never justified or acceptable...

Working together, we can provide awareness of sexual assault in our community and support to those victimized.

On March 31, The LeeShore Center held a “Choose Respect” awareness walk event in support of Governor Parnell’s initiative to raise awareness of domestic violence and sexual assault. Marching from the Kenai Gazebo to the Kenai Visitors and Cultural Center, 75 people rallied behind Kenai Mayor Pat Porter, Soldotna Mayor Peter Micciche, Alaska Labor Commissioner Clark “Click” Bishop, and LeeShore Center Executive Director Cheri Smith.

The Governor’s initiative to combat and end the epidemic of sexual and domestic violence

in Alaska in the next decade is comprised of three key components. First is to get more abusers behind bars by increasing law enforcement, enhancing investigation tools, and tougher prosecution. Second is to protect survivors and help them heal by providing them with a safe place to go and increasing pro bono legal services. Third is prevention through public education and awareness.

LeeShore wishes to thank all those who contributed their time and energy to help make our event a great success. Many thanks to Kenai Police Department, Sol-

dotna Police Department and Alaska State Troopers for their assistance in helping us ensure participants had a safe walk. Thank you Mayor Porter, Mayor Micciche, and Commissioner Bishop for speaking at our event and to those who participated, thank you for coming out to walk with us and lend your support in our efforts to raise awareness of domestic violence and sexual assault. The commitment each of us makes, collectively and individually, that violence against another is never justified or acceptable, can make a positive difference in our community and state.

Sexual Assault Awareness Month Proclamations

During the month of April, Executive Director Cheri Smith accepts proclamations from Kenai Mayor Pat Porter, Soldotna Mayor Peter Micciche, and Borough Mayor Dave Carey to recognize April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Working together, we can provide awareness of sexual assault in our community and support to those victimized.



Executive Director Cheri Smith accepts proclamation from Mayor Peter Micciche

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES

Last fall, the LeeShore Center received a grant from the Center for Human Development/UAA to develop a Disability Abuse Response Team (DART) in the central peninsula area in order to help promote safety and enhance services for victims with disabilities.

According to numerous studies, compared to women without disabilities, women with disabilities are more likely to experience physical and sexual violence; there is also an increase in the severity, extent and duration of the violence (Interpersonal Violence and Women with Disabilities, 2009).

Research also shows women with disabilities experience violence in different ways from women without disabilities. For example, tactics used by abusers may include: physical neglect; destruction of medical equipment and communication devices, withholding, stealing or overdosing of medications, harming service animals; and limiting access to vital safety and support systems to name a few.

With the development of DART in our community, LeeShore has been able to collaborate with local disability provider staff from the Independent Living Center to provide commu-

nity awareness on this issue. Training efforts include education on screening for abuse, recognizing barriers and responding more effectively to victims seeking help and assistance.

If you or someone you know is experiencing abuse and need help, LeeShore provides safe emergency shelter, crisis intervention, advocacy and support. Help is available through our 24-hour crisis line (283-7257) or walk-in services.

For more information about our services or to schedule training opportunities, call LeeShore's business line at 283-9479.



by: Barbara Waters, Education & Training Coordinator

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23rd Annual Kenai Peninsula Run for Women

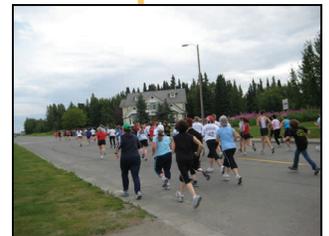
The LeeShore Center will hold our 23rd Annual Kenai Peninsula Run for Women on Saturday, August 14, 2010. Start and finish line are located at the Kenai City Park on Main Street (across from First National Bank of Alaska). Starting time is 10:00 am with a maximum finish time of two hours. The Run for Women consists of two certified races: 5K and 10K courses on a multi-looped, paved road winding through the streets of downtown Kenai. Courses are wheelchair accessible. Check-in will be from 8:00 am to 9:30 am on race day at the Kenai City Park (early check-in is encouraged). A group stretch and warm-up will be held at the starting line at 9:45 am. Each entrant will receive a 2010 Run for Women T-shirt and a promotional bag with valuable coupons and samples. Race day donations: for

a list of goods and services needed, see page 4 or visit our website at www.alaska.net/~leeshore/ An awards ceremony will be held at noon at the Kenai City Park. Entry fee is \$15.00 up to Friday, August 13th and \$20.00 on race day; however we ask that Run participants support The LeeShore Center's efforts to end violence in our community by obtaining pledges for the Run. All funds from pledges must be turned in by race day, August 14th, 2010. The participant raising the most pledges will receive a \$50.00 gift certificate. To enter send completed registration form with entry fee and pledges to: RACE ENTRANTS, The LeeShore Center, 325 S. Spruce St, Kenai, AK 99611. Registration forms can be found

at many local businesses or you can download one from our website at www.alaska.net/~leeshore/ Mail in registration forms must be postmarked by Friday, August 6, 2010. In-person registration is available at The LeeShore Center in Kenai thru Thursday, August 12, 2010. The next in-person registration is available on Friday, August 13, from 1 - 4 pm upstairs in the Seaman Building at 601 Frontage Road, Suite 204 in Kenai. Pre-registered entrants may also pick up bibs, T-shirts and promotional items at this time.

Volunteers are welcome.

For more information or to volunteer on race day contact The LeeShore Center at 283-9479. Let's all join the Race to End Violence.



2009 participants at the start of the race.



Nicki McTrusty, Child Advocate

LeeShore's Wish List

HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS

Liquid dish detergent Toilet Paper
 Laundry Soap Mops
 Paper Towels Brooms
 Dryer Sheets Color Safe
 Comforters Bleach
 Towels / Washcloths Pillows
 Twin Sheets / Twin Mattress Pads

Miscellaneous

Diapers / Pull ups Baby Wipes
 Phone Cards Gas cards
 Alarm clocks Batteries
 Gift Certificates (haircuts, etc.)

KITCHEN / COOKWARE

Dishes Pots and Pans
 Glassware Baking Dishes
 Kitchen Towels Coffee Mugs
 Food Storage Containers

FOOD ITEMS

Rice / Beans Flour / Sugar
 Turkey / Ham Dry Soup Mix
 Baby Food Formula
 Coffee / Tea / Creamer

TOILETRY ITEMS

Combs / Brushes Body Lotion Shampoo
 Toothpaste / Toothbrush Q-Tips Conditioner
 Tampons & Pads Hand Cream

CLOTHING (ADULT, TEEN, & CHILDREN)

Hats Gloves Scarves Socks Underclothes
 Boots Shoes Coats Sleepwear Slippers Robes

Thank You

Walmart, North Country Fair, ASEA Cook Inlet Chapter, Fraternal Order of Eagles, Christ Lutheran Church, Lutheran Women's Missionary, AK USA Federal Credit Union, Lowe's, and thank you to all those who renewed their membership or who became new members, to all who donate their time and items to our clothes closet.

Your continued support and contribution is greatly appreciated!

Volunteers helping out

A special thank you to Jennifer, Clint, Chris, Matt Hagel, and Sam Combs, pictured at left, for picking up trash and sweeping our parking lot. Jennifer states that it was her sons, Chris and Matt who asked "when are we going to volunteer at LeeShore?" Jennifer always said she wants to teach her children to give back to their community in some way and they chose volunteering. What a great lesson!

We appreciate your help.

Welcome to our New Staff

My name is Nicki McTrusty and I am the child advocate.

I moved from Bozeman MT 8 months ago but grew up in San Diego. I have two children, Malcolm is 5 ½ and Josephine is 4. We like to hang out at parks, make craft projects, have picnics, shop at thrift stores and road trips. At this point in life my adult activities are consumed by studying to receive a B.S. in Forensic Psychology. Then in September I start law school on a Juris Doctor tract. On the off chance I have spare time I like watching comedies and movies with religious themes. I also love to bake, cook, shoot pool and design my next tattoo. Also, one day I hope to tour historic churches in Europe. Concluding, I am very fortunate to have found employment at the LeeShore Center and I look forward to continue the mission of ending domestic violence.

Upcoming Events

23rd Annual Kenai Peninsula Run for Women will be held Saturday, August 14, 2010

Community Awareness Workshop will be held in October. Watch for dates.

Office Closures:

Monday, July 5th for Fourth of July

Monday, August 9th due to the Run

Monday, September 6th for Labor Day

Class Schedule



Tuesday - Changing Patterns 1:00 - 3:00

An educational support group for women experiencing negative emotional patterns in their daily lives, which may be due to victimization (domestic violence/sexual assault) or substance abuse.

Thursday - Parenting for Women 1:00 - 3:00

An educational support group focusing on child development, logical and non-violent consequences for behavior and how to be a kind, yet firm parent.

Friday - Domestic Violence Support Group 1:00 - 3:00

The group is for women who are currently in an abusive relationship or who have experienced domestic violence in the past.

There is a \$5.00 fee for each class; however, fee waivers are available.

Contact The LeeShore Center at 283-9479.

LeeShore's Clothes Closet

The LeeShore Center has a clothes closet available to everyone in our community.

Hours are:

Open to Public - Tuesday and Wednesday 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Drop off donations - Thursday and Friday 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Please call 283-9479 for more information.

LeeShore holds a Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon

A volunteer appreciation luncheon was held at the Kenai Merit Inn on April 20 for our volunteers to show our appreciation for giving of themselves to our agency. Our Volunteer Coordinator shared with participants a special thank you to each volunteer and commented on their donated service. Volunteers were provided with a LeeShore 25 year anniversary magnet and certificate of appreciation. There were 162 volunteers recognized for their efforts last year, with a value of \$48,000 to our agency. Volunteering opportunities include organizing the clothes closet, working on school presentations, helping with our fund raiser and awareness events as well as the annual Run for Women.



If you would like to volunteer, call Jennette, Volunteer Coordinator at 283-9479.

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*The LeeShore Center
325 S. Spruce St.
Kenai, AK 99611
www.alaska.net/~leeshore/*

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Volunteer Corner

We are very thankful for our volunteers.

This quarter volunteers have assisted with:

Gardening, general maintenance/repair, nutrition classes, women's groups, career skills, Mary Kay and craft classes, organized our clothes closet, helped with school presentations, transporting, office assistant, court watch & court accompaniment, Sexual Assault Response Team (SART), and many other activities. We also had 17 community members attend our Community Awareness Workshop in April 2010. If you would like to volunteer, call the volunteer coordinator at 283-9479.



The LeeShore Center is proud to be a
United Way agency.

