

THE James HOUSE News

Seasonal Newsletter

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Director, Prince George Dept of Social Services

Ed Frankenstein
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Phil Munson
Community Representative

Melvin Hodges, C.P.A.
Community Representative

Tammi Slovinsky
Community Representative

A Word From Our President

Dear Friends & Supporters of The James House,

I am pleased to share with you our 2009 Winter Newsletter and appreciate your time as you read it. As the recently elected President of the Board of Directors, I would like to let you know a little bit about my background and how I came to work with The James House Intervention and Prevention Services. I recently "semi-retired" from Virginia Commonwealth University after spending over twenty years working as an educator and advocate in the areas of sexual and intimate partner violence. I continue to teach at VCU and offer courses relating to marriage and family and violence against women. Having grown up in Chesterfield, I wanted to volunteer my time in my own community and was very anxious to work to support and improve the services in our area as they relate to sexual and intimate partner violence. The staff, volunteers, and other members of our Board bring so much passion and dedication to this work; it is indeed an honor to work among them.

Domestic and sexual violence touches each of us in some way, even if we are not aware that it does. It impacts the people who have experienced it, the children who have witnessed it, and the community as a whole. Please take the time to learn more about domestic violence, sexual violence and stalking and consider joining The James House in working to empower those affected by these issues to become healthy, safe, and self-sufficient.

Gay Cutchin

Upcoming Events

December 17th *Holiday Open House 10-5* Join us as we honor Kwanza, Hanukah, Three Kings, and Christmas.

January 4th *Volunteer Training* Begins 6-8pm

February *Petersburg Domestic Violence Taskforce Training*

Contact Lori for details of upcoming events. 458-2704



NEEDED

* Supplies and skills necessary to build handrails for the front steps *



Save the Date

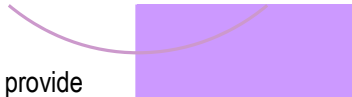
The Second Annual Board of Directors Cocktail Party in conjunction with Friday for the Arts will be held on **April 9th** at the Petersburg Regional Art Center.

We will honor those who have dedicated their time to helping us help others at the Volunteer Appreciation Celebration on **April 24th**.

Help for the Holidays

We depend on the generous spirit of the community to provide our clients with a meal and gifts for the holidays. Please consider adopting a family from The James House. Contact Ellen for details ellen@thejameshouse.org or 458-2704. Other ideas include:

- new linens (sheets, towels, etc.)
- stocking stuffers
- family games
- wrapping paper



*Donations accepted
Mon-Thurs 10-3*

Community Partnerships

Meet the staff

- Chana Ramsey, CEO
- Jane Clayborne,
Community Services Director
- Elvira De la Cruz,
Advocacy Services Program Manager
- Ellen Costlow,
Sexual Abuse Intervention Advocate
- Valerie Bowman,
Domestic Violence Intervention Advocate
- Gloria Browder-Parham,
Rural Domestic Violence Intervention Advocate
- Heather Martin,
Domestic Violence Intervention Advocate
- Lori Kalish,
Office Manager/Volunteer Coordinator

Out and About



The Colonial Heights DVTF



Gov. Kaine signed legislation



Jane Clayborne kept our prize wheel rolling at the American Family Fitness event



The Hopewell Domestic Violence Taskforce presented Beyond Stranger



Local youth check out our Go Figure.... figures on display at the Hopewell Library during DV Awareness Month



Hispanic Family Day Fair in Chesterfield



Summer Contributors



Summer Health and Wellness Festival in Hopewell



VCU students work to complete their service learning projects



Nazareth Lutheran hosted a tea party to help raise funds for The James House. It was marvelous!



Girl Scout Troop #360 of Prince George created an Angel Garden



Transportation donation generously given by Mr. Federico Edwards



Wishes granted by the Barber Family



Funded in part by



Your Name Here
find out how—
ask Lori at
458-2704

Regional Domestic Violence Taskforce Awards

An overflow crowd packed into the Heritage Museum on October 16th to honor lawmakers, government officials, front-line workers and volunteers for their efforts in the battle against domestic abuse.

The Tri-Cities Regional Domestic Violence Task Force presented its second annual Community Impact Awards to people who contributed their time and energy to increasing public awareness of the problem and helping those who have experienced interpersonal violence.

Two members of the Virginia House of Delegates, The Honorable Rosalyn R. Dance and The Honorable Riley Ingram received awards. Other recipients included: Elvira Shaw, a volunteer and senior advocate, Jan Gunnels, also a volunteer and former president of the Swift Creek Woman's Club of Colonial Heights, Vanessa C. Justice, a former Hopewell mayor who was a key figure in setting up the Hopewell task force, Lloyd Chaser, a clinical social worker at John Randolph Medical Center, Kathleen Egan Jones, intake and special programs supervisor in the 11th Court Services Unit, Dr. Ruth Burgess, a psychologist and pastor, Cecilie Hamilton, assistant commonwealth's attorney of Prince George, Lou Gorr, a family and consumer sciences agent with Virginia Cooperative Extension, and Corie Tillman Wolf, an assistant state attorney general who is active in domestic violence programs.



William Gandel and Del. Rosalyn R. Dance, D-63rd, with Lou Gorr

Ways you can help

Microwave

Gas cards

Pharmacy gift cards

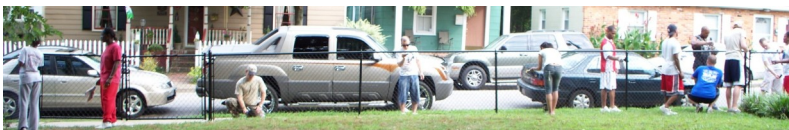
Winter clothing

Mission Statement:

Founded in 1989 on the belief that all people deserve a life free from interpersonal violence, The James House Intervention/Prevention Services provides support, advocacy, and education for people in the Tri-Cities area who are affected by domestic violence, sexual violence and stalking, to empower them to become healthy, safe, and self-sufficient.



Our Friends at Fort Lee



LTC Crowley presented Ellen with a certificate of appreciation



Officers in Training August Fence Paining Project



Officers in Training September Painting Project



Ms. ShaVohn Curley, Assistant Director of the Youth Center, and some of her teens delivered a collection of food

Riddle Me This What gives the postmaster general the heebie-jeebies? Fill in the blanks. The missing letters spell it out!

Hint: Each word is missing the same five letters.

- 1) PR_ _ _R_TA_ 2) _ _ PH_T_CA_LY 3) T_ _POR_R_ _Y 4) S_ _ ITR_ _ _ER

If you're interested in helping The James House go **green**, contact Lori to sign up for the electronic version of this newsletter.

lori@thejameshouse.org

Stories from the Heart

Ann and Jimmy have been coming to The James House for six months now. They are both working to rebuild their lives and heal from the hurts caused by sexual and domestic violence.

Ann married Gary when Jimmy was four years old and moved into his house in **Enon**. Jimmy grew up listening to his step father verbally abuse his mother. Jimmy would hide under his blankets until the fighting would end. Some nights Gary would come home and punch holes in the walls. Some nights he would punch Ann. Some nights he would not come home at all. Jimmy heard his mother crying every night. The frightened young boy held his secret about what happened when Gary would tuck him in at night because he did not want to cause his mother anymore pain.

During a monthly visit with her mom in **Dinwiddie**, Ann talked about Gary's violent outbursts and asked for some advice. Ann's mother gave her the contact information for The James House and encouraged her to call. Ann was nervous but dialed the number and made an appointment to see an advocate later that afternoon.

At The James House, Ann learned about her options and created a safety plan for Jimmy and herself. She routinely returned for individual counseling and attended a weekly support group. Ann made the decision to leave Gary. After working with an advocate, she developed a plan to move in with her mother. Ann gathered all her important documents, saved some money, and took some of her belongings to her mother's house during each visit. Ann was ready to leave Gary.

While driving to their new home, in **Dinwiddie**, Jimmy expressed his relief about leaving that house. When Ann asked "why", it becomes clear Jimmy does not want to talk about it. Ann brought Jimmy to The James House, hoping he will open up to someone.

The road to recovery is long and the healing process takes time. Ann and Jimmy are just beginning their journey.

Find out how you
can help this
family on page 3



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Holiday Open House
Dec 17th