

Sheboygan & Plymouth Area United Way
Sheboygan Press Column for Week of October 26
By Nancy Jusky

A Father Says Thank You to Safe Harbor

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month and I have a few facts about domestic violence right here in Sheboygan County.

- During 2008, law enforcement officers referred 463 domestic violence cases to the District Attorney who prosecuted 423 cases, 31 of them as felonies.
- The cases are becoming more violent with battery being the cause of nearly 25% of the cases prosecuted by the DA in 2008.
- During 2008, Safe Harbor in Sheboygan provided services to 602 victims of domestic violence (349 women, 9 men and 245 children) and provided 4,669 nights of safety for 91 women and 89 children.

Many of those victims who were helped by our local Safe Harbor have many kind words to say about the assistance they received but anonymity prevents us from sharing their thank you's with the community. However one very thankful father has given his permission to share his heartfelt thanks for the help Safe Harbor gave his daughter and grandchildren without using their real names.

To the staff at Safe Harbor:

Thank you for all the help you gave my daughter during the past 16 months.

My first call to Safe Harbor was in the fall of 2007. My daughter was in a very abusive relationship with her husband in another state. We brought her back to Sheboygan in January of 2008. In the months since, we have slowly moved through the court systems of the two states involved. It's been a difficult road but we finally have a court order stipulating that her two sons can live with her in Wisconsin. An order for child support has been issued and the divorce should be finalized soon. I can honestly say that the turning point in this long process was when we got the court to issue a restraining order against her husband. Safe Harbor did all of the paperwork in getting the restraining order and they did it without charge. Thank you so much!

Violence has become acceptable in our generation with many TV shows, movies and video games so violent that people become indifferent to violence against others. Safe Harbor asks everyone in Sheboygan County to Turn Off the Violence on October 27 and tune-in to family and friends. Kindness to others DOES make a difference.