



No one deserves to be abused

Isanti County – Cambridge Office
763.689.3533

Chisago County – Lindstrom Office
651.257.2890

Kanabec County – Mora Office
320.679.1737

www.therefugenetwork.org

The Refuge Network serves the counties
of Chisago, Isanti, and Kanabec

Did you know the first domestic violence shelter in East Central Minnesota will open soon?

Learn more about Black Dog Hill and how you can help
make this a safe haven for our community.

The Refuge Network seeks to end abuse. In order to help support this mission and these services, I have enclosed:

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 Other _____

I am also interested in: Having a speaker come to my group or organization
 Becoming a Volunteer

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

This donation is in honor/memory of _____

Send to: The Refuge Network, P.O. Box 323, Cambridge, MN 55008, 763.689.3532

Please remove me from your mailing list



1700 E. Rum River Drive S, Suite E | Cambridge MN, 55008



1700 E. Rum River Drive S, Suite E
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763.689.3532 1.800.338.SAFE
www.therefugenetwork.org

Fall 2008 Issue

Featured Article

Black Dog Hill Shelter

For over 22 years, the Refuge Network has strived to offer holistic supportive services to victims of domestic violence. However, we have always felt a piece was missing to the core services provided by our agency – a shelter. The lack of a local shelter often means a woman and her children are forced to choose between staying home with their abuser or becoming homeless due to the many obstacles a shelter located almost an hour away from their home, job or children’s school create.

Today, we are pleased to announce that we are close to opening, Black Dog Hill, the first domestic violence shelter in East Central Minnesota for women and children. This project was set in motion due to a generous property donation including 10 acres of woods, fields, lakeshore, gardens and a completely refurbished farmhouse originally built in 1903.

Although the home is in extremely good condition, there are some needs to be met in order to convert it into a full functioning shelter for up to 15 residents with advocate support available 24/7.

Opening a shelter is a huge undertaking, one we cannot do alone. Although, organizations such as the United Way, the Mardag Foundation, WCA-Pillsbury and the Otto Bremer Foundation have shown the Refuge Network amazing support through contributions to our project, we still need additional support and every dollar counts. With your help, we can reach this goal and give women and children the safety and peace they deserve as they rebuild their lives.

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Upcoming Events

Volunteer Training—March 14th, 9-4pm
Call 763.689.3532 for more information

Holiday Giving Tree
Help out families in need during the holiday
November 28—December 15

Landmark Bank—Isanti	Kanabec State Bank
711 6th Avenue	730 Forest Ave E
Isanti, MN 55040	Mora, MN 55051

For more information on our events please visit our website at www.therefugenetwork.org

Spotlight

Judy and Keith Ufford

The Refuge Network relies on all of our volunteers for many things. Without dedicated people like Judy and Keith Ufford, who have been volunteering for over 5 years, we would not be able to serve the many who are in need. Keith and Judy are committed to doing whatever they can to help victims of domestic abuse. This past spring, we were working with a woman and her children. She very much wanted to leave her abusive partner and go back home to her family, but had no resources to do so. Though a big undertaking, Keith and Judy volunteered to drive this mom and her children back to South Dakota to be reunited with their family.

Judy, a Nurse and Keith, an Engineer have lived in Chisago County for over 16 years. In his free time, Keith does woodworking and has created a welcome sign for the new shelter. When they are not volunteering, the Uffords enjoy spending time with their children and six grandchildren.

Martin Mahrer

Since starting in the spring of '07, Martin Mahrer has volunteered over 10,000 hours of his time at The Refuge Network putting in many "sweat" hours at our new shelter, taking great pride in carrying around the arrest pager and answering the calls that come from law enforcement agencies in all three of our counties. In addition to the immense amount of time he gives, Martin also contributes so much positive energy to the agency and to whoever he is around.

He also volunteers for New Pathways and works with IHN and Homeless programs. His passion for volunteering comes from the rewarding feeling of being able to make people laugh and feel safe in the middle of a crisis.

The Refuge cannot thank Judy, Keith & Martin enough for their tremendous support. We are honored to have such wonderful and generous people as volunteers and friends.

**Want to learn more?
Interested in Volunteering?**

**Call 763.689.3532
www.therefugenetwork.org**

A Note From the Executive Director

Many exciting things have happened at The Refuge Network this year, from preparing to open a shelter to hiring an additional Advocate for Chisago County to creating a new updated logo and website. But there is still much to do.

With the year coming to an end and the holidays in sight, we start to think about giving to those in need. And the programs serving those in need begin to ask us to open our hearts and our wallets. At The Refuge, we are no different. We cannot survive without the generosity of individuals who care about their fellow community members.

Individuals who understand that violence is not a solution, that no one deserves to be ridiculed or put down and that children should live in loving, caring, violent-free homes.

It is our hope that even in these economically challenging times, you will give what you can and help us end domestic violence.

In Peace and Hope,
Roxie

Legal News

New Law Changes Help Further Protect Victims of Domestic Violence

New legislation about Orders for Protection was passed and became law on August 1, 2008. Prior to the change an Order for Protection could only be granted for 1 year, after the change, an Order for Protection can be issued for up to 50 years. (This bill was sponsored by Rep. Larry Hosch and Sen. Tarryl Clark)

Also effective August 1, the relationship between victims and domestic abuse advocates will be privileged as they currently are for sexual assault counselors. Under this new law, advocates cannot be compelled to provide any opinion about or information provided by the victim. This law change is an added safeguard for advocates and victims. (This bill was sponsored by Representative Michael Paymar and Senator Mee Moua)

These are huge victories, and we hope this will further help to protect victims of domestic violence.

You can get more information at www.leg.state.mn.us (under New Laws 2008).

All services are Free & Confidential

Thank You

Donations received January—June 2008

Amador Township United Charities
Anastasia Bitker
Andrea Dronen
Ann and Larry Gunderson
Arlene Swanson
Braham Aux Post 1731
Brian Richards
Brunswick WELCA Mora
Calvery WELCA Stanchfield
Cambridge Lions Club
Cambridge Rotary Club
Carol and Lavern Linz
Chisago County
Dalbo Township
Daves Furniture
Dianne Wachsmuth
Donald and Carol Akerson
Donald and Pauline Grossbach
Dorothy Munkberg Trust
East Central Mn Medical Society
ECM Publishers
Edina Realty-Forest Lake Office
Faith Lutheran Church - Isanti
First Baptist Church - Cambridge
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Town of Oxford
Township of Chisago Lake
Township of Kanabec
Township of Lent
Township of Shafer
Township of Springvale
Township of Spencer Brook
United Methodist Church Cambridge
Virginia Vidor
Walmart, Cambridge
Women of St Stephens Braham
Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church,
Chisago City

IN MEMORY OF

Jennifer Dolan
Jacqueline Seecamp

IN KIND DONATION

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Juettner Marketing
Julie Bay
Melissa Bevis
Rachael Prebil-Sjoquist
Shari Van Alstine
Spring Lake Lutheran Church, North Branch
Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, Isanti
Wanda Grabow

FUNDRAISING EVENTS

Thank you to the following groups for hosting a fundraising event.

Twice the Gift
Pohlad Family Foundation
Decades of Dresses
Women of Trinity Lutheran Church,
North Branch

As hard as we try to get everyone listed and names spelled correctly, mistakes do happen. We sincerely apologize if we have made an error and ask that you let us know so we can correct it. Please call Rahya at 320.679.1737

Holiday Shopping With a Cause!

Support the Refuge Network with Select Purchases at



Look for the popular Lucinda Pin designs and the "Sharing Gift" cards

Gaviidae Commons – 2nd Floor | M–F 10–7 pm
Nicollet Mall, Suite 295 | Sa 12–6 pm
Minneapolis, MN | Su 12–5 pm

For more information on supporting The Refuge Network call 763.689.3532.

Staff

Roxie Karelis, Executive Director
Rahya Iliff., Community Education Coordinator
Shellene Johnson, Program Coordinator
Stefanie Morrison, Advocate
Sue Peterson, Advocate
Amy Whitley, Advocate
Lynnell Wallace, Vista Volunteer

Board of Directors

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