

Alive & ALERT a l i v e

Alternatives to Living In Violent Environments
restoring safety and peace one family at a time

FALL 2008

One Of the Many Reasons To Celebrate 25 Years

Special points of interest:

- *ALIVE was founded by Ellen Tetlow and Nelia Warner in 1983.*
- *ALIVE started with volunteer co-directors and just 8 families who provided safe homes.*
- *Today ALIVE has 11 staff members and more than 50 volunteers.*

Inside this issue:

Open House	2
New Board Member	2
New Staff Members	2
Adopt a Family	2
Honors for ALIVE	3
Upcoming Events	3
Golf Tournament	3

On September 5, 2008, ALIVE celebrated 25 years of service to domestic abuse victims. At the same party, Julie and Robert celebrated 10 years of wedded bliss. To see them socializing with the crowd of ALIVE supporters, they looked like any other generous couple who donates to the organization. However, Julie knows first-hand the importance of ALIVE's work.

Julie participated in ALIVE's support groups and 24-hour hotline for almost 4 years during her first marriage to a man named John. On the day of John's final attack, while the St. Louis County SWAT team had him surrounded in his home, she called ALIVE to see if she could obtain a safe place to stay through our emergency shelter program.

At every step of the way, ALIVE was there to support her and her children. In the support groups, she learned that she was not responsible for John's violence, but she was responsible for her own safety and that of her children. With the help of ALIVE's counselors, Julie created a safety plan that helped save her life two years after she separated from John.

During that last incident, John snuck into Julie's garage to wait for her. She hadn't seen him in a year and was waiting for the divorce to finalize. His first words to her were, "I was planning for you to have an accident, but now I'm going to have to kill you." Everything she learned during her time with ALIVE kicked in. She was able to escape the

garage and call the police. John made it back to his house, and the SWAT team surrounded it, trying to get him to surrender. When the team entered, they found John had shot himself in the head.

You could hear a pin drop as Julie shared her story with the crowd at ALIVE's anniversary celebration. "Without ALIVE, I do not believe that I would have had the courage to leave John nor the mental and psychological strength to survive his final attack on me. I wouldn't be alive had it not been for ALIVE." This year, as we celebrate Julie and Robert's 10 years of marriage and the Silver Anniversary of ALIVE, we honor thousands of other "Julie's" who, thanks to this organization, can stop the violence in their lives.

Silver Anniversary Celebration A Success

This summer marked 25 years of ALIVE's work providing shelter and counseling to area families touched by domestic abuse. More than 150 people celebrated at the Deer Creek Club in West St. Louis County on September 5th. Former clients and former Board Members were recognized as

part of the festivities. The evening's theme, Facing the Future With Faith Not Fear, came from a journal of Nan Wyatt, KMOX radio personality and former ALIVE Board Member, who was posthumously honored as the Chair of the celebration. Speakers included Nan's

mother Nan Mills, her good friend and long-time ALIVE supporter Don Wolff, and two former clients, whose stories of triumph over abuse brought the audience to tears. Thanks goes to Harrah's St. Louis, Kopytek, and Mr. and Mrs. J.B. Andrews, who sponsored the event.

Open House Showcases New Franklin County Office

ALIVE officially unveiled its new space in Franklin County on October 15th with an Open House for social service and law enforcement agencies.



ALIVE staff and community members enjoy lunch during the Open House in October.

As always, the exact location of ALIVE's office space is confidential, but for one day, representatives from organizations such as the Department of Family Services and the Prosecuting Attorney's office, were invited to stop by to gain a greater understanding of the services we provide and how the partnerships between their agencies and ALIVE can be enhanced.

Members of ALIVE's Franklin County Advisory Committee were also on hand to help host the event and provide many of the refreshments.

ALIVE moved into the new offices

earlier this year, and we are so pleased with them! With a much larger suite, ALIVE is able to now offer a formal reception area and a group meeting room. In addition, there is a larger, separate children's play area, more spacious therapists' offices, and much-needed storage space.

ALIVE has operated an office in the Franklin County area since 1999. In the last fiscal year, the office provided services to 332 adults and children. The office is open Monday through Friday and provides the full range of services ALIVE offers to its clients.

Welcome to New Board & Staff Members



Michael St. Pierre joined the ALIVE Board of Directors in May. Michael is the General Manager of the Harrah's St. Louis.

He became interested in helping a domestic violence agency after his daughter volunteered at a women's shelter while in college.

Michael has already demonstrated a strong commitment to the ALIVE mission, having already agreed to chair the Public Relations committee.



Susannah Altesman joined the ALIVE staff in June as the St. Louis area Crisis Intervention Specialist/Court

Advocate. Susannah holds a Master's in Social Work from Washington University and a Bachelor's in Social Work from Skidmore College in New York. A former Youth Development Coordinator, she has also worked as a victim advocate with the St. Louis Circuit Attorney's Office.



Rachel Visocan joined the ALIVE staff in October as a Counselor/Crisis Intervention Specialist in the Franklin County office.

Rachel holds a Master's degree in Mental Health Counseling, having graduated summa cum laude from Montana State University-Bozeman.

Rachel has also performed professionally for over a decade as an actress in musical and children's theatre and hopes to become a Drama Therapist.

"Adopt a Family" Makes For a Happy Holiday Season

The ALIVE Adopt a Family program will be once again assisting families this holiday season. Client families who need extra help this time of year are matched with local businesses, donor families, or other groups who are willing to fulfill wish lists and help provide clothes, toys, and other household necessities, such as gift cards to gas stations and grocery or discount department stores.

This year a committee has formed to help facilitate the gift collection and delivery. ALIVE wishes to thank Sarah Fadler for managing the efforts, as well as Theresa Soskin and Emma Espinoza who will assist with picking up gifts and delivering them to the ALIVE offices for pick-up by the families. Thanks also goes to Tiffany D'Addario for designing the flyer to promote the program and to the

AT&T Pioneers and others who have already agreed to adopt families.

Last year more than 50 of ALIVE's client families were adopted through the program. If you would like to help by adopting a family or by providing gift cards or other household supplies, please contact the ALIVE office in St. Louis at (314) 993-7080 or in Franklin County at (636)583-9863.

ALIVE Recognized By Local Companies

ALIVE received special recognition and funding from several companies in recent months, who recognize the work of nonprofits in St. Louis.

In June, ALIVE received a Charity of the Year Award from Ladue News. ALIVE was selected as one of three winners from a list of nine finalists. In addition to a \$3,000 grant, ALIVE and Ann Irving, past Board President, were featured in a two-page spread of the June 13th issue.

Target Corporation also awarded a \$1,500 grant to ALIVE in October to support its Nights of Safety program.

This award was made to ALIVE through Target's initiative to fund programs that help prevent domestic violence in families.

ALIVE also received funding in recent months from the Dana Brown Trust, the Incarnate Word Foundation, the Fox Family Foundation, the Norman J. Stupp Foundation, the Sisters of St. Joseph, and the Employees Community Fund of Boeing. We are grateful to these companies and foundations, who are helping us realize our vision of ending domestic abuse, restoring safety and peace one family at a time.

Save the Date

The annual ALIVE Wine Tasting and Silent Auction will be held on Friday, March 27, 2009, at the Wine and Cheese Place in Clayton.

With nearly 50 wines to samples, food from Provisions catering, and a silent auction, this event is always one of our most popular and successful! It is also a great way to introduce new people to ALIVE and its mission, so mark your calendar, invite a few friends and join us in Clayton!

Check your mailbox in January or visit www.alivestl.org for more details.

Mark Your Calendar For These Events In Franklin County

December 5, 2008— An Evening for Me at The Healing Arts Center

The Healing Arts Center at 426 East 5th Street in Washington, Missouri, will host an event featuring upper body massages, foot scrubs, reflexology, refreshments, and a silent auction of gift baskets. Tickets are \$35 and proceeds will benefit the services and programs of ALIVE's Franklin County office. Space is limited to just 25 people. To register or to get more information, call (636) 583-9863.

February 7, 2009 — Breakfast at Applebee's in Washington

ALIVE will hold its 2nd Annual Breakfast at Applebee's at 1960 Washington Xing in Washington, Missouri, from 8:00 to 10:30 a.m. The all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast features local celebrity waiters serving up hearty food and lots of fun! Tickets are required and can be purchased in advance or at the door. Prices are \$6 in advance; \$7 at the door; and just \$4 for kids ages 4 to 11.

March 13, 2009 — Women's Night Out at Zuzu's in Washington

The 5th Annual Women's Night Out will be held at Zuzu's at 219A West Main Street in Washington, Missouri. Samples of wine and chocolate, snacks, and upper body massages will be offered throughout the evening, along with shopping discounts and a silent auction. An evening and a late shift will once again be available, each limited to only 25 spaces. Check our website at www.alivestl.org for details.

Another Beautiful Day On the Links In Forest Park

Mother Nature smiled on ALIVE and the participants in the annual golf tournament by giving us a day of cloudless skies and ideal temperatures.

The 12th annual event was held on Friday, October 10th. More than 100 golfers turned out to have fun on the course and raise more than \$30,000 to benefit the programs and services ALIVE provides.

Special thanks goes out to all of our sponsors, especially Amdocs, ATG, EMC², Symantec, Dee Lych, and Xerox Corporation.

Congratulations to the winners, including our Championship Flight winners John Shaw, Maggie Wilson, John Young, Mike Schaaf, Guy and Kim Phillips, Courtney Landrum, Nick Sansone, John Heck, Chuck Holiday,

Steve Eisenreich, and Kris Husted.



Nancy Tank and John Kitson were two golfers who participated in this year's tournament.

**Did you know you can help
ALIVE and save on your
taxes at the same time?**

Gifts to ALIVE of \$100 or more are eligible for Missouri Domestic Violence Shelter tax credits. These credits provide a 50% direct write-off of your Missouri state taxes. Learn more by calling ALIVE at (314) 993-7080 or by visiting the “Contributions and Tax Credits” page of www.alivestl.org.

**ALIVE still participates
in the e-Scrip program.
Buy groceries at
Schnucks and earn
money for ALIVE!**



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