

Ever So Thankful This Holiday Season

As we approach Thanksgiving, it seemed fitting to ask residents, staff, and volunteers to reflect on what it is they are thankful for regarding the shelter.

"I am thankful for the understanding and concern of the volunteers and staff. I really appreciate the free personal care products, my bed, and the roof over my head."
Lynne



"FCWS is a place of renewal to rediscover one's self, gain a better self image, find and make goals for the future, learn to live again. When I think of the shelter, I think of a place of respite, friends, service, and a home. I am thankful that our community has a home like this to reach those who are homeless."
Jana

"The words that come to mind when I think about the women's shelter are comfort, peace, rest, love, and safe. The volunteers who come in from their own homes make our day brighter by giving of themselves. The board members, volunteers, and staff all work very hard to help each woman here feel special, like home and family."
Carole

"The first thing that comes to my mind when I think of FCWS is home; I finally feel like I have a home. FCWS has given me stability, safety, and a chance for a better future. I will be forever grateful for this place and for the chance to create a better life for my family and me."
Tina

"I am humbled to be a part of an organization that is extremely committed to helping women succeed. I am so thankful to our donors, our volunteers, and our board members. It is through their support and dedication that we provide so much more than just a bed to sleep upon at night."
Josie



We Appreciate Our Volunteers!!



Our volunteers are a primary reason we have been able to maintain the quality of service that is provided by the Franklin County Women's Shelter. No words can describe how grateful we are for this.

Volunteers in various capacities serve the shelter around the clock. The main types of volunteer opportunities are:

- **house volunteers** who provide a presence in the house during evenings, weekends, and overnight,
- **office volunteers** who have become an integral part of our organization, and
- **hot line volunteers** who carry the hot line phone for a week at a time.

Some other services volunteers provide are:

- gardening
- lawn help
- transportation
- donations of money and supplies
- handyman/woman tasks, and
- cleaning help

Sometimes our house volunteers have special events for the residents (suppers, spa nights), or help with job readiness skills, tutoring, or teaching crafts.

See **Volunteers**
continued on page 3

2011 Fundraising Activities

The First Film Festival

June 11-12, the Shelter sponsored what we hope will be an annual event, a film festival at the Grand Theatre. For the inaugural year, two films with a Civil War theme were selected in commemoration of the 150th Anniversary of the War. The two classic films were *Gone With the Wind* and *Glory*. As an added feature to the viewing of *Glory*, members of the 12 United Colored Heavy Artillery Living History Group was on hand to demonstrate the loading and firing of a Civil War artillery piece. The theme for the 2012 film festival will be announced in early 2012.

Civil War Reenactors transformed the film festival into a living history experience.



Successful Sumptuous Southern Supper



Over 500 people came to the BBW Supper

On August 22, 2011, the third annual Sumptuous Southern Supper fed and entertained over 500 people, the largest crowd to date. The menu included: pulled pork, chicken, veggie burgers, red potato salad, baked beans, cole slaw, brownies, and caramel pie. Staxx BBQ catered the main dishes, while O'Charley's donated the rolls and caramel pie. Drinks and brownies were provided by the Brainy Bodacious Women.

The Brainy Bodacious women also provided seed money, ticket sales, set-up and clean up as well as kitchen help. It is only through the participation of these 1300 women that this project is successful and continues to grow. Not only is the Franklin County's Women's Shelter thankful for their help on the supper, but we depend on them the rest of the year for volunteering at the shelter 24/7, office help, transportation and more. We are also thankful for the fantastic support of the community.

This year the supper raised \$18,000. The monthly expenses to keep the shelter operating average \$9,000, so all fundraising activities are important.

Yard Sale Brings In Needed Money



There is nothing more fun than a yard sale on a crisp fall day

They say one man's trash is another man's treasure. Well, there were over \$500 worth of "treasures" that people bought at our recent yard sale, held in conjunction with the South Frankfort Neighborhood Association. Fund raising was one goal of the enterprise; clearing out our storage units was another.

The shelter will no longer be taking donations of furniture, used linens, home goods, etc. These things created challenges with lack of space, transportation and staffing.

When clients move out and are in need of furniture or household items, we will solicit such items via email and facebook. Also, donations can be made to our community partners, St. Vincent de Paul, Simon House and Goodwill.

Please, no clothing.



Keep up to date on happenings of FCWS by liking us on facebook.

Goings on Around the Building

A Friend Remembered



John Reed's son and daughter Patrick and Charlotte Reed join Jill Robinson in the dedication

On Sunday October 23, friends of the shelter as well as John Reed's family and friends gathered to dedicate the trellis and garden area in John's memory.

John, who was an early supporter of the shelter initiative, played a key role in helping us acquire the building. He passed away in 2010.

Dan Armstrong designed and built the trellis. He and a friend Eric Hatton secured it in the ground.

Besides being a constant reminder of John's dedication to the shelter, the trellis masks the electric meters and enhances the grounds of the building.

Volunteers

continued from page 1

Though this is an impressive list of services, probably the most important things contributed by volunteers for the residents are simply interaction, friendship, and community support. We thank you.

We presently have around 120 trained volunteers but we are always looking for new ones. If you have not visited the shelter perhaps that would be a good way to explore your volunteer options. You can volunteer on your own or come with a friend.

Shelter Repairs

When talking about FCWS, we tend to focus attention on what we do, who we serve, and how we help women in the community. We talk about the 143 women and kids who have benefitted from our housing programs in 2011. We talk about the 400 community members who have called our hotline this year and have received assistance in one form or the other.

We don't often talk about the realities of what it actually takes to make it all happen -- the staff, the supplies, the volunteers, the furniture, equipment, etc. Over the past 18 months, a great deal of time, energy, and money has been spent to ensure that our facility is meeting our needs and is in compliance with federal housing quality standards.

We replaced 3 of our 4 hot water heaters and installed 4 new toilets. We purchased new washers and dryers in 2010 and repaired one of the new washers in 2011. We replaced wooden bed frames with metal heavy duty bunk beds and frames and purchased fully enclosed mattress covers. Most recently, we had a new roof installed. This year, on average, we have spent more than \$1,000 each month

on both planned and unplanned repairs and renovations. Our building itself has been called home by 150 different individuals since its opening in 2008. We have to keep our facility in top shape so that hundreds more have the opportunity for a fresh start and a place to call home.



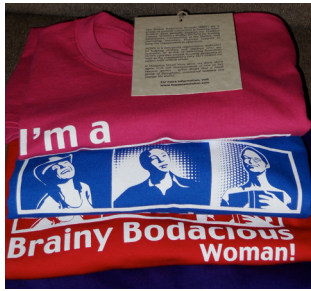
For the crew at Clyde's Roofing it's all in a days work.

The Perfect Gifts for Any Occasion



If you are having trouble finding the perfect gift for someone or if you want to remember someone who has passed away, make a donation in their name to the shelter. All donations are tax deductible and greatly appreciated. We will be more than glad to send you or the gift recipient a card.

Another Great Gift Idea



Brainy Bodacious Women (BBW) merchandise makes a perfect gift for this holiday season. We are featuring long sleeve shirts in UK blue, red, purple and pink. The aprons colors are black, navy, light blue and red.

We also have some short sleeve shirts in aqua blue, brown, hot pink and purple. Each item is \$15. To place an order call 352-2843 or email us at fcwomenshelter@gmail.com.

Looking for New Board Members

In January of 2012 the Franklin County Women's Shelter will be filling five positions on the Board of Directors.

The shelter is a vibrant nonprofit agency with a active board of directors. Being on the board gives members the opportunity to network with other civic leaders, to hone their leadership skills and to support a very special cause.

If you would like to learn more about serving visit our website www.fcwomenshelter.com or contact Josie Kirker 352-2843.



Board of Directors

Barbara Hadley Smith—President
Gail Robinson—Vice President
Sandy Lee—Treasurer
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Marti Booth
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Betty Cowherd
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Yvonne Hill
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Glenn Spaulding
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Carroll Young

Go Green

If you are reading this newsletter via hard copy and would like to receive it electronically send your email address to: fcwomenshelter@gmail.com.

Since beginning the hotline in 2006 shelter staff and volunteers have answered more than 2,000 calls from community members in need.

Franklin County Women's Shelter
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