

THE ADVOCATE

2012 2nd Quarter

LAKES CRISIS & RESOURCE CENTER

They Didn't Let Me Fall Through the Cracks!

(Jessica is a fictitious name to protect this woman's identity but her story at Mary's Place is very real)

Jessica was 13 years old when she started living on the streets. She found pine trees kept her warm. She relieved stress by roller skating and cleaning houses. She never knew where she was going to sleep or eat each night.

She started running after her step father molested her. She'd sneak back into her family home each morning after he had left for work and her mom was passed out. Although she was barely a teenager, she took on a parenting role, getting her little sister ready for school and sometimes she'd even go back to school herself.

Until age 9 she says her life was fine. Her family had a nice house and cars, however, she said, "It is amazing how fast you can lose all of that because of alcohol." She went to six elementary schools and two middle schools as the family was forced to downsize.

At one point, her home was surrounded by SWAT team members, looking for her uncle. "He was a family man by day, but he was also a robber, rapist, and drug dealer," she explained. He's now serving 52 life terms in prison.

Jessica's step father had a responsible job but he'd get too drunk to drive home from the bars at night so she'd have to pick him up. At one point he became enraged with her talking to a bi-racial teenager so he took her by the hair, dragged her over to their trailer home and bashed her head against the wall into a protruding bolt. That resulted in 14 stitches and an indentation in her face that is still apparent today. Years later he went clean, cried, and apologized. She forgave him. (continued on page 3)

"We Care" Receipts

Lakes Crisis & Resource Center collects "We Care" receipts from various businesses in the community. Please consider stopping by one of the following locations to

drop off your receipts.

- Action Realty
- Bremer Bank
- Curves
- LCRC

If your business would like to begin collecting receipts on behalf of LCRC, please contact us to find out how. Thank you for your support!

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From the Director's Desk

It's a very busy time of year at Lakes Crisis & Resource Center. June kicks off our summer activities which are an important part of raising funds for the ongoing operations of our programming and services. We are all so grateful for your ongoing support. Your generosity truly makes our work on behalf of victims of violence possible. Here are some of the details on upcoming events:

On June 14th, LCRC will have a Garage Sale at our new location outside at 1339 Pelican Lane. We are so blessed to have been the recipient of generous donations of items which have been brought to our facility. We work very hard to put all our donations to good use in the community while helping those whose lives have been impacted by violence. Occasionally, we receive donations of items for which there is not a specific need. We have also received many donations specifically for the Rummage Sale. The sale will be operating all day (8:30—4:00) on the 14th and all proceeds will contribute to the operations of Mary's Place, our emergency safe shelter, and our crime victim programs. As many of you know, Mary's Place is operating fully on community support and a small grant from the Otto Bremer Foundation. Hopefully, next fiscal year beginning in October, 2012, we will be the recipient of grant funding from the state of Minnesota which will assist us in our operations.

On July 13th, our Second Annual Golf Tournament will be held at Forest Hills. We would love to have you join us. All proceeds will again be donated to the agency for the operations of Mary's Place and our other programs offered at the agency.

On Thursday, August 2nd, we will be doing our 5th Annual Bucket Drive at WeFest. In the past years, we have collected between \$2,000 - \$4,000 each year for a 3 hour commitment by our staff and volunteers. We will again need volunteers to help us with the bucket drive so if any of you would like to help in this adventurous experience, we would love to have you join us.

Please contact Natalie Bly at 218-847-8572 to participate in either event. Again, all of us at Lakes Crisis & Resource Center extend our heartfelt thanks for your continued support. May each of you have a wonderful summer!

Jan Logan

Lakes Crisis and Resource Center

is holding a **GARAGE SALE**

on **Thursday, June 14th**

to raise funds for the operation of the crisis center and to spring clean our storage area.

In addition to cleaning our storage area, we are asking for gently used furniture or household items to supplement our inventory. We would like to encourage you as you spring clean to think of us.



DONATIONS CAN BE DROPPED OFF AT
1339 PELICAN LANE, DETROIT LAKES.

They Didn't Let Me Fall Through the Cracks!

(continued from page 1)

Ironically by the time she reached her twenties and chronologically became an adult, she grew tired of taking on the role of the positive mentor, providing a safety net to her little sister and abusive step father, so she got into trouble. She had married, had two children, her husband was away in the military and she turned to drugs to “slowly try and kill herself”, she recalls. She asked child protection to help her but she said that didn't happen, instead she had a stroke at the age of 24 from drug use. She says, “That forced me to back away from shooting meth and heroin.”

She wanted sobriety but she didn't know how. Her story sounds like a novel filled with intrigue and sorrow but it is not fiction. She made multiple trips to jail, to rehab, and suffered continued abuse at home and amongst “friends”. She met the staff at the Lakes Crisis and Resource Center after her husband reportedly split her head open, requiring 22 stitches. The advocates could only place her in a motel for a few days because the incident was two years before Mary's Place was built in Detroit Lakes.

She rented a trailer home to only find it in flames so the LCRC helped again. She had nothing but a donated Christmas tree and some ornaments in her next rental. She had no motivation but she put the tree together anyway. Later she saw her four year old son sitting in front of the tree with a big smile on his face, mesmerized by the ornaments. It made her so happy. Despite the worst possible times she had endured, she said, the look on his face kept her going. She has tried to reunite with her husband a number of times ... “but it was “nothing but fighting and drinking. It is really sad, really sad,” she repeated.

“The word ‘shelter’ didn't go over well with her but she called Mary's Place and as if she had been thrown a life preserver, she explained, “They didn't let me fall through the cracks!”

The staff has helped her focus and get her kids back. She says she's learned that a healthy place = healthy decisions. Her goal is to keep good people around her and she emphasizes ... “to keep her next steps safe. “

I asked if Christianity came into her story that she says is now filled with hope. “Did anyone from a church reach out to you in the past 33 years?

She said, “No, I pray all the time, I don't need a church.” She repeated a number of times that she prays all the time so I reaffirmed her confidence in prayer.

“I'm going to pray for you and your children,” I said. And since then, I've also included the staff at the Lakes Crisis Center and Mary's Place in my prayers.

Elder Abuse

Millions of older Americans are abused, neglected, or exploited each year, with an estimated 84% of cases going unreported.

June 15th has been designated as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, marking its 7th anniversary. On World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, individuals and organizations from across the world are urged to raise awareness. Take a stand in the fight against elder abuse and for dignity and respect of our elders. To learn more about Elder Abuse, please contact Lakes Crisis and Resource Center.

Wish List

Here is the quarterly wish list for LCRC.

- Diapers (sizes 4, 5 and 6)
- Socks and underwear (for babies and kids)
- Sports bras (various sizes)
- Baby wash
- Hair conditioner
- Kleenex boxes
- Laundry soap
- School supplies
- Journaling notebooks
- New carseats
- Area rugs
- Storage shelves for clothing
- DVD movies (children and adult)
- Wii games
- Used furniture for residents transitioning from shelter
- Blowing bubbles



LAKES CRISIS & RESOURCE CENTER

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Our mission is to provide safety, healing and hope through advocacy, intervention and education.

Upcoming Events

WeFest Bucket Drive August 2nd

LCRC will hold its 5th Annual Bucket Drive at WeFest on August 2nd.

We need volunteers to help us raise funds by committing to a 3 hour shift. Incentives will be provided to our volunteers. Preferred age for volunteers is 18.

If you would like to volunteer, please call us at 847-8572.

Please come out and join us and we will have some heel stomping fun and a country good time!



Golf Tournament July 13

LCRC will hold its 2nd Annual Golf Tournament on July 13th at Forest Hills Golf & RV Resort.

Registration is at 12 (noon) with a 1 p.m. shotgun start. The cost is \$60 per person for non-members and \$40 for members. The fee will include golf, cart, lunch and prizes.

If you would like to register ahead of time, please call us at 847-8572.

Please come out and join us and we will have some tee time fun!

