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A Safe Haven for Moms



Last month right around Mother's Day, a beautiful baby was born to a woman staying at our shelter and we added one more tiny resident to our shelter family. The new mom was all smiles and she said that she felt relieved that her young boy arrived while she was living in a safe situation. On Mother's Day we were reminded of the fact that there are currently a number of young moms living free from violence at our shelter. On average, we have between 10 and 13 moms and their children living at our safe haven each month.

Several of our moms took a trip to Mon Ami Salon in Blue Island where they were pampered with complementary manicures and hair styling donated by the salon owner, Romona Johnson, and her staff. One client said, "It made me feel so special. I never take the time to treat myself, so this was really nice."

Our clients were also treated to a Mother's Day Brunch, made possible with funds donated by the Crisis Center Auxiliary and coordinated by a dedicated volunteer group from Palos Community Hospital.



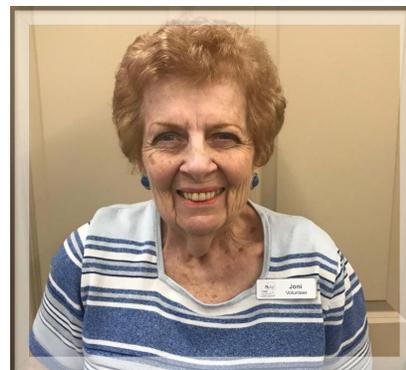
Other donations to celebrate our moms came from Char Proper-Smits, Gwendolyn Sterk

and their friends who donated purses packed with goodies and Target gift cards; Maureen Pitula who donated posh bath and body products; cards from Hallmark in Orland Park and cards and gift cards from Baird and Warner in Orland Park.

The shelter will become much busier in the next few weeks as children will be finishing up school for summer break. We are always in need of pool passes, movie tickets and bowling passes and other opportunities for summer fun for the children at our shelter. If you can provide some summer fun by donating tickets, gift cards or by making a cash donation, please contact us at 708-429-7255 or e-mail dev@crisisctr.org.



memory lane



Long-time volunteer
Joni Rusco

We continue to celebrate our 40th Anniversary throughout the year and this month we feature long-time Neat Repeats volunteer, Joni Rusco. Joni is celebrating 31 years of volunteering at Neat Repeats this month!

Neat Repeats Resale has been a crucial component to the success of the Crisis Center for over 30 years and Joni remembers the very first days. What began as a small 1,000 square foot store run by a few volunteers during a few short hours each week has grown into a much larger operation with two spacious locations managed by 200+ volunteers and a handful of paid employees, generating approximately one quarter of the Crisis Center's operating budget!

Joni became connected to the Crisis Center through her cousin, (and past president of the Board of Directors at the Crisis Center), Trisha Goldberg. Her first shift was during Mother's Day weekend in 1988. Joni said it's been amazing to see the growth over the past thirty years. "I never dreamed that we would grow into the operation that we have become." Joni remembers working from the small location with a few other volunteers. "There were only a few volunteers and we weren't open every day for extended hours," Joni said. Neat Repeats generated approximately \$10,000 in its first year. Last fiscal year, Neat Repeats generated nearly \$600,000!

Joni's daughter Julie became involved with the Crisis Center and helped victims directly as a court advocate. She's continued her career and now works for the state's attorney's office. Joni said she has shared countless stories with her daughter and commented how much things have changed over the years. "It wasn't uncommon for a police officer to tell a man to 'go take a walk to cool off' after a domestic violence incident occurred. There is much more awareness now."

Joni said it's very rewarding to see victims find the help that they need. She said, "You realize the impact that the Crisis Center has when you see a victim finally getting away from a violent relationship. It's incredibly rewarding to see their lives change and it keeps me coming back each day."

Look for more memories throughout the year as we celebrate our 40th anniversary!



First Annual Appreciation Reception

Last month the Crisis Center hosted an event at the St. Julie Billiard Church Parish Hall in Tinley Park to recognize a number of individuals and groups who have volunteered for service projects or coordinated events and activities to raise funds for our organization in 2018.

From homemade pies to an indoor triathlon to specialized data entry, our volunteers and community fundraisers are continually finding creative ways to support victims of domestic violence. Honorees at the event were presented with unique

artwork created by the children living in the shelter. "I have never received such a meaningful and thoughtful form of recognition," said Donna Nadelhoffer from Palos Hospital. Board member, Pam Jeanes of Orland Park, said, "Everyone walked away from the event knowing how special we think they are and how grateful we are for their support." The annual event will be held again next year and will honor those who helped in unique, one-time ways or hosted a community fundraiser to benefit the Crisis Center in 2019.

[Check out photos from the event HERE](#)



Serving Up Smiles!

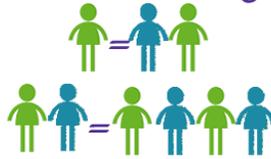
This tasty dinner from Chipotle was provided by volunteers Sam and Kari Aiello and it was served to the residents at our 24-hour emergency shelter this past week. Can you help us 'serve up smiles'? We are seeking small adult groups to donate a meal for 35 or cook the meal in our kitchen and serve it to our shelter residents. It's a great hands-on experience and very much appreciated by our clients. Contact Deonne Mendyk for more information at dmendyk@crisisctr.org or call 331-431-9688.

Matching Gift Challenge

You

+

GF The Greer Foundation



= Double the Impact

DOUBLE your IMPACT with a

Match from The Greer Foundation

Did you hear the BIG news? The Greer Foundation has extended its matching gift challenge! Donate to our Emergency Assistance Fund NOW and your gift will be matched - dollar for dollar! Help our clients with emergency needs like car repairs, rent assistance, transportation, prescriptions and more!

[Click HERE to make your gift today](#)

Questions? Contact Lorri Nagle, Director of Development, at lnagle@crisisctr.org or call 708-429-7255, Ex. 131.

Kick-off to Summer

Sunday, June 9th

1 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Water's Edge Golf Course -
Worth, IL



Brats, Bags, Beer, and a Band

a family event benefiting The Crisis Center for South Suburbia

Kick-off your summer with a fun-filled day of activities on **Sunday, June 9th!** We'll have inflatables for the kids, delicious food from the grill, a beer tent, Bloody Mary Bar, Bean Bag tournament (with a cash prize), games, raffles and more. Music from School of Rock begins at 1 p.m. and Hillbilly Rockstars will keep you moving with great live music from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m.

A \$20 advanced ticket includes a meal ticket and two drink tickets. The price at the door is \$10 (only entry included), Kids 4-10 yrs. old = \$5 ticket, and Kids under 4 yrs. are free.

[Click HERE to Purchase Advanced Tickets](#)

If you would like to sponsor the event or for more information, contact Jess Brooks at jbrooks@crisisctr.org or call 708-429-7255, Ex. 136.

Help us to spread the word by printing and sharing this [PRINTABLE FLYER!](#)



If you are able to contribute to our 'wishes corner', please contact Janice Barry at jbarry@crisisctr.org or call 708-429-7255 x. 114

For your convenience, collection boxes are located at both Neat Repeats store locations. We have some items listed below that we are currently in need of in our emergency shelter:

- Wal-Mart, Uber, gas and grocery gift cards
- Towel sets
- Extra long twin sheets
- Conditioner

- Women's t-shirts, sizes M,L and XL
- Women's socks & underwear sizes 5-10
- Women's pajamas size S-3X
- Women's robes
- Women's pants - all sizes
- African-American Hair products (relaxer, gel, oil sheen, oil moisturizer)

[View a complete Wish List on our website by clicking HERE](#) or [view our Amazon Wish List by clicking HERE](#) and ship items directly to our shelter!

(Make sure to use Amazon Smile and select the Crisis Center for South Suburbia as your preferred charity)

Our Needs Never Take a Vacation! *Cleaning supplies needed*

We have so many needs throughout the year and we are often looking for local businesses or groups to host a drive for us to meet these needs. Currently, we are hoping to secure a few groups to host a cleaning supplies drive for us in June.

[CLICK HERE for list of supplies needed.](#) If you can help, please contact Janice at jbarry@crisisctr.org or call 708-429-7255, ext. 114. *Thank you!*



Join the Safety Circle

Supporters of the Crisis Center can choose to make their donation a monthly one by checking a box on the donation page of our [updated website](#).

Monthly giving is a selfless commitment to our mission to support survivors of domestic abuse. Each month we raise \$300 per month from our Safety Circle members and our goal by the end of the year is to reach \$1000 per month.

Make this Father's Day extra special

Find the perfect gift at **smile.amazon.com** and Amazon donates.

You shop. Amazon donates.
amazonsmile



[Shop with Amazon Smile and choose the Crisis Center as a beneficiary!](#)

STAY CONNECTED

