



Women Against Violence

NEWSLETTER

STOP THE VIOLENCE. START THE HEALING. Issue 2

FROM VICTIM TO SURVIVOR



MANY PEOPLE STILL THINK OF SAMARITAN HOUSE AS THE RESOURCE FOR HOMELESS FAMILIES. BUT THEY ARE SO MUCH MORE.

Samaritan House has developed the resources to help those who have been abused domestically, assaulted sexually, and trafficked. But so many people have no idea what those resources actually are.

So, this quarter, we wanted to show you just how deep Samaritan House goes into these issues. Let's walk through the process. Follow me as if we were one of their "clients." Notice how detailed the services are, how thoughtfully this organization goes about its work.

"We" are a young mom. We have finally made our mind up to get ourselves and our kids out of this terrifying situation. We call the crisis hotline and are directed to the appropriate organization. If we're in imminent danger we, and our children, are brought immediately into a safehouse. Otherwise, our journey begins with an assessment of our needs and our support system, or lack thereof.

We're told that Samaritan House is going to work with us for as long as it takes until we're on our feet and safe.

They get us into a non-descript shelter that doesn't have any way that we could reach out to our perpetrator in a moment of weakness. It already has a pantry that's fully stocked with healthy food. We couldn't bring anything with us, but Samaritan House has given us kitchen items, bedding, and necessary toiletries – like shampoo, soap, and hygiene products. They also have a closet of donated items to help us out with our clothing needs until we can get some of our own or purchase others.

Continued on next page...

A NOTE FROM THE CHAIRWOMAN

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! I'm excited for the new year ahead and all that it may bring. But for those in an abusive relationship or taking the steps to leave their abuser behind, it is difficult to look forward with anything but fear and uncertainty. Samaritan House helps make that leap easier and WAV members are an integral part of making that happen. Together we have accomplished a lot in support of Samaritan House and now we are taking WAV to the next level!

We are excited to announce the launch of a new WAV Facebook group, WAV Alerts. WAV Alerts will be posted on an as needed basis. Crisis never happens on a schedule and every day brings a new need for a victim of violence. Needs can be material, lending a helping hand, making a connection that opens a door for employment, etc. Samaritan House provides support and services for our clients, made possible through generous donations, grants, and gifts. However, there are sometimes unplanned occasions that arise where resources are not readily available. That is where WE can help.

Alerts will be posted to Facebook and our hope is that WAV members will reach out to their networks to respond and overcome...together! The first step is for WAV members, and interested friends of WAV to join the Facebook group. Here is the link to join:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/WAValerts/>
Once a member of the group, you can invite anyone in your circle to join. Then, just monitor the group on Facebook. If an alert is posted, you will see it. Sometimes you will be able to help, or you may know someone who could. You'll be able to forward the alert to Facebook friends and others in your circle of friends and associates. Perhaps you won't be able to respond at all...and that's okay!

Don't forget to save February 8th on your calendar for the "Share some love with Samaritan House" paint night at Muse in Town Center. Hope to see you there.

Kindest regards,

Sarah Golden | Chair WAV 🌸

FROM VICTIM TO SURVIVOR (cont.)

Our case manager sets us up with doctor appointments, dentist appointments, and counseling appointments. This has been a huge help. They offer art and play therapy for the young ones, and have a kid's daycare center for the times we are in counseling, or group sessions for our own therapy.

Samaritan House has vocational training to update our skills, and has community partners that work with Samaritan House to help us find work. Samaritan House also has a fleet of vehicles, bus passes, and cab vouchers so we can get safely to our needed appointments without being recognized and targeted.



We've been assigned a victim advocate who provides moral support and insights to what we need to do within the legal system to be safe. They will go with us to court. They won't let us face these difficult moments alone.

We've gone through this once before. You see, often we are led to believe our perpetrator has made amends and has changed. We want to believe it, so we go back home. Only to face the same horror again. Samaritan House offers no judgment and has brought us in again. Other people have gone through this situation up to 10 times, and Samaritan House is there every time. They understand. They're dedicated to getting us on our own two feet and out of danger.

Some facts about Samaritan House:

- They have a 90% success rate for clients that go through the housing program
- 83 cents of every dollar goes straight to Samaritan House programs and resources. Only 17 cents goes toward overhead
- The newest program deals with human trafficking. In the first 90 days of the program being active, over 30 people were rescued, 26 of these were U.S. Citizens

Once we've found a job and have a plan for ourselves and the kids, it's time to find our own home. Samaritan House has leasing partners that are aware of the situation and support us by working with us and allowing Samaritan House to contribute a part of our rent for the first year.

Samaritan House continues to support us and our kids on our road to recovery with continued counseling and academic support. Just as important, they help with groceries and other supplies, so we don't have to choose between feeding ourselves and paying rent.

In addition to everything they do for "us," Samaritan House goes out into the community through businesses, schools, and other organizations to provide education. They teach what signs to look for and how to keep an eye out for children and adults who may be silent victims – hidden – suffering in silence.

A "walk-through" like the one we just described happens countless times every year thanks to Samaritan House... and thanks to your support. The victims are right here in our community – right in our own neighborhoods. Samaritan House can't help these people if they don't know that we're here, or what we do. Please help spread the word. 🌸

If your business or organization would like to sponsor a Samaritan House event, there are many opportunities and options available. Contact Tom Higgins at tomh@samaritanhouseva.org or call 351-3720

TELL A FRIEND

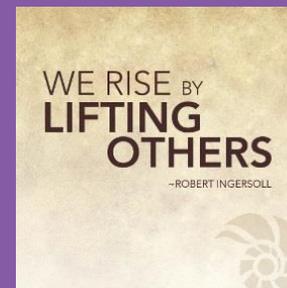
Women Against Violence are leaders in this cause. Leaders have followers. As leaders, we are looking to you to engage more leaders and... followers. To eliminate the potential \$1,000 barrier for new members we've made a slight change. When asking friends and neighbors, or colleagues, or employees, or other young up-and-coming business executives to join us, we've created a tiered donation structure for them. If they are first time donors, you can offer them the options below. We hope you will use this to increase our ranks and tell our story. 🌸

PLATINUM MEMBER (\$1,000 AND ABOVE)

- Your company name/logo on Samaritan House (SH) website for twelve months
- Listed as sponsor for one SH-sponsored event
- Half page ad in one SH agency newsletter throughout the year
- Opportunities for your coworkers/employees to volunteer for specific SH programs
- Opportunity to set up and distribute marketing materials at one special event hosted by SH
- Inclusion in WAV full-page ad for Inside Business
- Recognition at annual donor appreciation reception

GOLD MEMBER (\$500 - \$999)

- Listed as a member of WAV on our website and newsletter for twelve months
- Quarter page ad in one SH agency newsletter during the next 12 months
- Opportunities for your coworkers/employees to volunteer for specific SH programs
- Inclusion in WAV full page ad for Inside Business
- Invitation to annual donor appreciation reception



If you have fellow associates interested in joining WAV please have them contact

Eva Fuze

evaf@samaritanhouseva.org

Or

Sarah Golden:

sarahgolden@thebgsgroup.us

SILVER MEMBER (\$250 - \$499)

- Listed as a member of WAV on our website and newsletter for 12 months
- Business card size ad in one SH agency newsletter during the next 12 months
- Inclusion in WAV full page ad for Inside Business
- Invitation to annual donor appreciation reception

MEMBER AT LARGE (\$100 - \$249)

- Listed as a member of WAV on our website and newsletter for 12 months
- Mention as a club member in one WAV newsletter during the next 12 months
- Inclusion in WAV full page ad for Inside Business
- Invitation to annual donor appreciation reception

If you would like to join our Speaker's Bureau to help tell our story, please contact Tom Higgins at tomh@samaritanhouseva.org or call 351-3720

SAVE THE DATE

Make your calendar for the 4th Annual WAV Luncheon

Friday, May 18, 2018

11:30 am. – 1:00 pm.

The Westin Virginia Beach Town Center

4535 Commerce Street

Virginia Beach, VA 23462

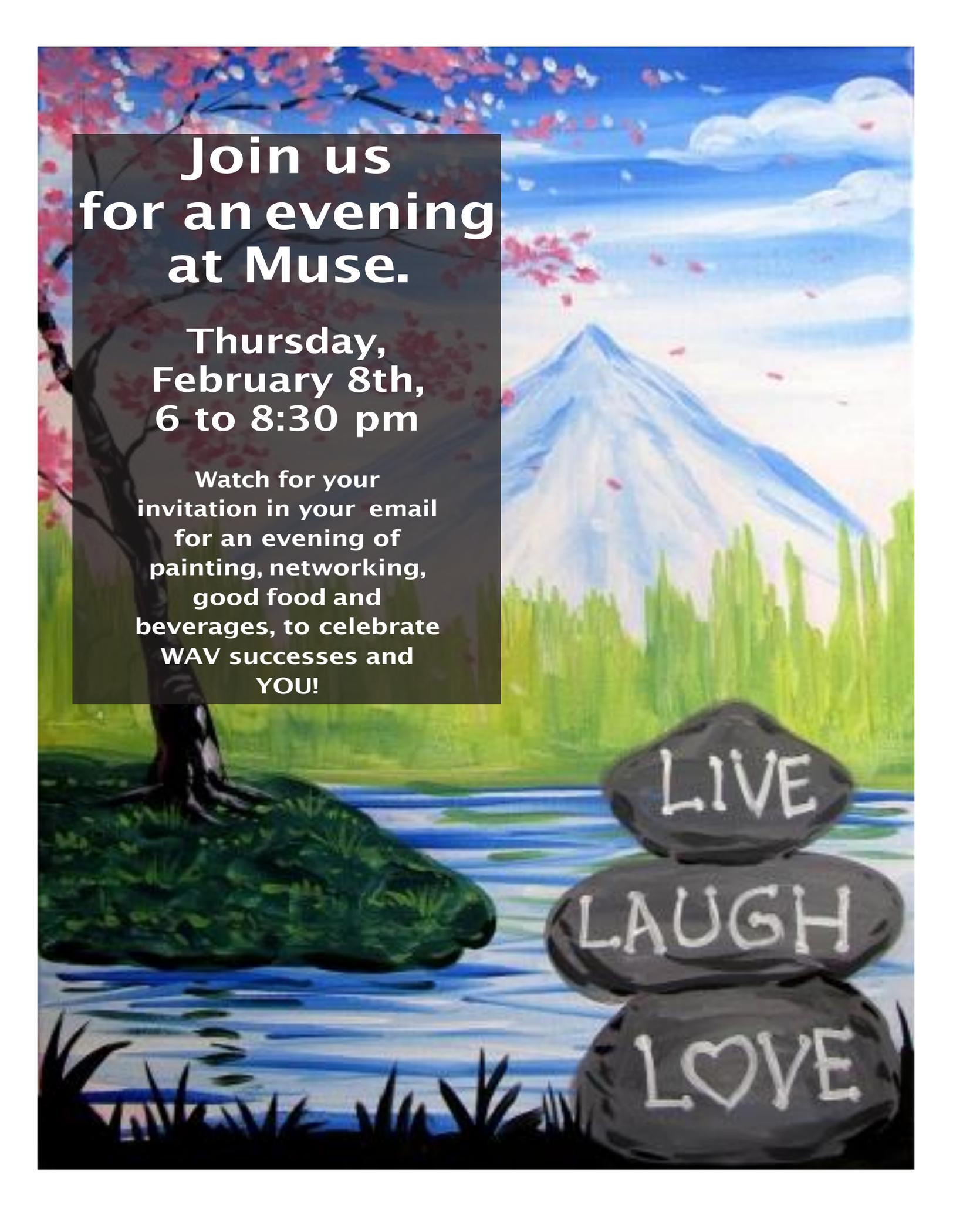


Did you know WAV has a "brother" organization called 100 Men?

If you have friends interested in joining WAV, please have them contact Eva Fuze at evaf@samaritanhouseva.org or Sarah Golden at sarahgolden@thebgsgroup.us



Please place this newsletter in a prominent place at your office or in your office lobby.



**Join us
for an evening
at Muse.**

**Thursday,
February 8th,
6 to 8:30 pm**

**Watch for your
invitation in your email
for an evening of
painting, networking,
good food and
beverages, to celebrate
WAV successes and
YOU!**

JUDGEMENT CALL

FIRST JUDGEMENT CALL

It all started at a crowded bar. Everyone had their eyes on the lead guitar player and vocalist. Everyone but Dawn. She had her eyes on Dave, the drummer. When she approached him during a break he seemed shy but soon eye contact turned to laughter and flirting. And soon Dawn was a regular at the band's gigs.

In six months they were married, and six months later Dawn was pregnant. She kept her job as an Admin Assistant until a month before their son, Derek, was born. It wasn't long before the band landed a gig touring as opening act for a nationally renowned group. The tour and all the hours away from family never became a problem for Dave. It's when it ended, that the problems began.

When the tour ended the band took some time off. After a few weeks three members were busted for drugs. The band broke up. Dave went into a booze-driven nose dive.



Dawn worked long hours at a near minimum wage job. Their savings disappeared. Credit cards were maxed and cancelled. Dave's drinking took control of their family. Arguments turned into pushing, shoving fights. Dawn was smart to get herself and her son out before things became too extreme. Dave left town and abandoned his family.

Dawn wrote the whole nightmare off as a case of bad judgment.

SECOND JUDGEMENT CALL

Dawn struggled to make ends meet without child support. She was frustrated, stressed, sad, lonely . . . and alone. Once her son started school, she signed up for an online dating site.

A man from Florida contacted her. She wasn't interested in a long-distance relationship, but this guy Randy was charming and handsome. Dawn was 33, Randy was 49. The age difference didn't seem to matter.

After eight months of long distance courtship, Dawn and Randy tied the knot. Randy had his own successful business, a flexible schedule, and was a kind and generous marriage partner. Things were good. Until the day he collapsed at home and was rushed to the hospital. The doctor said a heart attack wasn't unusual for a man over 65. Dawn was puzzled. 65? He was only 54 she thought.

While recuperating at home he slept alone in an adjustable bed. She moved into the guest room. One night while Randy slept, Dawn checked his driver's license. She was shocked to find she was married to a 70-year-old man.

When Dawn confronted him, Randy flew into a rage and hit her. She fell to the floor and the beating continued. Dawn woke up the next day in the hospital.

LAST CALL

She spent 9 days in the hospital. Soon after, she found the Samaritan House counseling services.

She sought to discover how she could have made two very bad relationship choices. Dawn's story is all too common. A woman, once abused, leaves her abuser only to find the next man she's with shares similar, horrifying, traits. Abuse is a cycle. Without counseling and support, the cycle tends to repeat. Thanks to Samaritan House, Dawn, for the first time in years, sees a ray of hope.

Hope. That's what happens when someone discovers the help and support available through Samaritan House. ✨

This is a true story based on actual events. The names and some of the locations mentioned have been changed to protect the anonymity of the people involved.