



Chances & Changes Chrysalis

Serving Livingston County since 1979

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND HOMELESS SERVICES

Supportive Housing Services; Jemison Place
Executive Director: Karen Tremer

NEWSLETTER & ANNUAL REPORT
WINTER 2016

PHENOMENAL WOMEN: TESTIMONIAL

As in all editions of the Chrysalis, we like to share a story volunteered from one of our "phenomenal women"...a woman who is a survivor. The following "stories" are true ones. As background, coming to shelter is not a "magic fix" for someone who is being abused. The victim has to want to participate in the healing process, planning for next steps, accepting counseling/advocating and utilizing all services available to building a path away from abuse.

AN IN-SHELTER STORY: A New Life

The former resident in this year's story had been in shelter twice, going back to her abuser both times before the third time that brought her to us again. The third time she stayed nearly 2 months and leaned to accept that focusing on her goal to no longer be a victim took hard work and drive and determination. She has since become independent and gives back to Chances and Changes in recognition of the value of our programs and services for those in need. **Here is a personal summary of her story:**

"I came to Chances and Changes January 2015 feeling fearful, rejected, alone and insecure. I saw a lot of people come and go - some to their own apartments and others back to their abuser. I knew mine would beat me for leaving and beat me for coming back so I stayed at shelter. I cried many a day on the shoulders of staff. As time passed, I started to feel more self-reliant. So I applied for a job and got it (who would have thought it?). Fast forward, I thank the God of my life for bringing me to such a wonderful, supportive place. Today I have my own apartment, attend mental health meetings, and work through a few issues. I still have support from agency staff. I love my new life. Don't be ashamed to get help. You own it to yourself. I love you, C&C."



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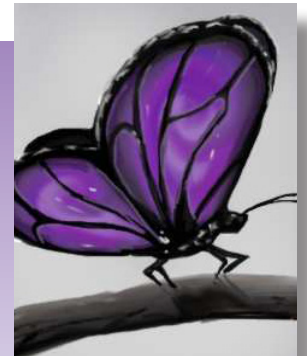
A NON-RESIDENT'S STORY: BREAK THE CYCLE, BE A SURVIVOR

For 27 years, I've been in abusive relationships. My Domestic Violence counselor has helped me tremendously and I can't thank her enough. I never thought that I could be this strong and happy. Domestic violence is not just about the hitting. It is also about psychological, financial, and emotional abuse. This will continue to be a cycle of abuse for you and for children subjected to witnessing the abuse if you stay in any of those situations.

There are options to get out. My option was law enforcement and my first shelter stay. After you have escaped the abusive relationship you CAN break the cycle. There are organizations in Livingston like Chances and Changes that will help you. Individual Counseling and group therapy through domestic violence programs are vitally important for your benefit. In time, you will gain your confidence, self-esteem and instincts back. You will also learn to love yourself and know that being alone is healthy. Be a survivor. There are very few of us.

I will continue to meet with my counselor as I continue to learn and grow. I have broken the cycle,

I am a SURVIVOR!



EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTS

Many of our **local schools** bring to light domestic violence awareness throughout the school year by inviting our Outreach and Prevention Education Coordinator into their classrooms to talk to students about healthy relationships and sexual assault. Our program also educates students about abuse in the home and other places and about the programs and services our agency provides.

This past year has seen the implementation of **Girls Circle**® at Chances and Changes. This is a support group that meets bi-weekly with Girls and is designed to encourage positive self-esteem building and to foster as well as support emotional growth and development. This is a very well-received, well-attended program.

Weekly **Support Groups** are growing. We facilitate two weekly support groups in the community. These Support Groups provide a support system to individuals who are currently in abusive relationships or who have experienced abusive relationships in the past. This past year, participants have attended group session nearly 400 times, reinforcing the value of support and encouragement as victims learn to become independent survivors.



Make a Donation
... Using the enclosed
Contribution Envelope.
**Domestic violence and
homelessness know no
season, they happen
everyday. Make a donation
and get a tax deduction.**

OUR VIEW: Domestic Violence Is A Serious Crime Doing More for Our Community

The research is clear and abundant: when abusers are less likely to be prosecuted for their domestic violence offenses than for non-domestic violence offenses they are significantly more likely to commit other domestic violence crimes. It generally doesn't matter what the sanctions imposed are as long as those in legal authority – law enforcement, prosecutors, judges -- send a clear message that domestic violence is treated more seriously than other crimes the abusers typically commit..... such as possession of drugs, disorderly conduct, resisting arrest or larcenies. Re-abuse is significantly deterred if the high risk abuser's domestic violence crimes are taken seriously.

Domestic violence crimes are by definition crimes against persons. High-risk abusers should therefore get even more severe punishments compared to most of the non-domestic violence crimes they commit. Research tells us we have the legal tools – we lack only the will to use them. Our failure is to not make the punishment fit the crime.

Both police and prosecutors must intervene in domestic violence cases. Each step into a heated domestic violence situation requires careful balance. This is especially true if children are involved. As research reveals more about the effects of domestic violence on children, prosecutors are finding that both the law and public opinion have raised expectations for what criminal justice professionals can and must do. There is recognition of a growing concern related to children and violence in the home: children must be a central focus of all we do in the civil and criminal justice system.....from initial police investigation through the probationary period, we must prioritize children's issues. We believe that police officers must note the presence of children when they respond to domestic violence incidents and collaborate with mental health professionals to address the children's trauma and anxiety.

Legislators must also work to enhance penalties when domestic violence occurs in front of children. Helping to establish new laws where domestic violence offenses are upgraded to felonies when children are present could create more opportunity to let the punishment fit the crime. Children who witness domestic violence often manifest behavioral and emotional problems, poor academic performance, and delinquency. Sadly, violence against adults and violence against children often coexist in families – the frequency of child abuse doubles in families experiencing intimate partner violence compared to families with nonviolent partners, and the rate of child abuse escalates with the severity and frequency of the abuse against the parent,-- by every statistical measure, usually the mother.

The root of domestic violence lies deep in the knowledge that abusers are often if not always victims of abuse themselves as children. The need is for prosecutors to take steps to help children who are exposed to domestic violence by prosecuting offenders on concurrent charges of child endangerment, emotional abuse, or other available charges reflecting the danger to children who witness violence in order to change the future of this learned criminal behavior.

Our criminal justice system, like no other community institution, has the capacity and power to help force today's offenders to confront and change their behavior. As leaders in their communities, prosecutors have the status and opportunity to advocate for needed change, whether legislative, fiscal, or programmatic in nature. Prosecutors can bring together people with disparate views and help work out ways to overcome distrust and conflict -- working toward a common goal: protection of abused children and their parent to change the outlook of this societal problem and its concurrent financial burden.



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

7th Annual **Amy's Walk Supports Domestic Violence Month**

Our 7th Annual Amy's Walk took place on October 17, 2015, in Geneseo. This 5K walk is part of our community focus during October which is National Domestic Violence Prevention and Education month.

It is held in memory of Amy Sayle, a local victim of fatal intimate partner violence, and to highlight the prevalence of intimate partner/relationship/dating violence in our communities. This year's walk raised nearly \$1,200 for our organization. We greatly appreciate donations in the form of gift certificates or merchandise from local businesses to support this event.

**Please plan to join us next year for the
8th Annual Amy's Walk.**



A SPECIAL THANK YOU

MANY GOLFERS IN OUR AREA PUTT WITH A HIGH QUALITY MUSTY PUTTER...

If you haven't heard of David Musty Putters- "Roll it With Wood" - it's about time you knew about this sensational wooden mallet putter that is true to itself and to its owner! For the past 14 years, thanks to David Musty and his team at Musty Putters, we have been able to give away or raffle two Musty Putters to participants in our annual charity golf tournament. Note in the photo that each putter has Chances & Changes engraved on it and part of its unique feature is that each one is made of a different kind of exotic wood.



David Musty, who owns Musty Putters in Junipero, California, has experienced his own difficulties because of domestic abuse, and has been a loyal donor of these putters to support our organization with a special offer to us each year to help our tournament succeed.

We are extremely grateful for the continued generosity of David Musty Putters and look forward to working with this dedicated group again next summer.

14th Annual

Charity Golf Tournament Another Great Success.....



Once again this year, our charity golf tournament was a great success and raised nearly \$9,000 to benefit the agency. Everyone who joined us at the Caledonia Country Club had a fun and enjoyable time. The staff at Caledonia deserves a big thanks for their support. We also thank Terry Clifford from 92.5 WBEE Country for emceeding our Program.

This is truly a sharing and caring event and we are grateful that most of our golfers return again and again to support this worthy cause. We had 25 teams, over 200 sponsors and donors and a raffle valued at over \$5,000. Thank You to everyone involved! We look forward to seeing you at next year's tournament.

***Does your partner ever act in ways that
make you feel afraid?***

***Call Chances & Changes Hotline at
1-888-252-9360***

Chances & Changes, Inc.

P.O. Box 326
Geneseo, NY 14454

Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-888-252-9360
Rape Crisis Hotline: 1-800-527-1757
www.chancesandchanges.org

Livingston County Licensed
Domestic Violence Agency



A United Way Agency
(Designation #213)

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
GENESE0, NY 14454
PERMIT NO. 33

Janet Brzezniak
9119 Upton Road
Batavia, NY 14020

20161

Please call (585) 658-3940 to update mailing information.

Events and Opportunities



Annual Giving Appeal

The enclosed donation envelope is an easy way to give to our **Annual Giving Campaign**. Domestic Violence and homeless situations know no season, they happen every day.

"Give a Gift in Honor Of" or "In Memory Of"... These types of gifts can be given at any time.

The IRA Charitable Rollover provision of the Pension Protection Act of 2006 provides an annual exclusion from gross income – and, thus, from federal income tax – for “qualified charitable distributions” of up to \$100,000.

Is this option right for you and us?

Support Groups meetings

... Are held on Mondays and Fridays at various locations. Babysitting is available by calling ahead. Call 585-658-3940 for times and locations each week.

Save These 2016 Dates:

15th Annual Charity Golf Tournament

will be held September 13, 2016

8th Annual Amy's Walk

will be held October 15, 2016



Choose. Give. Matter.

www.roctheday.org for info.

Donations can be earmarked directly to Chances & Changes, Inc.

Chances & Changes "Easy Recipe" Cookbook

Available by calling our office at 585-658-3940 and asking for Dawn. A donation of \$10 to help support our programs and services is requested.

Collectible Custom Artwork

Chances & Changes continues to make available custom copper artwork. Inquire and order at 585-658-3940. Proceeds help provide our services.

From the Executive Director

Another year — a very busy year — as we continue to grow and evolve to better meet community needs in many ways. This past year our shelter programs (domestic violence clients and homeless clients) have served 126 families in shelter and our housing supports programs have assisted in securing and maintaining stable housing for 75 families in the community and in our Jemison Place program we have helped 30 individuals, women and children. This next year we will have another HUD housing grant to assist nine more families with children. We have assisted over 400 non-residential clients with many varied services. All these programs require the coordination and collaboration of many community partners, individuals and agencies, as we work together to develop and utilize the supports necessary for families to be stably housed and become more self-sufficient. We recognize that the basic needs (food, clothing, and shelter) of every individual and family must be addressed if we are to then help families/individuals to ameliorate the underlying issues that often result in family strife and risk of homelessness.

Every day I am amazed at the resilience I see in our many clients as they struggle with serious issues yet they continue on to try to move forward and take chances to make changes in their lives that will hopefully lead to more positive results. We work to provide the tools to enhance the skills necessary for clients to make “better” life choices. We cannot control those choices, but we can at least provide the support and space they need to even consider changing their lives and by extension, their children’s lives. I am also amazed at the persistence and dedication shown by staff to continue their efforts with our families to break the cycles of violence, poverty, and homelessness and all the many related problems intertwined with these issues.

I want to take this opportunity to thank not only the staff, but also our Board of Director’s and our many community supporters and partners for their ongoing help in the efforts to reduce violence and poverty in our communities. It does “take a village” and as Red Green says, “I’m pulling for you – we’re all in this together.”

As always, please give us a call, check our webpage, Facebook, etc. – Staff is here 24/7. If you have a question, issue, want a presentation for your business, group, or class let us know. If you would like to volunteer, contribute, join our Board, whatever, we would love to hear from you. If you need a service, we are here for you.

We look forward to another busy year and will keep “tilting at the windmills” of violence and poverty with your help; Change for the better is possible – [One Step At A Time](#).

Karen Tremer
Executive Director

Chances and Changes, Inc. **Board of Directors**

Nancy Cleveland
Karen Crawford
Cheryl Lynch
Marsha Mitchell
Gayla Morris
Anne Marie Parry
Sue Schedlbauer



WISH LIST:

Space limits prevent us from printing our list here.

Please consult our website:
www.chancesandchanges.org
or call us for more information.



Chances and Changes, Inc.

2014 ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Chances and Changes, Inc. maintains high standards of accountability in handling all cash accounts, volunteer services, and in-kind donations. Financial statements are prepared in compliance with generally accepted accounting principles and submitted to independent auditors on an annual basis. Government grants were provided to the Agency primarily through the State of New York and Livingston County. Public support was provided by United Way of Livingston & Wyoming Counties and concerned individuals and organizations. Program service revenues were received from various Departments of Social Services for in-shelter and out-of-shelter victims and/or survivors including individuals who are homeless due to domestic violence or inter-related causes. In-kind donations, such as clothing and household items, provided invaluable support to victims and their families as they worked to transition to independent abuse-free lives.

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014 AND PRIOR YEAR COMPARISON

	2014	2013	Increase/ (Decrease)
Total Public Support and Revenue	\$885,193	\$794,266	\$ 90,927
Includes the following key sources of revenue:			
Program Services	\$256,028	\$277,780	\$(21,752)
Government Grants	\$571,734	\$456,477	\$115,257
United Way of Livingston & Wyoming Counties	\$28,265	\$25,752	\$2,513
Total Expenses	\$860,391	\$751,489	\$108,902
Includes payroll, employee benefits and related expenses	\$587,273	\$564,656	\$22,617

During 2014, the organization received 96% of its support and revenue from various counties' Departments of Social Services as program service revenue and various government agencies in the form of grant income. For the years ended December 31, 2014, and 2013, revenues from the Departments of Social Services amounted to 29% and 34% of total revenue, and revenue from government grants amounted to 67% and 57% of total revenue, respectively. We are a participating agency of United Way of Livingston & Wyoming Counties.

Government grants increased year over year by more than 20% primarily due to grant income continuing from the New York State Solutions to End Homelessness Program as well as from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and a Community Service Block Grant. Our housing programs for homeless/risk of homelessness services was supported by these grants and served 91 families throughout the fiscal year. Our Family Violence Advocate Program, with assistance from the Livingston County Department of Social Services, was able to help provide support, advocacy, and counseling to 81 at-risk community families. Overall, expenses grew at a 3% rate over revenue this year primarily due to the government match requirement for all related grants received.

For our part, we are always seeking new sources of grant funding for the agency and, as reflected in our total revenue above, grants are a major source of income. Your monetary contributions help enable us to meet regulatory requirements to match 25% of grants we receive each year through local public support and outreach programs. So for us, Grants are conditional income. We ask for your on-going support to our Annual Giving Campaign in part for this purpose. Please take this opportunity to donate a gift using the enclosed donation envelope and get a tax deduction to boot! We can be reached at 585-658-3940 if you have questions or suggestions.

A copy of our full financial report may be obtained upon request in writing to
Nacca & Capizzi CPAs, LLP, Rochester, NY 14626

