

We Count on Community Support

Each year we focus on some special outreach events as part of recognizing October as National Domestic Violence Awareness month. This year was no exception at Chances & Changes, Inc.



On a beautiful fall day in October, many of the students helped to "Paint the Town Purple" by putting up balloons throughout the Main Street area of Geneseo. Some of the businesses decorated their store fronts in honor of Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The agency was able to raise awareness of the need for the shelter and what the shelter's needs are; Amy's Walk generated over \$1,000 in proceeds for our domestic violence and homelessness emergency shelter.



We rallied our team to do some serious educating about domestic violence within our community while at the same time generating much-needed support for the agency. Two of our major activities were Amy's Walk and our "sharing and caring" Charity Luncheon and Fashion Show.

CHARITY LUNCHEON & FASHION SHOW: We also teamed up with Cohocton Dog Pound to raise awareness about domestic violence and animal abuse. What many people don't realize is that there is a definitive correlation between the two.

She was able to talk about the different types of abuse as well as explain all of the reasons some people go back to the abusive relationship many times before finally leaving for good. Thankfully she was able to tell the audience that she is well on her way to making a good, healthy life for herself.

AMY'S WALK: In January 2006 Amy Sayle, the sister of one of our faithful supporters, was killed in a domestic violence situation. As a result Chances & Changes, Inc. and the sister felt the need to make a statement to the public about Amy's death. For the first two years the two entities went together to hold a walk in Amy's memory. This year we at Chances & Changes, Inc. rallied to do Amy's Walk again. We were very fortunate to have support from some of the local businesses as well as many SUNY Geneseo students. In attendance were almost 100 people for the walk who met in downtown Geneseo, some coming from at least 50 miles away to participate. Amy's sister Penny came back to New York from Cleveland to be here in support of the walk, and Amy's sister Jane spoke to the crowd of people to thank them for helping this agency and her family to remember Amy.

We were fortunate to have help from a great many volunteers from Genesee Community College in Dansville, New York who helped to meet their commitment of community service hours for their Human Services class. Many of the models from the fashion show were local ladies of various ages and also staff members from the agency.

There was a great deal of fun during the event. Some of our models had the people in fits of laughter. The food was great and prepared in a healthy way by all the volunteers. We also held a raffle and silent auction with items donated by many different individuals, businesses and organizations. The time that people gave to this event was more than anything we could have imagined and helped to raise more than \$1,500 for the agency.

Our "head chef" was a former domestic violence victim, who spoke at the well-attended luncheon about her experiences and her grateful support from Chances & Changes. Her testimony of her experience with domestic violence touched the hearts of many of the people in the audience. It helped to bring to life what domestic violence really is.

The staff of Chances & Changes would like to say thank you so much to all of the participants and sponsors of our first Fashion Show and Charity Luncheon, especially to the owners of the Nuggett Hill Event Center for their generous shared support. The staff has been told by many that it was a great time for a very worthwhile cause so be sure to do it again next year! We plan to do so!

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

Call Chances & Changes Domestic Hotline

1-888-252-9360

A Special Thanksgiving Blessing

As a program advocate for Chances & Changes, I have experienced a variety of outcomes from our daily work. Recently while I was shopping for Thanksgiving dinner, I was approached by a past victim of domestic violence who came to our agency for help. This young mother and her daughter were very happy and excited to see me. She asked how all of the staff at the agency was doing, and then she told me she had some great news to share with us.

First, she said she was so thankful for all of the help she and her child had received while in shelter. And she then related that she had gotten her new job in the nursing field with great family medical benefits that she had so long been waiting for. She said her little girl was thriving in school, and it was obvious how happy her daughter was as she ran and gave me a big hug! As we parted ways, this former victim expressed her affection for our agency and how grateful she would always be to us for helping to change her life forever.

As I returned to my car, I thought about how this young mother had sought safe haven with Chances & Changes to end her life of abuse. And, I thought about how this woman's success story made my job totally worth it!



Safe ... from fear

Safe ... from pain

Safe ... from abuse

A Safe Place

Out and About

Again in 2010, many Chances & Changes staff members hosted displays at local events to help educate the public about our mission against domestic violence and homelessness.

In 2010, we were represented at the Geneseo Summer Festival, the Mt. Morris Italian Festival, the Avon Corn Festival, the Wayland Potato Festival, the Conesus Lake Festival, and the Dansville Balloon Festival. This year we raffled off a 21-speed TREK Mountain Bike at the festivals and all proceeds from this raffle went directly to Chances & Changes. Our cooper artwork (mentioned on the back page of this newsletter) is always available for sale at these events and anytime during the year to benefit the emergency shelter.

Providing information and answering questions about all aspects of domestic violence and the co-occurrence of serious but related problems is a critical part of what we are chartered to do in the communities we serve. These great local events give us the opportunity to meet the public and do just that.

Hoselton Chevrolet Helps Chances & Changes

As a non-profit organization, we could not survive without the volunteers, organizations and businesses who donate to our agency.

This past fall, Hoselton Chevrolet in East Rochester selected Chances & Changes as the recipient of a \$2,700 donation generated through their employee participation program - a Cell Phone Drive & T-Shirt Sale as part of the Chevrolet Walter Committee commitment.

With support from Time Warner Cable, Hoselton employees demonstrated their "sharing and caring" commitment to giving back to the community.

We sincerely thank them and General Manager, Ron Palmer, for their generosity.

Chances & Changes, Inc.

Licensed by the NYS Dept. of Children & Family Services

2009 ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Chances & 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 a regular basis. Government grants were provided to the Agency by the U.S. Department of Justice, the State of New York as well as Livingston County. Public support was provided by United Way of Greater Rochester, Foodlink, and concerned individuals and organizations. Program service revenues were received from various Departments of Social Services and resulted from services provided to in-shelter and out-of-shelter victims and/or survivors including revenue for homelessness. 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, 2009 AND PRIOR YEAR COMPARISON

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>Increase/ (Decrease)</u>
Total Public Support and Revenue	\$ 509,146	\$ 559,818	\$(50,672)
Includes the following key sources of revenue:			
Program Services	\$ 145,352	\$ 231,634	\$(86,282)
Government Grants	\$ 307,432	\$ 256,314	\$ 51,118
United Way of Greater Rochester	\$ 27,222	\$ 25,605	\$ 1,617
Total Expenses	\$ 527,695	\$ 580,084	\$(52,389)
Consists of payroll and related expenses including employee benefits	\$ 390,862	\$ 425,865	\$(35,003)

During 2009, the organization received a significant portion of its support and revenue from various Counties' Departments of Social Services for program service revenue and from various government agencies in the form of grant income. For years ended December 31, 2009 and 2008, revenues from the Departments of Social Services amounted to 29 and 41 percent of total revenue, respectively. Revenue from government grants amounted to 60 percent and 46 percent for the same time periods, respectively. The two sources of revenue combined amounted to over 87 percent of total revenue for each year.

Although total Program Services revenue was down somewhat overall, within Livingston County, program service revenue was more substantial primarily due to the agency's approved "homelessness" charter that serves victims who are without residence due to domestic violence or other inter-related causes. And, the continuation of the Family Safety Advocate Government grant enabled continued collaboration with Livingston County Department of Social Services to assist families affected by on-going patterns of violence in the home.

The difficult 2009 economy continued to affect the bottom line revenue and spending for the organization. Government support, both federal and state, reflected the tightness of budgets and the related economic challenges which did not encourage risking development of significant new Agency programs and services during the year. And while there is still severely needed maintenance and renovation work to be done to the office and emergency shelter, 2009 was a year of minimal spending and frugality for planned repairs and facility upgrades except for emergencies.

We are always seeking new sources of grant funding as well as financial support from businesses, organizations, and individuals in communities of the Genesee Valley area. And, you personally don't need to be a millionaire to make a difference. Please contact the business office if you would like to learn more about charitable giving even if you are not in a high income bracket. There are options available that may have the potential to bring you a tax break and simultaneously meet your wish to give back to your community.

A copy of our full financial report may be obtained upon request in writing to
LaDelfa, Schoder & Walker, P.C., Mt. Morris, New York 14510

From the Executive Director ...

As we start our New Year, it is the perfect time to reflect on our past course as we move forward with renewed hope and plans for the future. Our main "mission" has been and always will be to address the multiple issues presented by the specter of family/domestic violence. We also recognize its strong tie to homelessness and have been working with our community partners (especially the Livingston County Department of Social Services) to address this issue in our community. We have just come through our most active Holiday season ever (100% occupancy) in our long history of over 30 years fighting this battle.

Maybe it is that the start of the New Year serves to drive this point home - the need is always there no matter what the season. Maybe it is during the holidays and at the start of a new year that we are just more cognizant of the fact that most of us have supportive family and friends as well as a comfortable home; those we work with do not have these things which are basic to our overall well being. Maybe too we would prefer not to think about these things as they make us uncomfortable (which it should) or we mistakenly think "it" doesn't impact us (which couldn't be further from the truth). Whatever the reason(s) for reflecting on our past course, it serves to help us to become even more committed to continuing to address these issues with a renewed sense of purpose and dedication so that some day they will no longer be an issue - we have a long way yet to go. We know there will be many challenges/opportunities ahead, but we also know that challenges/opportunities bring change and change is necessary for growth and development.

I want to thank all the agencies, businesses, schools, clubs, churches, troops, etc. and the many individuals that make it possible for us to be here to provide necessary programs, services and shelter 24/7, 365 days a year. Through their donations (in-kind and/or financial), volunteer services, participation in fundraising events, etc. they are all helping our clients find safer and more secure futures and help to make our communities stronger and healthier for everyone.

I also want to thank our Board of Directors who are our guiding light in an uncertain environment. The past couple of years have presented unique situations with the economic challenges we face, making innovative strategic plans for the future, and adapting to long time members of the Board moving on and new members taking on those responsibilities.

As you read this newsletter you will notice that we work in many different capacities in our daily operations addressing domestic/family violence and homelessness. As always, please contact us with any questions, concerns, suggestions, etc., or if you would like any information. If you would like to arrange a presentation for your group, business, school, church, or other organization please let us know and we will be glad to do so. If you would like to volunteer some time, a skill, make any type of donation, or help out in any way we would like to hear from you. We are totally revamping our volunteer base this New Year so we will have more opportunities available for you. We really do need your help and support in ending the cycle of violence and homelessness. As I always say - you can make a difference in many ways and in many things - it starts with you and your resolve to make that difference.

*The very best to you and yours in this New Year!!!
Karen Tremer, Executive Director*

From the Board President ...

'Tis the season ... and on behalf of the entire Board of Chances & Changes, Inc., I hope that you have all enjoyed a happy and safe holiday season and wish you a wonderful New Year.

Domestic violence and homelessness are not seasonal issues. They are problems that must be dealt with at the most inopportune times - presenting themselves on weekdays, holidays, and all days in between. The people we assist at Chances & Changes have dire needs, at the most desperate times. Luckily, through the efforts of the dedicated staff of our organization, as well as the work of many tireless volunteers, we are in a position to continue providing assistance to those in our community that have the greatest of needs.

In addition to providing housing, counseling, advocacy, and other domestic violence related services, as an organization we are constantly reviewing our business model. Our goal is to provide quality community-based services, while ensuring that we are meeting the needs of Livingston County residents. Last year it became apparent that, in addition to the need for domestic violence safeguards and services, there was a significant need for homeless assistance. To this end, in the past year we took steps to amend our Certificate of Incorporation and other corporate documents to facilitate helping the homeless who are in need of temporary assistance. Chances & Changes has grown and evolved to meet the needs of the community, and although there appear to be great new possibilities on the horizon for us in the coming year, we remain an organization that is committed foremost to the prevention of domestic violence, and the support of its victims.

As 2011 begins, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who have toiled in furtherance of our mission to educate and empower those who suffer from violence. In reflecting on my time with the Board as I begin my third year as a Director, I realized that we have cultivated a wonderful culture of women helping women, the importance of which cannot be overstated. The experience and compassion of our female staff and volunteers is critical to connecting with those who have had their lives disrupted, so that we can help to put them back on track.

But this letter is not just an update and a "thank you," it is also a call to action. We have many male volunteers and benefactors, and to them we are extremely grateful. However, I am certain that through greater involvement in the effort to prevent domestic violence, the men of our community could create a long and lasting positive effect. I encourage all men to join our effort, as it is both a noble and fulfilling endeavor. Please do not hesitate to contact me personally, or any member of the Board or staff, if you are interested in knowing more about how you can help.

Of course, we depend heavily upon the public for support and assistance. As we move into the New Year, we ask that you continue to assist us in any way you can. Every contribution will help to renew and restore the hope for a better future, for those who deserve it the most.

*Many thanks,
Andrew F. Emborsky, Esq., Board President
andrew@krukandcampbell.com*

Education & Prevention - Community Outreach

In each of our newsletters, we provide our readers with an update on the work we do in the community. The work done by our staff members includes presentations and programs with question and answer sessions on various topics such as healthy relationships, healthy dating relationships and friendships at schools, handling emotions, conflict resolution, life skill development, the impact of interpersonal violence in families, on children, in our communities, etc.

This past year we have continued with this important work through several ways. At various health fairs held in schools, businesses, agencies, etc. we have contact with many people - from those who want to make a donation or volunteer to those who are seeking information for friends in need of help because of a domestic/family violence situation or who want to become more educated on the multiple issues involved in this major social problem. For example, at the Groveland Correctional Health Fair this year our efforts focused on working with the officers/employees who were responsible for working in classes with inmates who are imprisoned because of domestic violence convictions.

We were very enthusiastic about the outcome of a Health Fair at the Wayland-Cohocton Central School where many of the young students wanted to know what domestic/family violence is and what it meant to be in a respectful and healthy relationship versus an unhealthy relationship - be it a friendship or a girlfriend/boyfriend relationship. These types of sessions have also proven to be helpful in making contact with community individuals who are willing to help our client base in the future whether for setting up classes

with us to educate people about the complex issues of domestic/family violence, healthy relationships, or other issues our agency deals with every day, 24/7, 365 days a year, organizing participation in one of our fundraising efforts, volunteering, etc.

Our outreach activities also enable us to work and partner with many other community groups and agencies to address community need together and to share what we can do collectively to address serious issues from our respective fields, including domestic/family violence and/or homelessness.

Finally, our Family Safety Advocate (FSA) program, a collaborative initiative with the Livingston County Department of Social Services and the NYS Office of Children and Family Services, continues to address domestic/family violence as we work with families in our communities referred to this program identified as experiencing domestic violence problems as well as child abuse problems. It is important to remember that statistically children exposed to violence in the home suffer far greater problems in many areas

of functioning than was previously realized. Our FSA program continues to work to help break the cycle of violence with affected families so that these children do not become the next generation of victims/abusers.

We learn once again from these experiences about the myriad of co-occurring problems that face the victims of abuse, their families, and our communities and the need for ongoing education, support and action.



9th Annual Charity Golf Tournament

Our largest fundraiser of the year is our charity golf tournament. The 2010 tournament, held at the Livingston Country Club, was no exception and raised nearly \$13,000 for our agency. The tournament was truly a "sharing and caring" event with many individuals, businesses, and organizations in our local communities coming together with the Chances & Changes staff and Board of Directors to make it a phenomenal success. We had 28 teams of golfers, over 100 tee sponsors, and a raffle valued at over \$5,000 to make this our most successful tournament ever.

We look forward to our 10th Annual Charity Golf Tournament to be held on September 13, 2011, at the Livingston Country Club.



Annual Appeal

The enclosed donation envelope is an easy way to give to our Annual Giving Campaign. We hope you will take this opportunity to include us in your gift-giving this year and get a tax deduction to boot!

Collectible Custom Artwork

Chances & Changes has custom artwork in the form of garden stakes, pins, ornaments and other items that make great gifts. Call us to order. All proceeds go directly to help provide our services.

Wish List:

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

Support Groups & Counseling

Adult support groups are held on Mondays and Fridays at various locations. Babysitting is available by calling ahead. Call for times and locations each week.

**Call 585-658-3940
for more details.**

Create a Lasting Legacy with a Planned Gift - Call us to discuss with you and your legal counsel.

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

Should You Consider An IRA Charitable Rollover? - 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?

Board of Directors

Andrew F. Emborsky, Board President
Diane Armbruster, Secretary
Nancy Ellen Cleveland, Treasurer
Elizabeth Savard
Cheryl Lynch
Susan Schedlbauer

SAVE THESE DATES:

10th Annual Charity Golf Tournament will be held September 13, 2011 at the Livingston Country Club.

Annual Awards Event/Wine Tasting/Silent Auction will be held during Domestic Violence Month in October 2011. Check our website for developing plans.

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

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

Please call 658-3940 to update mailing information.