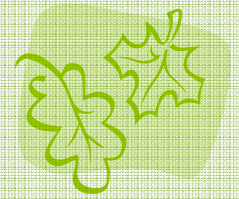




Three Oaks Center

Residential Housing and Supportive Services to the Homeless
"Since 1994"



The Oakleaf

Vol. 1, Issue III

A Newsletter

Summer 2005

Cappers Given Award

Dan and Ellyn Capper were recently given the *Service Above Self Award* by the Lexington Park Rotary Club. This award is presented to those who exemplify the Rotary values of service above self. The Cappers were recognized especially for their work at The Three Oaks Center, the Literary Council, and Trinity Episcopal Church. Currently Dan is the President of the Board of Directors of The Three Oaks Center, and Ellyn is Secretary.

Congratulations and thank you for all that you do!



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Domestic Violence and Homelessness

by Lanny Lancaster

Not all domestic violence incidents end with homelessness, but sadly, a significant number do. The unfortunate dilemma for us in St. Mary's County is that when homelessness strikes — indeed, when it is necessary for survival — there are insufficient resources to address the immediate need in our community. For this reason, Three Oaks Center is bound and determined to establish an emergency residential crisis center for women and children.

We need a 24-hour shelter for homeless women and their children. A shelter with sufficient space, including bedrooms, kitchen facilities, living areas, children's playroom, laundry, computer work area, and private meeting spaces would be appropriate. In addition, we need to offer a drop-in program to provide women

and children with access to basic needs such as a hot meal, shower, laundry facilities, newspapers, telephone, clothing, food, diapers, and soap.

"We need a location and a nod. Then you can watch our smoke. Our board of directors is determined. I am determined."

Our case management approach will help women identify, prioritize, and resolve problems to improve their situations. On-site case managers will provide one-to-one guidance, encouragement, accountability and direction to the most appropriate community resources that can help with barriers such as affordable housing, mental illness, legal services, job skills, substance abuse treatment, affordable child care, domestic violence issues, and more. We will

help them set goals, provide them with appropriate information, and plot realistic solutions to be attained during their stay at the shelter and beyond.

The Center is currently in a positive dialog with the County Commissioners, county agencies, community advocates and program partners. We need a location and a nod. Then you can watch our smoke. Our board of directors is determined. I am determined. I think we have done a good job of informing the community about the terrific need for this program. If all of you who read these words join us and speak with your favorite County Commissioner in support of this effort, things will move faster and more smoothly. How many times have you heard that there is great strength in numbers? The old adage is true.

Point-in-Time Survey Provides Data on Homelessness

An annual Point-In-Time study provides a snapshot of the homeless community in St. Mary's County and allows local government and service agencies to spot trends in homelessness and to evaluate the success of existing programs. HUD requires sheltered and

unsheltered census counts in their annual Continuum of Care application. It is a tool for agencies and their partners to apply for funding and to plan for programs and services to meet the needs of homeless individuals and families in our community. The results of this year's survey

can be found on the back page of this newsletter.



Success Story: "Everybody Knows Somebody"

by Ellyn Capper

Ever since he was a kid, Brent felt like he could never get his life together. Even though his parents were professionals, he could never pick up good habits from them. He got in trouble often in school, and by the time he graduated from Great Mills High School, he was drinking too much, going to too many parties, and missing much too much work at his job at a tree removal service. He made just enough money to keep his own place and pay for the alcohol.

Due to absenteeism, he lost his job and his apartment. He ended up living in his car, often drunk and hungry. His health was deteriorating, and he had not seen a dentist in years. However, he had just enough money to keep gas in the car and move it whenever the police started to hassle him.

Every once in a while, a nice guy named Joe would stop by the car to see how Brent was doing. Joe did

outreach for Three Oaks Center. Having been homeless himself, Joe knew what it was like to be down and out. He convinced Brent to go to the center to warm up a bit and to see what help there was for him there. Maybe he could straighten out his life. What did he have to lose?

It was a relief to be warm and have a clean bed, food to eat, and people who seemed to care about him. Lisa was assigned as his case worker, and she began to help Brent with his short-term goals. Long term goals would fall into place as he worked on his goal plan.

Lisa had knowledge of many services such as drug and alcohol counseling, medical and dental care, and financial assistance that could help Brent.

Brent was required to sign a contract that he would honor. Then he started going to the AA meetings which met right there at the center.

He went to DSS for financial assistance and was given a referral to Health Share and received a mental health evaluation. He was also referred to the Kennedy Institute for job training.

Three Oaks sent him to a dentist who did his dental care for free. Now he could go to job interviews and feel good about himself and could look people in the eye. Brent found a job and was able to pay rent at Three Oaks as all residents are required to do. He had house duties there and was able to get a job.

Today, three years after his graduation from Three Oaks, he has a job, a place to live, and a girlfriend with whom he is discussing marriage and a new lease on life.

While Brent was at Three Oaks, he felt that the entire community was on his side.

Continued on page 4

The Center's Wish List

- Blankets, Sheets, and Pillow Cases for Twin Beds
- Kitchen Appliances—Especially Stoves
- Kitchen Supplies —Cutlery and Flatware
- Canned and Dry Boxed Foods
- Toiletries
- Build a Wheelchair Ramp For One of Our Kids
- PowerPoint Projector for Teaching Tool

Weekend Monitors Needed

The Center has been blessed these many years with a group of men who have been willing to give 4 hours, four to six times a year, out of their weekend to serve as monitors at the men's shelter. If you or someone you know would like to do this kind of volunteering, please let us know. This work is meaningful. It greatly benefits the men living in the shelter; it allows them to see new faces — role models, who can encourage them and at times advocate for them. Please think about it. We would like to add about 10 more men to our current line-up of great guys.

Tenth Annual Breton Bay Golf Tournament Provides Needed Center Funds

Great News! The Three Oaks Golf Tournament was a HUGE Success

On July 14th, we teed off at Breton Bay Golf Course for the 10th Annual Three Oaks Golf Tournament. Nineteen teams and countless volunteers were out in full force to support this worthy cause. As each team launched in their golf mobiles, volunteers from the Center and various organizations ensured that golfers were well hydrated, provided photo ops to capture their world-class golf swings, and watched for the elusive hole-in-one which could have won a lucky golfer a brand new 2005 sports car. Unfortunately, we returned the car to

its sponsor. However, you can join us next year and find out if your lessons and hours on the course have paid off, as you try for the hole-in-one which will make you the 2006 lucky winner.

More importantly, this event raised approximately \$12,000 for the Center, and these valuable funds will help enhance services that the Center provides to residents of this county. The Center is an instrumental resource for assisting those in need with transitional and emergency housing, stabilization, assessment, and referral to appropriate resources. We could not accomplish filling our coffers without the support of Tee Sponsors, Friends of Three Oaks, golfers, and volunteers. Kudos on a job well done!

As quoted by Pablo Picasso, "Action is the foundational key to all success." So with that said, the 2005 Planning committee sincerely would like to thank each supporter who acted and responded to our requests to make this a successful event.

We will see you next year at our 11th Annual Golf Tournament!

*Cheers!
The 05 Planning Committee*



Domestic Violence: What Are We Talking About?

by Mary DeLuca Morgan

Domestic violence is an insidious widespread societal problem that affects not only the family, but the entire community. In the U.S. alone, it is estimated that 1 in 4 couples experience domestic violence in their intimate partner relationships.

There are varying definitions of domestic violence that often lead to inconsistencies and misinformation about what domestic violence really is. A behavioral definition is often different from the legal definition. Domestic violence can be defined as "a pattern of assault and coercive behaviors, including physical, sexual, psychological and emotional attacks as well as economic coercion that adults or adolescents use to control their intimate partners" (The Family Prevention Fund, 1995). Victims of domestic violence are traumatized in many of the same ways that affect victims of violence by strangers.

The intimate context of the abuse influences how the abuser and the victim relate to the violence and makes the trauma that much more perplexing for the victim.

When we visualize domestic violence, the images that often come to mind are the most publicized or brutal examples of a man beating a woman nearly to death.

1 in 4 couples experience domestic violence

Others erroneously believe the "it takes two to tango" theory of "mutual battering." The victim can usually be identified by clarifying which partner is terrified by the other's behavior.

Perpetrators of domestic violence use a myriad of coercive and intimidating tactics in their attempts to control and dominate their partners. These tactics include the following means:

*Emotional and Verbal Abuse ~ Sexual Coercion
Financial/Economic Abuse ~ Sexism
Using Children ~ Denying, Minimizing, Blaming,
Isolation, and Extreme Jealousy
Intimidation/Threats*

Understanding domestic violence is critical to addressing it and reducing its impact on the lives of those it threatens. In future Oakleaf issues, we will present the results of the St. Mary's County Domestic Violence Task Force, in which Three Oaks Director Lanny Lancaster is currently participating.

References:

The National Black Catholic Congress

It's Not a Family Affair: Understanding the Dynamics of Domestic Violence by Chatonia Zollicoffer-Brown

House of Ruth Maryland Baxter Center for Family Safety and Support

Letter from the President: Happy Summer, Everyone!

by Dan Capper



It's summertime, and we're moving into our "Fund Raising Model!" After sweating out Hurricane Dennis, we had a most successful 10th Annual

Three Oaks Center Open Golf Tournament on July 14th at Breton Bay Golf and Country Club. Thank you very much for your participation. Our thanks also go to Co-Chairs Michael Guy and Donnita Moore for a wonderful day!

Our next fund raising event will be the "Capitol Steps" on September 10, 2005 at Great Mills High School at 7:30 p.m.

This is a non-partisan (they skewer everybody) political satire that will have you in stitches. The show is constantly updated and current, so even if you think you've seen them before, you haven't seen "this show" before. Tickets go on sale August 1st.

On October 22nd, we will hold our annual Walk/Run at Sotterley Plantation & Greenwell State Park. We will hold a 10K and 5K run and a 2-mile walk through these 2 lovely properties. There will be prizes galore, great food and fun. Teams or individuals can participate and can even compete and challenge one another. Or you can

choose to just stroll through the peaceful grounds.

We hope to see you at both events, and remember that all money collected will go directly into our programs and services that support the homeless and victims of Domestic Violence. "So - Y'all Come Now, "Ya Hear?"

As always, thank you for your time and interest in Three Oaks Center!

Sincerely,

Dan



Three Oaks Welcomes Mix of Talents, Skills in Six New Board Members

The Reverend **Susan Hazen**, Priest at Large, was the Associate Rector at the Pohick Episcopal Church in Lorton, Va. before recently moving to St. Mary's County. Currently, she has a small grant to establish a Latino ministry in Southern Maryland. She is energetic, optimistic, and out-going. Her hobbies are sculpting, painting, growing orchids, camping, and other outdoor activities.

The Office Administrator at the Lexington Park United Methodist Church, **Sara Martin**, has also joined our Board of Directors. She is an active Hospice Volunteer and is a supporter of the Lexington Park community. Sara is a skilled professional with more than seven years of experience in office management. She is very efficient with strong organizational skills and has a strong work ethic and a desire to help others.

Donnita Moore is an Executive Assistant in the Lexington Park offices of Booz Allen Hamilton. In her role, Donnita supports the Vice President and staff achieve their goals and objectives. Even more importantly, as a life long county resi-

dent, she is committed to supporting community based programs that provide a positive impact for all it's citizens.

Charles Newkirk will be able to assist the Board of Directors of Three Oaks in many ways. He is proficient in the use of many software programs and has had experience in residential construction and large scale database networks, budget analysis, and financial markets.

The Permits and Contracts Manager of SMECO brings his experience and expertise to our board. **Thomas Russell** is a graduate of St. Mary's College of Maryland. He is a lifelong resident of St. Mary's County, and he counts among his interests sports, gardening, and exercise.

Eleanor Fowler Slater was a former educator in the St. Mary's County school system. She is an active community leader and is interested in horses, golfing, and most other outdoor activities.

We welcome all these talented and energetic people to our board!



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A Newsletter

Three Oaks Center

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Executive Director

H. S. Lanny Lancaster



Success Story *Cont. from pg. 2*

He made many friends there, and now he volunteers a few hours each month to contribute back to the Three Oaks community that helped him get back on his feet and headed to a fulfilling life.

At present, Three Oaks is providing outreach and prevention services, emergency shelter services, transitional supportive housing, and permanent supportive housing for persons with disabilities.

(Brent's story is a composite of different men who have come to Three Oaks. The names used in this story are fictitious only to protect the privacy of our residents.)

**“We get to make a living;
we give to make a life.”**

Winston Churchill

Point-in-Time Survey Results

Homeless Population	Sheltered		Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional		
Homeless Individuals	24	18	221	263
Homeless Families with Children	7	37	244	288
Homeless Persons in Families with Children	24	112	728	864

Homeless Sub-Population	Sheltered	Unsheltered	Total
Severely Mentally Ill	49	92	141
Chronic Substance Abuse	51	48	99
Veterans	3	5	8
Persons with HIV/AIDS	1	0	1
Victims of Domestic Violence	23	23	46
Youth (Under 18 years of age)	0	1	1