WISH

**General products:** Bus passes, Train passes, Paper towels, toilet paper, tissue, garbage bags, feminine hygiene products, new underwear (for women and children)

Office supplies: Postage stamps, paper for fax and copy machines

Foods: Frozen meat

Cleaning products (eco-friendly if possible!):

Powdered laundry detergent, bleach, dishwasher

detergent, household cleaning supplies

**Gently used items:** Automobiles, alarm

clocks, umbrellas

Gift Cards: Jewel, Target, Home Depot, Sunset

Foods, phone

The Lake County Haven is proud to receive the support of



**United Way of Lake County** 

### **MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

Join us for a fun event on **Tuesday**, **September 21st** in Lake Forest. This event is hosted by J Crew and our own Women's Auxiliary.

There will be food, shopping, and terrific women to meet. This will be a great chance to learn about our dynamic Women's Auxiliary, and the shopping will be fabulous!

J Crew is generously offering a 15% discount that night as well as donating 10% of their proceeds back to the Haven.

For more information, please contact our volunteer coordinator at (847) 680-1870.



The Lake County Haven empowers homeless women and their children to achieve permanent independent living.

> Non-profit Organization U.S. Postage Paid Permit No. 445 Lake Forest, IL 60045

### Lake County Haven P.O. Box 127 Libertyville, IL 60048 www.LakeCountyHaven.org RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR TO HELP HOMELESS WOMEN & CHILDREN

Holiday Boutique 2010 – Friday & Saturday, November 5 & 6 Enjoy food, wine and great people while you shop for the holidays! See page 4 for more information. -THE LAKE COUNTY HAVEN ——

# **HAVENTNEWS**

### **Keeping Family Close**

If I were to ask you what is most important in your life, what would your answer be? Your job? Your house? Your bank account? No, I think most people would give the same answer: the most important thing is family. At the Haven we strongly agree. Family is at the foundation of life. When we lose faith in the economy or in our ideals, we can still hold on to our families.

If you were to come by our shelter today, you would see a house full of adult women. This is because the Haven is the only transitional shelter in Lake County for homeless women who do not have children with them. In order to fill that community need, we give priority to those women. However, it might surprise



you to know that, at any given time, 60-80% of the women at our shelter are mothers. So you might wonder: where are the children?

Often, when women become homeless, they find alternate living letter he sent to her, he included a fivearrangements for their children. As one of our residents said, "I just couldn't drag my babies with me when I had no idea where I'd be sleeping." You can imagine that it is easier to persuade someone to take in a child than to take in an adult with children.



When we lose faith in the economy or in our ideals, we can still hold on to our families.

Often, children will be able to live with extended family members. Sometimes the children end up in foster care. For the mothers and children alike, these separations are grueling.

I'm reminded of a letter I read from a little boy to his mother who was staying at our shelter. The boy was staying with his father's family and was doing well. But he missed his mother terribly and

worried about her constantly. With the dollar bill because, as he wrote, "you need it more than me."



At the Haven, we place a high priority on bringing families together. If the mother is ready for that reunification while she is in shelter, we welcome the children there. If the mother needs a little time to get some therapy for her mental illness or time to strengthen her new sobriety, (continued on page 2)



The Lake County Haven empowers homeless women and their children to achieve permanent, independent living.

### **Keeping Family Close** (continued from cover)

then we give her that time and work toward reunification during her stay in our Stage II transitional housing program. Our goal is to reunite the family, but at a



pace that minimizes trauma to all those concerned. Our Stage II program is often the site for this to occur. (In a given year, 50% of our Stage II program is occupied by families. And of those families, 75% were reunited during their stay in Stage II.)

Do you share our belief that helping these families to become stable, self-sufficient, and whole is an important

goal? Do you agree that that goal is important not just to the women and children involved, but to our entire community? If you do, please use the envelope included with this newsletter



and send a donation today. If you request it, we will specifically apply your gift toward shelter and services to mothers and children. There are so many people whose lives have been devastated by job loss, eviction, illness, and addiction. Help us to serve and heal those families by getting involved today. •

## Our Internet Breakthrough

The Lake County Haven is proud to announce its new presence on the internet. Like many of you, The Lake County Haven now has pages on the social networking sites of Facebook and Twitter. The next time you are online posting your status, be sure to "friend" The Lake County Haven on Facebook at <a href="http://bit.ly/bgnsms">http://bit.ly/bgnsms</a>, and to hear our "Tweets" visit us at: <a href="http://twitter.com/LakeCountyHaven">http://twitter.com/LakeCountyHaven</a>. You

can even sign up on Twitter to receive an RSS feed so that the most up-to-date information about The Haven will automatically go into your email box. What could be better?!

Additionally, our website has recently been re-designed, thanks to the volunteer efforts

Additionally, our website has recently been re-designed, thanks to the volunteer efforts of Haven friend Eric Oldham (Thanks Eric!). Please take a look at our new site (still at the old address: www.lakecountyhaven.org) and send us your thoughts (director@

lakecountyhaven.org). We really do want your opinions. The new website contains lots of information about what we do, who we serve, and how you can get involved. You can also make a donation online, which is a critical way of helping homeless women and children. See you in cyberspace! ♥



Lake County

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# ne Woman at a Time

This feature highlights the stories of people who are improving their lives with help from The Haven.

Names have been changed to protect client anonymity.

Margaret Looking back, it's clear to Margaret that she

made some bad decisions in the face of difficult circumstances. But she never imagined she could go from owning a home and leading a stable life as a wife and mother of two, to homeless in just a few years.

Margaret had a good childhood; she was raised by loving parents who had a good relationship. As an adult, she worked at professional jobs,

married, and had children. Together with her husband, she owned a home in the suburbs. She was a volunteer at her children's school and earned extra income working from home doing medical billing. "I had it all together," she said of her life, before two big changes happened.

In 2002, Margaret's marriage of 14 years ended, causing changes and stress

for her family. Also during that year, Margaret's father suffered multiple strokes, was diagnosed with cancer, and died. Margaret was grieving two significant losses at once.

"I didn't know at the time that my pain was getting in the way of making smart choices," she said. Margaret ignored financial and other problems in the years after those changes, taking solace in a state of denial. She now believes she should have sold their home, found a place that would have been more manageable for her as a newly single parent, cut down on school volunteering, and looked for a full-time job. Instead, she says, she tried to protect her children by keeping their lives as much the same as possible.

The economy took a turn for the worse in 2008, which impacted Margaret's



part-time work, and, after making a deal with a dishonest mortgage broker, she lost her home in June 2009. Her children went to live with their dad. She stayed with friends for a few months, slept in a park in Mundelein, and ended up staying at an area emergency shelter for 12 nights before applying and being accepted to The Lake County Haven.

"This experience has taught me great empathy for people and their experiences," Margaret said. "I came to the Haven with a sense of humility. No matter how we all got there, we all need the structure and discipline they have to offer, and I was so thankful that such a place existed," she said.

Margaret came to The Haven in December 2009. She stayed in the shelter for three months and, with the help of her case manager, she

got a professional job, organized her outstanding debts, and began saving money. She also made a lot of new friends who, along with the staff, have supported her during this transition. Margaret now has a stable job with great benefits at a Chicago corporation. She is in The Haven's Stage II housing program, saving money, and renewing her relationships with her children. Margaret even finds time to give back

by volunteering at the shelter.

"I have learned that homelessness is not that far away from any of us," Margaret said. While she would not have chosen this experience, she says she's learned much from her journey. "I don't believe our circumstances define us," she said.
We couldn't agree more! ♥

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### **Looking For A New Direction?**

Have you been looking for an opportunity to grow in a new way? Are you interested in changing your life's path? The Lake County Haven's Women's Auxiliary is the perfect place to explore some new directions. The Auxiliary is a group of women dedicated to supporting The Lake County Haven through a variety of fundraising events and volunteer experiences. Over 20% of the Haven's annual budget is a result of the tremendous efforts of these extraordinary women. The Auxiliary consists of many local women who want to use their skills to help homeless women and children.

Many members enjoy the camaraderie and support of belonging to this group. Other women join specifically to make new friends and extend their professional network. Julie Daugs, past president of the Auxiliary, describes it as "a group of wonderful ladies, once strangers, now friends, who devote their time to make a difference in the community." Currently, the Auxiliary has many openings for you to explore a new direction.

Here are some possibilities:

**Event Planner:** Help plan client holiday parties, the annual holiday

boutique, and the spring gala

**Fundraiser:** Gather donations for the silent and live auctions

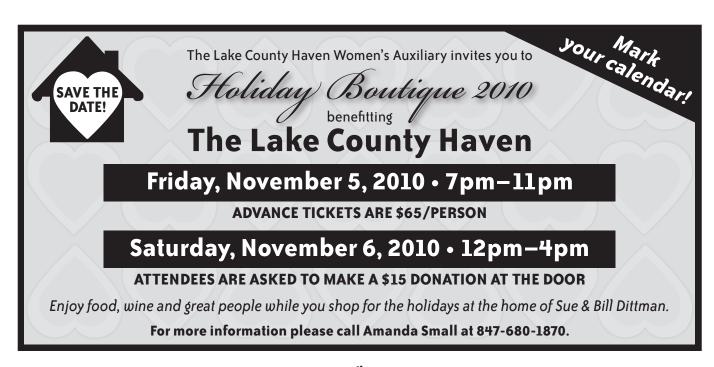
Financial Guru: Tally the Auxiliary's income and expenses

**Creative Director:** Design invitations and marketing materials for events **Costume Designer:** Create Halloween costumes for the Haven's children

Chefs and Hostesses: Bake desserts for client parties and host Auxiliary meetings



Not sure exactly where you'd fit in? Contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Amanda Small, today for your new direction: volunteer@ lakecountyhaven.org.



# 2010 Havenly Night Raises Funds to Help Homeless Women & Children

The Lake County Haven's Women's Auxiliary held its annual *Havenly Night* Gala on April 24th. This year's event was held at Twin Orchards Country Club in Long Grove. The Kentucky Derby-themed evening featured live and silent auctions, dinner and dancing, and live music provided by The Moods. This is the Auxiliary's largest fundraiser of the year, raising a substantial portion of the agency's annual budget. These funds support The Haven's programs serving homeless women and children in Lake County.

The Bradley-Gretz Awards for outstanding service were presented at this event. Auxiliary President, **Julie Daugs**, was presented with the award in recognition of her many years of dedicated service to The Haven. Julie led the Auxiliary through many changes at The Haven during her tenure, doing so with grace and composure. This year's award was also presented to the **Lake Forest / Lake Bluff Junior Women's Club** for their many years of financial support, in-kind donations, and friendship to the Haven and its residents. This was the first time the award was presented to an organization, and the Club's President, **Cindy Raymond**, was on hand to accept it on behalf of all the members.  $\checkmark$ 



Special thanks to our photographer Mary Claire Glabowicz

A huge Haven "Thank You" to all the Gala Committee members for their hard work on this year's event. The committee members were:

- Susan Lazzaretto & Jenn Hart, Event Co-chairs
- Sandy Joyce & Kim Holmes, Auction chairs
- Janet Cooper & Phyllis Graves, Decoration Chairs
- Diane Sullivan, Raffle Chair
- **Stephanie Toral**, Invitations & Program

We'd also like to thank our 2010 Gala Sponsors for their very generous support!

### Super Novas (\$3000 or more)

- Abbott Fund
- Tom & Annette Freyman
- Greg & Lorraine Pritchard
- Papyrus-Recycled Greetings
- Discover Network

### Havenly Stars (\$2000-\$2999)

Group Benefits Associates

### Silver Moons (\$1000-\$1999)

- Aldridge Electric
- Credit Suisse

- John C. Danloe & Associates
- Harris Bank
- In Memory of Helen Joyce
- Kathy Kilroy & Larry Kowalski
- Power Construction
- Libertyville Bank and Trust
- David & Suzanne Lingard

#### Celestial Friends (\$500-\$999)

- Ann & Brad Shaw
- Baxter International
- Barbara Gunther
- Anthony & Karen Cacich
- Andrea M. Clark
- Phyllis Goffredo
- Kim Holmes & Tim Kaczocha

- David & Lesly Koo
- Paslode
- Zengeler Cleaners

Finally, we'd like to extend our deepest thanks to everyone who attended the event. We look forward to seeing you at next year's Gala on May 7th, 2011!

Would you like to work on next year's fabulous event? If so, please contact Amanda Small, Volunteer Coordinator at volunteer@LakeCountyHaven. org or at (847) 680-1870.

### HAVEN HAPPENINGS

We are so fortunate to belong to a community of generous neighbors. We've benefited from the efforts of friends from all over Lake County -- individuals, families, local businesses, houses of worship, student organizations, and social organizations have all contributed their time and talent. With everyone's assistance, The Haven continues to provide homeless women and children in Lake County with a safe, secure place to call home. We thank everyone for their ongoing support. \(\nabla\)

- The Olive Garden Restaurant in Vernon Hills generously donated to our operating fund and delivered several delicious meals to the residents at the shelter. What a treat!
- · Sarah and David Boyle donated toys to the children of The Haven in memory of their son.
- Ceteris of Libertyville donated a much-needed printer and fax machine to the administrative office.
- The Disney Store at Hawthorn Center in Vernon Hills donated brand new stuffed animals.
- · First Presbyterian Church of Lake Forest donated many shelter supplies.
- · Alex Magdalinos and the youth group at Ascension of **Our Lord Greek Orthodox Church** in Riverwoods collected supplies for both shelter and Stage II residents, including several welcome baskets to make new clients feel more at home.

• Anne Krosnjar and the

- youth group at St. Basil's **Serbian Orthodox Church** in Lake Forest completed a day of service at the Haven. They provided shelving and cleaning supplies and organized the basement supplies. This was a huge project, and the youth group members did an outstanding job.
- · Cindy Kang of Just the Little Things **Event Planning** purchased shelter supplies and groceries.
- Ali Forrest-Miller and her social group Living Lake County prepared meals and collected shelter supplies

- and monetary donations on two occasions.
- The students at LHS have been working hard on our behalf: The Libertyville High School Girls' Lacrosse Team raised money for The Haven with a Bowl-a-Thon, and The Libertyville High School **Honor Society** conducted a drive and collected and delivered shelter supplies. Also, the Libertyville High **School Fret Boarders Music Club** raised money on our behalf.



Students from Caruso Middle School donated great items to our shelter.

- Students from Caruso Middle School in **Deerfield** collected supplies for us.
- Enid Arnowitz and her fellow employees at Eileen Fisher in Highland Park prepared meals for the shelter.
- · Sanctuary Yoga in Highwood conducted "Yoga for a Cause" in support of The Lake County Haven. Namaste.

- In honor of her son's birthday and on behalf of the Zachary Tran Memorial Fund, Zachary's mother, Michelle, and several other volunteers prepared meals for the shelter, collected supplies, and constructed welcome blankets for the children at The Haven.
- · B.J. Bauer of Libertyville hosted a "Charm" party, raising money on our behalf. How "charming"!
- The Hawthorn Woods Women's **Club** continues to support us by providing gift bags on Mother's Day
  - to present to mothers in our shelter on behalf of their children.
  - · Our very good friends at Mothers 4 Others have really shown us what the volunteer spirit is all about. In addition to providing comfort blankets, children's clothing, maternity clothing, and infant supplies to shelter and Stage II residents, they helped out at our gala with set-up, guest check-in, and monitoring the live auction. We are truly grateful for their support.
  - 13-year-old Richard **Hutchins** of Grayslake held a garage sale in July, with all the proceeds benefiting The Lake

County Haven. For his Confirmation service project, Richard solicited items from more than 125 neighbors and friends. These items were then offered for sale at his two-day event. The sale was a smashing success, raising more than \$650.00! We salute Richard for his creativity, hard work, and generosity on behalf of the women and children of The Haven.

If you are interested in learning about new and different ways to help at The Haven, please call 847-680-1870 or check our web site at www.lakecountyhaven.org.

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### THANK YOU FOR THE MANY WAYS YOU GIVE!

The Lake County Haven appreciates all of the individuals and organizations who have contributed to our work. This list recognizes donations received during the Spring and Summer of 2010 and reflects only a fraction of those who contribute during the year. If we have somehow failed to acknowledge your gift or donation, please accept our apology and contact us so we may thank you properly (847-680-1703). Your generosity is greatly appreciated! 🔻

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