

LINKS



Family Sunshine Center

BREAKING THE CYCLE OF VIOLENCE • FOSTERING HOPE & HEALING

Spring 2009

Volume 24, Number 1

COME TO



... IT WILL MAKE YOU SMILE!

World news getting you down? Looking for a bright spot in your day? No problem...we've got you covered.

Sunday April 19th is the date of our fourth annual spring event, Making Homes Safe Havens. The atmosphere of celebrating children through multiple arcades has become an afternoon of sheer delight for our sponsors, donors, volunteers, and guests. Because we want to see a smile on your face, we invite you to make plans to join us. Whatever mood you bring in the front door is certain to exit with you as ultimate joy.



As you arrive on Dexter Avenue, a custom-built playhouse greets you. Built by Brent Salter (Andrew & Dawson), contractor at The Waters, the charm it exudes will set the tone for what awaits you in the RSA Activity Center. (You can make a donation and be entered in a drawing to win the playhouse). The Rosewood Quartet will welcome you at check-in with their beautiful chamber music as you walk through to the gallery filled with birdhouses dressed out in impressive imagery painted by local and national artists. Their uniqueness will inspire a bid from you to acquire your favorite artwork at the end of the silent auction.

Walking further and into the dining room unveils elaborate table decorations and a delicious lunch by Ted Nobles and friends. Judd Davis of WSFA will emcee our program...his smile can't help but evoke more of the same on others. You won't stop laughing when the kids from The Name Dropper introduce this year's fashion trends and your heart will swell as The Montgomery Youth Chorale sing several of their favorite selections.

Before you know it, the two hours will pass with highest bidders claiming their birdhouses and a very lucky winner owning the playhouse.

The smiles portrayed are important to the Family Sunshine Center as they portray what we strive to provide for all children who seek our services. When they smile, our mission is complete!

Artists who are painting birdhouses this year:

Cam Armstrong
Mandy Bagwell
Sam Cheek
Mark Cole
Nan Cunningham
Barbara Davis
Joan DiLaura
Steve Fox
Aaron Frazee
Melissa George
Barb Grimes
Betsy Hails
Winfred Hawkins
Vickie Kelley
Sara Ashley Longshore
Ron McDowell
David Owen
Leah Raines
Lida Sease
Beryl Chesnutt Smith
Langley Tolbert
Annie Tolliver
Melissa Tubbs
Diddy Vucovich
Clark Walker
Karen Weber
Lee Wilson
Cindy Yarborough



A Message From the Executive Director



Dear Gentle Reader,

You are owed a big “I’m sorry”, as well as an explanation. Many Family Sunshine Center supporters have asked me over the last few months why they have not gotten the newsletter, LINKS. The reason is simple. We are only going to print and mail two issues this year for the reason you could probably guess, a decline in funding. I apologize for not writing in the Fall 2008 issue that this would be happening. We published an online issue during the winter of 08-09, and there will be one more additional online issue during the summer. Both can be accessed at www.familysunshine.org.

As the economy continues to decline, the Family Sunshine Center continues to make financial adjustments. Last October 1, 2008 four positions were reduced or eliminated in the area of administrative support. An outcome of this is we have a higher administrative error rate simply because the work load has not gone down, but the eyes to review the work have. Please judge us kindly when we make mistakes and understand how frustrating this is for us, who strive for perfection.

“Dear Gentle Reader” continued on page 3

Agency Links

Follow up with clients is essential for success

Many abuse victims return to their abuser for economic reasons. They can’t afford to survive on their own, or can’t access the system to get the help they need to remain independent. To give clients a better chance at success, the FSC offers the services of a follow-up counselor, Mary S. Williams. This counselor helps families once they leave the domestic violence shelter, and follows them for up to a year.

The follow-up counselor often helps them find a new place to live and helps them with getting utilities turned on. Many victims have nothing when they come to shelter, so they rely entirely on donations to the FSC to furnish their new home. Because of this, Mary is one of the most resourceful people in Montgomery, and is most creative in gathering donations of furniture and appliances to help clients get started. This very busy staff member might coordinate with a volunteer to have these items delivered to the client’s new home as well.

After she assists with getting the client moved, she visits them in their new home and helps them achieve their goals. She might drive a client to community resources and help them when they encounter bureaucratic roadblocks to services for which they qualify. From making arrangements for clients to receive assistance during the holidays, to driving a client to the Social Security office to apply for benefits, or taking a client to the Employment Office so she can apply for jobs, this is one of the FSC’s busiest staff members. Her clients understand that she is only a telephone call away if they need help. Last year, she drove nearly 27,000 miles in the performance of her duties and assisted 73 new clients. “Mary S. Williams is an indispensable person who helps FSC clients establish safe new homes,” said Karen Sellers.

Community Links

SADD Meets in Montgomery, FSC Presents Dating Violence/Healthy Relationships Training

On Friday, February 27, about 570 young people from across the state met at the Alcazar Shriners’ Temple in Montgomery to learn about destructive decision-making. They were their schools’ representatives to Alabama’s Students against Destructive Decisions (SADD). The students heard presentations from law enforcement agencies, *Extreme Home Makeover: Home Edition*’s latest celebrity, Montgomery resident Monica Jordan, who lost a child in a drunk-driving incident, the Attorney General’s Office, and the Family Sunshine Center, among others. Topics included the dangers of alcohol and other drug abuse, bullying, Internet safety and dating violence/healthy relationships.

“When I asked the group how many had been a victim of dating violence or knew someone who had, hands went up sporadically around the auditorium. When I asked if anyone had been harassed or stalked on the computer or cell phone, hands shot up all over the place,” said Melanie Beasley, outreach supervisor. “That keeps with the national literature, which states that a significant number of kids are victims of cyber bullying, and that far too many think that it is a cool thing to do,” Beasley said.

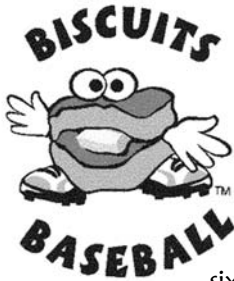
Extreme Makeover: Home Edition Brings DV Awareness to the Campus of AUM

In late February and early March, students at Auburn University Montgomery were apt to see a number of red silhouettes standing against the wind and snow outside the AUM Library Tower. "These silhouettes were loaned to AUM on the day they announced the donation of several scholarships to the Jordan family, the recipients of a brand new home and many other perks from businesses and volunteers throughout Montgomery and *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition*," said Karen Sellers. They represent victims of domestic violence in Alabama who have died in recent years. The red silhouettes were placed on the AUM campus to remind young people of the realities of unhealthy relationships. Domestic violence impacts one in four women during their lifetime. One out of three young women becomes a victim of dating violence. Victims of domestic violence are seriously injured or killed every day. In fact, there were 32 domestic violence-related homicides in Alabama in 2007.



For more information on *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition* see story on the back page.

Biscuits Baseball Continues Its Commitment to the FSC Mission



I see great things in baseball. It's our game - the American game. It will take our people out-of-doors, fill them with oxygen, give them a larger physical stoicism. Tend to relieve us from being a nervous, dyspeptic set. Repair these losses, and be a blessing to us. ~Walt Whitman

Walt's quote could be a perfect wrap for what Biscuits Baseball has lent to Montgomery and her visitors over their six-year residency in the capital city. Owner Sherrie Myers arrived preaching affordable family fun and has successfully delivered that and more each baseball season.

Sherrie also disclosed her commitment to community as she developed her team. With that virtue in tow, she and her staff have annually awarded a pro-bono marketing package to the Family Sunshine Center. It feels like a grand slam for our staff every time because of the impact it delivers. The gift tremendously increases our public awareness capabilities in making audiences aware of what domestic and family violence is, how to get help when abused, how to prevent violence, and how to collaborate in the mission.

Although it is impossible to track the numbers of people affected through the Biscuits marketing package, we know from incoming calls that they have been the conduit for victims seeking help and the community offering support.

The wisdom of Walt echoes the gifts we receive by Sherrie and her team's good will. That is their assistance for our mission to ". . . repair those losses, and be a blessing to us."

"Dear Gentle Reader" continued from page 2

The good news is that all Family Sunshine Center services remain intact. And we could use your help to continue to be able to say this. While domestic violence is not declining, government funds for our services are. We face the sobering task of drastically increasing annual giving as a supplement to historical government grant awards.

We invite you to keep supporting our work with your gifts of time, talents and treasures. We know from national reports that Americans are increasing the number of gifts to the community, but that the amounts are smaller. Americans intuitively understand that during these economic times it is more important than ever to support local charities. For many of us the old quote, "There but for the grace of God, go I" is a real possibility and want there to be help for us should we need it.

It is gratifying to learn so many readers anticipate and read LINKS! To be even better informed about Family Sunshine Center happenings join our e-list to get regular updates. We pledge that your address will be hidden and never, ever a part of any effort to sell a list to anyone.

'Til next time,


Karen Sellers

Developing Links

Love the Giver

The board of directors and administrative staff of the Family Sunshine Center have forged an aggressive and focused campaign over the past five years to increase annual giving. The impetus was and continues to be the decline in traditional government funds and the continual incidence of domestic and family violence. With a committed effort by the entire development team, we see a positive yield.

Despite our successes, we cannot relent on the perpetual funding drive. This year we must see a dramatic increase in funding of \$173,220 in order to reach the total goal of \$377,000 in annual funds by September 30, 2009. We accept that challenge with optimism and determination so that there continues to be an option of safety and hope for families caught in horrific states of violence. In this effort, we need YOU more than ever!

Please join this success by making your pledge in the attached envelope. With your gift the 60 percent increase in needed funds is a certainty. Brigham Young said it best. "Love the giver more than the gift." And that we do!

Consider what your gift might provide:

- \$20 baby food per week for one child
- \$35 formula per week for one child
- \$20 diapers per week for one child
- \$32 per individual crisis call
- \$79 telephone costs agency-wide per day
- \$92 uniforms for one child
- *\$40 for one pair of shoes
- *\$24 for two polo shirts
- *\$40 for two pairs khaki pants
- \$97 one bed night in shelter per person
- \$105 per hour for counseling and advocacy services
- \$150 full bedroom kit with sheets, pillows and protectors, blankets, mattress pad and a wastebasket
- \$239 utilities agency-wide per day
- \$250 kitchen kit which includes a full set of flatware, glassware, dishes, stovetop cookware, cooking utensils, microwave-safe cookware, steak knives, coffee maker, toaster, electric can opener.

Honorariums & Memorials

September 1, 2008 — February 28, 2009

Honorariums

In honor of Greg Allen

Ann Easley

Carol Thompson

In honor of Ms. Nancy Anderson

Laurie Weil

In honor of Bobby Jack & Mary Armstrong

Bill & Beverly Boyd

In honor of Alan & Kelly Babb

Bill & Beverly Boyd

In honor of Jere & Sara Beasley

Louie & Ramona Blankenship

In honor of Sara Beasley

John Howard

Alex Simmons

In honor of Mr. & Mrs. Jim Beck

Nancy Bradford

In honor of Harold & Nancy Blach

Laurie Weil

In honor of Dr. & Mrs. Arthur Britton

Elizabeth Beale

In honor of Mr. & Mrs. Louis Cardinal

William Upchurch

In honor of Charles Cardinal - Eagle Scout

William Upchurch

In honor of Malcolm & Jeannine Carmichael

Bill & Beverly Boyd

In honor of Mr. & Mrs. Greg Carr

James & Margaret Lowder

In honor of Rev. John and Mary Coleman

Louis & Lang Cardinal

In honor of Holly Elizabeth Crumpton

Crickle Company

In honor of Mrs. Holly Crumpton

James & Margaret Lowder

In honor of Mr. & Mrs. Tom Daly & Family

Adolph Weil

In honor of Judge & Mrs. Joel Dubina

James & Margaret Lowder

In honor of Jack & Mary Lou Evans

Bill & Beverly Boyd

In honor of Rod & Lee Frazer

Laurie Weil

In honor of Katherine Gayden

Network for Good (John Sabel)

In honor of Berry & Margaret Grant

Bill & Beverly Boyd

In honor of Cindy Harris

Peggy Vainrib

In honor of Mr. & Mrs. W. Inge Hill Jr.

James & Clara Beck

In honor of Jeanie Holloway

General Jim & Jeanne Drummond

S. & F. E. Litchfield

In honor of Mr. & Mrs. John Holloway

William Upchurch

In honor of John & Jeanie Holloway

Bill & Beverly Boyd

Larry & Sue Groce

In honor of Lucy Jackson

Peggy Vainrib

In honor of Mr. Harry T. Jones

James & Margaret Lowder

In honor of Ms. Rhea Kirk

Laurie Weil

In honor of Jerry & Pat Kyser

Bill & Beverly Boyd

continued next page

In honor of Mr. & Mrs. Herbert F. Levy Adolph Weil	In honor of Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Mullis & Family Adolph Weil	In honor of Mrs. Mamie Sellers Daniel & Katherine Balberchak
In honor of Mr. Jim Levy Adolph Weil	In honor of Peggy & Maurice Mussafer Laurie Weil	William & Carolyn Carter Tom & Karen Sellers
In honor of Mr. Russell Levy Adolph Weil	In honor of Barry Prim Ridgefield Garden Club	In honor of Ms. Dodgie Shaffer Laurie Weil
In honor of Mrs. Betty Loeb Jim & Mary Lynne Levy	In honor of Leigh Ann Ramsey Peggy Vainrib	In honor of Anita Sherman Bill & Beverly Boyd
In honor of Margaret & Jimmy Lowder Crickle Company	In honor of Mr. & Mrs. David Reid James & Gayle Pinckard	In honor of Mrs. Winnie Stakely George & Leslie Goodwyn
In honor of Margaret & Jimmy Lowder Laurie Weil	In honor of Alice Reynolds Jim & Mary Lynne Levy	In honor of Mr. & Mrs. Charles Strasburger Jim & Mary Lynne Levy
In honor of Donna Mac Savage Phillip & Elizabeth Via Brown	Frank & Jane McFadden Polly Williamson	In honor of Al & Brenda Stroh Bill & Beverly Boyd
Walter Thomas & Janet Geary John Kitchens	In honor of Keith Sabel Network for Good (John Sabel)	In honor of Molly Walker Peggy Vainrib
Stephen & Bonnie Bennett Maddox	In honor of Cindy Sahlie Peggy Vainrib	In honor of Vivian Walker Joan Kniker
In honor of Charlie Mandell Laurie Weil	In honor of Mr. & Mrs. Robert Seawell William Upchurch	In honor of Andy & Lisa Weil Laurie Weil
In honor of Wal & Nancy McGriff Bill & Beverly Boyd	In honor of Karen Beasley Sellers Peter & Wanda Katinszky	In honor of Allison Williams Terry Chilton
In honor of Judge & Mrs. Reese McKinney James & Margaret Lowder	In honor of Leslie Sellers Peggy Vainrib	In honor of Mr. and Mrs. John Yelverton Jr. Emily Bowdoin
In honor of Dee & Meri Moody Laurie Weil		

Memorials

In Memory of Mrs. Sylvia Ann Akers George Akers	In Memory of Harry Blaylock Emily Bowdoin	In Memory of Jose'e McCassin James & Barbara Allen Rosser
In Memory of Josephine Baum Emily Bowdoin	In Memory of Tommye Sellers Carter Daniel & Katherine Balberchak	In Memory of Mr. Michael McCauley Emily Bowdoin
C.L. & Clare Cardinal	In Memory of Nancy Cauthen Mike & Barbara McDowell	In Memory of Mr. Tommy McKinney Lawrence & Eugenia Kloess
In Memory of Mary Joyce Taylor Beasley Ala. Coalition Against Domestic Violence	In Memory of Wilma Cicora John & Cindy Connacher	In Memory of Lt. Col. Charles McMillin Emily Bowdoin
Robert & Jannah Morgan Bailey Eleanor Brooks	In Memory of Doe Davidson Ralph & Ellen Loeb	In Memory of Jennifer Monroe Tom & Pat Monroe
District Attorney 15th Judicial Circuit of Ala. Sandra Edwards	In Memory of Edna Derrick Tom & Karen Sellers	In Memory of Beverly Petty Cecelia Allen
Donald & Karen Fisher Leslie Hopek	In Memory of Mrs. Dickinson Douglas & Jayne Blazer	Federal Land Bank Assoc. of South Alabama Tim Tucker Farm
Anna Lee Ingalls Wanda Love	The Dingbats	In Memory of John W. Rhodes Ridgefield Garden Club
James & Margaret Lowder Vivian Miller	In Memory of Richard H. Dorrough Shirley Dorrough	In Memory of Mr. John Rhodes Mamie Sellers
Amy Newell Javan Patton	In Memory of Claude Duncan Donald & Linda Valeska	In Memory of Louise Seizmore Emily Bowdoin
Mamie Sellers Laurie Weil	In Memory of Janet Elizabeth Franco C. Munn	In Memory of Sue Straughan C. Beckmann
Julie Young	In Memory of Mrs. Sue Franklin Donald & Joan Crocker	Jacob & Marsha Bennett Anna Lee Ingalls
In Memory of Faye Blake Charles Barrett	In Memory of Rovenia Frederick Anna Lee Ingalls	Stephen Peterson Mark & Terry Strickland
R. Childs Rick & Susan Cippelle	Julie Young	Julie Young
Roy & Ann Ezell Edward & Andrea Livingston	In Memory of William Lewis Gunter Richard Hodges	In Memory of Mrs. Robert (Virginia) Weil Jim & Mary Lynne Levy
A. G. & Rebecca Mendoza Regions Morgan Keegan Trust	In Memory of Mrs. Ruth Johnson Charles Mandell	In Memory of Karen A. Williams Bobby & Millicent Singleton
Selma and Dallas County George & Paulette Thompson	In Memory of Mr. Obie William Mason Mamie Sellers	
Barbara Trawick James & Adele Walter		

**We appreciate each gift and strive for accuracy in donor recognition.
If there is an error, please contact the development office at 206-2100.**

A list of financial and in-kind donors and volunteers can be found on our WebSite at familysunshine.org/thankyou

Community Links continued

The Family Sunshine Center extends its heartfelt thanks to Lt. Steve Searcy for his leadership in the roll of co-chair of the Montgomery County Domestic Violence Task Force. Lt. Searcy recently resigned from that position due to time constraints, after bringing many years of knowledge, understanding and compassion to the job.

We welcome the newly elected co-chair, Jeff Baker, who is director of the Domestic Violence Clinic at Jones Law School. Jeff has also shown great signs of leadership and a tremendous work ethic on behalf of victims of domestic violence and their families.

Thank you both for all your hard work!

Congratulations Mayor Strange

The Family Sunshine Center joins with others in the community to congratulate Todd Strange, who was sworn in as Montgomery's new mayor on March 23, 2009. "We extend Todd and his family best wishes as they enter new territory, becoming Montgomery's first family during a time of significant challenge and opportunity," said Family Sunshine Center executive director. "He has definitely been a friend to our mission through the years, even helping to get us started during the early days through his affiliation with the Kiwanis Club. While he has always had an interest in our financial well-being, we cannot express enough thanks for his valuable advice," Sellers said.



Strange was one of six office-seekers to participate in a mayoral candidate's forum held March 6, 2009, on the campus of Faulkner University. The event titled "Freedom from Fear: A Mayoral Candidates' Forum on Crimes Against Women," was sponsored by the Montgomery County Domestic Violence Task Force, the

Alabama Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Faulkner University and the Thomas Goode Jones School of Law, the Montgomery League of Women Voters, the Lighthouse Counseling Center and its STAR (Standing Together against Rape) program, the Family Sunshine Center, AKA sorority, Neighbors In Christ, and WAKA-TV.

"We felt very good about all the candidates' preparation for this event. Because of their involvement in government or law enforcement work, some were already familiar with the mission of the Family Sunshine Center, but all of them seemed to have taken some time to research the topics of domestic violence and sexual assault. This improved understanding by this group of civic-minded decision-makers can only be a good thing for victims of domestic violence or sexual assault," Sellers said. She was very grateful that everyone in the group seemed to understand the need for greater resources, the need for appropriate law enforcement and judicial responses, the value of the E.V.E.N. (Ending Violence Effectively Now) program and the need to provide outreach and prevention services to young people.

"I especially want to thank Jeff Baker, newly elected co-chair of the Montgomery County Task Force on Domestic Violence for taking a strong leadership role in planning this forum and serving as facilitator. I also want to thank our fellow co-sponsors, including WAKA-TV, whose efforts to promote the event helped swell the ranks of the audience," said Sellers.



National Links

National DV Census Finds Shelters and Advocates Busy, Needy

Results of the 2008 National Census of Domestic Violence Services

September 17, 2008, was a special day across the nation, not a day of celebration but a day of determining domestic violence counts. On that date, each of the 18 domestic violence shelters in Alabama joined others from around the nation to participate in the 2008 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. In Alabama that day, the survey found that 217 victims called crisis lines and 649 domestic violence victims received emergency shelter or non-residential assistance. In addition, 569 individuals in communities across the state attended 19 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs.

The national survey included information from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and Guam. The congregate data showed that 60,799 adults and children received services in 24 hours, and 20,000 crisis line calls were

continued next page

answered. "Many programs reported a critical shortage of funds and staff to assist victims in need of services such as transportation, childcare, language translation . . . and legal representation," according to the National Network to End Domestic Violence. "Programs reported that lack of staffing was a reason that they could not meet domestic violence victims' request for services."

"We are very lucky in our service area to have access to the generous volunteer services of law students at the Thomas Goode Jones Law School and Legal Services Alabama to provide legal advocacy for our clients," said Family Sunshine Center Executive Director Karen Sellers, "when only 24% of programs responding to the National Census survey reported being able to regularly connect a victim requesting legal assistance with an attorney." To view full census data findings, visit www.nnedv.org or www.vawnet.org.

National Network to End Domestic Violence Praises Landmark Supreme Court Decision



Washington, D.C. – Advocates against domestic violence applauded the U.S. Supreme Court's 7-2 decision to uphold the federal Lautenberg Amendment that bans convicted domestic violence abusers from possessing firearms. The *United States v. Hayes* ruling reversed a decision by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit that would have posed a serious danger to

victims of domestic violence by allowing convicted abusers to maintain firearms.

"We are delighted with the Court's decision to uphold reasonable limits on the possession of firearms," said Sue Else, President of the National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV). "Batterers should not have access to guns. This decision is a major victory for victims of domestic violence and their families."

The case originated in West Virginia, and the West Virginia Coalition Against Domestic Violence (WVCADV) is also celebrating today's victory. "The U.S. Supreme Court's ruling aligns the Fourth Circuit with the rest of the country; confirms the intention of Congress in responding to the seriousness of domestic violence; and affirms levying real and long term consequences on people who use violence. WVCADV is pleased with the ruling of the U.S. Supreme Court Justices," said Sue Julian and Tonia Thomas, Team Coordinators for WVCADV.

NNEDV, joined by the Domestic Violence Legal Empowerment and Appeals Project (DV LEAP) at George Washington University Law School, filed a brief supporting the sensible ban on gun possession by all offenders convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence. The Court cited the brief in its decision.

Joan Meier, DV LEAP's Director, said, "It is gratifying to see a strong majority of the Court reject the cramped and frankly illogical reading of the statute put forward by the Fourth Circuit and instead endorse the clear purpose of the legislature, not to mention common sense."

"Arming the people who brutally beat their spouses or partners is a recipe for disaster," Else said. "The Supreme Court made the right decision by upholding the domestic violence gun ban, keeping guns out of the hands of batterers and helping victims recovering from abuse to stay safe."



Please see our Web site for
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volunteers.
[www.family sunshine.org/
thankyou_holidays](http://www.family sunshine.org/thankyou_holidays)

Due to budget constraints,
every other issue of LINKS
will be published online
only at
www.family sunshine.org



Congratulations to former Outreach Supervisor Tara Johnson Davis on her January 1, 2009, marriage to Congressman Artur Davis. "We recently saw a taped interview that Tara did with the Fox affiliate in Birmingham and were so impressed with her poise and interview skills. It is an honor for us to consider her a former employee, and a friend and advocate of the Family Sunshine Center. We wish her all the best as life opens up new and exciting possibilities for Tara and her husband," said Karen Sellers. Tara served as Outreach Supervisor for the Family Sunshine Center from April 2002 to January 2005.

Montgomery Area Family Violence Program, Inc.

/d.b.a./

Family Sunshine Center

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Montgomery, AL 36103-5160

Office: 334.206.2100
E.V.E.N. 334.262.3219 or 3319
24-Hour Crisis Line 1.800.650.6522
24-Hour Local Crisis Line (collect calls accepted) 334.263.0218
TTY Hotline for the Hearing Impaired 1.800.787.3224
Fax: 334.206.2111

www.familysunshine.org

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The Family Sunshine Center is a River Region & Chilton County United Way Agency.

Our Mission: To end family violence and foster hope and healing. To offer immediate response and a safe haven in crisis. To provide advocacy, counseling, and support for families to empower them to lead safe and violence-free lives. To promote community awareness through education and training.

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FSC Mission Highlighted During Extreme Makeover: Home Edition

Staff of the Family Sunshine Center were excited with the prospect of not only meeting Ty Pennington, but also supported a dear colleague and advocate for victims of domestic violence, Monica Jordan when Extreme Home Makeover came to town. “Monica is a dependable member of the Montgomery County Task Force on Domestic Violence and so dedicated to helping advocate for others who may have experienced losses such as hers,” said Karen Sellers.

Monica and her husband Brady not only lost a daughter in an incident of domestic violence in the past, but also lost a son in a drunk driving incident. Their profound losses have brought them closer to their community, and created within them a drive to help prevent both domestic violence and drunk driving.

It was their compelling story and commitment to helping others avoid the pain they have suffered that brought the Extreme Makeover team to our city and the Jordan’s neighborhood. “We are so pleased that Monica and Brady were chosen for this honor. Since the show taped, Monica and her family have become local celebrities, but they remain unchanged, continuing as always to express their love for children, their colleagues, and the community they call home,” Sellers said.

The Jordan episode is scheduled to air Sunday, April 26 at 7 p.m. CDT on ABC.



FSC staff and others wait to begin filming.