

Into the Light



THE VILLA VOICE

Volume III, Issue I

DaySpring Villa
Women and Children's Shelter

Quarterly Newsletter

Spring 2010



Documentary Spotlights DaySpring Villa, Tulsa-area Domestic Violence

"My daughter would ask me the next morning, 'Mommie, why did daddy do that to you?' and I couldn't remember. I think it's because when you love someone so much, when he's your whole world, your mind tends to block those things out and you tell yourself, *no, he couldn't have done that to me. There's no way he did that to me.*" --Christy, *Into the Light*.

Into the Light, a new 40-minute documentary film produced by Comm-Arts, takes a sobering look at the reality of domestic violence through the eyes of three Tulsa-area women and the women of DaySpring Villa who work with victims of abuse. The film premiered February 27 to an audience of more than 200 at the organization's 30th anniversary celebration held at First Baptist Tulsa.

Wilma Lively, executive director of DaySpring Villa, hopes the film and its message will gain broader attention through private showings at churches, schools, businesses, and other organizations throughout the state.

"I believe people will be quite surprised by what they see and hear in this film," Lively says. "The three guests we feature are very candid about their personal experiences and some of what they say is tough to hear, but it was important that we show the reality of domestic violence here in our own backyard."

"I was always the responsible one, always made the right decisions. I used to watch television shows like *Law and Order* and think, *how do these women get themselves into these situations? And when they do, why don't they just leave? But now I understand how easy it is to find yourself in an abusive situation and how difficult it is to get out.*" --Emily, *Into the Light*.

Christy, Emily and Amy, ages 29, 21, and 42, respectively, are former guests of DaySpring Villa whose stories of domestic violence are as different and complex as the women themselves. Choosing to show their faces on camera was a decision they didn't take lightly as at least two of the women still fear the wrath of their abuser. One continues to receive threats.



"These women demonstrated amazing courage by not only agreeing to appear in the film but by dispelling the myth that a victim of domestic violence looks a certain way," says Vickie Dawkins-Kersey, director of *Into the Light*. "Our goal was to capture their experiences honestly and with integrity, but also show audiences how lives can be literally transformed as a result of organizations like DaySpring Villa."

Into the Light follows the stories of Christy, Emily and Amy as they come to terms with their abusive situations and work toward the freedoms they were once forbidden to even consider. Watching these women wrest free of their abuser's life-altering control and dare to reach for their independence is both heart-breaking and triumphant, and not all three of

the women succeed. This, says Lively, underscores the harsh reality of domestic violence as the average number of times a woman returns to her abuser before permanently ending the relationship is an astonishing 13.

"I remember my doctor telling me later that if I hadn't left I would either be dead or catatonic in a nursing home. He told me that if things had gotten any worse, he would not have medically been able to bring me back." --Amy, *Into the Light*

Lively believes the film will serve numerous purposes as more and more people request a copy to show to their own civic, professional, church and corporate groups.

"We want this film to start a dialogue and bring the subject of domestic violence out of the shadows and into the light," Lively says. "We truly believe that the more women are aware that help is out there, that they can change their lives, the more they are saying, *I don't have to live this way. I can leave.*"

To reserve a copy of *Into the Light*, contact Wilma Lively at 918.245.4075.



Inside

Guest Profile	2
Volunteer Profile	2
DSV Part of National Domestic Violence Census	3
Reinventing the Wheel	3
Memorials & Honorariums	4
Spring Golf Tournament	5
In the Next Issue	6

Guest Profile: Summer

“I remember the day he proposed. He put a gun to my head and said, ‘We’re getting married.’”

Growing up in Keifer, Okla., Summer was the eldest child of three and the only girl. She describes her childhood as “rough” and regularly found herself at the business end of a mother’s angry hand reserved especially for her. At age 17, Summer met her future husband—a chance encounter that would write a harrowing new chapter of her life filled with 14 years of violence, rejection, and abandonment. “He drank every day,” Summer recalls. “I remember the day he proposed. He put a gun to my head and said, ‘We’re getting married.’”

The couple were raising three children with a fourth child on the way when Summer suddenly miscarried. Doctors performed an emergency hysterectomy. “He didn’t want anything to do with me after that,” Summer says about her husband. “To him, I was no longer a woman.”

Summer says that she regularly prayed during the marriage. Prayed and forgave. But her husband just grew angrier and more violent, losing job after job due to his alcoholism. In 2007, he announced that he had met someone else and promptly left the family, leaving Summer and her three children to fend for themselves.

Without her family as an option, Summer and

her children drifted from friend to friend seeking shelter with no lasting results. She found a good job early but was quickly let go due to company downsizing. Desperate, Summer called her husband for help with the children, confident that with a little time she could find a job and a safe place for her and the kids. Her husband agreed to help and sent his sister to pick up the children. It was the last time Summer ever saw them. Her husband promptly filed for a divorce and gained temporary sole custody.

“I had kept in contact with one of my children’s teachers who told me about DaySpring Villa,” Summer says. “Once I got here, I knew I’d made the right choice.”

Summer stayed at DaySpring Villa for three months at which time she found work, bought a car and began to heal. Today, she is part of DaySpring Villa’s Non-Residential Program, which offers ongoing emotional and spiritual aftercare to guests who’ve regained their independence.

“I’ve learned that I’m a human being and I deserve to be happy. I deserve love,” Summer says. “Life is chaotic as it is and when you have a past like mine sitting on top of it, life can be

really tough. But my faith kept telling me that everything would work out.”

Today, Summer looks forward to gaining custody of her children, now ages 9, 12 and 13. She and her new boyfriend enjoy a healthy relationship, she says, and the two are working hard to build a positive life for their family.

“This place is so committed to helping women like me,” Summer says. “I can’t financially pay them back but I can call them up and say, ‘Hey, I’m thinking about you. If you need me for anything, just let me know.’”



Volunteering ‘Sets Strong Example’ for the Rogers’ Family


With a husband, two young boys, and a full-time job Mary Rogers still manages to carve out time for volunteer work. It’s *that* important, she says.

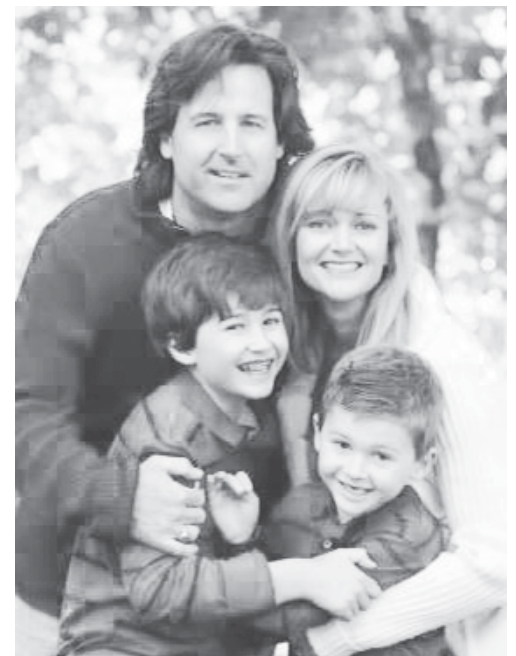
Every fifth Sunday, Mary volunteers at DaySpring Villa where she answers the phone and prepares lunch for weekend staff and 30 to 40 guests and their children while they attend church services. “I’m not even a great cook,” Mary says with a chuckle. “But I try hard.”

Mary learned about DaySpring Villa as a member of Olivet Baptist Church where she also met DSV House Staff Sheila Mitchell. “Our church is very involved with DaySpring Villa

so I wanted to see what I could do to become more involved,” Mary says. “Contributing time to organizations that do great work and giving back where you can makes a huge impact on our community.”

As general sales manager of K-95 FM, one of four radio stations owned and operated by Cox Radio, Mary believes that volunteering sets a strong example for her sons, ages 7 and 11.

“It’s important to teach kids the value of volunteering,” Mary says. “By demonstrating that commitment—by showing them firsthand—they can continue the legacy with their own children.” 



DaySpring Villa Part of National Domestic Violence Census

The National Network to End Domestic Violence conducted its fourth annual census in September 2009 to assess the size and scope of domestic violence over one 24-hour period. The network's March 2010 report offers startling numbers from the 1,648 shelters and programs across the nation, including DaySpring Villa, which participated in this census.

The findings nationwide included:

- 65,321 adults and children were assisted with shelter, transitional housing and advocacy.
- 23,045 hotline calls (more than 16 calls per minute) were answered.
- 30,735 attendees at 1,468 community education sessions were trained.
- 9,280 requests for services went unmet due to a lack of resources or staffing. 90 percent of these requests were for emergency shelter or transitional housing.
- 17,445 children under the age of 18 spent the night in a domestic violence shelter or transitional housing program, far more than the approximately 11,000 children born every day in the United States.

The findings in Oklahoma included:

- 366 domestic violence victims found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing.
- 333 adults and children received non-residential assistance and services.
- 445 hotline calls were answered.
- 157 individuals were educated in prevention and education training.
- 125 requests for services went unmet due to a critical shortage of funds and staff.

Nationwide there were more than 16 hotline calls per minute



Snapshot on Domestic Violence

On September 15, 2009...

2 women miscarried as a result of domestic violence.

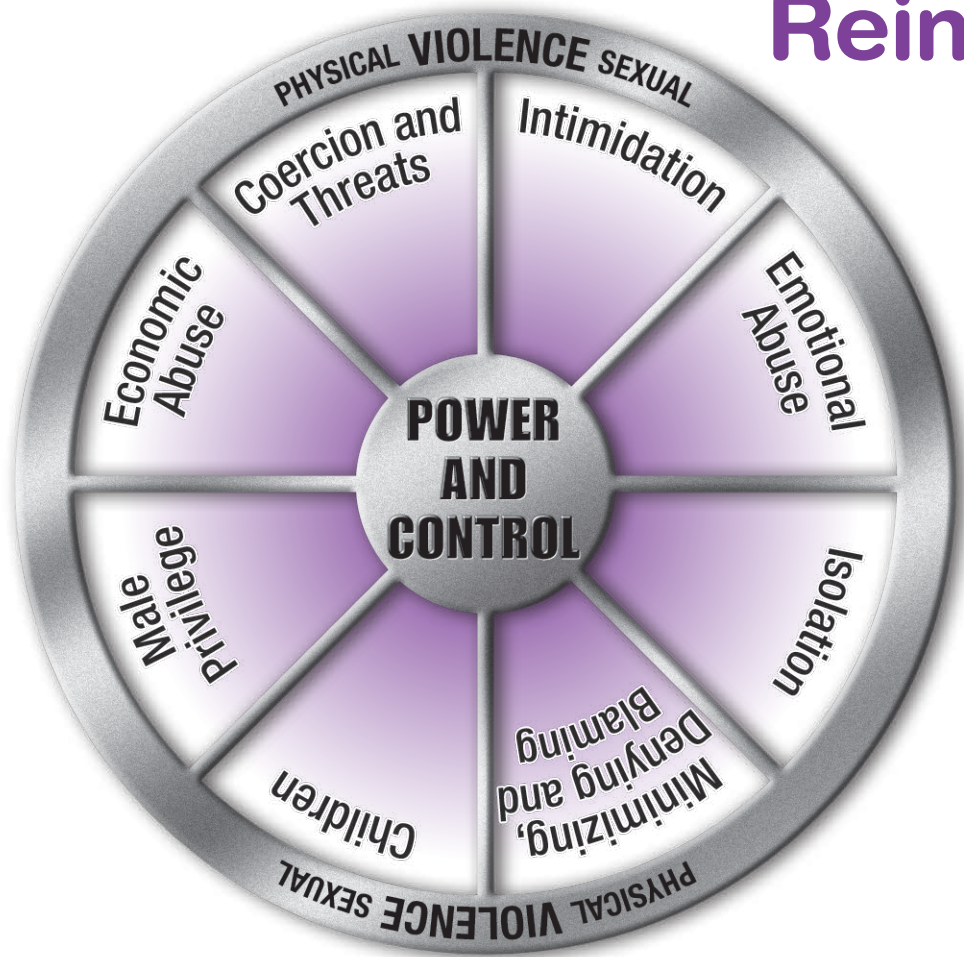
4 women were murdered by their intimate partners in Nevada, California and Florida.

7 children were killed by their fathers in domestic violence homicides.

9 babies were born to mothers living in shelters.

Statistics are from data reported by DV programs in the 2009 Domestic Violence Counts initiative (83% participation).

Reinventing the Wheel



Developed in cooperation with the Domestic Violence Intervention Project, the **Power and Control Wheel** was created from the experience of battered women who had been abused by their male partners. The wheel documents the most common abusive behaviors or tactics used against women and most universally experienced by battered women. Used in numerous domestic violence organizations, counseling and educational groups, and law enforcement training, the Power and Control Wheel has been translated into numerous languages and adapted culturally.

Intimidation

Making her afraid by using looks, actions, gestures; smashing things; destroying her property; abusing pets; displaying weapons.

Emotional Abuse

Putting her down; making her feel bad about herself; calling her names; making her think she's crazy; playing mind games; humiliating her; making her feel guilty.

Isolation

Controlling what she does, who she sees and talks to, what she reads and where she goes; limiting her outside involvement; using jealousy to justify actions.

Minimizing, Denying and Blaming

Making light of the abuse and not taking her concerns seriously; saying the abuse didn't happen; shifting responsibility for abusive behavior; saying she caused it.

Using Children

Making her feel guilty about the children; using the children to relay messages; using visitation to harass her; threatening to take the children away.

Male Privilege

Treating her like a servant; making all the big decisions; acting like the "master of the castle"; being the one to define men's and women's roles.

Economic Abuse

Preventing her from getting or keeping a job; making her ask for money; giving her an allowance; taking her money; not letting her know about or have access to family income.

Coercion and Threats

Making and/or carrying out threats to do something to hurt her; threatening to leave her, to commit suicide or to report her to welfare; making her drop charges; making her do illegal things.

Memorials & Honorariums

In Memory of Nedra Harris
Fred & Fran Smith

In Memory of Lee Lair
Rose Lair

In Memory of Phyllis Chaney
Mr. & Mrs. Marvin B. Jones

In Memory of Martha Winn
Ali & Jan Tabrizi

In Memory of Lenora Amphlett
Lenora Amphlett

In Honor of Sue Freeman
Jerald T. & Paula Webber Family

In Honor of Susan Cox
Jimmy M. & Lorraine Raine Igarta

In Honor of Todd & Sheila Mitchell
John W. & Jane Sadler, Jr.

In Honor of Kate & J.W. Massey
Christina L. Depew

In Honor of Steve Knapp
Rollin W. & Glendola M. Knapp

In Honor of John Nikkel
Adams Hall Asset Management Co.

In Honor of Sheila Mitchell
Sharon E. Hyatt

In Memory of Denise Gandee
Jim & Nora Cook

In Memory of Charles Griffin
Jim & Nora Cook

Julie Bailey
Don & Wilma Lively

In Memory of Jinelle Bible
Julie Bailey

14th Biannual ALL FORE! FAITH

Spring
Golf Tournament
benefiting
DaySpring Villa,
Oklahoma's only
faith-based, certified
domestic violence
shelter for women
and their
children

May 21,
2010

www.dayspringvilla.com

Page Belcher Golf Course

6666 South Union, Tulsa
Stone Creek at 8:00 a.m.
Olde Page at 2:00 p.m.

Registration Fee:

\$60 per person (before April 30)

\$70 per person (after April 30)

Includes: Green and cart fees, lunch,
donation to DaySpring Villa.

Individual golfers may register and will be
placed on a team the day of the tournament.

To facilitate a better tournament, there will be
two shotgun starts: 8:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.
Choose your preference.

Tournament Rules and Procedures:

- Assigned tee times are first-come, first-served.
- 4-person scramble
- Check in for 8:00 a.m. tee time is 7:00 a.m.
- Check in for 2:00 p.m. tee time is 12:30 p.m.
- Lunch served between 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
- Awards include Trophy Plaque for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place, plus prizes for closest to pin, longest putt, and longest drive.
- 1st Place team will be inscribed on Championship Plaque on display at DaySpring Villa.
- Mulligans available on day of the event (2 for \$10).
- No alcoholic beverages allowed. Thank you.

Hole Sponsorships Available

Hole-In-One – \$1,000

Group name at tee box and in program,
plus 4 comp players

Eagle – \$500

Group name at tee box and in program,
plus 2 comp players

Birdie – \$250

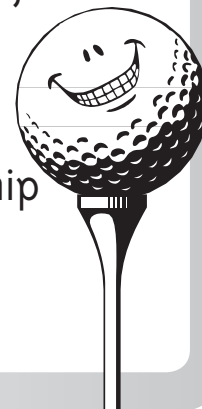
Group name at tee box and in program,
plus 1 comp player

Par – \$100

Group name at tee box

For information, call Julie at 245-4075

Don't forget to invite
your congregation,
staff, clergy, friends
and golfing
pals to join
this day of
fun, fellowship
and prizes.



DaySpring Villa "ALL FORE! FAITH" Spring Golf Tournament Registration Form

Name	Address	City, State, ZIP	Email

Preferred Tee Time: 8 a.m. (Stone Creek) 2 p.m. (Olde Page) No Preference Team Captain's Email: _____

Group Name: _____ Contact Phone Number for Group: _____

Before 4/30: Cost = Number of Golfers _____ x \$60.00 | After 4/30: Cost = Number of Golfers _____ x \$70.00 | Amount Enclosed: _____

For Credit Card Payment:

Mastercard Visa Discover | Acct #: _____ Name on Card: _____ Expiration date: _____ Security code: _____

Please mail your registration form panel and check or credit card information to DaySpring Villa, P.O. Box 1588, Sand Springs, OK 74036. Registrations may also be faxed to 245-3995.

In the Next Issue of THE VILLA VOICE

Teens and Dating Violence

For millions of teenagers everywhere, summertime means dating time. In the next issue of the Villa Voice, we'll take a closer look at the growing phenomenon of teen dating violence and share some helpful tips for talking to the young women in your family.

Her Own Special Day

Whether your mother is near or far, living or passed, May 9, 2010 marks the one day she is honored for giving you the gift of life. What are your fondest memories of your mother? How did she shape the woman or man you've become? Tell us your thoughts by email at VillaVoice@DaySpringVilla.com, and make a donation to DaySpring Villa in honor of, or in memory of, that special woman in your life.

Board of Directors

Nora Cook, President
Des Bennett
Bill Coody
Bruce DeShazo
Sue Freeman
Margaret Goatcher
K.J. Jackson
Ron Lundin
John Nikkel
Scott Palmer
Jarene Robison
Phyllis Zimmerman-Wade
Judy White



OUR MISSION IS **TRANSFORMING LIVES.**

DaySpring Villa provides food, shelter, clothing, transportation and vital life tools for as many as 55 women and children at risk. As a privately funded shelter, our ability to dramatically change lives depends on the volunteer services, financial gifts and in-kind contributions we receive from caring individuals and organizations.

918.245.4075
www.dayspringvilla.com