Louisa County Police Department Joins the Shelter’s LAP Program

The Shelter for Help in Emergency is happy to welcome our newest partner, the Louisa County Sheriff’s Department, to our Lethality Assessment Protocol (LAP) Team. Leaders from the Sheriff’s Office are currently receiving training in preparation to begin implementing the program later this year. Special thanks go to Sheriff Donnie Lowe and Detective Chuck Love for helping bring this vital program to the residents of Louisa County.

The LAP program is based on research from Dr. Jacquelyn Campbell at Johns Hopkins University and is designed to reduce serious injury and homicides related to domestic/intimate partner violence. Dr. Campbell’s research indicates there are a set of predictable behaviors that are present in most relationships before a fatal incident occurs. She found that while 44% of perpetrators had been arrested in the past, only 4% of victims contacted a domestic violence service agency before they were murdered. She determined there was a significant missed opportunity to connecting victims with local domestic violence advocates to provide support and safe shelter.

Domestic violence agencies with LAP programs work with local law enforcement agencies to assess victims risk factors for a high-danger situation while still on the scene of the crime. Once an assessment is completed, the officer places a call to the Shelter’s 24-hour hotline and shares their findings with a Shelter advocate. The victim is given the opportunity to speak with the advocate and receive information on emergency shelter, legal advocacy, and counseling. For those not comfortable speaking with the advocate (or not interested in services at that time), the officer will help the victim develop a safety plan and provide information on how to reach the Shelter for assistance when ready.

In 2016, the Shelter began working with the Albemarle, Charlottesville, and UVA Police Departments to bring the LAP program to our area. The following year, the Fluvanna Sheriff’s Office joined the program.

“\'It is clear this program is reaching people who were not aware of Shelter services or did not feel comfortable reaching out on their own.\'”
Shelter for Help in Emergency’s LAP Program Coordinator

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The skies are clearing and the greens are beckoning. The Shelter for Help in Emergency is delighted to announce our **2021 Shelter Golf Event - outdoors, in-person, and safe for all!**

Join us for a fun day of golf that includes prizes, a Putting Contest, a Hole-in-One Challenge, a Reception and Awards Ceremony, a Wine Pull, and a 50/50 raffle. You won’t want to miss this!

For more information or to register your team, please visit our website or call (434) 963-4676.

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**Volunteers Make Us Stronger!**

The Shelter for Help in Emergency would not be able to provide the wide array of services we offer without our team of dedicated, talented volunteers. We knew this before COVID-19, but having to function without volunteers brought it into sharp focus. We were excited, relieved, and grateful when our beloved volunteers started coming back. So, what better time to take a moment to speak about these wonderful individuals and the gifts that they offer us!

Trained volunteers answer the hotline every evening from 5pm-9pm ensuring our clients are comforted, listened to, and connected with the services they need. They also assist on holidays, giving our staff much needed time off, and they do so much more! A volunteer taught us which security cameras would be best for clients who need them, and volunteers donated and helped move furniture into three client’s new homes over the past two months. They donate countless hours keeping the residential facility running smoothly – bringing in, sorting, and organizing the donations that keep us running. We are even lucky enough to have a volunteer who comes to the residential facility regularly to help with recycling so that we can stay clean and green! And not least of all, volunteers lift everyone’s spirits with their enthusiasm, generosity, and kindness.

Outside of the Shelter, volunteers spread the word about Shelter services and help with the slow but important work of changing attitudes; they take our work into communities that we might not reach otherwise. They use their Shelter experience to help loved ones, neighbors, and friends.

Our Community Engagement Coordinator knows this from her own experience, “**Volunteering at the Shelter can change your whole outlook and approach to relationships. I started here as a volunteer in high school. The perspective and knowledge I gained working as a peer educator back then has benefitted me to this day. I love learning from each volunteer’s unique perspective and life experience; and find joy in meeting each and every person who generously gives us their time.**”

Volunteers make us a stronger, more diverse organization with a broader reach into the community we serve. We don’t know what we’d do without them! If you are interested in becoming a Shelter volunteer, please visit our website’s volunteer page or call our Community Engagement Coordinator at (434) 963-4676.
Make a Difference This Mother’s Day!

Each year, the Shelter for Help in Emergency provides support services to over 400 women and children through our residential and outreach programs.

You can help change someone’s life this Mother’s Day by giving the gift of safety and peace of mind to a mom and children fleeing their abusive home. For your gift, we’ll enter your name in a raffle to win dinner for two at Broadcloth and a bottle of Blanc de Blanc from The Wool Factory.

Visit our website to make an online gift or complete the enclosed form.

Louisa County Police Department Joins the Shelter’s LAP Program cont.

Across the four jurisdictions in 2020, law enforcement provided 154 LAP screenings to domestic/intimate partner violence victims with 104 victims screening in as high danger and at extreme risk of serious injury or homicide. The majority of those high-risk victims chose to speak with our hotline advocate while at the scene of the crime and 38% requested additional services after the initial phone call. Thirty-three victims learned about and received Shelter services for the first time.

In addition to our law enforcement partners, the Shelter works with local Commonwealth Attorneys and Victim Witness offices to help them understand how the LAP Program can better serve victims throughout the criminal justice process. By working together, we hope to ensure that victims are provided with all available resources and receive an outcome that is equitable and ensures their continued safety.

We are happy Louisa County Law Enforcement is joining our effort to provide the best possible care for victims of domestic/intimate partner violence in their county and will actively be creating a connection between the Shelter and someone in an abusive situation.

We believe the LAP program is essential to our community and hope that this program continues to lead to a reduction in domestic violence incidents and homicides.

Taking Care of Yourself During Stressful Times

Advocates in the violence prevention field focus on two things when working in the community: reducing risk factors and strengthening protective factors. Risk factors comprise of biological, psychological, and cultural characteristics that makes someone more prone to violence. When protective factors, including healthy parental relationships, a strong cultural identity, access to housing and health care, economic stability, and supportive social connections, are put into place people are more likely to implement positive ways of dealing with stress in crisis situations.

Mental health awareness and services are also considered protective factors in violence prevention. Whether it’s a widespread, community-based crisis like a pandemic or something more personal like a job loss, access to supportive services is especially important when processing emotional trauma.

The Shelter’s Prevention Services Coordinator encourages having an open dialogue with others about what you or they are going through. These kinds of conversations provide a safe space for people to talk about their experiences and offer support when its most needed.

Taking care of ourselves and others during stressful times is important to our community and personal well-being, but can be challenging and overwhelming. If you would like to receive an emotional support card, with self-care tips and conversation starters, or speak with our Prevention Services Coordinator, please call (434) 963-4676.
Mission Statement
Working to end domestic violence in our community.

Philosophy Statement
The Shelter for Help in Emergency is committed to providing a safe, supportive, confidential and respectful environment in which survivors of domestic violence are empowered with the knowledge of personal and community resources, as well as the skills needed to make informed decisions for themselves and their families.

Please consider picking up an item or two for the Shelter for Help in Emergency on your next supply run.

Shelter Supplies Needed

- Toilet Paper
- Paper Towels
- Laundry Detergent (HE only)
- Dish Detergent
- 13 Gallon Garbage Bags
- Sanitizing Wipes
- Sanitizing Spray
- Hand Sanitizer
- Grocery Gift Cards
- Pharmacy Gift Cards

Old and/or broken cell phones are always welcome. For all other donations, please call us first at (434) 963-4676.

We are unable to accept donations of clothing, purses, toys and books due to an over-abundance of these items and lack of storage space.