

**SOUTH SUBURBAN FAMILY SHELTER, INC.**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**JULY 1, 2006 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2007**

***Mission***

The mission of South Suburban Family Shelter, Inc. is to provide comprehensive, coordinated services for families in which domestic violence exists. The Shelter is a not-for-profit, non-sectarian, social service agency which is accountable and accessible to all segments of the community. To that end, competent professional and/or trained volunteers will help clients identify options in their life situations without imposing any one solution.

***History***

South Suburban Family Shelter, Inc. was formed in 1980 as a direct result of a needs assessment survey conducted in the southern suburbs of Chicago by members of the National Council of Jewish Women – South Cook Section, and graduate students from Governors State University. The survey revealed that, at that time, there were between 500 to 600 known victims of domestic violence and there were no services available for them.

***Services***

Services are available in Spanish and in English to victims of domestic violence and their families. All services provided to victims are provided free of charge. There is a sliding scale fee for abuser treatment services. The services that SSFS provided last year include:

- ◆ A 24-hour hotline – Spanish/English – 708 335-3028, toll-free (877) 335-3020
- ◆ Emergency shelter, transportation, food
- ◆ Transitional housing
- ◆ Counseling for adult victims (group and individual)
- ◆ Counseling for child victims/witnesses (group and individual)
- ◆ Court advocacy
- ◆ Medical advocacy
- ◆ A school based prevention program
- ◆ Professional trainings
- ◆ Speaker's bureau,
- ◆ Illinois Health Cares Program
- ◆ Abuser re-learning groups
- ◆ Start Healthy - Start Right, a Safe From The Start Program, and
- ◆ the Sanctuary Program

***24-Hour Hotline***

The purpose of the 24-hour hotline program is to provide information and advocacy to domestic violence victims whenever it is needed. This program was staffed by bilingual/bicultural staff that have completed a 40-hour training on: domestic violence issues, South Suburban Family Shelter programs and services, the Illinois Domestic Violence Act and related laws, and referral information for related issues that domestic violence victims may have. Because it is the only bilingual hotline in the southern suburbs, program staff are also trained on

referral information for a wide variety of issues including homelessness, substance abuse, suicide, etc. To give the hotline staff additional skills and confidence, they were given opportunities to role-play typical phone calls they may be receiving.

Last year 2,739 hotline calls were taken over the 8,760 hours covered by bilingual/bicultural staff. Of these, 1,327 were domestic violence victims seeking information, support and referrals; and 1,412 were non-domestic violence victims using the hotline to obtain other referrals.

### ***Emergency Shelter, Transportation, Food***

The purpose of the Emergency Shelter-Transportation-Food Program is to provide a safe place for domestic violence victims who are leaving their homes in fear of immediate physical harm for themselves or their children. Shelter was provided through the use of hotels and motels and the length of stay was generally one to three nights. Transportation was provided to victims who had no access to a car. Food, clothing, toys, snacks, and other needed items were provided to clients to make their stay in the shelter as comfortable as possible.

After the victim is placed in emergency shelter, South Suburban Family Shelter sent a member of the staff, called a Crisis Intervention Advocate, to meet with the victim and help her identify her options. The Crisis Intervention Advocate and the victim prepared immediate and short-term goals. Information was presented on the other services that South Suburban Family Shelter provides as well as how to access them.

Last year South Suburban Family Shelter provided 272 nights of emergency shelter to 41 adult victims and 56 children.

### ***Transitional Housing***

South Suburban Family Shelter's Transitional Housing Program is called Project R.E.N.E.W. This Project provides assistance with rent and/or utilities to insure that domestic violence victims are not made homeless due to domestic violence. The Project R.E.N.E.W. Advocate also assisted with the preparation of budgets, related financial issues, resume writing, and job search skills.

Last year South Suburban Family Shelter provided 41 months of rent and/or utility assistance to 21 adult victims and their 39 children.

### ***Counseling for Adult Victims***

The purpose of the Adult Counseling Program at South Suburban Family Shelter is to provide adult victims of domestic violence with the information and the skills that they need to recover from domestic violence. SSFS Counselors have their Masters Degree in Counseling or Social Work.

Last year SSFS Counselors provided:

- 1,024 hours of group counseling and therapy

- 3,041 hours of individual counseling
- 1,850 hours of advocacy,
- 318 hours of life skills, and
- 314 hours of case management

Counseling services are provided to domestic violence victims who are receiving in-patient treatment at South Suburban Council on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse. This has been extremely successful because it supports the woman in her efforts to be free from drugs and provides her with the counseling she needs to recover from domestic violence.

### ***Counseling for Child Victims/Witnesses***

The purpose of the Counseling Program for Child Victims/Witnesses is to provide children with the advocacy, support and skills that they need to recover from witnessing domestic violence. Like the Adult Counseling Program, SSFS Counselors in the Children's Program have their Masters Degree in Counseling or Social Work.

Last Year SSFS Counselors provided:

- 847 hours of individual counseling,
- 323 hours of group counseling, and
- 962 hours of advocacy to children affected by domestic violence.

South Suburban Family Shelter also provided parenting classes to adult victims whose children are seen in the Counseling Program. The parenting classes teach the skills needed for non-violent parenting. Last year 39 clients have participated in the three parenting classes that were taught for parents of children 0-4 and parents of children 6-12.

### ***Court Advocacy***

The purpose of the Court Advocacy Program at South Suburban Family Shelter is to provide domestic violence victims with information and support as they attempt to obtain relief from the domestic violence through the criminal or civil court system. This protection is generally in the form of an Order of Protection allowed through the Illinois Domestic Violence Act. South Suburban Family Shelter Court Advocates were present in the 6<sup>th</sup> Suburban District Courthouse seven days a week, 52 weeks a year to provide the advocacy, information, and support that domestic violence victim's need. South Suburban Family Shelter's Court Advocacy Program last year included a part-time civil attorney who assisted domestic violence victims in obtaining relief from the abuser through the civil court process.

Last year the South Suburban Family Shelter Court Advocacy Program assisted 384 domestic violence victims in obtaining an Order of Protection.

### ***Medical Advocacy***

The purpose of the South Suburban Family Shelter Hospital Advocacy Program is to: provide outreach to the community about domestic violence and the services available, identify domestic violence victims who come into the emergency room of area hospitals, and provide identified domestic violence victims with information, support, and advocacy. The area hospitals that collaborate with South Suburban Family Shelter on this project last year were:

- ◆ Advocate/South Suburban Hospital and Medical Center, Hazel Crest
- ◆ St. James Hospital and Medical Center, Chicago Heights campus
- ◆ St. Francis Hospital and Medical Center, Blue Island
- ◆ Ingalls Memorial Hospital and Medical Center, Harvey
- ◆ St. James Hospital and Medical Center, Olympia Fields campus

During the past year, South Suburban Family Shelter Hospital Advocates talked to 6,086 women who came to the emergency room of the collaborating hospitals and identified 244 of them as domestic violence victims. These 244 were provided with immediate information, counseling, support and advocacy.

### ***School-Based Prevention Program***

The purpose of the School-based prevention program is to help students identify dating violence and domestic violence and to give them information on the services that are available to help. Last year 15 presentations were given to preschool/kindergarten students, 69 presentations were given to students in the primary schools, 45 presentations in the post-secondary schools, 79 in the junior high schools, and 145 in the area high schools. A total of 3,418 students were reached through this program.

### ***Speaker's Bureau***

The purpose of the Speaker's Bureau at South Suburban Family Shelter is to provide education on domestic violence related issues to professionals, community leaders, and the general public. During the past year, 144 trainings were conducted to 2,442 individuals representing various professions in the south suburban area; such as police officers, medical, and social service. South Suburban Family Shelter received an Illinois Health Care grant. Through this grant we were able to develop an effective local coalition to support a strengthened health care response to domestic violence, to provide system-wide education for health care providers and institutions on the health care response to domestic violence, increase public understanding of domestic violence as a critical health problem for which help can be sought from health care providers, improve the clinical response to domestic violence, and to increase the statewide capacity of health care systems to respond to domestic violence. Members of the local coalition include: Dr. Robert Zitter, South Suburban-Advocate Hospital, St. James Hospital, Ingalls Hospital, St. Francis Hospital, Aunt Martha's, Cancer Support Center, Park Forest Nurses Plus, and the Well-Group.

### ***Abuser Treatment Groups***

The purpose of the Abuser Treatment Program is to provide re-learning opportunities for abusive individuals. These groups consisted of 29, two-hour classes. Last year 133 abusive men attended abuser relearning groups. Of these who attended the groups, 55 completed the program and 60 are still attending the groups.

### ***The Sanctuary Program***

The purpose of the Sanctuary Program is to provide housing and supportive services to homeless women with children to help them with their transition to permanent housing. This is a collaborative project with South Suburban Family Shelter as the lead agency. The other partners in the project are: South Suburban Council on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse, Grand Prairie Services, and Aunt Martha's. The Sanctuary Program consists of a 10 unit apartment building with supportive services on-site.

### ***Start Healthy - Start Right***

Start Healthy – Start Right, a Safe From the Start Program, is designed to provide services to children, ages birth through 5, and their families who have been exposed to violence. Violence is defined as any harmful physical contact or threat. Children 0-5 who have personally experience violence or who have witnessed violence are eligible. All services are provided in English and Spanish and all services are provided free of charge to participants. In the past, the communities targeted by this project are Blue Island and Calumet Park. This year we expanded the service area targeted to include the entire south suburban area.

### ***Governing Board***

South Suburban Family Shelter is governed by a Board of Directors that meets 10 times a year. The board meetings are held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of every month (with the exception of July and December).

The meetings were held at the Great Lakes Bank, Ridge Road, Homewood, Illinois beginning at 6pm.

South Suburban Family Shelter's Board of Director members and officers are elected for a 2-year term.

South Suburban Family Shelter's Board of Directors is made up of individuals representing the communities that we serve. Last year's board included:

President – Dr. Robert Zitter

Co Vice-Presidents – Sande McCarthy and Gina West

Co Financial Officers – Paul Kessler and David Whitaker

Co Secretaries – Dory Machtinger and Bridget VanEekeren

Members at Large – Judy Hoffman, Michael Hicks, Sandy Jozaitis, Mari Lou McCann, Rosalind Wolff, Taffy Brokemon, Gwendolyn Lee, Sherry Liang, and Derrick Baker.

South Suburban Family Shelter's Executive Director is Diane L. Bedrosian.

***Fiscal Year 2007 Financial Information***

Income		\$1,961,029
Expense		
Hospital Advocacy	\$141,725	
Court Advocacy	199,202	
Counseling	501,993	
Abuser Treatment	73,379	
Emergency Shelter	118,371	
Sanctuary	<u>394,056</u>	
<i>Total Program</i>	<i>\$1,428,726</i>	
Management	\$160,297	
Fundraising	179,050	
Total Expense		\$1,768,073
Agency Net Assets		\$1,910,318