

**Healing News**  
**The Newsletter of Hope for Healing.Org**  
**September 2005**

**Contents:**

Domestic Violence + Katrina Victims – A Disastrous Combination  
Clothing Closet  
RAD Class  
Prayer Date: October 1 – Join Us!  
Help Violence Victims Affected By Katrina  
New Sponsor Links  
Founder's Corner  
Disclaimer

**Domestic Violence Victims Affected by Katrina Need Your Help.**

**Scenario:**

You are a domestic violence victim. Finally, after the 7<sup>th</sup> time you get up the courage to leave the batterer and flee to a shelter. For the first time in a long time you feel safe and start to let down your guard, you feel hopeful. Then, you learn that a hurricane is about to strike and that you must evacuate. You quickly gather your belongings to flee again, to an emergency shelter of “last resort”. As you walk in you hear a voice you recognize and you freeze as the realization sinks in that your abuser is there too.

Disturbingly, this scenario is all too real.

Scattered throughout the southeast and across the country, because of hurricane Katrina victims of domestic violence are now in general emergency shelters with abusers. Victims are also standing in line for supplies and running into their abusers. As a result, bad things are happening. The end result of this combination is not good.

This can change but we need your help. We need your donations.

The Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence needs supplies. Victims of domestic violence affected by hurricane Katrina can then come to the coalition to get what they need. This helps to keep victims safer. Instead of running the risks of encountering abusers while waiting in the general supply lines, they can be among people who understand what it is like to survive the worst of crimes and the worst of storms.

The coalition is in need of shampoo, soap, monthly care products, hair care products, toothpaste and other personal supplies. They also need diapers, wipes and formula.

Through a special auction in our eBay store ( <http://stores.ebay.com/hopeforhealing> ) you can sponsor the purchase of a women’s care pack or a kids’ care pack. Or, you can sponsor 1/2 of either pack.

When you sponsor a pack, our volunteers will purchase the items, pack them and send them to the Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

Short notes can be enclosed in the care pack you send. When you check out and pay for your pack there will be a space for instructions or comments. Leave your message there. For privacy purposes, we will trim your email address from your note before enclosing it in the pack you sponsor. Packs will then go to the coalition in Baton Rouge to be distributed to survivors.

Donations of at least \$1.00 are accepted through the Pay Pal. Use the link on the front page of our website or with the Pay Pal address of [donations@hopeforhealing.org](mailto:donations@hopeforhealing.org) Please keep in mind that regular fees will apply to your donation.

When you donate money, all the funds (minus Pay Pal fees) will go to the Coalition.

The state coalition is also missing directors of 2 DV programs and staff from several shelters. Two other staff people in the state office lost everything. If you want to donate to help staff you may do so but you **MUST** designate this on your donation. Otherwise, all donations will be given to the coalition to be distributed to DV victims.

We are arranging for the kits to be sent with a relief shipment at the end of the week. Time is of the essence. There's not a minute to waste.

Please tell your friends about this effort. With your help we can make a difference and save lives!

More information can be found here: <http://www.hopeforhealing.org/lcadv>

Thank you in advance for making a difference!

**Locally:**

Hope for Healing.org is also helping local victims in our area. Our goal is to help them become self-supporting as quickly as possible. Besides taking phone calls and making necessary referrals we:

- Participated in Red Cross disaster shelter training with 3 of our volunteers.
- Helped a pregnant woman and her unborn child. She is due in 7 days on September 13. She needed a doctor, baby items, clothing, food and gas. We were able to help with all of the above except baby clothes. Neither of our pink dresses worked for her. She needs blue outfits. Fortunately, through the generosity of a donor we have been able to get a few clothing items together.
- Helped a father get a lead on a job and gave him clothing.
- Were rewarded with a big smile from of a 2 year old boy when we gave him a toy. He now has a total of 3.

- Calmed a mom's nerves gave referrals and offered clothing when she contacted us for help for her daughter who is coming from the coast.
- Gave a woman clothing for her brother and sister-in-law. They are scheduled to arrive later today with their 4 month old daughter. We gave them formula. They needed a cradle or bassinet. We had neither. What we had we gave and it was cheerfully and gratefully accepted by all.

Please keep in mind; these are **not** people who came to us via a shelter. Some referrals are coming through schools and others come to us via word-of-mouth. Many people came here to the area to wait out the storm with friends or family. Now, they have nothing to go home to and no money to get there.

**These are the ones slipping through the cracks in the system.**

**We are the safety net here to catch them.**

***Special Circumstances:***

Arrangements have been made to have translators available, on an as needed basis, who speak Spanish and other languages. We also have an arrangement with the local mental health center to get people who need counseling fast-tracked into their system.

We ask that clients fill out a short registration form. This enables us to provide more accurate resources and referrals.

***Resources:***

A resource list is available for our local area. Please contact us if you or your organization would like to be a part of the work we are doing. You make it possible for our work to happen. We thank you for your help!

**Calendar of Events**

September 1: Clothing Closet – FREE!

September 22 & September 24: Self Defense Class (RAD) – FREE!

October 1: Prayer for Victims of Sexual & Domestic Violence FREE!

November: Clothing Closet – Free!

Milk and Cookies with Santa TBA!

**The clothing closet held on September 1 was a success!**

The community has been generous to us. This is our way of saying thanks! Gas prices skyrocketed the night before the event so some who registered were unable to make it.

Still, we were able to make a positive impact as we helped **9 families get needed clothing**. (Note: This was before Katrina struck the Gulf Coast. We are now being flooded with calls. Please see the section about helping local victims.)

A Grandmother heard about the closet and came 2 days early. Her grandkids were dropped off one day in her care. They came without anything but an outfit and only had a small amount of formula. Unfortunately, the mom didn't come back to pick up her children and she hasn't been seen or heard from since. This isn't the first time. The grandmother is applying for custody but needed a stroller, crib and clothing. Because of your generosity we were able to help. When mom decides to leave her abuser, we'll be there too.

The local domestic violence shelter was glad to get your help. We found out they were out of baby clothing. To fix this, we sent 13 outfits, 35 pairs of socks, 5 pairs of shoes, 3 hats and 3 pairs of booties – all thanks to you!

### **FREE -RAD Self-Defense Class September 22 & 24!**

*How can you hit a cop without getting arrested?* By coming to a RAD self-defense class that's how! RAD stands for Rape Aggressive Defense. It's a self-defense class designed by experts to help a woman reduce her risk of becoming a victim and increase her chances of survival if it happens.

Be a part of the fun, September 22 from 6:00pm – 8:00pm and again on Saturday, September 24 from 10:00am – 2:00 pm. Join us as we learn new skills and practice them with an off duty police officer who has suited up and donated his time. Brought to you in conjunction with CEASE, we also thank Kathy for being willing to lead us in our efforts to learn!

### **Join us where you are!**

#### **Pray for Victims of Sexual & Domestic Violence: Oct. 1, 2005**

Worldwide Prayer Vigil 2005

Honoring Domestic Violence Victims and Survivors

<http://www.hopeforhealing.org/worldwide>

Domestic Violence affects all women in all countries.

October 1 begins Domestic Violence Awareness Month in the United States. Help us raise awareness of this horrible crime by joining us in the first annual Worldwide Prayer Vigil on Saturday, October 1, 2005.

We want to have at least one person in each time zone around the globe praying for victims.

Participation in the Prayer Vigil is easy.

At noon, your local time and following your local customs, we invite you to pause and gather in groups or by yourself to pray for victims and survivors of domestic violence.

Leave a message a message in our guestbook telling of your participation <http://books.dreambook.com/healerguide/worldwide.html>

Candles, in honor or memory of survivors, can be purchased for \$3.00 from our eBay store. Proceeds benefit our general fund to support our work. Purchase is not required to participate.

Together, we can make a difference. Will you help by joining us?

### **Thrift Shop**

Because of an insurance issue on the potential landlord's end, the thrift shop location we had worked and planned for isn't going to happen. We have a lead on space but it is approximately twice the price we were previously quoted but also 5 times the size. There is not a ministry in the Strawberry Plains area that helps here when people are in need of clothing or household items. **Help us fill this gap.**

With the influx of Katrina evacuees we are getting verifiable requests for help. If you own property in the area and can help with either funding or space, please contact us.

While donated items will be offered for sale we also strive to help with community needs via voucher assistance. A thrift shop will provide much needed space and a sustainable income stream. It will also provide much-needed job training. Please consider helping us.

### **Note from the Founder:**

Many people have been affected by Katrina. It is shocking to us to see pictures of the devastation and even more shocking to people who were there. Our prayers go out to each and every one of you. Please take a minute to read about the situation faced by hurricane survivors. According to the Louisiana Coalition Against Sexual Abuse After all the trauma of the hurricane you would think people would behave themselves. We are finding this to be wrong. Please help us help them. See the article for more information. They need us.

Thank you all for your support. We could do nothing without you. Many lives have been touched by your generous donations of money and time. Our volunteers are priceless. If you work with us pat yourselves on the back for a job well done!

This month we've gone back to our previous newsletter format. A few people, especially soldiers in Iraq, wrote to ask if we could go back to the previous format. I didn't realize how long it takes to download on a bad connection. We're going back to this format and are glad to keep you informed of what we do. Please stay safe!

### **New Sponsor Links:**

What do *Cingular Wireless*, *1.800.PETMEDS*, *McAfee Anti-Virus Software*, *Amazon.Com*, *Netflix* and *Office Depot* have in common?

**They are all sponsor links!** When you use these links from the front page of our website at <http://www.hopeforhealing.org> part of your purchase will be donated to Hope for

Healing.Org. You don't pay any more than you normally would. The donated funds help us help others. Check us out! Tell all your friends to shop here first!

**Disclaimer:**

Healing News is written by & for survivors of sexual and domestic violence. It is drawn from our own personal experiences. Hope For Healing.Org accepts no responsibility for what you do with the information presented here. The contents of this newsletter are intended for the purpose of education, help & support only. Authors state their own opinions & do not necessarily reflect those of Hope For Healing.Org. To the best of our knowledge, identities in articles are fiction. Any likeness is purely coincidental. Individual authors are responsible for their own content.

**Privacy Policy:**

As always, Hope For Healing.Org will never sell or share your address or personal information. All information is kept private to the fullest extent of the law.