



### CAPED CRUSADERS

A crew of The Center's staff and volunteers marched in this year's Pegasus Parade and since the theme was "Heroic Adventures," masks and capes were only fitting. This team of super heroes performed a dance routine to Katy Perry's "Firework" on the parade route that was topped off with confetti canon explosions—what a crowd pleaser!

Visit our Facebook page to see a photo gallery.



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# More Than a Shelter

SUMMER 2011 NEWSLETTER

### 24<sup>th</sup> Annual CELEBRATION OF SERVICE & SURVIVAL

Themed "A Night of Stars," this year's annual Celebration of Service & Survival February 23 did not disappoint. Many of The Center's community partners (full list below right) introduced each of the Women of Distinction to rousing applause. There was also a farewell tribute to outgoing President/CEO Denise Vazquez Troutman, along with a warm welcome to her predecessor, Marta Miranda. The 2011 Women of Distinction (l to r): Shelley Santry, Andree Mondor, Alice Miles, Eleanor Jordan and Jane Godchaux Emke.



Photo by Bill Sheets Photography

Special thanks to our community partners who participated in the evening's program  
Barry Barker, TARC • Jeff Been, Legal Aid Society • Dr. Sheldon Berman, JCPS • Ann Coffey, University of Louisville • Mayor Greg Fischer, Louisville Metro • David Nicholson, Jefferson County Circuit Court • Joyce Ogden, Sculptor and community artist • Marita Willis, PNC • Chief Robert White, LMPD • Congressman John Yarmuth (3rd District)

FLAGSHIP SPONSOR BROWN-FORMAN

PRESIDENT SPONSOR KOSAIR CHARITIES  
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### 4<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL DENIM DAY

More than 5,000 people around Kentuckiana wore jeans or a denim ribbon March 31 to honor those affected by sexual violence. Among them were Louisville Fairness Campaign Director Chris Hartman, LMPD Chief Robert White, The Center for Women and Families President/CEO Marta Miranda, Kendall Boyd with the Jefferson County Attorney's Office, Louisville Metro Councilman Tom Owen and LMPD Lt. Robert Schroeder.



### GENERAL MILLS GIVES BACK

Rebecca Jetton, Senior Director of Southern Indiana Campus Operations, accepts a generous donation from the General Mills Foundation. A long time supporter of The Center's efforts in Indiana, General Mills' gift will help fund operations and supportive services in Harrison, Floyd and Clark counties.



### BULLITT COUNTY CARES

A spring open house at The Center's Bullitt County Office offered a chance for community networking and a bit of recognition. Family Court Judge Elise Givhan Spainhour, above, received the 2011 Empowerment Award for her commitment to survivors of intimate partner abuse and sexual assault. Ken Bernardi, Ida Butterworth and Tammy Ott were recipients of the 2011 Care Awards.



**Pictured:** The Sensory Room at our Joan E. Thomas, M.D. Campus is a play space and a therapy space in one. Designed and built for children ages 4 and up, the sensory room gives our young clients a safe, inspiring and stimulating environment to enjoy while meeting with an advocate from our children's team.

Kids who experience violence in their homes are uniquely affected and playing in the sensory room often brings them a much needed sense of normalcy. In addition, the room's stimulating activities and toys are used to enhance hand/eye coordination, language development and relaxation, among many other benefits.

Special thanks to LEGO Children's Fund and CSX Corporation for generous funding that made our sensory room possible.



www.thecenteronline.org  
24 Hour Toll-free Crisis Line: 877.803.7577

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## CRISIS COUNSELORS OUR OWN SUPERHEROES



**NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT/CEO**



MARTA MARIA MIRANDA

**24 Hour Toll-free Crisis Line: (877) 803-7577**

I am honored to greet you as the new President/CEO of The Center for Women and Families, a role I think I've been preparing for my entire life. We all know someone who has been affected by intimate partner abuse or sexual violence, and the work of The Center for Women and Families impacts our community every day. Leading an organization with such a tremendous staff—the crisis counselors featured in this issue are just one example—and such an important mission is a life-long dream and a responsibility that I take very seriously.

My first few months here have been full of inspired meetings and conversations, and I've spoken to some of you about how we can partner to prevent the devastating wounds intimate abuse and sexual assault inflict on our families and communities. As I've mentioned over many coffee meetings and lunches, my primary goals here at The Center are to 1) improve our services for children—see the back cover for a shining example of what I'd like to see more of, 2) let more community members know we

offer medical options, therapy and advocacy for survivors of sexual assault in addition to our services around intimate partner abuse and 3) encourage more men to become involved in our mission. Sexual violence and intimate partner abuse affect men in many ways. Your wives, daughters, mothers and colleagues are hurt by these epidemics but in addition, a staggering 1 in 33 men will experience sexual assault.

To those of you I've met with who have asked how you can help, first I say thank you. Then I urge you to make an end of fiscal year donation to The Center to help fund the growing need for our services. Eradicating violence demands that we each take personal responsibility in becoming involved. We're all in this mission together!

**Mil gracias por su apoyo,**  
(A thousand thanks for your support)



Joan E. Thomas, M.D. Campus Crisis Office  
Louisville, Kentucky

**THE CRISIS OFFICE**

1 The crisis office is a hub of activity at The Center's Joan E. Thomas, M.D. Campus. Specially trained counselors are simultaneously taking calls, assisting clients and supporting one another.

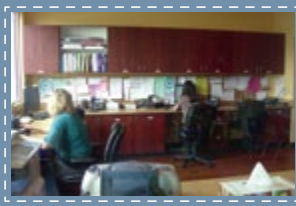


2 The office is also a core for residential clients, who check in at the window shown for items as varied as medicines, infant and toddler items, cleaning supplies and incoming mail. Since the crisis office is staffed 24 hours a day it's also where residents go with questions or for help after business hours when their advocates have gone home.

3 Special thanks to Kosair Charities for their generous support of our crisis office renovation earlier this year. The space was gutted and nearly

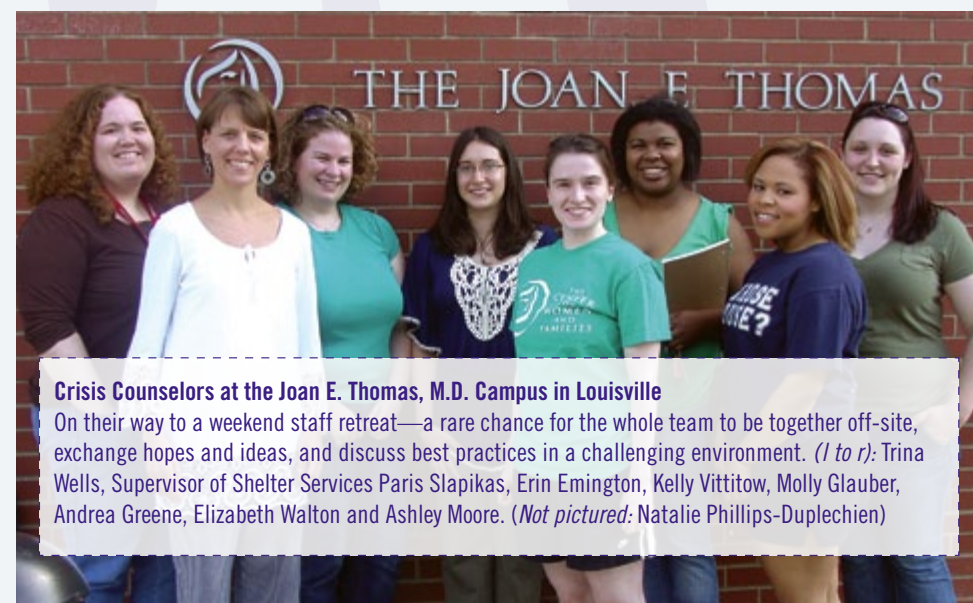


doubled in size, allowing for much needed privacy for staff on crisis calls, cabinets and storage for supplies, and individual lockers for each crisis counselor.



**SPOTLIGHT CRISIS COUNSELORS**

**PROFILE**



**Crisis Counselors at the Joan E. Thomas, M.D. Campus in Louisville**

On their way to a weekend staff retreat—a rare chance for the whole team to be together off-site, exchange hopes and ideas, and discuss best practices in a challenging environment. (l to r): Trina Wells, Supervisor of Shelter Services Paris Slapikas, Erin Emington, Kelly Vittitow, Molly Glauber, Andrea Greene, Elizabeth Walton and Ashley Moore. (Not pictured: Natalie Phillips-Duplechien)

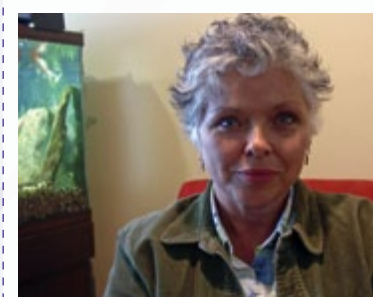
**A 24/7 JOB FULL OF HEART**

Whether they arrive for their shifts at 8 am or 8 pm, The Center's Crisis Counselors are on the front lines of meeting survivors of intimate partner abuse and sexual assault wherever they are. They're charged with listening to callers or clients and "really knowing how to listen between words to hear what's only implied," according to Supervisor of Shelter Services Paris Slapikas. A Crisis Counselor knows how to ask questions, assess a caller or client's level of danger and gather information, all while validating and normalizing a trauma. An important part of answering calls from individuals in crisis is often determining a safety plan to be sure callers feel confident knowing the steps to safely leave a dangerous situation.



**Crisis Counselors at the Southern Indiana Campus**

Above left: Shay Pullen, Tonya Hayes and Jessica McDonald pause during a busy night answering the Southern Indiana crisis line and assisting clients in shelter. Above right: Jenny Tran, Lorie Baltes and August, Lorie's youngest, take a quick Friday afternoon break. (Not pictured: Diane Donohue.)



Cindy Fortney is the Front Desk Crisis Counselor at the Shelbyville Office. Along with their supervisor, she and two other staff members handle services for clients and community in Shelby County.

**CRISIS INTERVENTION THE CENTER'S UNSUNG SUPERHEROES**

**Louisville, Kentucky.** In a sunny space framed with a giant window, three people buzz around the room, one grabbing diapers to give to a shelter resident holding her baby at the sliding glass, another paging through a resource binder to find information for a client whose child is changing schools, and a third jotting notes after a conversation with a resident who is concerned her perpetrator might be released from jail. The phone rings and one of the three settles in a cushioned chair, takes a breath and answers calmly, "The Center for Women and Families. Can I help you?"

**New Albany, Indiana.** At a front desk haloed with light streaming through the glass front doors, children's drawings hang on yellow walls, near soft, colorful quilts on display—a nod to the homey sensation that fills the space. On the other side of the desk, there's a door that leads to bedrooms, lounges, play rooms and a kitchen for the residents living in shelter. The Southern Indiana staff is a tight bunch and a Family Advocate is cracking a joke near her supervisor's office. The phone up front rings, someone circles the desk, takes a breath and answers calmly, "The Center for Women and Families. Can I help you?"



Southern Indiana Campus  
New Albany, Indiana

These voices belong to our Crisis Counselors. And for many who call our 24 hour hotline, their presence on the other end of the line represents hope that there's a way out, a safe space to let go of the horror that accompanies sexual violence or intimate partner abuse, and where no one will ask, "why didn't you just leave?" or "how could you let this happen to yourself?" Not only are The Center's Crisis Counselors a point of entry for people seeking our services, they are doing the incredibly difficult work that lays the groundwork for a continuum of care—they are our very own superheroes.



**OUR SERVICE AREA:** The Center has six locations in 10 Kentuckiana counties. Visit [www.thecenteronline.org](http://www.thecenteronline.org) for more information.

**ON THE COVER:** A staple of Louisville's annual Kentucky Derby Festival, the Pegasus Parade welcomed The Center back for a second year. A team of staff and volunteers exploded in cheers and confetti during the finale of a dance routine performed along the parade route.

**HER STORY A CAPELLA**

Dawn and her infant son arrived at The Center after her fiancé brutally assaulted her the night before they were supposed to be married. As she told it, she was shattered. But slowly, through support groups, help from her advocate and complete love from her son, she rebuilt. She'd long been a singer in her church choir, so she approached a staff member about wanting to show her appreciation for The Center's advocates and services through song. And did she ever...

She chose to perform an a capella version of Alicia Keys' "Lesson Learned" at this year's Celebration of Service & Survival and she moved the large crowd to a standing ovation. It was a remarkable and empowered tribute.

Photo by Bill Sheets Photography



**LUNCH WITH THE PRESIDENT**

One of the first events President/CEO Marta Miranda decided to host was a monthly Lunch with the President for The Center's residents. She designed it to be an opportunity for clients in shelter to speak with her about their experiences, but also to share their hopes for the future. Shown at a recent lunch, President/CEO Marta Miranda (third from left) with AARP Volunteer Kitchen Aide Margo Patterson and Power to Work volunteers Adele and Amanda.



**FROM THE GROUND UP**

Our campus expansion is ahead of schedule! The 22 townhouse-style units currently being constructed on our Joan E. Thomas, M.D. Campus will be completed in early fall, allowing clients in transitional housing situations to have stable, safe options for their families. The project is a partnership between The Center and the Kentucky Domestic Violence Association, Kentucky Housing Corporation, and The Housing Partnership, Inc., and building is possible due to federal tax credit assistance.



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We welcome your feedback. Questions or comments about *More Than a Shelter* can be directed to [media@cwfempower.org](mailto:media@cwfempower.org) or (502) 581-7261. Opt out of receiving the paper version of *More Than a Shelter* and receive an electronic version instead by emailing [media@cwfempower.org](mailto:media@cwfempower.org).

(as of April 1, 2011)