

Sheltervoice

Quarterly Newsletter of The Women's Shelter
Volume XXXIV Number One, Spring 2015

Renovating The Women's Shelter Transitional Properties

By Bonnie Younginer

I became aware of The Women's Shelter because, in the past, our church had donated money monthly from our tithe to the Shelter as part of our community outreach program. I was looking for volunteer opportunities that promoted the empowerment of women and looked into The Women's Shelter. I support and believe in their mission and wanted to help wherever I was needed. Through their programs, I feel like the Shelter supports the dignity of life by helping homeless women regain confidence and independence.

I met with Kathy Riley, Executive Director of The Women's Shelter, a few months ago asking if I could volunteer. I told her I was open to anything that would help. After talking a while and learning about all the great work they do at the Shelter, she asked if I could help with set up at the Thanksgiving Souper fundraiser. I was happy to do so and met many other volunteers that have a passion for the Shelter's mission. After that I was all in.

Kathy Riley then asked me what I did for a living and when she found out I am an interior designer, she proclaimed, "Have I got a job for you!". The Shelter's transitional housing units need updating so Kathy asked if I would be willing take on that project. She introduced me to Cynthia Ellis who is the Transitional Housing Program Director.

That was the beginning of my "what have I gotten myself into" moment. But I would not have it any other way. Cynthia toured me through the homes and discussed the needs. It is a daunting task to repair, refurbish and update 17 living spaces. I started making phone calls and putting out requests for help. As Cynthia receives requests from individuals and groups for volunteer opportunities, she refers them to me. I am setting up work days and organizing the events.

We offer a hardy THANK YOU for all the responses to our requests for volunteers and donations.

We started with one house in January and so far we have had volunteers from Wells Fargo remove wallpaper. The gals from It Works Wraps came in and painted the interior walls. We have replaced some lighting and fans with the help of a local electrician devoting his time to install them. In March, area managers and employees from five Firestone Tires locations removed carpet and laminate. They had to move the furniture around too; no small feat. We have received donations of artwork and lighting as well. In April we have a group of staff from Laurel Crest Retirement Living coming to give us a day's work.



We still really need skilled tradesmen and tradeswomen to help with plumbing, electrical, repairs to cabinets and walls, floor installation and basic handyman skills. If your employer offers community service days, please consider suggesting The Women's Shelter for the next project. Also, if you belong to any clubs or organizations that are interested in helping with volunteer time or even monetary donations, we welcome it all. I have been contacting local organizations and vendors I work with regularly for help and have gotten some positive responses.

Please contact either The Women's Shelter or Bonnie Younginer at bonnie@cyginteriors.com or 315-9171 if you would like to know more about our efforts.

The Women's Shelter is participating in the Midlands Gives Campaign on May 5, 2015

You can support the programs and services of The Women's Shelter through the Midlands Gives campaign. Midlands Gives is a local 24-hour online donation giving challenge that takes place on **Tuesday, May 5th, 2015**. All gifts must be given online; there are no mail-in donations for this campaign. In order to participate in this event you ...

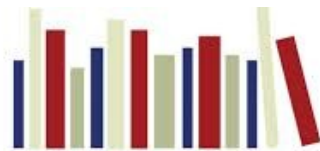


1. Log on to MidlandsGives.org on May 5th.
2. Complete the giving form found on the main page.
3. Select **The Women's Shelter**.
4. Make a donation using your credit or debit card.

For more information, please visit MidlandsGives.org.



**Search on Facebook
"The Women's Shelter Columbia, SC"**



SC BOOK FESTIVAL

Drop by The Women's Shelter Booth at the 2015 SC Book Festival on May 16th and 17th at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center.

FREE Admission!
10 am – 5 pm Saturday, May 16th
12 pm – 4:30 pm Sunday, May 17th

Go to SCBookFestival.org for more information.

***Be sure to shop Revente's Second Chances
at 3050-A Millwood Avenue, Columbia, 29205.***

Honor That Special Woman in Your Life

Mother's Day is soon approaching on May 10th. This is a particularly special day at The Women's Shelter.

Purchase a card to honor each special woman in your life; and you not only celebrate a loved one, but you help to support The Women's Shelter as well. We are using a beautiful photo by former employee, Paula Hines, for the front of our Mother's Day cards this year. Simply send us the names and addresses of your special women, along with a check for \$8 per card by **May 4th**, and we will address, scribe and mail each card in time for Mother's Day.

Mother's Day Card Gift Sheet

(please print clearly)

Your Name: _____ Your Phone: (____) _____
(as you wish it to appear on the card)

Honoree's Name and Address: _____

Street City State Zip Code

Honoree's Name and Address: _____

Street City State Zip Code

Honoree's Name and Address: _____

Street City State Zip Code

Honoree's Name and Address: _____

Street City State Zip Code

Please mail Card Gift Sheet, along with a check made out to "The Women's Shelter" (\$8 for each card), in the enclosed envelope by MAY 4th. If you need more room, please use additional paper.

*The Women's Shelter
3425 North Main Street
Columbia, SC 29203*

*Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit #1018
Columbia, SC*

Address Service Requested

Wish List

The Women's Shelter greatly appreciates and strongly depends on donations from individuals, churches, civic and other groups. We do not have a lot of storage space, but the items listed below are needed and used continuously. If you have any other items you would like to donate, please contact us. Thank you for your continued generosity!
(803) 779-4706

- ◆ Electric hand mixers
- ◆ Ice Cream
- ◆ Fresh fruits/vegetables
- ◆ Soft drinks
- ◆ Sunscreen/bug spray
- ◆ Gift cards for haircuts
- ◆ Phone cards
- ◆ Zoo/movie/entertainment tickets
- ◆ Basic alarm clocks
- ◆ Answering machines
- ◆ Umbrellas
- ◆ Shower caddies
- ◆ Gently used black pants/tennis shoes
- ◆ Coffee/tea
- ◆ Creamer
- ◆ Sugar
- ◆ Sugar free items
- ◆ Toilet paper/paper towels
- ◆ Paper plates
- ◆ Tall kitchen bags
- ◆ Tin Foil/cling wrap/zip lock bags
- ◆ Laundry detergent/regular & HE
- ◆ Dryer sheets/ liquid softener
- ◆ Cleaning supplies