



turning point

fall 2008

FREEDOM FROM FEAR

Become a Champion

by tamika I. sims

MUCHAS GRACIAS, TACO BELL!

by kathleen shaw



For 16 consecutive years, **TACO BELL** has generously supported Sistercare through its **Tacos For Sistercare** annual fundraiser.

Again this year, \$.10 for each taco sold at local **TACO BELL** restaurants during **November 1 - 14, 2008** will be contributed to Sistercare.

Sistercare is most appreciative of the loyal support that franchise owner Fred Kotoske has provided through this annual fundraiser.

Funds donated from **TACO BELL** will go toward emergency shelter and counseling for battered women and their children in the Midlands community.

Muchas gracias, amigo bueno, **TACO BELL!**



*The following article is the third and final in Sistercare's series on **Ways Men Can Help Prevent Violence Against Women**. We hope you've enjoyed the series and are compelled now to become a "champion for the cause".*

In the words of a recent honoree at Sistercare's Annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon, Gene Washington, "We need champions for the elimination of injustice to battered women and their children." Mr. Washington is an extraordinary individual who has supported Sistercare and the Battered Women's Movement for 14 years. His long-term belief is that the issue of intimate partner violence needs both male and female champions.

This volunteer has proven that he's up for the task of challenging our community to think and act differently about the issue of violence against women and children. As a former Sistercare board member and the Director of the Healing Hands Project, a domestic violence awareness program involving men, this volunteer fully appreciates the need for men to have a presence and a voice in preventing family violence. Mr. Washington is a playwright who has written plays about domestic violence, an author of short stories about the same subject, and a member of the Columbia Domestic Violence Task Force. He has been interviewed on multiple radio programs, held press conferences, and organized walks against domestic violence.

With SC's current ranking of **2nd** in the nation for the rate of women killed by men (see page 3), now more than ever we need strong voices speaking out in the community. We must have advocates like Mr. Washington who are willing to stand up, speak out and support for the rights of victims of domestic violence.

Mr. Washington continually asks how much longer we will allow our daughters, sisters, mothers, aunts and friends to fall victim to someone who is supposed to love them? He challenges men to take a stand against family violence.

Be a champion! In the words of the great philosopher, political leader, and advocate for peace, Mahatma Ghandi, "Be the change you want to see in the world."

turning point

Sistercare publishes *Turning Point* three times a year and is a non-profit organization chartered under South Carolina laws to provide services to battered women and their children.

Executive Director, Nancy Barton

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Imagine

by tamika l. sims

"... Imagine no possessions... no need for greed... I hope some day, you'll join us, and the world will live as one..." Song lyrics to *Imagine* written and performed by John Lennon. The volunteers of Sistercare are the best in the world and certainly exemplify the words to this song.

For 21 years, Sistercare has hosted an annual volunteer recognition luncheon to honor and thank those who have given so tirelessly of themselves in support of our work with victims of domestic violence and their children.

On **September 18, 2008**, at Tronco's Rosewood Ballroom, Sistercare celebrated the accomplishments and volunteer service of 10 individuals and members of the faith and business community who deserved special recognition for dedicating a part of their lives to making an amazing difference in the lives of battered women and their children.

Our **Children's Program Volunteer of the Year** award was given to Ms. Jackie Carter. Ms. Carter has volunteered with Sistercare's children's program for over 5 years. She was honored for her faithfulness, dependability and nurturing behavior.



The **Speakers Bureau Volunteer of the Year** award was given to Mrs. Joyce Wagster. Joyce has been a faithful and long-term volunteer. As a child witness of domestic violence, Joyce is able to use her experience in order to raise awareness of the serious issue of children exposed to family violence.

Sistercare's **Community Awareness Volunteer of the Year** award was given to Ms. Permeco Myers. This domestic violence survivor endured years of abuse at the hands of her former spouse. Ms. Myers was honored for her tenacity and diligence in bringing awareness of the issue of domestic violence and the need to eliminate injustice of battered women.

Our **Rural Outreach Volunteer of the Year** award was presented to Ms. Jennie Dubose. Ms. Dubose was honored for her volunteer work with the Newberry County office of Sistercare.



The **Volunteer Business Group of the Year** award was presented to the McNair Law Firm. This group has generously supported Sistercare for over 10 years, providing over **1,000** hours of volunteer service. What an accomplishment!

Our **Volunteer Faith Group of the Year** award was presented to the Columbia Metro Baptist Association which has generously provided more than 40 pantry-stocking food orders to families participating in Sistercare's Supportive Housing Program. The **Volunteer Housing Partner of the Year** award was given to the Atlantic Housing Foundation of Southlake, TX. This foundation has generously donated apartments to eight families. With the coordinated efforts of these two entities, more than *forty* Sistercare families have been helped.

There is More to Do! SC Ranks #2 in the Homicide of Women

by sarah brouillette

According to the recent report released by the Violence Policy Center in Washington, DC, *When Men Murder Women: An Analysis of 2006 Homicide Data*, South Carolina is ranked **2nd in the nation** for the *rate* of women killed by men. In 2006, 63 SC women were killed by male offenders. This ranking is for 2006, which is the year of the most recent data from the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Now more than ever, victims of domestic violence need agencies like Sistercare which go beyond emergency shelter for women in crisis. Our community needs to ensure we offer long-term, comprehensive services, which give women safe choices for tomorrow. A coordinated community response and specialized criminal domestic violence courts are essential to reduce domestic homicides.

To find out more on how you can help eliminate this injustice to battered women and their children, visit Sistercare on the web at www.sistercare.com.



Sistercare Makes Donating Easier Than Ever!

by kathleen shaw

Sistercare's Automatic Monthly Giving Program has been developed to make monthly support to Sistercare simple and convenient.

This program allows a donor to make a monthly donation to Sistercare in any amount from their funds which are automatically withdrawn from a personal checking account.

For more information on how to enroll, visit Sistercare's web site, www.sistercare.com and click on "Give/Donate" on the side menu or e-mail or call Kathy Shaw, Development Director, at kagshaw@bellsouth.net or (803) 926.0505.

Bank of America Foundation Supports Sistercare

by tamika I. sims



(From left): Kim Wilkerson, Bank of America, South Carolina President and Nancy Barton, Sistercare Executive Director

The Bank of America Foundation awarded Sistercare a \$10,000 grant for operating support of our emergency shelters and community-based services.

The Bank of America Foundation and Kim Wilkerson, Bank of America, South Carolina President, are strong supporters of Sistercare and the battered women and children who receive our services.

Thank you so much Bank of America Foundation!

Transitions to Safe, Violence-free Living

by sarah brouillette

Before bruises heal, too many battered women and their children return to dangerous homes and their abusers because the women lack skills and financial resources needed to live independently. Sistercare understands and offers battered women long-term services through our **Transitional Housing Program**, which allows families to exit our emergency shelters and reenter the community without returning to their abusers.

Sistercare's **Transitional Housing Program** offers battered women an opportunity to establish safe households which afford them the stability necessary to overcome the negative ramifications of domestic violence. Long-term goals are to develop women's self-sufficiency and establish financial independence. Sistercare assists battered women in the **Transitional Housing Program** to become financially independent by partnering with multiple community resources and providing intensive support services. Additionally, Sistercare sponsors the women's pursuit of higher education and career development needed to secure employment in the increasingly competitive job market.

Currently over **35** women and families live in transitional homes, away from their batterers, with rent supplemented by grants awarded to Sistercare. While partial rent is paid by Sistercare, women are attending college, trade school and employment programs. Once school is completed, jobs are found and goals are met, the families leave the **Transitional Housing Program** and other families assume their place.

Ultimately, Sistercare's **Transitional Housing Program** allows domestic violence victims to build the skills necessary to take responsibility for themselves and their children, and thereby break the cycle of domestic violence. This program has been one of Sistercare's most successful services.

Yes!

I will help prevent domestic violence.

Pledge Amount : _____

(Monthly) (Yearly)

Donations can be made through PayPal .
Visit www.sistercare.com.

My tax-deductible contribution is enclosed.

\$500 \$250
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Sistercare is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) partner agency of the United Way.

IMAGINE

continued from page 2

The **Volunteer Healthcare Provider of the Year** award was given to Lexington Medical Center which has supported Sistercare's annual board fundraiser, The Songbird Café, at the \$20,000 level. Hats off to Ms. Barbara Willm who continues to coordinate this effort and assist with needs at our shelters.

The **Long-Term Volunteer of the Year** award was presented to a champion of the cause of domestic violence, Mr. Gene Washington. Gene has supported Sistercare in a number of ways for the past 12 years. He continues to issue the clarion call for men to educate our community and support Sistercare's mission.

Our most prestigious award given is the **Outstanding Volunteer of the Year**, which was presented to Mrs. Doris Kahn. Mrs. Kahn is an amazing woman who has furnished the homes of survivors of domestic violence, stocked their pantries and given help when it seemed all hope was lost.



SISTERCARE IS ALWAYS IN GREAT NEED OF CELL PHONES AND USED, WORKING VEHICLES . PLEASE HELP DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SURVIVORS BECOME INDEPENDENT AND SAFE. TO DONATE, PLEASE CALL 926.0505 OR VIEW www.sistercare.com.



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