

# **Safe Home 1981 – 2006**

## **25th Anniversary**

### **Agency Highlights**

1981: Safe Home, a YWCA of Hanover program, opened its door to assist and protect domestic abuse victims and their children.

1982:

“Women in Growth” program was initiated to provide emergency shelter to battered women and children, and to offer classes, workshops, and support groups.

The hotline was installed and by the end of the year, 190 calls were logged, 8 women and their children had been housed and 32 volunteers had been trained.

1984: Safe Home partnered with The Evening Sun and received donated ad space. Hotline calls increased 61%, demonstrating the need for domestic violence services in the community.

1985: Safe Home, ACCESS-York, a domestic violence agency in York, and Survivors, a domestic violence program in Gettysburg, worked together to provide educational seminars to the public.

1987: Safe Home served 129 women and 115 children.

1988: Safe Home received an award from the York Junior League as part of National Volunteer Week.

1989: Safe Home held its first Victims' Rights Candlelight Vigil.

1990:

The adult support group WEAVE (Women's Empowerment Against Violent Environments), was started and met twice weekly. The group continues today and free childcare is now provided.

Safe Home served 548 victims, 641 children and provided temporary housing for 20 women and 18 children.

1991:

Three staff members and 21 volunteers operated the agency.

1992: The purple ribbon campaign was incorporated into Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Today, 3,000 to 4,000 ribbons are distributed throughout the community.

1993: A state bill was passed which included stalking as an abusive behavior.

1994: Members of First United Methodist Church on Frederick Street performed an awareness play. As a result, Safe Home received a significant increase in calls and served 475 adults and 628 children.

1997: Anne Acker was hired as the new director and continues in that role today.

Safe Home experienced a time of growth and reorganization under her leadership. Four staff members and 16 volunteers moved into the renovated Safe Home building which it continues to occupy today.

1998: Child therapy was started to assist children who had been exposed to violence in their homes.

1999: Recognizing the problem of family pets also being affected by the ravages of domestic violence, the Safe Pet program was started in conjunction with the SPCA.

2000: The dream of a shelter for the Greater Hanover Area was realized with the opening of Still Waters, a program of ACCESS-York.

2003:

The Salon Professionals Seminar was initiated to educate these professionals on how to recognize victims of domestic violence and refer people to community resources.

Approximately 800 people were served by Safe Home by five staff members. Volunteers logged 5800 hours.

2004:

The cell phone collection program provided phones to victims which allowed them to call 911 directly when they are in danger. This service is still offered today.

Approximately 583 new victims were served and 1907 hotline calls were received. In total, 3,546 client contacts were made. Additionally, 22 victims and their 15 children were provided with temporary housing by Safe Home.

2005: Safe Home received 1907 hotline calls, 35 volunteers donated 6,008 hours to answer those calls plus 500 additional hours for other activities. Three full-time and two part-time volunteers provided a variety of services to 716 victims.

2006: Safe Home is collaborating with the YMCA of Hanover and NOVIS (Non-violence Intervention Services), a batterers' intervention group in Adams County, to start a men's group. The community is recognizing that men are concerned and affected by the problem of domestic violence and they too wish to combat this problem.