



P.O. Box 154137
Lufkin, TX 75915
(936) 465-4311

*I Myself will search for
my Sheep
and look after them.*

Ezekiel 34:11



October 2011

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Long-term shelter for women and
their children for a lasting change

October 2011

Clothesline Project
October 10th-13th
Angelina College

The Clothesline Project is a way for women who have been affected by domestic violence to express themselves by creating their own shirt and adding it to the clothesline. This project spans the country every October to raise domestic violence awareness and let the healing process begin.

More Than a Slap in the Face

“What!? What is this supposed to be? What are you tryna do, kill me?”, he shouts at his wife, tossing the hot meal back in her face plate and all. As she apologetically picks up the dinner from the floor and listens to him rant she begins to beat herself up because once again she has given reason to be thought of as a subpar cook and mediocre wife, deserving of her husband’s anger.



Abuse and domestic violence is more than just a punch, kick, or slap in the face. Many people will put up with feeling inadequate, uncomfortable and insecure because they don’t realize that their significant other is abusive, even if there isn’t physical violence. A person stays in an unhealthy relationship because oftentimes there are no bruises to show that it is unhealthy; and so the victim stays for the sake of love, children, finances, and security.

Take for instance the woman who has 4 children, no job and has no family to turn to except her common-law husband. He wants to make sure that she keeps him feeling like the king of the castle. So he tells her almost everyday, “You are the stupidest woman I have ever met...I don’t know why I even put up with you, I could do so much better. When are you gonna start working out; you’re starting to blow up?” This is emotional abuse, making a person feel so low that even if the words are all lies, due to the repetition she believes it. Therefore she lacks the confidence to venture out or have a healthy sense of value and self-worth. But where else would she go with four children?! She doesn’t want to be a burden to her friends or family so she never picks up the phone and asks for help. Family advocates call this form of abuse, “using children.” It’s the idea that the woman is made to have so many children that it traps her in the relationship. Even having one child makes it hard for some to leave because they want to have a cohesive family and all of the child’s physical needs met.



Stop by and visit Kirby Gibbs at the Angelina College Student Center Oct 10th-13th for more information about domestic violence and its prevention, The Sheepfold Texas, and how our community can help these voiceless women and children.



Save Postage!

If you would like to receive this newsletter by E-mail instead of a printed copy, please send an email to sheepfoldtexas@mail.com. Give us your name and address to remove it from our printed mailing list and your Email address to replace it!

The Sheepfold Texas is a tax-exempt, non-profit corporation governed by a volunteer Board of Directors composed of community leaders. Complete financial statements are prepared monthly and completed by a local accountant. We are privately funded. We accept no funding by the state, otherwise we would not be able to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We receive donations from individuals, churches and businesses. We are acutely aware of our accountability to God for monies given for the care of the widows and the fatherless.



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www.thesheepfoldtexas.org



Belk Charity Sale

Saturday, November 5th, 6-10am
20-70% off storewide!

A morning of special savings to benefit local charities and schools

\$5 tickets can be purchased at every Belk's cash register. When purchasing, tell them it's for The Sheepfold Texas. So start your Christmas shopping early--100% of your ticket will benefit The Sheepfold.

The Journey Continues

When Carrie came to us with her 18 month old daughter, she had been addicted to meth and clean for 30 days. Her 9 month Sheepfold journey began with confusion, anger and rebellion. As she settled into the home she began to see how the Word of God could give her a sense of peace, and she began to bond with her daughter like never before. She also attended Angelina College and got her GED—a great accomplishment! And through many months of self-discovery, tears and Bible study, along with many heart to heart talks, Carrie's confidence grew as she began to grasp who she really was. She now has a full time job and has made an enormous change in her life. Last month she moved out of the shelter into the next phase of her life, and we will always keep her in our prayers. God loves you Carrie!

You can now give online through our website!

www.thesheepfoldtexas.org

More Than a Slap in the Face (Continued)

Then there is economic abuse where the woman is not allowed to work or go to school due to the abuser's fears that she will make something of herself and find better prospects elsewhere.

These are just a few reasons why women stay in abusive relationships. We at the Sheepfold understand what it's like to feel out of control, hopeless, unloved, unsafe and desperate. This October, which is recognized as Domestic Violence Awareness Month, will you acknowledge the violence for what it really is? Will you look beyond yourself, your denial, your misunderstandings or prejudice to reach out to a lady in need, or even learn more about domestic violence? In doing so, you will be sharing with the Sheepfold mission as we strive to bring hope and restoration to those families who have been torn apart by these atrocities.

The Sheepfold Texas exists to offer support, provide safety, and prevent domestic and sexual violence, while leading people to Christ. We hear the cries every day. We see the effects that such violence has on ordinary people's lives every day. We see the children, the mothers, the fathers... the teachers, the doctors, the preachers and the lawyers who don't know what to do; and are on the verge of giving up on clients and loved ones because of the stronghold violence has on those who are affected first-hand. Together we can prevent domestic and sexual violence. It's time to break the silence and hear those cries, pay attention to those ill-behaved children and provide hope and choices to that unsound home. One thing is for certain, ignoring won't help a thing. We would like to share how you can help put an end to family violence and transform lives. Contact me, Kirby Gibbs at sheepfoldtexas@mail.com. I encourage your responses and feedback; and also offer you or your organization the opportunity to learn more about the faces of domestic violence, as well as what we can do as a community to prevent the abuse through our educational presentations.



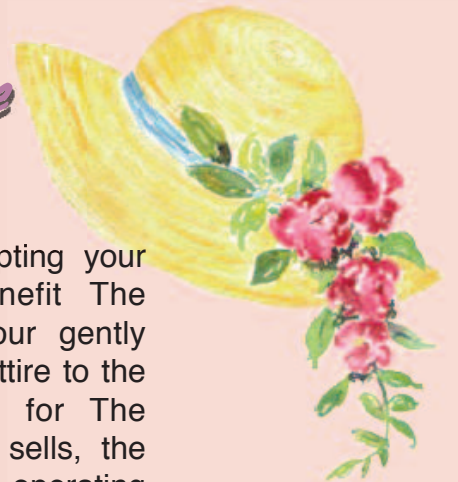
~Kirby

Community Outreach

Women are Veterans, Too! Expo
Friday, October 14, 2011, 1-4 p.m.
Charles Wilson VA Outpatient Clinic
2206 North John Redditt Drive, Lufkin

The "Women are Veterans, Too!" Expo is a new initiative coordinated by the Charles Wilson VA Outpatient Clinic to bring women Veterans from all eras together with information about the wide range of programs and services VA provides. The Sheepfold Texas has been invited to the expo with an information table to share our services with the women who have served our country, and may need shelter and a new beginning.

Rose Cottage partnership



Rose cottage is now accepting your clothing donations to benefit The Sheepfold Texas. Bring your gently used business and dressy attire to the shop and tell them it is for The Sheepfold. When the item sells, the proceeds will go toward our operating expenses at the shelter. Rose Cottage is located at 516 N. Chesnut, next to Card and Party in Lufkin.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Did you know that in the United States:

- 1 in 4 women are abused
- 3 women a day are murdered by the man they love

Thank You to all who give of their time and resources to The Sheepfold Texas!