

# SAFE, Inc.

Offering survivors of domestic and sexual violence options for safety, empowerment, healing, and hope



February 2012 Newsletter  
2011 Annual Report

## SAFE served more in 2011

*Demand for shelter, advocacy, counseling services soared*

SAFE increased its reach in 2011, paced by big increases in shelter, counseling, and advocacy services.

### Shelter

SAFE's 14-bed shelter was busier than ever in 2011. While the number of clients served stayed even with 2010, the number of nights stayed increased 32%. "Victims are having to stay longer to get their needs met," SAFE director Kristi Thomas said. A shortage of available, affordable housing helped fuel the rise.

SAFE's experienced shelter supervisors provide advice and support to help victims build a safe future for themselves and their children. Over 98% of shelter clients would recommend SAFE to a friend, 2011 exit surveys show.

### Counseling

SAFE did more to help victims heal in 2011. SAFE provided 162 individual

therapy sessions last year, doubling the total from 2010. SAFE also provided 2,404 hours of peer counseling, up 26% from 2010. Lynn Durchman, a licensed professional counselor, provides therapy to help victims and their children heal.

### Advocacy

2011 saw strong demand for services to protect and empower victims. Victim advocate Rebecca Parker (*pictured below*) and other SAFE staffers provided 1,632 incidences of advocacy last year, an 84% increase from 2010 and a whopping 219% jump from 2009. "We're making more contacts in the courthouse, and people seem more aware of what SAFE has to offer," Ms. Parker said. More middle income victims



*(Continued on page 2)*

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## FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK: VIOLENCE IS SHOCKINGLY COMMON

Sexual violence, stalking, and intimate partner violence are much more common than previously thought, the Centers for Disease Control reported recently.

Key findings include:

- More than one in three

women and one in four men in the U.S. have experienced rape, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime.

- 24% of women and 14% of men have experienced severe

physical violence by an intimate partner.

- 11% of women and 2% of men have been stalked by a partner.
- Nearly one in five women has been raped. Four out of five

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**NEED HELP? PLEASE CALL 838-SAFE (838-7233) ANYTIME**

# More turned to SAFE for help in 2011

*(Continued from page 1)*

are seeking help, she said.

Advocates help victims get protective orders, provide support during court hearings and link victims to the services they need to live lives free of abuse.

## Community Education

SAFE's teen dating violence prevention program reached over 500 Wilkes County students in 2011. SAFE offered prevention programs in churches, civic clubs and college classrooms, and launched a program to help salon professionals recognize and respond to

clients in abusive relationships.

## Other Trends

- SAFE served 11% more daytime clients in 2011, paced by a 28% rise in the number of children.
- Demand for some services leveled off in 2011. Calls to SAFE's 24-hour crisis line were down about 5%, and the number of sexual assault victims SAFE served at Wilkes Regional Medical Center stayed steady. The number of clients who got career and educational help from SAFE's New Choices program went down 6% after a 51% rise in 2010. ♀

## 2011 BY THE NUMBERS



1,511 nights of safe shelter provided



4,533 meals served



111 shelter clients

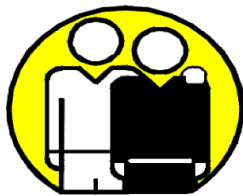
- 65 adults
- 46 children



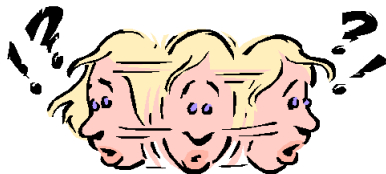
251 domestic violence crisis calls  
19 sexual assault crisis calls

818 daytime clients

- 510 adults
- 308 children



1,632 incidences of advocacy



1,630 referrals  
1,567 information



- 2,404 hours of peer counseling
- 30 Group Therapy sessions
- 162 Children's Therapy sessions
- 27 Children & Domestic Violence Program sessions

# SAFE's 2011 Honor Roll of Giving

*We gratefully acknowledge the generosity of individuals, churches, foundations and businesses who made financial contributions to SAFE, Inc. during 2011.*

## Advocates

*Annual Gifts of \$1,000 and Above*

The Health Foundation, Inc.  
The Leonard G. Herring Family Foundation, Inc.



Mr. & Mrs. William Hurd  
The Kulynych Family Foundation II, Inc.  
Lutheran Church of the Atonement

## Patrons

*Annual Gifts of \$500-\$999*

Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Absher  
First Baptist Church, Wayland Sunday School  
Mr. Julius C. Hubbard, Jr.  
Lowe's Home Improvement Center



Mr. & Mrs. Tim Murphy  
North Wilkesboro Presbyterian Church  
Dr. & Mrs. Brad Shinaman  
Wilkesboro United Methodist Church

## Sponsors

*Annual Gifts of \$250-\$499*

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Mr. Edward Crowell  
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Ms. Rebekah Gardner

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Mr. & Mrs. Emmett Ross, Jr.

Mr. Kevin Sheets  
Mr. Clifford Silvers & Ms. Kristian Thomas  
Speedway Road Ruritan Club  
Mr. & Mrs. Carl Swofford

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*Annual Gifts of \$100-\$249*

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Tarheel Oil Co., Inc.  
The Strickland Family Foundation  
The Winston-Salem Foundation  
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Mr. & Mrs. Carl Yale  
Ms. Laura Yanes & Mr. W. Scott Jessee

*"The capacity to care is the thing that gives life its deepest meaning and significance."*

Pablo Casals

**Honor Roll of Giving continued on page 4**

# SAFE's 2011 Honor Roll of Giving

## Supporters

*Annual Gifts of \$25-\$99*

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Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Foster	Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Noland	Mr. & Mrs. William Watts
	Mr. & Mrs. John Overby	Mrs. Elaine West

## 2011 Honorary Gifts

In honor of Mary Louise Clements <i>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Charles Mitchell</i>	In honor of the Gardner family <i>Ms. Rebekah Gardner</i>	In honor of the Rev. Lewis Poag <i>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Ray Benfield</i>
In honor of the elderly of Wilkes County <i>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Ronnie Brown</i>	In honor of Julius C. Hubbard, Jr. <i>Ms. Nell Domeck</i>	In honor of the SAFE Staff <i>Ms. Kristian Thomas</i>
In honor of Marion Ellis & Jackie Ellis <i>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Stan Dudek</i>	In honor of Julius C. Hubbard, Jr. <i>Mrs. Rebecca Hubbard</i>	In honor of Melanie Shinaman <i>Mrs. Katherine Hix-Boyette</i>
In honor of Carol Ernst <i>Mr. &amp; Mrs. William A. Clark</i>	In honor of Rebecca S. Hubbard <i>Mr. Julius C. Hubbard, Jr.</i>	In honor of Darla Smithey <i>Mr. &amp; Mrs. George S. Forester, Jr.</i>
In honor of Clarissa Story Felts <i>The Strickland Family Foundation</i>	In honor of John & Charlotte Ogle <i>Rep. Shirley Randleman</i>	

## 2011 Memorial Gifts

In memory of Ruth B. Canter <i>Mr. Edwin Center</i>	In memory of Emily Howell <i>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Bruce Nolin</i>	In memory of Grace Shepherd <i>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Charles Mitchell</i>
In memory of Dorothy Davis <i>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Charles Mitchell</i>	In memory of Dottie Shiver Hubbard <i>Mr. Julius C. Hubbard, Jr.</i>	In memory of Marti Stipe <i>Mr. Robert Stipe</i>
In memory of Beth Forester <i>Mr. &amp; Mrs. George S. Forester, Jr.</i>	In memory of Bill Huggins <i>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Charles Mitchell</i>	

## 2011 brings major upgrades to SAFE's shelter

# Shelter renovations almost complete

2011 brought big improvements to SAFE's shelter for domestic violence victims.

A major initiative to update the agency's 14-bed shelter is almost complete. The shelter was built as a private home in 1930, and like most 80-year-olds, was showing some signs of age.

Over the past year, the shelter's electrical, plumbing and climate control systems have been upgraded. Power bills at the shelter are down, thanks to energy efficient replacement windows donated by Window World.

Shelter clients and staff are safer thanks to a \$6,800 upgrade to the shelter's security system. The new system provides video coverage around the entire perimeter of the house. The system also includes an intercom, window alarms and emergency buttons to silently summon law enforcement.

Other improvements include new landscaping, a wheelchair ramp and improved exterior lighting.

Shelter renovations began in 2010 when employees from Lowe's Logistics and Transportation De-

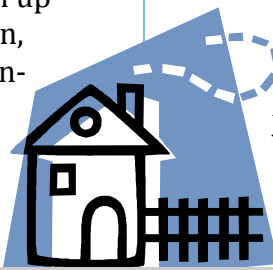
partment remodeled the shelter's family room and replaced the shelter's front porch. The shelter has stayed open throughout the renovations.

In 2012, the shelter's storage refrigerators will be moved to a new 10 X 16 storage unit behind the house, opening up valuable interior space. New play equipment will be added to the backyard to give children a safe place to play.

SAFE officials are pleased with the support they've received for the shelter project.

In addition to the Window World gift, SAFE received a \$25,000 donation for materials from Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation. SAFE raised an additional \$6,600 from local donors, qualifying the project for \$5,000 in matching funds from The Health Foundation, Inc.

"We appreciate the community's generous support for our shelter improvement campaign," Ms. Thomas said. "The improvements to the shelter will benefit our clients for years to come." 🐦



**Renovations will keep the shelter safe and sound for years to come**

## Improving community response to sexual assault a major goal in 2011

During 2011, SAFE worked to improve the community's response to sexual assault:

- In March, SAFE convened key partners to discuss ways to help sexual assault victims.
- SAFE launched a campaign to promote awareness of anonymous reporting, an option that gives sexual assault victims time to heal before deciding whether to go forward with a criminal investigation.
- SAFE is collaborating with The Health Foundation, Inc. and Wilkes Regional Medical Center to provide training to add three additional sexual assault nurse examiners at Wilkes Regional. SANEs are registered nurses who have advanced education in the forensic examination and medical care of sexual assault victims. Increasing the availability of SANE services will improve care for victims and make it easier to convict sexual offenders.
- SAFE is taking the lead in the effort to establish an accredited child advocacy center in Wilkes. The center will improve care for child sexual abuse victims.

# SAFE, Inc.

Sheltered Aid to Families in Emergencies

P.O. Box 445  
Johnson J. Hayes Federal Building  
207 W. Main St., Suite G10  
Wilkesboro, NC 28697

Office Phone: (336) 838-9169  
24 Hour Crisis Line: (336) 838-SAFE  
www.safewilkes.org

SAFE is a United Way of Wilkes  
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## INSIDE: SAFE 2011 YEAR IN REVIEW

### FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

*(Continued from page 1)*

- female rape victims were under 25, with 42% under age 18.
- One in 71 men has been raped. More than a quarter of male victims were under age 10.

Over time, as further data is collected, the CDC will be able to provide reliable state-level estimates of these types interpersonal violence, enabling agencies like SAFE to target our prevention efforts.

As I contemplate these national findings and our local statistics, I'm thankful that Wilkes County has an

agency like SAFE and grateful for the community that supports us.

*Kristi*

Kristian Thomas  
Executive Director

Find out more at <http://www.cdc.gov/ViolencePrevention/NISVS/index.html>

## TWO FUN(D)RAISERS START SOON

SAFE's **Basket Auction** enters its fourth year.



You'll be delighted at the creativity and flair of our basket creators. Baskets will be on display at the Brushy Mountain Smokehouse in North Wilkesboro April 11<sup>th</sup> through May 7<sup>th</sup>. All proceeds from the silent auction benefit SAFE. If you'd like to donate a basket, please give us a call today at 838-9169.

And SAFE's **Face the Facts** beard growing competition is back. Men across Wilkes County will shed their shavers and collect donations for SAFE. The battle of the beards begins Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup> and ends April 5<sup>th</sup>. Face the Facts is a fun way for guys to enlist in the fight against domestic violence. If you want to participate, please call us at 838-9169 or sign up online at [www.safewilkes.com/beard](http://www.safewilkes.com/beard).

