



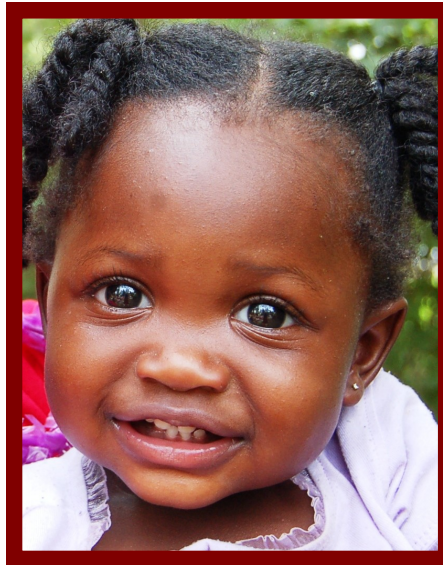
HOME FREE

A program for battered women and their children.

Wrapping up the 30th Year of Home Free

Home Free celebrated its 30th anniversary in September. We are proud to report that over the past 30 years, we have provided emergency housing, support and information to nearly 18,000 battered women and their children. Our success is also the success of those who have stood by us year after year, sharing our goal of ending domestic violence. Through providing safety and support, volunteering, making donations, or raising awareness of domestic violence, a difference was made in the lives of thousands of families. We take great pride in our accomplishments and hope to be able to continue providing these services until the day when they are no longer needed.

Sadly however, the year 2010 has been another year of several sense-



less murders of women and children because of domestic violence. The statistics are discouraging. However, we draw our strength from knowing that we do make a difference by keeping many women and children safe every day, as we work towards our goal of one day ending domestic violence.

Adopt-A-Family

Home Free Community Program provides advocacy, information, and support to nearly 1,200 battered women/victims of domestic violence who live in our community each year. Holidays are often very difficult for some of the women we serve as they are unable to provide gifts or holiday meals for their families. The Community Program has an Adopt-a-Family program through which groups, families or individuals have an opportunity to give gifts to these families. Please consider 'adopting a family' this holiday season.

For more information, please contact the Community Program Coordinator, Laura Landis at: (763) 545-7080 or via email at: llandis@missionsinc.org.

Message from the Director:

Home Free would not be here today if it were not for our supporters throughout the years: founders, board members, volunteers, and donors. We know that this has been another difficult year for many of you as the economy continues to struggle. This is why we are especially grateful to all of you, who in spite of your personal difficulties continue to support Home Free in any way that you can. Thank you.

Holidays are particularly difficult for battered women and their children who are not able to spend the holidays in their own home. Home Free does all it can to make the holiday season cheerful and worry-free for the women, and fun and care-free for the children. Please consider partnering with us this year by making a monetary donation, donating items from our wish list, or by adopting a family through our Community Program.

Thank you for helping us make this a safe and fun holiday season for many. All of us at Home Free wish you peaceful holidays.

Mary Monteon
Home Free Director



Our mission is to provide battered women and their children with safety, support, and information, so that they have the opportunity to explore alternatives to living with a violent partner.

October was Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Many exciting activities and events took place in October with the goal of raising awareness about domestic violence in our community. Some of those activities were:

- * **Candlelight Vigil** - Every year, Home Free participates in a candlelight vigil to remember victims of domestic violence. This year, the vigil was held on October 4th.
- * **Empire Beauty School** in Eden Prairie organized several fundraising efforts and collections of products to benefit women and children we serve. On the "Day of Beauty", all proceeds were donated to Home Free.
- * Find Home Free on **Facebook** and become a 'friend!' We created our Facebook page in order to provide information about domestic violence, available resources, and upcoming events. We hope you will 'like' us.



"Day of Beauty" at Empire Beauty School.



Lennar Family of Builders at Home Free for a Halloween event

* **Golden Valley Federated Women's Club** organized an event called "Pajama Party" where throughout the month of October, pajamas were collected for women and children living at Home Free.

* A friend of Home Free, **Joanie Keiner** organized a pre-holiday jewelry party. She donated 20% of all profits to the Home Free Community Program.

* The **Lennar Family of Builders** team came to Home Free and held an event that included carving pumpkins, making smores, and more. Lennar also invited all of the families from Home Free to a day of fun at an apple orchard.

* Students of **Normandale French Emersion School** made Halloween bags for Home Free women and children.

30 Years with Home Free!

Mary Monteon recently celebrated 30 years of working at Home Free. She began her career with Home Free in 1980 as an administrative assistant. She was in this position until five years later, when she accepted the position of Program Director. Mary remains the Director of Home Free to this day. Mary's love for her work is evident in everything she does. We are grateful for her many years of extraordinary service to battered women and their children.

When asked to reflect on her 30 years of working for Home Free, Mary responded: "I wish our services weren't needed. I wish domestic violence wasn't present in our community. Most of all, I wish that everyone's home was safe and there was no need for programs such as ours. However, that's not the reality and because of this, I'm grateful that there are organizations such as Home Free, working to keep women and children safe. It's important to remember that we have come a long way over the last 30 years. With a large number of wonderful organizations working to end domestic violence, many relentless supporters, and

cooperation from community organizations, I hope that we are close to the day when domestic violence will no longer be tolerated, every abuser will be held accountable and every woman and child will be safe in their home."

Thank you, Mary!



Holidays are just around the corner. Your help is needed.

Each year, Home Free relies on the community to help make the holidays as special as possible for women and children staying at Home Free. Below is a list of items that are most needed this holiday season.

NEW ITEMS ONLY, PLEASE.

Women's Items (Please, no candles or incense)

- * Purses, wallets, curling irons, hairdryers
- * Sleepwear, slippers, robes
- * Socks, underwear
- * Sweat suits and sweaters
- * Small appliances
- * Bubble bath, lotion, perfume, cosmetics, combs, brushes, jewelry, watches
- * Gift sets (manicure sets, hair accessories, bath sets)
- * Pens, calendars, journals, disposable cameras
- * Gift cards

Children's Items (Please, no violent toys)

- * Socks, underwear/boxers
- * Clothing, boots, snow pants, pajamas, slippers, games and stocking stuffers for all ages
- * Non-violent (rated E) Nintendo GameCube and Wii games
- * VHS and DVD videos (non-violent), music CDs
- * Infants: developmental or musical toys, umbrella strollers, diaper bags, baby monitors, baby care sets
- * Toddlers: toys, building blocks, chunky cars, musical/learning toys, riding/pushing toys, 5 point harness car seats
- * Preschool: learning toys, cars, dolls (especially dolls of color), puzzles, race car tracks, booster car seats
- * Elementary: learning toys, puzzles, Barbies and clothes (especially Barbies of color), booster car seats
- * Preteen/Teens: hand held games, DS, PSP, MP3 players, headphones, jewelry, hair accessories, movie theater passes, sketch pads, baseball gloves, basketballs

Please contact Carlein or Kari at (763) 559-9008 to arrange drop off times.

Items need to be dropped off by December 21st, so that we have enough time to distribute the gifts.



The holidays are supposed to be a magical time for children; that's why at Home Free we do everything we can to make them as joyous and festive as possible.

For the past several years, Lennar Family of Builders has arranged for Santa and Mrs. Claus to visit the Shelter. They come loaded with bags full of gifts, good cheer, and plenty of hugs for every woman and child. Last year was no different. Santa and Mrs. Claus spent several hours with the children, creating an entertaining event for everyone (even the grown-ups!). As Santa finished his work for the evening, he and his helpers packed up and were getting ready to leave. Little four-year old Lisa had missed

Holiday Wonder



the event, but just as she was coming back to the Shelter with her mother, she spotted Santa through the window. She wriggled out of her mother's arms and burst through the door. Grabbing Santa's sleeve, she exclaimed, "Santa! I can't believe you found us here!" (Many of us standing nearby had a hard time holding back our tears.) Santa put his bags down and spent some time with Lisa; she clung to his sleeve and couldn't take her eyes off of him. Afterwards, as she walked away chatting excitedly with her mom, carrying her brand-new Easy Bake Oven, she declared this "the best Christmas ever!"



3409 East Medicine Lake Blvd.
Plymouth, MN 55441

Non Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Minneapolis, MN
Permit No. 2246

Return Service Requested

Current Needs

- ◆ Bus tokens
- ◆ Toothbrushes
- ◆ Lotion
- ◆ Deodorant
- ◆ Diapers size 5 and 6
- ◆ Used cell phones



For an updated list of current needs, please contact Kari at (763) 559-9008 or via email at khitchcock@missionsinc.org. Current needs are also listed on our website: www.homefreeprograms.org

Thank you!!!

Please contact Stela if you would like to be removed from our mailing list, have corrections or are moving.
(763) 559-1883 • sosmancevic@missionsinc.org or mail to: Home Free • Attn: Stela • 3409 E. Medicine Lake
Boulevard • Plymouth, MN 55441

Missions Inc. enables people struggling to meet fundamental human needs, to obtain safety and healing and to pursue justice in their lives.