



Positive Updates from Dawn's Place



A Glimpse into Life at Dawn's Place

Program:

At present there are six women in residence at Dawn's Place. Each woman works with staff to develop a plan for recovery, moving through the program in five phases designed methodically to increase responsibility for themselves and their future. Our comprehensive program includes individual and group trauma-informed therapy, case management, mindfulness instruction, peer mentor support, access to health care, education, legal assistance and other life and social skills. We connect residents dealing with addiction or mental health issues with off-site intensive outpatient programs at partnering organizations. Upon completion of the residential program, women are eligible to receive continued services through our After-Care program, including the option of transitional housing at the Teresita House for six months as they work towards earning income and securing long-term housing.

Day at the Shore:

Our staff, Ann Marie and Brendale, took the women to Atlantic City for a fun day in the sun and water. A few of the residents had never experienced the beach and the ocean; they were like children delighting in the waves. They then enjoyed a meal together and celebrated a resident's birthday with cake and ice cream. Although the women were exhausted on their return home, they were grateful for a day of fun and healing that allowed them a respite from past traumas. It was a joy for them to have a peaceful day. (See the picture below.)

Thank You:

Shevaun, our development director, put out an appeal through social media to help fund the expense of the day. What a great gift! And Joanna, our grant writer, became aware of the women's desire for a hammock and also asked for funding through social media. Their wish came true! Thank you to our friends who supported costs of the day at the shore and the hammock—both have provided many restful hours.

We are deeply grateful for our many friends and donors who remember Dawn's Place throughout the year with financial support and contributions of household items, necessities, food, gift cards and other donations. All your donations assist us in making our critical mission of supporting survivors of commercial sexual exploitation or sex trafficking, a reality. We sincerely appreciate your on-going concern.

Volunteer Program:

Last year, we had to suspend our volunteer program because of the restrictions of COVID-19. We will soon be looking for volunteers for the hours of 5:30pm – 8:00pm, Monday thru Friday and Sunday morning from 9:00 am – noon. We are arranging for orientation sessions for prospective volunteers. If you have received the two vaccination shots and you are interested in spending some time with the residents of Dawn's Place, please email me – dawnsplacekc@gmail.com. Thank you.

Finally, please continue to pray for all those directly affected by the COVID-19 virus—the medical professionals and families who have lost loved ones and friends to the virus. It has been extremely painful for those who were not able to be with their loved ones as they died.

-Sister Kathleen Coll SSJ, Executive Director of Dawn's Place



A word from Shevaun Brannigan, Development Director

Dawn's Place wishes to offer its great thanks to its longtime and new donors, who helped, through existing gifts and a Facebook fundraiser, make a day at the shore possible for our residents. The women had such a wonderful time together, and stayed in the ocean for hours, letting the waves knock them down and filling the air with the sound of their laughter. The day after the beach trip, a peaceful serenity filled the Dawn's Place residence. The change of pace and scenery was essential to helping the survivors live in the moment, and find joy. Thank you to every Dawn's Place donor who gave them this gift.

Thank You  Dawn's Place
stop sex trafficking ... support survivors



We're rated by
Charity Navigator!



Visit our website to learn more about Dawn's Place

GIVE SURVIVORS THE GIFT OF PEACE DURING THE PANDEMIC

Dawn's Place Provides Residents with Stability
During Uncertain Times



As the end of summer nears, and COVID-19 numbers rise, we continue to carefully monitor the recommendations from all levels of government. One thing is for sure: we will adapt with the circumstances to continue providing the best level of support to the Dawn's Place residents. But we can't do this without donor support like yours! Please, give a gift through

Dawn's Place to survivors of Commercial Sexual Exploitation-- give the gift of stability during unstable times. We couldn't do this without you!

Donate Now!

Legislative and Advocacy Updates

On June 30th, 2021, Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf signed five pieces of legislation into law– House Bills 156, 246, 843, 1147, and Senate Bill 81 – all of which the CSE Institute supports and commends.

[House Bill 156](#), introduced by Representative Clint Owlett, amends the Tender Years Hearsay Act to permit the introduction of hearsay statements made by children 16 years or younger concerning violent or sexually violent offenses. Previously, the exception applied to children under 12 years of age. The change will serve to protect child victims from re-traumatization.

[House Bill 246](#), introduced by Representative Natalie Mihalek, amends Pennsylvania's rape shield statute by expanding it to include victims of sex trafficking. [Victims and survivors of trafficking experience intense emotional](#), sexual and physical trauma as part of their exploitation. This new law protects victims of trafficking from having their sexual histories cross-examined, encouraging their testimony.

[House Bill 843](#), introduced by Representative David Rowe, expands protections for victims and potential victims by requiring convictions for trafficking and Promoting Prostitution of a Minor to be considered during custody cases in family court. Children involved in family court, specifically those involved in foster or kinship care [are at increased risk to be commercially sexually exploited](#).

[House Bill 1147](#), introduced by Representative Valerie Gaydos, demonstrates a commitment to rehabilitation and reformation over punishment in Pennsylvania's criminal justice system. This law requires individuals convicted of [trafficking a minor](#) or [Promoting Prostitution of a Minor](#), to undergo treatment for violent sexual behaviors. The CSE Institute emphasizes that through the passing of this bill it will be important for the Department of Corrections to implement a program that recognizes the unique factors that drive traffickers and should shape treatment accordingly.

Finally, [Senate Bill 81](#), introduced by Senator Wayne Langerholc, Jr., amends the Judicial Code to allow expert witnesses to be called in cases of domestic violence and human trafficking to explain the behavior of victims. The use of these expert witnesses will be crucial in helping jurors understand the trauma that results from sexual offenses and how that trauma affects the behavior and health of victims of human trafficking.

-Shea M. Rhodes, Esquire

Dawn's Place Board Member

Director and Co-Founder of Villanova Law Institute to Address Commercial and Sexual Exploitation



More Positive News

Good News...We have a car!

After a couple of months of shaking and putting along, our Ford Focus finally gave out. Since then, it has been difficult transporting the women to their different appointments when they can't go by public transportation.

Our bookkeeper and board president spent several hours researching good used cars with the best deals. With a list of four or five used cars dealers in hand, Mary De Fusco, President of the Board and Sr. Kathleen Coll set out in pursuit of a car. They found and purchased a low-mileage 2017 Toyota Camry (See the picture of the car below).

One of the criteria for a new car was that the back seat could hold three of the residents comfortably...it does. The women were all smiles because they said they would now be able to take trips without the worry of breaking down. When Ann Marie, the Resident Coordinator saw the car, all she could say was, "It's beautiful" and we agree! (See her picture below with the car).





[215-849-2396] [info@ahomefordawn.org]
[www.ahomefordawn.org]

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