

## Shelter for Abused Women & Children

### For Immediate Release

## SHELTER VIGIL TO HONOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS, SURVIVORS & ADVOCATES

NAPLES, FL – 9/2/08 – Join the [Shelter for Abused Women & Children](#) for a **Candlelight Vigil** on Wednesday, October 1, 2008, 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., at the Collier County Courthouse steps as part of National Domestic Violence Month activities designed to raise awareness about domestic violence, its impact on our community and local efforts to end the abuse before it begins.

*“This is more than a remembrance, it’s a call to action – for each of us to step forward and end violence in our homes, neighborhoods, schools and communities,”* details Shelter Executive Director Linda Oberhaus. *“This is really about addressing the problem by being part of the solution.”*

In addition to representatives from the Shelter for Abused Women & Children, individuals from the Collier County Sheriff’s Office and the Clerk of Courts will be speaking during the Vigil as well.

[National Domestic Violence Awareness Month](#) is an outgrowth from the first Day of Unity hosted by the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence in October of 1981 and was first observed in October of 1987. In 1989, the US Congress passed the first National Domestic Violence Awareness Month Commemorative Legislation and continues to do so annually to raise awareness about domestic violence, intimate partner and elder abuse.

In addition to the Wednesday, October 1, **Candlelight Vigil**, the Shelter for Abused Women & Children’s National Domestic Violence Awareness Month campaign activities include:

- **Children & Domestic Violence, Monday, October 6, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.**, a by-invitation-only training designed to introduce the effects of domestic violence on children to Shelter board members and partnering agencies.
- **Teacher Appreciation, Thursday, October 9**, time and location to be announced; 239-775-3862, ext. 217 for details.
- **Belize Survivor Book Signing Event, Saturday, October 11, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.**, at Options Thrift Shoppe, 968 Second Avenue North, Naples. Join local author and domestic violence survivor Nancy R. Koerner as she signs copies of her self-published book *Belize Survivor: Darker Side of Paradise*. Copies will be available at the signing for \$25.00 each with \$5.00 from each sale benefiting the Shelter’s life-transforming programs and services.
- **Healthy Relationships, Thursday, October 16, 2:00 p.m.**, for students at Edison Community College, Naples. Learn the signs of a healthy relationship. For details, please call 239-775-3862, ext. 238.
- **Cut Out Domestic Violence, Monday, October 20, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00/Noon**, training for salon professionals only. For more details please call 239-775-3862, ext. 229.
- **Strut Your Mutt, Saturday, October 25, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** at Germain BMW, 11286 Tamiami Trail North, Naples. Join the Shelter for this Halloween pet-costume event hosted by [The Humane Society Naples](#) and featuring a lively pet costume contests with prizes, local pet-related vendors and celebrity judges! Cost: \$10. For more information: 239-643-1880.
- **Children’s March on Main, Monday, October 27, 2008**, the Shelter’s *Immokalee Outreach Office* will host a children’s fair from 2:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., followed by a police-escorted Children’s March on Main Street in Immokalee from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. (Details to follow).

In addition to the above mentioned events, the Shelter is hosting a **Veterinarian Appeal** to provide local veterinarian offices with "Protect Your Pet" brochures and a **Cell Phone Drive** to collect cell phones that provide domestic violence victims access to 911 for emergency calls only. For more information on these two campaigns please call 239-775-3862.

The **Shelter for Abused Women & Children**, Collier County's state certified domestic violence center, provides [programs and services](#) designed to prevent domestic violence before it begins; advocates for societal changes to end domestic violence in our community; and meets the immediate and long term needs of victims and survivors.

Since 1989, the organization has served more than 50,000 individuals through its innovative programs and services. If you or someone you love is in an abusive relationship, please call the **24-hour crisis line at 239-775-1101**. To learn more about the **Shelter for Abused Women & Children's** life-transforming programs and services, please call 239-775-3862, or visit our website at [www.naplesshelter.org](http://www.naplesshelter.org).

*The Shelter for Abused Women & Children helps adult and child victims and survivors of domestic violence through safety, intervention and support; educates the public about domestic violence; and advocates for social change against domestic violence. For more information, please contact us at 239-775-3862, or visit us online at: [www.naplesshelter.org](http://www.naplesshelter.org)*

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