



# NEWSLETTER

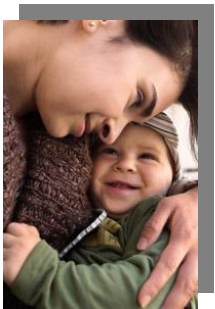
July 2009

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## ***To those who care and those who can:***

This month's newsletter is devoted to a special appeal to support the ongoing Newhouse mission. "In Her Own Words" is written this month by Laura Wesche, a Newhouse board member, who knows first-hand the emotional and physical costs of domestic violence. Your donation can change a life.

I strongly and enthusiastically, but with personal heartbreak, support the dream and mission of Newhouse: "To break the cycle of domestic violence by providing the tools that allow women to make positive choices and lead self-sufficient lives."



Three of my children are mine through adoption; they were removed from their home at ages 4, 5 and 8 when their biological parents were repeatedly unable and unwilling to break the cycle of domestic violence in all of their lives. After two years in foster care, my children's biological

parents' rights were involuntarily terminated; a loss they will all lament for the rest of their lives. Their biological mother was repeatedly told by police officers, child protective service workers, teachers and other professionals that she had to protect her kids. She was given help to get a restraining order against her abuser, my children's biological father. But over and over again, she didn't believe she had any where else to turn, and gave into his pleadings to take him back.

My children's biological father spent much of his life in prison, beginning at age 16. He did not graduate from high school, used drugs, was uneducated and unemployable. He was neglected and abused as a child, and saw his own father beat his mother and other girlfriends. My children's biological mother was raised in foster care and seems to be attracted to abusive men. She is uneducated, low-functioning, and now without her beautiful children. She let police take her children in the middle of the night, rather than leave her abuser and seek safe shelter to help her address her own needs, hurts, failings and vulnerabilities.

My children lost the only family they knew, and lost what they needed in their early lives: attachment, care, food, safety. These five lives - dad, mom, son, son and son - were deeply and unconscionably hurt by this

unbroken cycle of domestic violence. After six years in my home - my highly functioning, foster-care-trained, loving, educated, affluent, two-parent home - one of my sons continues to suffer flash backs, post traumatic stress, anger, anxiety, extraordinarily low self-worth, and fantasies of power over women and children. He is 14. He has broken my fingers, threatened and hurt his brothers and sister, been hospitalized, twice suspended from school, and is under constant supervision. It is my personal dream that he will break through his early life lessons that the world is to be feared. My husband and I are dedicated to helping him shed his hate-filledness, and forever break the devastating cycle of domestic violence that continues to rob him of life. I pray this cycle won't continue in the lives of my grandchildren.

I've read the reports of the night my children were taken into state custody. The police lost patience with their mother. She had a restraining order, but let him stay the night. They had told her repeatedly of the dangers and that they'd "take your children" but she was unable to comply. She needed a friend who understood what was going on in her life, and that it had been going on for generations, before her own birth. She needed an advocate who could walk with her and show her other choices. She needed a safe place to live, where she could learn life skills and parenting skills and keep her family together. She needed psychological counseling to address her own lifetime of hurt. The courts tried to mandate these "services" but lacked the empathy that could have encouraged her to accept this as helpful. She needed Newhouse.

Newhouse provides the actionable, authentic, helpful, researched, targeted, individual services needed by women living lives similar to my children's biological mother. Newhouse can be as much a therapeutic safe haven, as it is a physical shelter. Breaking the cycle of domestic violence rests heavily on the women involved and Newhouse strives to provide the life-changing, life-giving tools they need that allow them to make positive choices and lead self-sufficient lives.

—Laura Wesche, Newhouse Board Member

***The mission of Newhouse is to break the cycle of domestic violence by providing the tools that allow women to make positive choices and lead self-sufficient lives.***

**Please support the services that make Newhouse a safe haven for women and children.**

**Yes, I want to support the future of Newhouse!**

- \$50       \$500  
 \$100     \$1,000  
 \$250     Other

**I would like to pay by:**

- Check  
 Credit Card  
 Cash

Credit Card  
Information:

Account No. \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Your  
Information:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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All gifts are tax-deductible. Cumulative cash gifts of \$100 or more to Newhouse each calendar year may qualify for Missouri tax credits.



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Newhouse Thanks the Following Foundations, Individuals and Corporate Donors  
for Support in May and June 2009

- Anonymous \$50,000
- Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas City \$1,000
- Country Club Christian Church \$8,362
- Gourley Family Foundation Fund \$2,000
- Hall Family Foundation \$50,000
- JE Dunn Construction Company \$1,000
- Albert and Patsey Peterson \$1,000
- Second Presbyterian Church \$1,750
- Timothy Baptist Church \$10,000
- United Way United for Hope Campaign \$15,000
- Verizon Foundation \$9,500
- Visitation Catholic Church \$1,000



Newhouse is a domestic violence shelter serving the KC metro area. Newhouse is also available for presentations to any group on topics including teen dating violence and violence in the workplace.

**For help or shelter (816) 471-5800 or (816) HOTLINE**