



# NEWSLETTER

May 2009

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## In Her Own Words...

The Newhouse Newsletter is published bi-monthly. With each issue we bring you the voice of a Newhouse resident as she shares her new beginning.

I am from Sudan. I came to this country in 1995 and became a US Citizen in 2001. In my country, marriages are arranged by the family. My uncle arranged my marriage to a man who started abusing me only one month after our wedding in 2003. He would hit and kick me when we argued.

Many times, I called the police for help. When my family would intervene, my husband would say he was sorry and promise not to hit me again. But that would never happen, he always hit me again. My family wanted us to stay together because in my country people stay married no matter what. We had two children and I was pregnant with our third when he threatened to kill me.

One day when I was at a health clinic where I go with my children, I saw a poster for the Newhouse shelter for women and children. I took the number and kept it with me just in case I would need it. The next time my husband threatened to kill me and the children, I knew he was serious and we fled with only the clothes we had on and nothing more. I went to my sister's house and then called Newhouse for help. But I had to go through this three more times before I was strong enough to finally leave.

Since I've been in shelter at Newhouse, I have gotten a Full Order of Protection against my husband and I have custody of my children. Now I am taking GED classes, English language classes, and I'm looking for housing for me and my children. Newhouse is providing me with mental health therapy, groups and child care. Luckily, my family here in the US supports my decision to get a divorce. Traditionally, it is unacceptable to get a divorce in Sudan. But now I know I don't have to put up with abuse. Newhouse has changed my life. I am a much stronger person now.

—Sirah

## The High Cost of Domestic Violence

### *Did you know...*

The cost of domestic violence to society includes lost productivity at work, medical costs and mental health costs.

In Kansas City, the cost of domestic violence to society is currently **\$58,000 a day**—and the estimated cost swells to more than **\$21 million a year** (2008 Domestic Violence Point-in-Time Survey).

National statistics include:

- Nationally, the costs of intimate partner violence against women exceed an estimated **\$5.8 billion**.
- Costs include nearly **\$4.1 billion** in the direct costs of medical care and mental healthcare and nearly **\$1.8 billion** in the indirect costs of lost productivity.
- The estimated total value of days lost from employment and household chores is **\$858.6 million**.
- More than 13.5 million total days are lost from job and housework productivity, which is equivalent to 47,339 person-years.

Source: *Costs of Intimate Partner Violence Against Women in the United States*, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2003

## Newhouse Celebrates Ongoing Grant Support

Newhouse thanks the following donors for recent grant support:

- Morgan Family Foundation (\$10,000)
- Scouler Foundation (\$4,000)
- Thrivent Financial (\$1,000)

## Chaplaincy Is Back at Newhouse

In January 2009, Newhouse secured a grant from the Shumaker Family Fund for its chaplaincy program. Cindy Molini, holds an early morning chapel service where residents are encouraged to set their intentions for the day. Two spirituality groups each week focus on topics such as finding one's purpose, self-esteem, and hope. Molini says, "All our sessions allow for each women's unique values and religious traditions—all beliefs are accepted and respected."

Molini is also helping Newhouse connect with the faith community through the Newhouse Speaker's Bureau. Newhouse (originally NEWS) was founded in 1971 by a group of Methodist and Presbyterian neighborhood activists and continues to partner with the faith community in its effort to break the cycle of violence in families.

Molini has been a lifelong advocate for women and young people. In addition to providing chaplaincy services previously at Newhouse (1999-2000), she has worked in educational ministries for a number of churches and teaches theology, most recently at Notre Dame de Sion.

***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.***

## It's Spring! Please support Newhouse!

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

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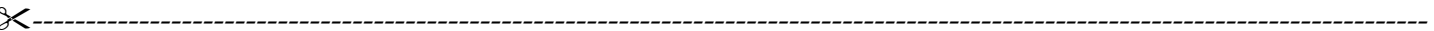
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All gifts are tax-deductible. Cumulative cash gifts of \$100 or more to Newhouse each calendar year may qualify for Missouri tax credits.



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### Newhouse Resident Is Recipient of Second Chance Smiles

Newhouse is pleased to announce that a past resident, Tedra Root, is the recipient of the 2009 Second Chance Smiles Program. Second Chance Smiles is a Kansas City, nonprofit program founded by Kelly Thomas, DDS dedicated to improving the human condition and quality of life through dental makeovers for women who have fallen victim to domestic violence.

After years of dental neglect as a child and having all of her teeth beaten loose by her abuser, Tedra Root will receive a complete dental makeover. Leslie Caplan, Newhouse President, states, "Second Chance Smiles is helping Tedra continue on her path of changing her entire life and leaving behind the misery she has known in the past."

Tedra came to Newhouse a short time ago with her children. She was fleeing from an abusive husband in New York. Her story is one of incredible abuse, stalking and lack of family support. Yet through it all, she persevered by coming to Newhouse to work the domestic violence education program, develop a new support system for herself and her children, find employment, and obtain housing for her family. Tedra continues to give back by volunteering at the shelter and is featured in an informational DVD about Newhouse.



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**