

Greetings all,

October was nationally recognized as DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH. As I was deciding on our service project for the diocese for this year, I had already decided we would be helping domestic violent shelters around our state with this sad, devastating problem. After seeing the article in CATHOLIC WOMAN magazine on this subject and researching the statistics in our state, I was even more determined to make us more aware of the needs of these women, children and even men.

Did you know that 1 in 3 women in this state will experience some form of domestic violence in her lifetime? The rate here in Utah is slightly higher than the national average. (32.4% vs. 28.8%). More than 40% of adult homicides in Utah since 2000 have been domestic violence related. The third leading cause of homelessness is domestic violence.

Here in Utah we have many shelters that serve these women and their families. The people that enter these shelters spend an average of 30 days there before being transitioned out on their own. Overall, approximately 3,000 men, women, and children stay in shelters each year, and Utah's DCFS receives more than 4,600 domestic violence related child abuse referrals annually. These statistics are alarming.

Helping these individuals while they are at the shelters will be our focus for the coming months.

So let's kick off this worthwhile project.....

BRINGING JOY TO THOSE IN NEED

I have contacted many shelters across the state and I have chosen 8 of them that we will help. These range from Ogden to St. George. I feel this will keep our efforts in our local communities. From their input I have compiled a list of needed items. The lists they gave me were much more extensive than the one we will be using. I have tried to address the most needed items as well as giving us a variety of options in many areas and with varying costs. There should be something on the list for everyone's interests.

NEW sweatpants or yoga pants for women. All sizes	Black Trash Bags 13 gallon or 33 gallon or larger
NEW underwear for women and children. All sizes	Lysol wipes
NEW bras. All sizes	Notebooks or journals and pens
NEW t-shirts for women and children. All sizes	Kids snacks and juice boxes
NEW pillows	Baby wipes and desitin
NEW pajamas for toddlers	NEW makeup
NEW socks for women and children	

The shelters I have chosen are as follows -

YCC Family Crisis Center - Ogden, Utah	Safe Harbor - Kaysville	YMCA - Salt Lake City
The Center for Women and Children in Crisis - Orem	Colleen Quigley Women's Center - Price	
Women's Crisis Center - Vernal	Canyon Creek - Cedar City	Dove Center - St. George

With everyone's help we can make a difference in these shattered lives.

Blessed to be among you,
Lisa Adamson
Service Commission Chair