

# Chances & Changes Chrystalis

Serving Livingston County since 1979

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICES

NEWSLETTER & ANNUAL REPORT  
FALL 2014



## IN THIS NEWSLETTER ...

In previous issues of our newsletter, we have written about those we call "phenomenal women" ... women who have nearly completed their transition to survivor, finding a place to live, being able to provide for themselves and their family, and securing stable employment.

In this issue we will share recent stories from some of these phenomenal women who are reconnecting and rebuilding their lives (names have been changed for their protection).

## PHENOMENAL WOMAN: "KASANDRA"

My name is Kasandra, and I have been in at least four different abusive relationships.

In 2010 I decided I'd had enough, and I called my local shelter and asked to be moved to a different county to be safe and try to start over. Along with domestic violence issues, I also suffered from the disease of addiction. During my stay at Chances and Changes, I remained abstinent...actually it wasn't hard to do. I had changed people, places, and things. The warmth I felt from the staff was reassuring. I felt safe; although I was in a strange place, I felt as though this was where I belonged. And so I transitioned from the county I grew up in for a chance at a new start for me and my children.

There was counseling, transportation, and resources available. The staff encouraged me in all of my endeavors...there was enough staff available for me to get one-on-one time if I needed it. So, I went on to start my new life and stayed in touch with the staff.

Well, as women of domestic violence say often, I must be a magnet...here I was again at the shelter and I was welcomed with open arms. I came with a lot of extra personal baggage and they helped me unpack each situation at a time I was broken and distraught.

*...helped  
give me the  
chance to  
change my  
life*

Through the help of Chances and Changes I am whole again. I am glowing now with strength. I have the tools to spot the abusers a mile away thanks to the counselor who I worked with. We all make mistakes...just remember there is help available. You have to want it!

I will soon be on my way again to spread my wings. Chances and Changes helped give me the chance to change my life. I couldn't have given the place a better name. This experience has actually helped me realize my calling. I want to help give other women a chance to change. So, Chances and Changes staff, I look forward to being a volunteer and eventually opening another shelter...God's will...one love.

Sincerely, K.

## JEMISON PLACE COMES TO FRUITION

In our last two newsletters we have written about the hard work that promised help to victims of domestic violence and homelessness who were ready to obtain safe housing and move on with their lives.

We are excited to tell you that we have finally opened Jemison Place, a transitional housing facility and program for those in need of specific supportive assistance but also working to live independently.

Jemison has six fully renovated apartments; all currently occupied. The first tenant and her son moved in during March 2014. The facility is fully secure with security cameras around the entire building. It has a modern laundry area and a children's playground. There is a Chances and Changes advocate on site who works on a daily basis with individuals to help them become self-sufficient by making their own plans to acquire life skills such as education and child care as well as budgeting and career management.

Jemison Place offers women facing economic, physical, or emotional issues due to various hardships the opportunity to rethink, regroup, and reconnect back into the community.

## Make A Donation

### October is National Domestic Violence Prevention and Education Month

Please consider using the enclosed donation envelope to make a contribution in support of the work we are doing to help abused adults and children build a bridge to independent living and an abuse-free life by creating housing options outside of emergency shelter. Your contribution is tax deductible.

## Phenomenal Woman: "Elizabeth"

I want to officially thank Chances and Changes for the warm and loving treatment I received when I was there. I have been to several shelters/safe houses and Chances and Changes was by far the best and the most comfortable for me.

I was unsure and at a new low when I arrived at your shelter. Everyone treated me like an adult client, even though I was held accountable and responsible for my actions. I was given respect and there was always someone available for any needs I had.

Graciously & sincerely, E.



## Phenomenal Woman: "Taylor"

To all the "boss ladies,"

I didn't imagine I would ever be here...again, but I'm glad I am here! I admire and respect all the hard work and selfless dedication you all put yourselves through. I was happy to see familiar faces!! The new "boss ladies" fit in too, they haven't given me too much trouble, yet ... Actually, they are very helpful.

Keep up the good work!! And, especially thank you for not giving up on me! This place feels like my second home so I keep on coming back! You are truly appreciated. Thanks again for your support, encouragement, kindness and understanding. God bless you.

Love, T.

## Phenomenal Woman: "Joyce"

Last year, at the beginning of the year, my marriage was crumbling. My husband of 14 years had been staying out until at least 1 o'clock in the morning, daily. If he was home, he was constantly arguing with me and calling me names. It didn't matter if our son was present or not. He never hit me; however, he would get into my physical space and with me asking him to get out of my space, he would refuse and keep challenging me.

In the middle of March, we had a huge fight and he left. A few days later I was served with papers for him to obtain custody of our 5 year old son. I then had received a call from an unknown male person stating that my husband was having an affair with his wife.

My husband left me with a mortgage payment and all the bills. I was totally uncertain what to do. I work for a good employer so I went to see our Employee Assistance Program Coordinator for help because I had no idea where to turn and it was starting to affect my work. The Coordinator made a call to Chances and Changes and I spoke with them. On Good Friday, I met with the shelter advocate and she helped me to fill out the appropriate paperwork for me to retain custody of my son and get a restraining order against my husband.

Chances and Changes helped me to retain a lawyer through LAW NEW YORK. I did not have to pay for this service which was a blessing considering I had no money because my husband had not been helping to pay any of the bills, including our son's daycare expenses. Each time I went to court, the Court Advocate from Chances and Changes went with me and helped to explain what was going to happen. I don't know what I would have done without her assistance; she made going to court a less stressful experience.

Recently I went to court and have divorced my husband. I have physical custody of our son, and he has adjusted well to the changes that we have faced in our life this past year. I want to thank Chances and Changes for all of their help and support in my time of need.

J.

## Athletica Reaches Out Quietly and Effectively



Most of us who live in the Greater Genesee Valley area know about Athletica - also doing business as Team Cheer and Girls Got Game. As a successful local community business whose reach is far beyond our local area, they also know the importance of striving to be a true local community partner.

No community non-profit organization knows better than Chances and Changes, Inc., how passionate Athletica is about giving back to their community. Over the past twelve years, they have supported our annual charity golf tournament. More recently, they have also helped to support our Annual Amy's Walk as part of our outreach during October as National Domestic Violence Prevention and Education Month. Amy's Walk is dedicated to Amy Sayle who worked for Athletica at the time of her death, the result of a senseless act of relationship violence in 2006.

Chances and Changes, Inc. applauds Athletica's dedication to giving back to the community where they live, work, and conduct business. We know that they will continue to help make our community a better place. We thank them and wish them continued success.

## Silver Lake Country Club Ladies' Golf League Benefits Chances and Changes

For the second year in a row, more than 100 area lady golfers came together this past June for the Ladies' Golf Invitational at Silver Lake Country Club in support of Chances and Changes. We are again overwhelmed by the generosity of the ladies' golf group who coordinated this event. Their dedication and hard work made it a great success with more than \$2,400 in net proceeds going directly to benefit the programs and services of our agency and emergency shelter. Thank you to everyone involved!



***Does your partner ever act in ways that make you feel afraid?***

***Call Chances and Changes Hotline at 1-888-252-9360***

## 5th Annual Amy's Walk

Our 5th Annual Amy's Walk took place in Genesee in 2013 and was another dedicated effort to acknowledge the prevalence of intimate partner/relationship/and dating violence. The Walk raised more than \$2,000 for our organization in recognition of October as Domestic Violence and Education Month.

We look for this year's Amy's Walk on October 4th to be another success for us and our community.

## 13th Annual Charity Golf Tournament at Caledonia Country Club

Our largest fundraiser of the year continues to be our own Annual Charity Golf Tournament. This year's tournament on September 9th was another great success. We are grateful to all of our volunteers, our golfers, and donors for their support of this important event. Thank you especially to Terry Clifford of WBEE Morning Coffee Club for being with us again this year.





## Events and Opportunities

### Annual Giving Appeal

The enclosed donation envelope is an easy way to give to our **Annual Giving Campaign**. Domestic violence and homeless situations know no season, they happen every day. So we hope you will take this opportunity to include us in your charitable gift-giving and get a tax deduction to boot!

**Give a Gift In Honor Of ... Or In Memory Of** - These kinds of gifts can be given at any time.

**The IRA Charitable Rollover** provision of the Pension Protection Act of 2006 provides an annual exclusion from gross income - and, thus, from Federal income tax - for "qualified charitable distributions" of up to \$100,000. Is this option right for you and us?

### Support Group meetings

... are held on Mondays and Fridays at various locations. Babysitting is available by calling ahead. Call 585-658-3940 for times and locations each week.

### Save These 2015 Dates:

- **14th Annual Charity Golf Tournament** will be held September 15, 2015.
- **7th Annual Amy's Walk** will be held on October 3, 2015.

**Wish List:** Space limits prevent us from printing our list here - so please consult our website: [www.chancesandchanges.org](http://www.chancesandchanges.org) or call us for more information.



Choose. Give. Matter.

**December 2, 2014**

Make your direct contribution to Chances & Changes, Inc.  
[www.roctheday.org](http://www.roctheday.org)

### Chances & Changes "Easy Recipe" Cookbook

Available by calling our office at 585-658-3940 and asking for Dawn. A donation of \$10 to help support our programs and services is requested.

### Collectible Custom Artwork

Chances & Changes continues to make available custom copper artwork in the form of garden stakes, pins, ornaments and other items that make great gifts. Call us to order. All proceeds go directly to help provide our services.

*Chances & Changes, Inc.*

P.O. Box 326  
Geneseo, NY 14454

Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-888-252-9360  
Rape Crisis Hotline: 1-800-527-1757  
[www.chancesandchanges.org](http://www.chancesandchanges.org)

Livingston County Licensed  
Domestic Violence Agency



A United Way Agency  
(Designation #213)

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION  
**U.S. POSTAGE PAID**  
GENESEO, NY 14454  
**PERMIT NO. 33**

Please call 658-3940 to update mailing information.

## *Chances & Changes, Inc.*

### 2013 ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Chances & Changes, Inc. maintains high standards of accountability in handling all cash accounts, volunteer services, and in-kind donations. Financial statements are prepared in compliance with generally accepted accounting principles and submitted to independent auditors on an annual basis. Government grants were provided to the Agency primarily through the State of New York and Livingston County. Public support was provided by United Way of Livingston & Wyoming Counties and concerned individuals and organizations. Program service revenues were received from various Departments of Social Services for in-shelter and out-of-shelter victims and/or survivors including individuals who are homeless due to domestic violence or inter-related causes. In-kind donations, such as clothing and household items, provided invaluable support to victims and their families as they worked to transition to independent abuse-free lives.

#### YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2013 AND PRIOR YEAR COMPARISON

	2013	2012	Increase/ (Decrease)
<b>Total Public Support and Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 794,266</b>	<b>\$ 613,292</b>	<b>\$ 180,974</b>
Includes the following key sources of revenue:			
Program Services	\$ 277,780	\$ 248,960	\$ 28,820
Government Grants	\$ 456,477	\$ 302,223	\$ 154,254
United Way of Livingston & Wyoming Counties	\$ 25,752	\$ 27,703	\$ ( 1,951)
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 751,489</b>	<b>\$ 617,476</b>	<b>\$ 134,013</b>
Includes payroll, employee benefits, and related expenses	\$ 564,656	\$ 476,471	\$ 88,185

During 2013, the organization received a significant portion of its support and revenue from various counties' Departments of Social Services as program service revenue, and from various government agencies in the form of grant income. For the years ended December 31, 2013, and 2012, revenues from the Departments of Social Services amounted to 34% and 40% of total revenue, and revenue from government grants amounted to 57% and 48% of total revenue, respectively. The two sources of revenue combined amounted to 91% and 89% of total revenue for the years ended December 31, 2013, and 2012, respectively. We are a participating agency of United Way of Livingston & Wyoming Counties.

The NYS Family Violence Advocate/Department of Social Services grant was again approved for 2013 enabling us to continue in-home visits by our Family Service Advocate, giving counseling and needed support to families throughout the county area. Government grants increased year over year by nearly 30% primarily due to grant income received from New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance/Solutions to End Homelessness Program as well from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and a Community Services Block Grant. These grants resulted in the expansion of our transitional housing program for homeless services to victims of domestic violence and/or inter-related causes.

For our part, we are always seeking new sources of grant funding for the agency. We also seek financial support from local businesses and organizations. This past year saw an increase in monetary donations through public support to our agency. We hope this is a trend for the future and ask for your on-going support using the enclosed donation envelope provided in recognition of October as National Domestic Violence Prevention and Education Month. As always, all monetary donations are tax deductible. Please contact us at 585-658-3940 if you would like to have a conversation.

A copy of our full financial report may be obtained upon request in writing to  
Young & Company CPAs, LLP, Rochester, NY 14623

## Director's Message ...

I am writing this message as we are all watching the aspects of the Ray Rice perpetration of violence against his then partner, now his wife. This is a very upsetting situation that is all too common and which almost never makes the news - it happens all the time and we all want to act as if it is a rare event - it is not.

In fact, since this incident occurred, over 600 women have been killed by a current or previous partner in the U.S. Having stated this, how many victims have not died but have suffered terrible abuses, many who have been disabled or permanently injured due to current abuses or from a culmination of years of abuse - thousands. Equally if not more upsetting is the ongoing victim blaming that is all too common as well - no one deserves to be abused in any way; and when one truly understands the complexities of domestic violence, what Mr. Rice's victim is doing is predictable and to be expected.

Domestic violence is difficult to understand due to its myriad complexities and is seemingly illogical to those who do not understand. Leaving is rarely the choice victims take for very logical reasons. Despite these complexities, violence in the family is pretty simple; it is a pattern of behaviors where violence/abuse is used against partners (in all walks of life) because the abuser can often get away with it since, collectively as a society and as individuals, we rarely seem to hold the abuser accountable for their actions. We simply ask why she (most DV victims are female) doesn't just leave. We question the victim as to her actions, not the abuser. And when we do question the abuser, the consequences for most abusers are minimal.

So it continues ..... despite the horrific impact of domestic violence, we keep somehow expecting it to go away yet we do not make substantive changes in how we, each and everyone of us, address it - or not. There is NOTHING that is not impacted by domestic/family violence/abuse and its aftermath.

If there is any good in this recent event, and others like it that have been finally called out, maybe it will move more of us to change and to help accomplish real change in our communities. Maybe we just might be finally "getting it." Abuse is NOT acceptable, period. Individual and societal change can occur, it must occur. I could not do this job if I didn't believe that we can change BUT it takes all of us, men and women, to say "enough" and get serious about how we deal with this specter of behaviors that are so pervasive and so destructive. Change is hard but necessary, we need to work to make real change happen - it starts with each of us individually.

As always, I wish to thank our Board of Directors for their ongoing commitment and support, to our many volunteers and concerned community members/supporters as well as to the many businesses and agencies we collaborate with and to the agency's dedicated staff - it takes ALL of us working together - one step at a time.

Please feel free to call with any questions or to schedule a meeting or arrange for a presentation for your group. We have many outreach, education and prevention programs available as well as both residential and non-residential services.

Sincerely,  
Karen Tremer, MPA  
Executive Director

## Chances and Changes, Inc. Board of Directors

Nancy Cleveland  
Karen Crawford  
Cheryl Lynch  
Marsha Mitchell  
Gayla Morris  
Anne Marie Parry  
Sue Schedlbauer

## Executive Director Nomination - 2015 National Crime Victims' Service Award

In early August, the staff of Chances and Changes had the opportunity to put forth a nominee for the 2015 National Crime Victims' Service Award which is sponsored by the Office for Victims of Crime. OVC is one of seven components within the Office of Justice Programs, a part of the U.S. Department of Justice.

It is with heartfelt appreciation that the staff of Chances and Changes put forth a nomination for our Director, Karen Tremer, for this prestigious award.

Karen's contributions have provided leadership and change to programs and services supporting victims of crime; her nomination for this award focused on her contribution of long arduous hours as director of our domestic violence, homelessness, and rape/sexual assault shelter and agency with great determination to push programs and services forward to ensure clients can find safe refuge and get the help they need. Karen's dedication and compassion are admirable in the fight to end domestic violence in our communities.

The Review Team decisions will be finalized as part of the National Crime Victims' Rights Week which will be observed April 19-25, 2015.

