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Dear friends and Partners:

The "I Can Still Shine" Mission Statement: Support women and children—who have been victims of domestic violence and drug abuse—with food, clothing, and counseling, giving them a fresh start, free from abuse.

Family violence is a serious, preventable public health problem affecting millions of women every year. Drug abuse is a major contributor to the violence. According to the Texas Council on Family Violence, 38 percent of Texas women have experienced spousal abuse.

The "I Can Still Shine Program" provides food, clothing, and counseling, as well as many other services such as education, school supplies and Christmas gifts.

The biggest need: our Emergency Care Program, which helps clients relocate and start over. Emergency needs may include food, clothing, counseling, rent, deposits, car repair, gas cards, medical, eye glasses, and counseling. Your support makes all of this possible.

We are proud to be a faith-based program where women and children find hope, which is the key to their starting a new life, successful and safe. When women leave a violent home, they don't know how they will survive. They've been told they can't make it on their own. We show them how they can.

These women and children have so little, even the smallest gifts are a great blessing, bringing tears of gratitude instead of pain. When everyone donates a little, we can do a lot. Everyone deserves a second chance.

When you partner with the I Can Still Shine program, you help change the lives of many abused moms and children.

One lady said, "Well, Brenda, I can only do a little."

That's okay. Together, we accomplish a lot. The smallest gifts still make a difference. With every donation, we help another hurting family with:

1. Rent and utilities, child care, food, counseling
2. Educational needs, gas cards to help moms get to work, or minor auto repairs
3. Eye exams, glasses, dental exams, teeth cleaned, emergency medical care
4. Furniture and household items

What Your Help Is Accomplishing

In the last 18 years, we have helped thousands of women and children find safety from domestic violence. Not one life has been lost. Praise God.

We offer help for two years, providing for emergency and daily needs. We receive no government funding, so moms and children depend entirely upon your support.

You Can Help Us Do More

Because of your generosity, we plan to reach more than 300 women and children in 2013. Over 93 percent of the battered women we serve will become self-sufficient, breaking the cycle of abuse for themselves and their children. Now that is a real miracle.

We love you all. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts. God has big plans for us in 2013.

Thank you for partnering with us to change lives.

Sincerely,

Brenda Jackson

Executive Director

HOUSING:

We offer low-cost housing and rent assistance to clients.

EDUCATIONAL, MEDICAL, and COUNSELING SERVICES:

Through our partnership with the Verizon Foundation and business and individual donors, we offer...

1. Training for our women through counseling, as well as group and individual programs.
2. College scholarships for moms and high school seniors through our Education Program.
3. Drug and alcohol counseling and referrals, as well as prison reentry services.
4. Bullying classes to benefit kids, showing how to report abuses when they happen.
5. Bus passes. Free eye exams and eyeglasses.
6. Chiropractic care and dental care as needed for emergency clients.
7. Through Chips Insurance, we pay for family health insurance for up to one year.
8. Through Summer Santa partnership, summer camp and special needs camps.
9. School Clothes through Summer Santa, Marta's Golf Team, and others.

SPECIAL EVENTS:

We need men and women in the community to partner with us for special events held for a weekend or a week. A camping and fishing trip make a huge difference in these kids' lives.

Change the life of a child, and you will change families for many generations. We need speakers and community leaders to partner with us and share what services you offer for the benefit of women and children.

The Results:

With the assistance of our ICSSP Program, our clients effectively break the cycle of abuse, drugs, and alcohol. We help victims with the kinds of assistance that lead them to lives free from dependencies.

Did you know?

Up to 50 percent of homeless women and children are fleeing domestic violence. Program leaders in Texas face a unique challenge: how does the second-largest state properly accommodate the rising need for services?

In 2009, Texas provided assistance to 79,367 adult and children survivors of family violence, and the need is still increasing. On average, less than 30 percent of state clients will achieve independence. The remaining 70 percent will return to a life of fear, pain and anguish because they see no other option. In the US, over 3,000 women each year are killed by their partners/husbands. For more information, visit www.tcfv.org.

Research shows over 50 percent of all women in drugs and alcohol have been abused by father, or husband, family friend, or relative.

I Can Still Shine Program Goals

A new two-year program focuses on giving women and children daily support. We believe everyone deserves a chance to start over with a better life.

Services begin on the day when a client comes in. No red tape. Emergencies account for 30 percent of our calls, so our staff is trained to take immediate action.

We are a 501c3 non-profit - faith-based organization. We work with other agencies to break the cycle of abuse, homelessness, and drug and alcohol dependencies.

The "I Can Still Shine" program is successful because of many highly educated, well-trained staff members and counselors, with over 40 years of working experience in domestic violence, drug and alcohol abuse recovery, and prison release.

Program Services

- Low-cost housing referrals
- CHIPS insurance for children, fees paid
- Free eye exams and glasses
- GED testing, fees paid
- Referrals to other programs
- Free counseling services—two locations offsite
- Personal support and encouragement daily
- Monthly pampering/educational events at local churches on the second Saturdays each month. These events include motivational and educational speakers, Chips insurance fees paid, and bank accounts opened. TANF and food stamp Information.
- Utility and rent assistance, deposit waivers
- Food, clothing, furniture, daily
- Personal care items
- Drug and alcohol referrals—help getting into long-term-care facilities
- Prison ministry support, counseling, and referrals
- Summer camp for children
- School supplies and backpacks
- Christmas gifts for children



Community Support

Our success depends upon help from our community. Your donations are desperately needed.

- Financial and monetary donations
- Toiletries: shampoo, personal hygiene items, laundry detergent, personal items, socks underwear, curling irons, brushes
- Food Bank items—dried or canned goods, packaged good, bottled water
- Supplies to feed 300 people per month from our food pantry
- Personal items—feminine products, shampoo, conditioner, curling irons, brushes
- Clothing all sizes, especially women’s large sizes 18-22 and men’s pants 34–40 waist. Polo shirts, large and extra-large. Coats before winter.
- Kids size 8–16 clothing for teenagers
- Cars, new or used, household items, furniture, dishes, pots, pans, sheets, towels, blankets, appliances
- Use of your business or church rooms for training classes
- Free services to clients: car repairs, oil changes, dry cleaning, counseling, teeth cleaning, eye exams, school physicals, dental work, haircuts
- Furniture, computers, beds, washers, dryers, school supplies,
- Company- church- or school-sponsored food drives
- Sponsors for a golf tournament or 5K run
- Job openings at your company. Conducting job fares

Answering Screams in the Night

Help, it's a cry seldom voiced, and heard even less. Women cover their black eyes, and bruised lips, with a belief that somehow, conditions will get better. Thinking tomorrow can't be as bad as today, they hang on until all their strength is gone and they have no choice but to let go. What happens after that? Some commit suicide. Others react in anger and kill. Many run away but, finding nowhere to go, return to continuing abuse. A fortunate few reach out and find help. They call us.

"Hi, how are you tonight?" Silence, broken only by muffled sobs, is all Brenda hears as the caller tries to find courage to tell what happened. She listens to the stories, more brutal than Halloween's worst fright.

Brenda isn't a degreed psychologist. She is one with an intense desire to help. Because she was beaten and left to die more than once, she understands what has happened on the other end of the phone. First she cries because she knows the pain, and then she begins to turn the caller's desperation into hope.

"They don't know where to turn or what to do," Brenda says, speaking of her callers. "We just point them in the right direction. If they want spiritual support, we pray and refer them to a nearby pastor. If they're local, we help them find a place to stay, or get counseling. We often make referrals to other shelters in our area. We assist in job placement, utility bills, foods, clothing, and emergency needs. Trained workers assist them in getting food stamps, child care, section 8 housing, and medical care. The rest is up to them."

Abused women can't see an alternative to their pain, so they endure it. The pressure builds. The injuries become more frequent and more severe. By the time suffering women finally reach Brenda, they are often on the verge of suicide, or their lives are threatened.

"Callers are not just bruised in their bodies, their spirit is destroyed", Brenda says. "They have lived without hope for so long, they can't imagine how they would find a job and take care of their children. The hardest part is getting them to believe that is possible."

A woman will typically leave her husband five times or more before she leaves for good. Thirty percent of the women killed in the US, are murdered, by their husbands or boyfriends. Over 3,000 are killed each year. Studies have shown that less than 20 percent of all abuse is even reported. This is such a tragedy.

Why does the abused wife keep going back? The husband says he is sorry. Supposedly, he won't beat her again. The wife wants to believe that lie, so she does.

Yet, the problem worsens. If she waits too long to break away, we may read about her untimely death.

The need greatly exceeds the resources available. Shelters report that less than 30 percent of the women seeking help will find long-term housing. If relatives or friends don't help, there is often nowhere else to go. A woman has no choice but to return to her life of abuse.

"We do all we can," Brenda says. "It will never be enough." With their small budget, they are able to do more by using volunteers who support them with time, materials, and services. Like Brenda, many volunteers have come from abusive environments. They know what abuses are like, and they want to help.

The organization's goal is to show families that God loves them, and with God, all things are possible. They welcome calls for help.

I have known Brenda Jackson for many years. I was one of the original lay pastors she consulted before starting this ministry in 1995. She and her two Battered Women's Programs have helped over 9,000 women and children, over the years. I encourage you to be a part of this great work, any way you can.

By Frank Ball, founder North Texas Christian Writers

WHY WOMEN STAY?

By Brenda Jackson and Cindy Kras

- Financial Support: The abuser is the sole provider, or their income is not enough to support the household.
- Security of a Home: Uncertain of where to go or not enough money to pay deposits for rent and utilities, etc.
- Children: Removing them from familiar surroundings—school, friends, activities, and their other parents and that the abuser will take the children from them.
- Fear: They will be in hiding and fearful the abuser will find them, they will be tormented and/or their families will endure harassment, threats and under stress from abuser. The abuser may harass them at their jobs or other places they go.
- Family: Pressure from their families “to just work things out”.
- Spiritual Belief: They may believe strongly that their vows means “till death do us part.”
- Low Self-Esteem: They believe they deserve the abuse. They see themselves as having made a mistake, which caused an argument, and it just went too far.
- They Have Left Before: The abuser found them, or the stress was too much for them. The children may be acting out or blaming the victim for leaving.
- Emotional Attachment: The victims truly love the abusers, and don’t understand why they are being hurt.
- Believe that the Abuser Will Change: We must not forget the honeymoon phase in abuse. Abusers promise to change, to get help, saying they are sorry and it will never happen again. They cry, beg, buy flowers, and even pressure the kids to tell her they don’t want to go.
- Desire for a Happy Home at Any Cost: More the anything, the victim believe she is responsible for providing a happy home. As a teenager, she was taught to be nurturer, and she carries that responsibility into married life.
- Loss of Everything: She believes she will lose everything she has. Even abuse is better than being alone.
- She Fears Being Unloved: She believes the abuser is the only man who will ever love her. She is afraid of being alone forever.

- Desire to Fix the Abuser: She believes she can eventually turn everything wrong into something right.
- Her Perceived Alternative Is Worse: She doesn't want to go back to the dysfunctional home of parents or grandparents, with its domestic violence and alcohol and drug abuse.