



*Safety · Protection · Support*

## 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

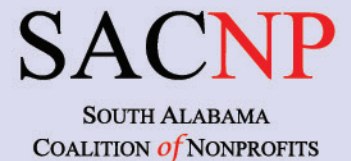


*Holiday Ornament*

*The mission of Penelope House is to provide safety, protection, and support to the victims of Domestic Violence and their children through the provision of shelter, advocacy, and individual and community education.*



Daughters of Penelope



## Executive Director's Message

After making it through 2020, I thought 2021 would be a breeze...turns out it was a breeze of hurricane force! However, Penelope House has made it through hurricanes, floods, and a continued pandemic, so we all- Penelope House staff, Board members, and supporters- bunkered down and made 2021 a great year! We found funding opportunities that improved the shelter, added positions, and initiated the expansion of the shelter! Staff has been stretched thin at times, but each has stepped up for every challenge and I am most grateful for the best staff and a supportive board that prepares, as well as adjusts to any and every curve ball thrown! One highlight of 2021 for me was participating with the Savannah Bananas- they demonstrated being unique, total fan involvement, and the importance of enjoying what you do and sharing it with others. And that is how Penelope House continues to fulfill the mission- so many love what they do and desire to be a part of helping others. Thank you all!

Tonie Ann Coumanis Torrans, LMSW  
Executive Director



Stacey and Tonie Ann at the Savannah Bananas Event

## President's Message

As I reflect on my two year tenure as board president, I am reminded that I stepped in to the role with the intention to not only make a difference but to further advance the mission and work of this wonderful organization. These have been unprecedented times for Penelope House and for each of us as individuals. Yet despite the challenges posed by Covid-19, Penelope House moved forward and continued to thrive, adapting quickly to the dynamics of the pandemic. Even through these challenging times, it is clear that the spirit and practice of philanthropy is alive and well in our community. It is not merely the giving of financial resources, but giving of one's expertise, passion, talent, and experience. We all come from varying walks of life, which contributes to the uniqueness of how we view our community and how and why we choose to make an impact. My time with Penelope House has ignited my desire to do more, be more, and serve more. I encourage you to choose your impact. Together, we can achieve so much through collaboration, volunteerism, and support.

In closing, serving in this role for the past two years has been one of the most valuable experiences I have had. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Penelope House staff and the Administrative and Advisory boards for their commitment and contributions. Thank you for the honor of working with each and every one of you. Despite the challenges presented by the pandemic, I leave with a strong sense of optimism for an exciting future ahead. Best wishes!

Stacey L. Killingsworth



Stacey, Tonie Ann, and Mitchell Edwards, Board Secretary-Treasurer

## Ambassador's Message

Never in my wildest dreams did I think we would still be dealing with a Pandemic for yet another year, but here we are, still in the midst of a pandemic that just won't go away. Here at Penelope House, it is just another crisis to handle and handle we are, just as last year. We continue to stand ready to serve those who so desperately need us and provide uninterrupted shelter and services. We have all come to see Zoom as our friend and an important way to stay connected and informed. We continue to adhere to CDC and State Health department COVID protocols and I for one have a plethora of face masks that we are required to continue to wear in the office and the shelter.

I regret to say that our Past President's Board did not meet in 2021 as we had anticipated. We have kept in touch with each other through email and telephone. Hoping to be able to come together at some point in 2022.

The Daughters of Penelope, nationally and internationally continue to be one of our strongest alliances. They held the 2021 annual convention in Athens, Greece in July. Although we could not attend, an Advisory board member, Ellen Platis attended as our local chapter delegate and gave the Penelope House report to the Projects Committee. We are happy to report that for the 40th year, we were voted to be a Mandatory National Project. This entails financial support from all Chapters here and abroad. Additionally, we continue to receive monetary gifts and donations from individual members and Chapters throughout the year.

I would be remiss if I neglected to acknowledge the support we continue to receive from AHEPA Chapters, especially our local Chapter and from the AHEPA Housing Organization, both nationally and locally.

Kathryn Coumanis, MSW, Ed.D, LCSW



Kathryn pictured with Clay Foundation President Mary Powell

## Officers and Board of Directors

Stacey Killingsworth  
Dana Polk  
Mitchell Edwards  
John Pierce  
Jessica Welch  
Dr. Bobbie Holt Ragler  
Sheri Bosarge  
Sheriff Sam Cochran  
Rep. Victor Gaston

President  
President-Elect  
Secretary/Treasurer  
Vice President Legal Council  
Vice President Governance  
Past President  
At Large member  
At Large Member  
At Large Member

Gwyn Howard  
Tina Lackeos  
Serena Chen Low  
Leanna MacRae  
Ashley Rich  
Marion Stille  
Stephanie Streeter  
Leah Williams  
Marilyn Wood

At Large Member  
At Large Member  
At Large Member  
At Large Member  
At Large Member  
At Large Member  
At Large Member  
At Large Member

## Advisory Board

Angelique Agee  
Allison Tanner Allen  
Ernie Bankhead  
Lisa Barnhill  
Laura Haas Becker  
Shelly Beech  
Joseph Blaise  
Panay Lignos Burland  
Mallory Brooke Carey  
Dr. Ted Catranis  
Davey Chastang  
Rebecca Classic  
Kathryn Coumanis  
Peggy Cronin  
Jennifer Curry  
Gayle Davidson-Shivers  
Rena Davis  
Kathleen Duthu  
Pat Edington  
Virginia Edington

Sheryl Falkos  
Bobby Foropoulos  
Melanie Frain  
Sam Gadd  
Tracey Gann  
Jacquitta Powell Green  
Maria Greenwald  
Nina Hayes  
Angel Howell  
Sharon Hindman  
Kanecka James  
Matthew M. James  
Kerrianna Johnson  
Dr. Quinn Kennedy  
Tara Kleinpeter  
Michelle Krulewicz-Dees  
Cindy Leonard  
Darby Luxenberg  
Fran Lyons  
Nancy Manlangit

Paula Marshall  
Karen McGill  
Ashley McKeithan  
Pamela Millsaps  
Vicki Mitchelmore  
Dani Moore  
Alec Naman  
Judge Edmond Naman  
Gina Nolfé  
Trey Oliver  
Tabitha Olzinski  
Janis Pearman  
Amber Pierce  
Paul Platis  
Ellen Platis  
Mary Powell  
Beverly Kennedy Reed  
Sharon Young Rhodes  
Carol Robbins  
Belinda Shoub

Debbie Simpson  
Mary B. Smith  
Kymberly Soule'  
Dr. Judy Stout  
Titsa Stratas  
Chris Stratas  
John Teal  
Tonie Ann Torrans  
Jo Vaughn  
Cecilia Wallace  
Cheryl Ward  
Angela Weaver  
Tonyea Weber  
Raymond Weinshenker  
Andy Wynne  
Sandi Zoghby

## Emeritus Board

Vivian DuValle  
Dr. Bill Higgs

Leannah Holland  
Susan Morrison

Marie McConnell Perkins  
Davis Pilot

Father Warren Wall  
Mary Zoghby

## Posthumous / Founding Members

Wiley Butler  
Ethel Catranis  
Sophia Clikas

Jack Grove  
Sue Hanlein  
Janie Ladas

Millie Long  
Alice Meadows  
Emily Panayiotou

Freda Roberts  
Joe Wilson



Holiday Gathering



Board Members attending reception



Annual Meeting

Safety · Protection · Support

# Services

**CRISIS HOTLINE:** A crisis hotline is answered 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to provide counseling, information and referral services to families in abusive situations.

**SHELTER:** Emergency shelter for victims in intimate partner violence and their children is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Victims who are admitted for shelter care are provided a safe place to stay while assessing their life situation and setting goals for the future. Shelter services include food, clothing, case management, advocate services, vocational counseling and children's services.

**COURT ADVOCACY:** Court Advocates assist domestic violence victims in Mobile, Washington, Clarke and Choctaw counties to navigate within the court system. The advocates provide information to victims about their rights and options in the legal system, assist with obtaining warrants and protection orders, and accompany them to court, both criminal and civil. One of the advocates is located in the Mobile Government Plaza Complex to assure services are readily available to the Domestic Violence Court and for victims needing assistance in filing some form of protection order.

**CHILDREN'S PROGRAM:** The Children's Program services are provided in the shelter and through referral to community agencies as needed. Recreational activities are scheduled for children with assistance from volunteer groups. Support groups are provided for shelter and outreach children. A full time child advocate provides individual support.

**VICTIM SUPPORT GROUP:** Meetings are held weekly. These groups are conducted for both victims in shelter and on an outreach basis. The group's purpose is to provide support as well as education about issues related to intimate partner violence and to empower the individual to make safe choices for themselves and their children. Children's support groups are also provided in coordination with victim support groups.

**COMMUNITY EDUCATION:** Penelope House provides workshops and speaking engagements directed toward the prevention of family violence through education. Workshops are routinely provided for other professionals such as medical, social services and law enforcement on the dynamics of intimate partner violence, the effects of violence on children and the prevention of family violence.

**PREVENTION EDUCATION:** The Penelope House school-based Prevention Education Program is for grades Pre-K through 12. The purpose of the program is to help children understand that abuse and violence is wrong, no one deserves to be abused, how to be safe when abuse is occurring in their home, and to never keep abuse a secret. Children are taught to recognize inappropriate adult behaviors and who they can turn to for help. The program also teaches teenagers about the warning signs and dynamics of unhealthy dating relationships and how to seek help if they are in an abusive relationship.

**OUTREACH SERVICES:** Services are provided to victims who do not request shelter care but are in need of assistance in dealing with intimate partner violence. These services include domestic violence education, support groups, legal referral, victim advocacy, vocational counseling, housing referral and assistance with victim compensation.

**TRANSITIONAL LIVING COMMUNITY:** A Transitional Living Community (TLC) provides housing and supportive services to victims of domestic violence (with or without children) who are homeless as a result of the domestic violence and who meet the VOCA guidelines. They must agree to develop a case plan, with the assistance of the Case Manager, which will lead to permanent housing within 24 months. Clients will receive Life Skills classes dealing with subjects such as financial literacy, homeownership, budgeting, parenting and other issues that will assist them in moving towards independence and self-sufficiency. While in the TLC program, our clients may also avail themselves to all of the services provided by Penelope House and its staff.

**PROJECT ID ABUSE:** A domestic violence data collection and perpetrator identification program. Project ID Abuse identifies abusers in twenty south Alabama counties, tracks their criminal histories and provides partners in the project vital information to assist in the arrest and prosecution of domestic violence offenders. Project ID Abuse has been funded by the Department of Justice - The Office of Violence Against Women. Project ID Abuse was commissioned by the Mobile County Domestic Violence Task Force in July 2005 and has been administered through the Mobile County District Attorney's Office.

**PENELOPE'S CLOSET:** Penelope's Closet is located at 2907 Old Shell Road, Mobile, Alabama. It continues to flourish due to the combination of location, loyal volunteers, donors, and the public. It is absolutely an essential component to our mission. Penelope's Closet provides our clients with clothing and other necessities at no cost. All proceeds from the Closet return to the shelter to further assist victims and their children.



Domestic Violence Awareness,  
Washington County



Special Milestone



Mobile Police Department DV Unit

# Service Statistics

<b>In Shelter</b>		<b>Court Advocacy</b>	
Adults Sheltered	233	Adult Clients	8,251
Children Sheltered	252	Children	7,080
Total Client Service Hours	4,226.24	Court Appointments with Clients	6,761
Total Nights (Units) of Shelter Provided	5,989	Clients Assisted to obtain protection from abuse or no contact orders	1,358
Crisis Calls	1,573	<b>Prevention Education</b>	
Meals Served	15,824	School Based Program (PreK-12)	
<b>Victim Support Group Participants</b>		Total Reached	8,695
Adult Support Groups	70	<b>Volunteers</b>	
Adult Attendees	234	Volunteer Hours	5,864
Child Support Groups	27	Value of Volunteer Hours	\$58,640
Child Attendees	52		

## Administration

Kathryn Coumanis	<i>Ambassador</i>	Angela N. Sledge	<i>Administrative Assistant</i>
Elisabeth Doehring	<i>Human Resources Administrator</i>	Tonie Ann Torrans	<i>Executive Director</i>
Mary Hickman	<i>Chief Financial Officer</i>	Deirdre Williams	<i>Grant Writer</i>
Mercedes Pearson	<i>Grants Manager</i>		

## Programs

JoAnn Baluyut	<i>Cook</i>	Rachele A. Reis	<i>Shelter Advocate</i>
Melanie Bankhead	<i>RRH Case Manager</i>	Karen D. Robinson	<i>Thrift Store Manager</i>
Mackenzie Barron	<i>Court/Victim Advocate</i>	Allison R. Scott	<i>Outreach Counselor</i>
Maria Brutkiewicz	<i>Shelter Advocate</i>	Kirara Seldon	<i>Shelter Advocate</i>
Pamela Bryant	<i>Shelter Advocate</i>	Douglas R. Soutullo	<i>Maintenance</i>
Ansley Buchel	<i>Court/Victim Advocate</i>	Regina C. Thomas	<i>Transportation Aide</i>
Stacy J. Burroughs	<i>Shelter/Facilities Manager</i>	Amanda L. Thompson	<i>Children's Program Coordinator</i>
Jasmine Byrd	<i>Transitional Living Assistant Coordinator</i>	Breanca Thompson	<i>Community Ed Asst.</i>
Whitney W. Cannedy	<i>Shelter Advocate</i>	Elisabeth Twilley	<i>Court/Victim Advocate</i>
Elaine P. Clikas	<i>Receptionist</i>	Heather L. Wainwright	<i>Weekend Supervisor</i>
Kristen S. Clikas-Murphree	<i>Court Advocate Supervisor</i>	Keri Ward	<i>Shelter Advocate</i>
Shannan Cutler	<i>Court Advocate Admin. Asst.</i>	Savannah Williams	<i>Court/Victim Advocate</i>
Dana Davis	<i>Cook</i>	Waconda F. Williams	<i>Court/Victim Advocate</i>
Daviette Dortch	<i>RRH Case Manager</i>		
Joan C. Duncan	<i>Community Ed./Volunteer Cord.</i>		
Gina Fleming-Shin	<i>Community Ed Asst.</i>		
Kirstie Gates	<i>DV Case Manager</i>		
Hilary Granger	<i>Court/Victim Advocate</i>		
Brooke M. Herren	<i>DV Case Manager/Team Lead</i>		
Kelsey Horton	<i>Shelter Advocate</i>		
Heather D. Howard	<i>Thrift Store Mgr Asst</i>		
Betty Jacobs	<i>Shelter Advocate</i>		
Miya Johnson	<i>Shelter Advocate</i>		
Sharon L. Jones	<i>SAIL Specialist</i>		
Shirley LaDuna	<i>Thrift Store Associate</i>		
Karen O. Lambert	<i>Child Advocate</i>		
Jennifer L. Pappas	<i>Transitional Housing</i>		
Deborah A. Parker	<i>Cook</i>		
Fulinda C. Phillips	<i>Crisis Counselor</i>		
Lexus Pickett	<i>Court/Victim Advocate</i>		
Jillian Pope	<i>Rural Counties Adv./Sail Specialist</i>		
Farren Pryor	<i>Shelter Supervisor</i>		



## 2021 Income



- Grants - 64%
- Contributions - 20%
- Penelope's Closet - 5%
- United Way - 4%
- Investment Income - 1%
- Special Events - 6%

## 2021 Expenses



- Shelter - 45%
- Administrative - 17%
- Court Advocacy - 15%
- Transitional Living - 6%
- Prevention Education - 6%
- Pass Through - 4%
- Thrift Store - 5%
- Public Relations - 2%

\*Based on 2021 Budget of \$2.9 million

## 2021 Foundation Contributions

Alabama Power Foundation, Inc  
 AHEPA William G. Hellis Charitable Foundation  
 AHEPA 29 Charitable Foundation  
 C.D., Helen and Jeff Glaze Foundation  
 Delta Resource Education Association of Mobile  
 Dog Hill Foundation  
 DOP 54 Charitable Foundation  
 Duvalle Charitable Foundation Trust  
 Eichold Family Foundation Fund

Foundation on Impact for Literacy & Learning  
 Laura Lee Pattillo Norquist Charitable  
 Lisa Mitchell Charitable Foundation  
 Malbis Memorial Foundation  
 Mitchell Charitable Foundation  
 Nick's Kids Fund  
 The GoodCoin Foundation  
 The Miller Charitable Foundation  
 The Moses Foundation

## 2021 Estate & Trust Contributions

Nan H. Altmayer Charitable Trust  
 The Boutzale Family Fund  
 Barbara Kazazes  
 Phyllis Luxenberg  
 Helen M. Nelson Charitable Trust  
 The Nesler Family Fund  
 The P. and L. Trust  
 Sarah Rutherford Hall Revocable Trust



Mobile County DV Task Force - Lunch & Learn



Mobile Airport Authority



United Way of Southwest Alabama



Spire - United Way Day of Caring

## 2021 Greek Fest Charity Gala

The Fifth Annual Greek Fest Charity Gala was held on November 13, 2021. This event is held to provide support and awareness of deserving local non-profit agencies. The Greek Fest Charity Gala Board voted for Penelope House as the designated recipient of the proceeds.

This was truly a "gala" in every sense of the word. The Hellenic Center was decorated in an awe-inspiring manner, a multiple course gourmet dinner was served and musical entertainment and dancing followed. The Board of the Gala put in many hours of dedicated work to achieve this success. We wish to thank the co-chairs, Mrs. Ryane L. Fulgham and Dr. Stephanie Grosz for their dedication and leadership as well as the entire Greek Fest Charity Gala Board for their



tireless efforts in achieving this beautiful event which is annually featured in Access Magazine.

We are pleased to announce that Penelope House received over \$115,000 from the proceeds of this event. Kudos to all of the Board members and sponsors for this awesome gift. We are so very appreciative of this community support.



## 2021 Memorials

Patsy Adams  
Joseph Yeghoian Alpha  
Arthur Anastopoulos  
Orestis Andreades  
Maria Andreades  
Callieroy Andreades  
Paula Athen  
Marvin Baldwin  
Chris Bithos  
Bernice Blair  
Dorothy Bonds  
Jim Boyaci  
Pete Burland  
Ethel Catranis  
Diana Chavers  
Muriel & Graham Cobb  
Marion Griser Schmohl Cooper  
George Coumanis  
Margaret Craddock  
Shannon Deas

Angela DeSantis  
Richard Drew  
Andrea Eanes  
Anne Eliopoulos  
Fr. & Presbyteria William Gaines  
Betty Glatfelter  
Bill Gulas  
Dianne Harris  
Mary Hill  
Jimmy Karagan  
Evangelia Kordomenos  
Bill Lacey  
Father George Levanos  
Lillis Lott Lewis  
Dr. William Lightfoot  
Genie Lukes  
Camille Lusher  
Kathleen McAtee  
John L. & Anna McCarron  
Paraskevi Miaoulis

Emily Panayiotou  
Marika Panayiotou  
Kris and Toni Pappas  
Essie Dees Parker  
Steve Platis  
Shirlee Poulos  
Linda Pulliam  
Tom Purvis  
Diane Rogers  
Voncile Sadka  
Arta Sideris  
Sherhea Singleton  
Angelo Siotis  
Christy Catranis Sperantsas  
Nick Stratas  
Mary Pearson Sullivan  
Miriam Ann Turner  
Marion Vrachalus  
Sister Carol E. Wheeler



Post Office Box 9127  
Mobile, Alabama 36691

(251) 342-2809 Administrative Office  
(251) 342-3144 Shelter  
(251) 342-8994 24-Hour Crisis Line  
www.penelopehouse.org



Penelope House



Covenant Christian School  
Volunteering at Penelope's Closet



Springhill Auxiliary



Alabama Power Service  
Organization



Penelope's Closet Staff



Washington County  
Judge Turner participating  
in DVA Project



Kappa Delta Sorority  
Univ. of South Alabama



"Kiss A Cop" - Law Enforcement  
Appreciation - Mobile Court Police



Carlisle Medical



Domestic Violence Awareness



Mobile County DA's Office  
Domestic Violence Awareness Month



Mission Fitness



University of South Alabama  
Fund Raiser



City of Mobile Proclamation



Health Cares About Domestic  
Violence Day - Victory Health

*Penelope House thanks the entire  
community for their support!*



Mobile Silhouette



Regional Child Advocacy Center



Savannah Bananas  
Alabama Medical Group



Better Homes and Gardens Real Estate  
Main Street Properties



Cammie's Old Dutch  
Ice Cream Shoppe