



*Safety • Protection • Support*

## 2024 ANNUAL REPORT



*Bracelets donated in memory of Casey Fulford*

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



Daughters of Penelope



United Way  
of Southwest Alabama

SACNP

SOUTH ALABAMA  
COALITION of NONPROFITS

## Executive Director's Message

In 2024, Penelope House reached a milestone of 45 years of service. On one hand, I could not be prouder of the staff at Penelope House, the Penelope House Board, volunteers, and supporters; but on the other hand, I am sad that our services are still needed and the problem of Domestic Violence, Intimate Partner Violence in particular, is a terrible crime that won't go away. Domestic Violence is a learned behavior and continues generation after generation. While there have been many efforts to "break the cycle" by Penelope House and community partners, it continues. I often remind myself that it is a battle worth fighting- for those who have died at the hands of their partner and those that are survivors and are embracing a new life free of abuse. Christopher Reeve said, "A hero is an ordinary individual who finds the strength to persevere and endure in spite of overwhelming obstacles" - the heroes are those men, women, and children who have suffered the worst betrayal and abuse and are now thriving and smiling. Thank you to those near and far who support the mission of Penelope House- we could not do this without you!

Tonie Ann Coumanis Torrans, LMSW

## President's Message

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we reflect on this past year, I am both humbled and inspired by the perseverance of those we serve and the unwavering commitment of our community.

We have expanded and strengthened our outreach, and deepened our impact—thanks to the generosity of our donors, the dedication of our staff and volunteers, and the resilience of those who walk through our doors seeking a new beginning. While challenges persist, so does our resolve to provide safety, support, and hope to those affected by domestic violence.

Thank you for standing with us. Your support fuels our work, and together, we are making a difference—one life at a time.

With gratitude,  
Stacey L. Killingsworth

## Ambassador's Message

I blinked and 45 years have passed since we opened the doors of Penelope House. As I reflect on those years I realize that we have undergone many changes, including a name change, five location changes, staff changes and budget changes. What has not changed is the dedication and commitment of our staff over the years. We started with 15 staff and now have 52. Anyone who works at Penelope House knows its not the money that keeps them there but their acceptance of their position as a mission. These mission driven staff have served and saved thousands of lives over these 45 years.

I am so proud to say that we have over 17 of our 52 staff members who have shared this mission with us for over 10 years. There are seven who have been with us for over 20 years, 1 for 19 years, 3 for 18 years and the rest over 10.

Our staff love their work, love their clients and are invigorated by the knowledge that they have made a lasting and sometimes life saving impact on the lives of those we serve. I often refer to Penelope House as my "Happy Place". Not because it is fun work but because it gives me immense pleasure to know that we are here for those who need us now and hopefully we will be here for the next 45 years. I am so thankful that I have been able to contribute in even the smallest way to the safety and well being of thousands of men, women and children.

March is also National Social Workers month. Happy SW month to all of those who so selflessly work to make this world a safer and better place.

Kathryn Coumanis, MSW, EdD



Deborah Parker celebrated 16 years of employment at Penelope House



All In Credit Union check presentation



Sharron Jones celebrated 20 years of employment with Penelope House

## Officers and Board of Directors

Stacey Killingsworth	President
Tara Kleinpeter	President Elect
Marilyn Wood	Secretary/Treasurer
John Pierce	Vice President Legal Council
Stephanie Streeter	Vice President Governance
Dana Polk	Past President
Keith Blackwood	At Large Member
Paul Burch	At Large Member
Jennifer Curry	At Large Member
Rep. Victor Gaston	At Large Member
Nina Hayes	At Large Member

Gwyn Howard	At Large Member
Serena Chen Low	At Large Member
Harry Palles	At Large Member
Bobbie Holt Ragler	At Large Member
Marion Stille	At Large Member
Florence Stratas	At Large Member
Jessica Welch	At Large Member

## Advisory Board

Angelique Agee	Bobby Foropoulos
Allison Tanner Allen	Melanie Fraim
Cyndy Baggett	Sam Gadd
Ernie Bankhead	Kelsey Gallahar
Allan Julian Barnes	Tracey Gann
Lisa Barnhill	Jacquitta Powell Green
Laura Haas Becker	Maria Greenwald
Joseph Blaise	Evangelia Grevenitis
Sheri Bosarge	Todd Hall
Panay Lignos Burland	Bill Higgs
Mallory Brooke Carey	Angel Howell
Dr. Ted Catranis	Kanecka James
Sam Cochran	Kerrianna Johnson
Kathryn Coumanis	Brock Killingsworth
Peggy Cronin	Michelle Krulewicz-Dees
Gayle Davidson-Shivers	Tina Lackeos
Rena Davis	Cindy Leonard
Kathleen Duthu	Darby Luxenberg
Pat Edington	Fran Lyons
Virginia Edington	Leanna MacRae
Toni Fassbender	Nancy Manlangit
Ashley Ferguson	Sheena Marler

Paula Marshall
Tobey Matthews
Karen McGill
Ashley McKeithan
Pamela Millsaps
Vicki Mitchelmore
Dani Moore
Alec Naman
Edmond Naman
Gina Nolf
Eleanor Odom
Trey Oliver
Tabitha Olzinski
Janis Pearman
Sandy Penton
Karen Pettiford
Amber Pierce
Paul Platis
Ellen Platis
Mary Powell
Beverly Kennedy Reed
Sharon Young Rhodes

Ashley Rich
Carol Robbins
Rhonda Roebuck
Belinda Shoub
Debbie Simpson
Kymberly Soule'
Judy Stout
Titsa Stratas
Chris Stratas
John Teal
Tonie Ann Torrans
Jo Vaughn
Father Warren Wall
Cecilia Wallace
Cheryl Ward
Angela Weaver
Tonyea Weber
Raymond Weinshenker
Leah Williams
Ketti Smith Williams
Andy Wynne

## Emeritus Board

Vivian DuValle	Susan Morrison	Mary Zoghby
Leannah Holland	Davis Pilot	

## Posthumous/Founding Members

Wiley Butler	Joe Wilson	Sue Hanlein	Alice Meadows
Freda Roberts	Sophia Clikas	Janie Ladas	Emily Panayiotou
Ethel Catranis	Jack Grove	Millie Long	Marie McConnell Perkins



Board meeting



Foosackly's- Kicking off Domestic Violence Awareness Month Fund Raiser



Past Board Presidents 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 of 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 from abuse 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 Office of Violence Against Women (OVW) 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.

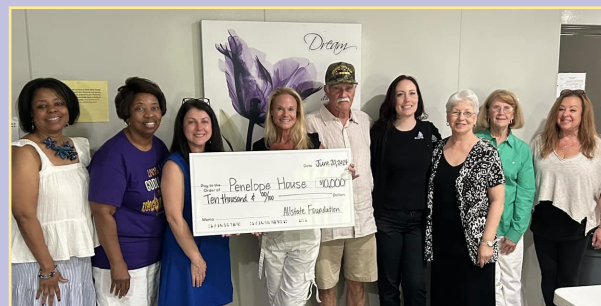
**PENELOPE'S CLOSET:** Penelope's Closet is located at 2907 Old Shell Road, Mobile, Alabama. It continues to flourish due to the combination of location, loyal volunteers, donors, and the public. It is absolutely an essential component to our mission. Penelope's Closet provides our clients with clothing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



University of Mobile- DV  
Awareness Month



Domestic Violence Education-  
Community Awareness



Penelope House Board Meeting

# Service Statistics

## In Shelter

Adults Sheltered (unduplicated)	176
Children Sheltered (unduplicated)	159
Total Client Service Hours	16,064.75
Total Nights (Units) of Shelter Provided	5,278
Crisis Calls	1,587
Meals Served	15,834

## Victim Support Group Participants

Adult Support Groups	30
Adult Attendees	54
Child Support Groups	14
Child Attendees	24

## Court Advocacy

Adult Clients (unduplicated)	1,949
Children (unduplicated)	700
Court Appointments with Clients	5,862
Clients Assisted to obtain protection from abuse or no contact orders	1,246

## Prevention Education

School Based Program (PreK-12) Total Reached 15,072

## Volunteers

Volunteer Hours	6,331
Value of Volunteer Hours	\$107,627

## ADMINISTRATION

Angela Sledge	Administrative Assistant
Kathryn Coumanis	Ambassador
Caryn Scott	CFO

Deirdre Williams  
Mercedes Pearson  
Tonie Ann Torrans  
Ellen Platis

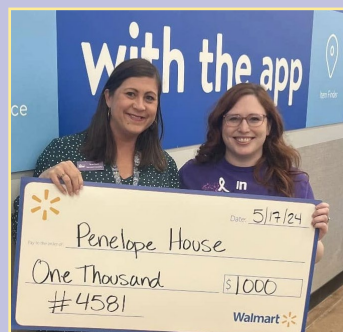
Grant Writer  
Grants Manager-PRN  
Executive Director  
H R Coordinator

## PROGRAMS

Karen Lambert	Child Advocate
Mary Vanderlinde	Children's Prg. Coordinator
Gina Fleming-Shinn	Community Education Assistant
Kirstie Gates	Community Education Ass't Rural Co.
Allison Ross Scott	Community Educator
Deborah Parker	Cook-Part Time
Sandra Isaac	Cook-Part Time
Fulinda Phillips	Crisis Counselor
Autumn Adnan	Court Victim Advocate
Eris Blankenhorn	Court Victim Advocate
Kathryn Lawrence	Court Victim Advocate
Laura Toro	Court Victim Advocate
Rachel Wanger	Court Victim Advocate
Hilary Granger	CVA Admin. Ass't.
Kristen Clikas-Murphree	CVA Supervisor
Amanda Shirah	DVCM/RRH Case Manager
Shelia Brown	DVCM-Part Time
Douglas Soutullo	Maintenance
Heather Wainwright	Night/Weekend Supervisor
Joan Duncan	Prevention Ed/Volunteer Coordinator
Vernesser Williams	Receptionist
Jillian Pope	Rural County CVA/SAIL Specialist
Sharon Jones	SAIL Specialist
Alicia Pines	Shelter Advocate
April Gatson	Shelter Advocate
Betty Jacobs	Shelter Advocate
Breley Rhodes	Shelter Advocate
Cheryl McCarroll	Shelter Advocate
India Campbell	Shelter Advocate
MaKayla Lolley	Shelter Advocate
Maria Brutkiewicz	Shelter Advocate
Miya Johnson	Shelter Advocate
Pamela Bryant	Shelter Advocate
Sophia Odland	Shelter Advocate
Sybrena Williams	Shelter Advocate
Tiffinie Chase	Shelter Advocate
Toni Richard	Shelter Advocate

Whitney Cannedy  
Brooke Herren  
Stacy Burroughs  
Shirley LaDuna  
Karen Robinson  
Heather Howard  
Jasmine Byrd  
Jennifer Pappas  
Joann Baluyut

Shelter Advocate  
Shelter Advocate/RRH Case Mgr  
Shelter/Facilities Manager  
Thrift Store Associate  
Thrift Store Manager  
Thrift Store Mgr Assistant  
TLC Assistant  
TLC Coordinator  
Weekend Cook



Walmart Donation



Mobile Police Department



Prevention Education



Years of Service Recognized



## 2024 Foundation/Trust Contributions

AHEPA 29 Charitable Foundation  
 AHEPA 310 Senior Housing Corps.  
 AHEPA Senior Living  
 Alabama Power Foundation, Inc.  
 C.D. Helen and Jeff Glaze Foundation  
 Daughters of Penelope 180  
 DuValle Charitable Foundation Trust  
 Eichold Family Foundation Fund  
 Estate of Jeannette Grace Adrey  
 Ethel Burgess Maschmeyer Trust  
 Helen M. Nelson Charitable Trust  
 Julien E. Marx Foundation Trust  
 Malbis Foundation  
 Mayer & Arlene Mitchell Charitable Foundation

Mitchell Charitable Foundation  
 Mobile Airport Authority Fund  
 Nan H. Altmayer Charitable Trust  
 Nick Stratas Chapter 310 AHEPA  
 Nick's Kids Foundation  
 Olzinski Charitable Fund  
 Pinebelt Foundation  
 Shawn Esfahani Foundation  
 Skyros Benevolent Society  
 The Allstate Foundation  
 The Caring Foundation  
 The Daniel Foundation  
 The Miller Charitable Foundation  
 The Moses Foundation



All In Credit Union

## 2024 Mobile Chocolate Festival Sponsors

### Moon Pie:

Carlisle Medical

### Truffle:

New Horizons Credit Union  
 The Hargrove Foundation  
 Tyndall Federal Credit Union- Truffle

### Bonbon:

Advantage IT Management  
 Airbus  
 The Caring Foundation of Blue Cross  
 and Blue Shield of Alabama  
 Gardberg & Kemmerly  
 Tara Kleinpeter- Bonbon  
 Theodore Pitsios, Author- Walking in the Light  
 Rich's Car Wash  
 Wilcox Chevron and Outpost Food Store  
 Wilderness RV Park

### Chocolate Covered Cherries:

AARP  
 AltaPointe Health  
 American Foods  
 Bryant Bank  
 First Horizon  
 GMC  
 Gulf Coast Federal Credit Union  
 Maloney-Lyons LLC

### McGriff

Mobile County Sheriff's Office  
 Pilot Adjusters Give Back  
 Sign Source  
 Springhill Medical Center  
 Tim White- State Farm  
 Zoghby's Uniforms

### Silver Bells:

AHEPA District 1  
 Borden Dairy  
 Coumanis & York P.C., Attorneys  
 Daughters of Penelope-Thais Chapter  
 Earl's Pawn & Jewelry  
 Ellen and Paul Platis  
 Imperial Dade  
 PowerSchool  
 Florence and Mike Stratas  
 Top Music  
 Two Men and a Truck



Carlisle Medical MCF  
 Moon Pie Sponsor



New Horizons Credit Union



# 2024 Memorials

Patsy Adams  
Jeanette Grace Adrey  
Virginia Andreades  
Amy Boutwell  
Carol Burland  
Bro. Lonnie Byrd  
Ethel Catranis  
Christy Catranis Sperantsas  
Fr. Parthenios Commimos

Nicholas Coumanis  
Myron Dourado  
John F. Dunn  
Vivian DuValle  
Casey Fulford  
Kike Germanos  
Dr. Bill Higgs  
Gwen Johnson  
Mary Lou Orso

Dr. Faye Pierce  
Taylor Adam Rawlins  
Grover Reynolds  
Bob Salter  
Suelein Seidel  
Jane Suggs  
Ourania Tziotis  
Rita Tziotis  
Helen Dunning Vail



Council Against Family Violence



Oak Park Church



South Alabama Coalition  
of Nonprofits



AHEPA Senior Living



The Lighthouse of Baldwin County- Alabama  
Coalition Against Domestic Violence

*Penelope House is  
thankful for many  
community partners*



United Way of Southwest Alabama



Spire- United Way Day of Caring



Persons Services Corp Annual Clay Shoot



Two Men and a Truck



Mobile County Commission



Victory Health Partners



Daughters of Penelope

*Safety • Protection • Support*





Post Office Box 9127  
Mobile, Alabama 36691

(251) 342-2809 Administrative Office  
(251) 342-3144 Shelter  
(251) 342-8994 24-Hours Crisis Line  
[www.penelopehouse.org](http://www.penelopehouse.org)



*Thais Chapter Daughters of Penelope- Brides March*



*Alabama Power Service Organization- Mobile Chapter*



*US Marine Corps- Toys for Tots*



*Airbus*



*Sunrise Rotary*



*Clarke County Commission*



*Junior League of Mobile*



*Mobile County Commission- Domestic Violence Task Force*



*Master Halco*



*Springhill Baptist Church*



*Washington County celebrates American Idol Finalist*



*Nick's Kids Foundation*



*Mobile City Council*



*University of South Alabama Kappa Deltas- Mega Musical Chairs*



*Guncles*

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