Safety • Protection • Support



2019 ANNUAL REPORT

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.









Director's Message

Resilience is the word that comes to mind when thinking of 2019. Resilience is typically defined as the capacity to recover from difficult life events. Penelope House reached its fortieth year of service in March 2019 and the resilience it took for Penelope House to survive hurricanes, funding decreases, and uncertainty is simply amazing! Penelope's Closet opening at its new location is another example of resilience for sure! So many worked together to make this possible and leave behind a location with a challenging building, limited parking, and flooding issues.

In addition, the shelter had a main line water leak that caused extensive damage to the shelter-staff responded unbelievably and services were not disrupted one minute! However, none of these compare to the resilience of our clients and their children! The courage it takes to leave the abuse, "the difficult life events", and come to shelter for the opportunity to see another day and to reassess and rebuild their lives...this is the most remarkable example of resilience! Thank you to our Board, volunteers, donors, and staff that allow Penelope House to ensure lives are saved every day!

Tonie Ann Coumanis Torrans, LMSW Executive Director



Tonie Ann with a Daughters of Penelope member from the Memphis, TN Chapter

President's Message

It has been my pleasure and definitely a privilege to lead and serve Penelope House during the 40th Year of service. The year of 2019 has been a successful year as we continue to be committed to making sure that the shelter maintains a stable financial status. Our mission and strategic objectives for 2019 have been reviewed and the Board has worked within the timeline for achieving them. Of course, we could not have achieved this outcome without the support and hard work of board members, dedicated leadership and staff, volunteers and community partners. As with all boards, we have had some challenges this past year but we were able to meet those challenges producing positive outcomes.

As you review the 2019 Annual Report, you will see that the re-opening of Penelope Closet was finally accomplished. It was a major undertaking and could not have been achieved without the help of so many community partners and servant leaders, the Penelope's Closet Management team in particular. The



Bobbie with Donnie Carlisle, Carlisle Medical

community support continues to grow in our new location and we are so appreciative because we are now able to educate consumers while shopping on the warning signs of domestic violence due to modern technology. The Closet continues to serves as a major source of revenue that helps to keep the shelter operational and provide assistance to those making the transition to a new environment.

I would like to express my appreciation to the Administrative and Advisory board members for their contributions and leadership and to the Executive Director and staff for their hard work and of course to our advocates, ambassadors, and community partners for your support and contributions. Your efforts and contributions have made an impact for another successful year for Penelope House.

We look forward to its continued success.

Dr. Bobbie Holt-Ragler

CAmbassador's Message

It's hard to process that in 2019 we celebrated the 40th anniversary of Penelope House. As someone for whom 41 years ago, Penelope House was just a dream, a figment of my imagination I can only marvel at how far we have come in these 40 years. In 1978 when I first proposed the idea of a shelter for Battered Women to the newly organized chapter of Daughters of Penelope we had nothing but a vague idea of what a Shelter should actually be and only \$26 to make this idea/dream become a reality.

Five of us traveled to Jacksonville, FL to see the only existing shelter in the Southeast. There were only four shelters in the US at that time. We became the 5th. On March 19th, 1979 we took a mammoth step and opened our doors to victims of domestic violence in a small three bedroom house on Holcomb Ave with a staff of 12 people. We had \$26 dollars and a lot of faith. As of today, that faith has paid off and we now have an annual budget of over \$2,000,000 and the love and support of our entire community and people around the world including the Daughters of Penelope an international organization.



Kathryn attending Law Enforcement Luncheon

Who would have thought 40 years ago that Tonie Ann would be at the helm of Penelope House. She was only 13 when we opened our doors and from that day was thrown into the midst of our services. She and her best friend Ashley baby-sat with the resident's children while group counseling was being offered. A year later that very friend of hers was murdered by her stepfather during a DV altercation. That profoundly affected her and cemented her passion for the agency and her dedication to serve victims of DV.

On this 40th year, I want to recognize those brave and forward thinking women who served on the founding board of Penelope House. They were Ethel Catranis, Flora Galanos Carlson, Adrianne Markris Kergis, Sophia Clikas, Arta Sideris, Janie Ladas, Helen Roussos Carter, and Betty Nicholas. How brave they were to stand up and speak for those who had no voice. It was my pleasure and honor to serve as the first Board president.

Kathryn Coumanis, LMSW, LICSW, Ed.D.

Officers and Board of Directors

Dr. Bobbie Holt Ragler Stacey Killingsworth Dana Moore Polk John Pierce Jessica Welch Sharon Young Rhodes Serena Chen Low Sheriff Sam Cochran Mitchell Edwards

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

Rep. Victor Gaston
Tina Lackeos
Darby Luxenberg
Leanna MacRae
Ashley Rich
Marion Stille
Stephanie Streeter
Leah Williams
Marilyn Wood

At Large Member At Large Member

Advisory Board

Angelique Agee Allison Tanner Allen Ernie Bankhead Lisa Barnhill Laura Haas Becker Shelly Beech Joseph Blaise Carroll Blow Panay Lignos Burlan

Panay Lignos Burland
Mallory Brooke Carey
Dr. Ted Catranis
Davey Chastang
Rebecca Classic
Maria Coleman
Kathryn Coumanis
Peggy Cronin
Jennifer Curry
Gayle Davidson-Shivers

Rena Davis Kathleen Duthu Pat Edington Virginia Edington Sheryl Falkos Bobby Foropoulos Melanie Fraim Douglas Frazier Sam Gadd Tracey Gann

Jacquitta Powell Green
Maria Greenwald
Sharon Hindman
Gwyn Howard
Angel Howell
Kanecka James
Matthew James
Sheri James
Kerrianna Johnson
Dr. Quinn Kennedy
Tara Kleinpeter

Lisa Kolb Michelle Krulewicz-Dees Cheryl Lawrence J. Jeffrey Lawrence Cindy Leonard Irene Lignos Rhonda Lucas Fran Lyons Paula Marshall Sally Massey Karen McGill Ashley McKeithan Pamela Millsaps Kalishia Mitchell Vicki Mitchelmore Frances Moore Alec Naman

Judge Edmond Naman Gina Nolfe Trey Oliver Tabitha Olzinski Janis Pearman Amber Pierce Paul Platis Mary Powell Beverly Kennedy Reed

Carol Robbins
Belinda Shoub
Debbie Simpson
Mary Smith
Kymberly Soule'
Fr. Elias Stevens
Dr. Judy Stout
Titsa Stratas

Kathryn Stringfellow Tonie Ann Torrans Jo Vaughn Cecilia Wallace Cheryl Ward Tonyea Weber Ray Weinshenker Andy Wynne

Emeritus Board

Wiley Butler Vivian DuValle Dr. Bill Higgs Leannah Holland Millie Long Susan Morrison Marie McConnell Perkins Davis Pilot Father Warren Wall Mary Zoghby

Posthumous / Founding Members

Ethel Catranis Sophia Clikas Jack Grove Sue Hanlein

Janie Ladas Alice Meadows Emily Panayiotou Freda Roberts

Joe Wilson



Meeting in the Shelter



Atlanta Bread Co. Fundraiser



Wash Out DV



Carlisle Medical - Carlisle Cares



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.

ON-SITE MEDICAL CLINIC: Through a collaborative effort between the University of South Alabama and Penelope House, medical care is provided to shelter residents who have no other means of obtaining it.

THE ALMA TAYLOR PROJECT: 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.



National Purple Day



Health Cares about Domestic Kiss-A-Cop - Mobile County Violence - Clarke County Sheriff's Office





The Bankhead Award

Service Statistics

In Shelter		Court Advocacy	
Adults Sheltered	381	Adult Clients	7,202
Children Sheltered	483	Children-7,304	
Total Client Service Hours	13,218.58	Court Appointments with Clients	5,795
Total Nights (Units) of Shelter Provided	9,417	Clients Assisted to obtain protection	
Crisis Calls	1,612	from abuse or no contact orders	1,340
Meals Served	26,895	Prevention Education	0.07
Victim Support Group Participants		School Based Program (PreK-12)	
Adult Support Groups	84	Total Reached	21,768
Adult Attendees	344	Volunteers	
Child Support Groups	23	Volunteers Volunteer Hours	9,076
Child Attendees	59	Value of Volunteer Hours	\$90,760

(Administration

Natalie CartledgePersonnel ManagerAngela SledgeAdministrative AssistantKathryn CoumanisAmbassadorTonie Ann TorransExecutive DirectorMary HickmanChief Financial OfficerDeirdre WilliamsGrant WriterMarian PonderGrant Manager/CFO Assistant

Programs

Chrystal Harris

Brooke Herren

Heather Howard

Calisha Jackson

Shirley LaDuna

Sharon Jones

Cook

Night/Weekend Staff

Night/Weekend Staff

Thrift Store Associate

SAIL Specialist

Thrift Store Manager Assistant

Jasmine Agee Night/Weekend Staff Karen Lambert Child Advocate/Counselor Melanie Bankhead Shelter Supervisor **Julie Ledkins** TLC Transportation Aide Gaberial Brasher Night/Weekend Staff Makayla Lolley Activities Coordinator Court/Victim Advocate Staff - Cook (PT Weekend) Steffany Brown Amanda Merriweather Night/Weekend Staff Crisis Counselor 2 Maria Brutkiewicz Ashley Palmer Night/Weekend Staff Jennifer Pappas Transitional Housing Pamela Bryant Kendall Buchanan Night/Weekend Staff Deborah Parker Cook PT Community Educator Assistant Motricia Burks Cheryl Paul Court/Victim Advocate-SAIL Specialist Stacy Burroughs Shelter/Facilities Manager Fulinda Phillips Crisis Counselor Whitney Cannedy Night/Weekend Staff Laura Poiroux Court/Victim Advocate Alana Carter DV Case Manager Kirstie Pugh Night/Weekend Staff Kathryn Chodkiewicz Night/Weekend Staff Rachele Reis Night/Weekend Staff Elaine Clikas Receptionist Karen Robinson Thrift Store Manager Kristen Clikas-Murphree Court Advocate Supervisor **Juanita Schreiner** Cook - Staff/Facilities Mgr Assistant Allison Ross Scott Outreach Coordinator Laura Curtis Night/Weekend Staff Court Advocate Admin Assistant Demanda Smith Court/Victim Advocate Shannan Cutler Joan Duncan Community Educator Douglas Soutullo Maintenance Sharina Duncan Court/Victim Advocate (ID ABUSE) Regina Thomas Transportation Aide Markis Edwards Part-time Community Educator Assistant Amanda Thompson Children's Program Coordinator Shonda Ellzey DV Case Manager **Emilee Truit** DV Case Manager Gina Fleming-Shinn Community Educator Assistant Heather Wainwright Weekend Supervisor

Reagan Frost Court/Victim Advocate Waconda Williams Court/Victim Advocate

Autumn Green Court/Victim Advocate



Penelope House Staff

Domestic Violence Awareness

Thank You To Our 2018 Event Sponsors!

Annual Meeting - 40th Anniversary Ascension Health Mobile County Sheriff's Office

Hats & Pearls Luncheon Mobile County Sheriff's Office Spine & Rehab Solutions

9th & Final Strike Out Domestic Violence Jennifer Curry Rena Davis Kate Duthu Tracey Gann Leannah Holland Stacey Killingsworth Tara Kleinpeter Chervl Lawrence Fran and Randy Lyons Pamela Milsaps Ashley Ramsey-Naille Paul Platis Bobbie Holt-Ragler Stephanie Streeter Ray Weinshenker Marilyn Wood Nicole Wu

11th Mobile Chocolate Festival A-Cool Self Storage Allstate- R. Broussard AltaPointe Health Systems American Foods AM/NS Calvert Angelique Agee-Avon Warren Averett D. Maureen Baldy **Bay Furniture Bayside Insurance Bennett Orthodontics** Joe Bullard Butch Cassidy's Carlisle Medical The Caring Foundation, Blue Cross Blue Shield of AL The Center for Reproductive Medicine Circle T Designs Daughters of Penelope-Thais Eiland & Ritchie Law Firm Goldstein's Jewelry Greer's Markets

Dr. & Mrs. Shawn Kleinpeter Maloney-Lyons Man About Town-Ray Weinshenker MH3 Printing & Ad Specialties Mobile County District Attorney's Office Mobile Fixture New Horizons Credit Union Pilot Flying J Mr. & Mrs. Paul Platis The Results Company **Roberts Brothers** Saad Health Care Spine and Rehab Solutions Synovus Bank Tyndall Federal Credit Union Village Antiques- Auburn Whole Foods Market Wilcox Chevron & Outpost Food Store Wind Creek Casino & Hotel- Atmore

2019 Foundations and Trusts

Nancy and Bob Bolt Charitable The Boutzale Family Fund Drs. Philip and Roberta Butera Charities Aid Foundation of America **Duvalle Charitable Foundation Trust** C.D., Helen and Jeff Glaze Foundation Larkins Charitable Foundation The Mackey Family Trust Malbis Memorial Foundation Mary Kay Foundation

The Miller Charitable Foundation Morningside Foundation The Moses Foundation Helen M. Nelson Charitable Trust Nick's Kids Fund Robinson Charitable Fund The Romanchuk Fund Rutledge Joint Revocable Trust Sonneborn Charitable Foundation Gayle & Luis Williams Living Trust

Gulf Coast Federal Credit Union

Harcros Chemicals Inc.

Iberia Bank

The Hargrove Foundation



Annual Meeting



Nick's Kids Foundation



Rich's Car Wash - Wash Out DV



Poarch Band of Creek Indians

RIBAL POLICE DEPT.



"End It Now" event

2019 Income



- ■ Contributions 23%
- Penelope's Closet 4%
- Special Events 2%
- United Way 4%
- Grants 65%
- Investment Income 2%

2019 Expenses



- Administrative 18%
- Thrift Store 11%
- Court Advocacy 15%
- Public Relations 2%
- Prevention Education 5%
- Shelter 39%
- Pass Through 4%

* Based on 2019 Budget of \$2.7 million

2019 Memorials

Dolly Adams
Callieroy Andreades
Worlie Ballard
Anne and Stanley Bergman
Dorothy Bonds
Tony Booskos
Freda Boyaci
John Brad
Michael Brown
Renea Park Burns
Wiley Butler

Rosemary Caldwell
Helen Carter
Christy Catranis Sperantsas
Ethel Catranis
Sophia Clikas
Marion Griser Schmohl Cook
Doris Davis
Elizabeth Ann "Meco" Day
Jerry Diduch
Joan Dodici
Richard Drew

Makis Foropoulos Nick Galanos Jean Gaston Jewel Gaston Jack Green Genevieve Hearn John C. Jones Bill Lacey



Penelope's Closet Ribbon Cutting at new Old Shell Location



ADECA Grant Training



Mobile Chocolate Festival



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



Cans for Blues - The Peoples Room





Cammie's Old Dutch Ice Cream Shoppe



Rob't J. Baggett



Better Homes & Gardens Real Estate Main Street Properties



Penelope's Closet



Volunteers of Adjuster's Give Back: DEC the Halls Christmas Event



UMS-Wright Student Volunteers



Kiss-A-Cop Mobile Police Department



Daughters of Penelope



Harley-Davidson

Penelope CHouse thanks the entire community for their support!



Choctaw General Hospital



Alabama Coalition Against Domestic Violence Members





Alabama Power



Springhill Memorial Auxiliary



Theodore High School



Comfort Systems USA





United Way Day of Caring - Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce



Kappa Deltas - University of South Alabama



Hargrove Engineers + Constructors - DVA Month



United Way Partner Agency Meeting