



Summer 2010

## Human Trafficking forum will discuss problem in Oregon

If you think human trafficking is limited to third-world countries, think again. According to law enforcement agencies, it is right here in Oregon, including on the coast.



Chris Kilmer

On Wednesday, July 14, a public forum on the topic of "Human Trafficking" will be held in Tillamook featuring two Oregon experts on the subject.

The forum, sponsored by Tillamook County Women's Resource Center, will be offered twice during the day, from 2 to 4 p.m. and from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Oregon Department of Human Resources offices, 4670 3rd St., in Tillamook. There is no charge to attend.

Featured speakers will be Keith Bickford, a Multnomah County deputy sheriff and director of the Oregon Human Trafficking Task Force; and Chris Killmer, program coordinator for the Catholic Charities Outreach and Support to Special Immigrant Populations (OSSIP) Human Trafficking Program.

According to Bickford, the two major forms of human trafficking found in Oregon involve labor trafficking and the sex trafficking of individuals under age 18.

"There is a lot of labor trafficking, bringing in illegal immigrants who think they are coming here to find a better life. But, instead, they are held in virtual slavery and forced to work," he explained.

He said his task force, which involves nearly two dozen law enforcement and social services agencies all over the state, has identified more than 50 victims so far, but he be-

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# Imagine!

## Summit will seek new ways to prevent violence

Imagine a time without violence in Tillamook County. How would it look and feel? How can we make it happen?

Those are the concepts at the core of a major two-day "Imagine No Violence Summit" that will be held Thursday and Friday, Sept. 9-10, in Tillamook.

According to organizers, its goal will be to affect real change in our community.

Organized by Tillamook County Women's Resource Center, the summit will be held at Tillamook Bay Community College and feature some of the leading authorities on domestic violence and sexual assault from around the United States.

"We are so honored to be able to host an event that we believe could be a major catalyst for social change here in Tillamook County," said Kathleen Marvin, TCWRC executive director.

"We hope the summit will attract both professionals and citizens from the community. Not only will they learn a lot from our visiting experts, they also will have an opportunity to take part in a visioning session in which we will discuss ways we can all work together and map out concrete ideas for reducing the incidence of violence around us."

Two leading national experts – Lundy Bancroft and Rev. Dr. Marie M. Fortune – will deliver keynote speeches, Marvin said.

Bancroft, whose keynote topic will be "We Are All Victims: How Batterers Destroy Community Life for Everyone and How to Stop Them," is headquartered in Massachusetts and has 20 years of experi-



ence in interventions for abusive men and their families. He is the author of three books in the field and is a former co-director of the nation's first counseling program for men who batter.

Fortune, whose keynote topic will be "It Takes a Village to End Domestic Violence: How Religious and Secular Communities can Work Together," is a pastor, educator, theologian, ethicist and author of numerous books. She founded the Center for the Prevention of Sexual and Domestic Violence, now known as FaithTrust Institute, and served as its executive director until 1999. She has served on the National Advisory Committee for the Office on Violence Against Women in the U.S. Department of Justice and on the Defense Task Force on Domestic Violence in the U.S. Department of Defense. She edited The Journal on Religion and Abuse from 2000-2008.

The two-day summit will also feature presentations and discussions led by nine other national and regional experts, Marvin continued. They include individuals from

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# From My Desk

It is difficult to believe, but our Pacific House shelter has now been open for nearly two years. We have been operating at full capacity – which is about five families at a time. Since we opened, we have provided 5,620 night stays for women and their children.

However, the current economic downturn has meant that our clients often need shelter for longer periods of time as they look for employment. Thus, while our occupancy levels are consistent, we actually are not able to serve as many individuals because of lower turnover.

The economy is touching us in another way, as well. We have been informed that we can expect a reduction of approximately 10 percent in the funds that we receive through our state contracts that support the services we provide to our clients, even though we were already desperately underfunded. As a result, we believe we will be facing a \$35,000 operating deficit.

This comes at a time when the request for our many services has never been higher. In the past year, since we began a federally funded public education and outreach campaign, our service requests have increased approximately 30 percent! While we are thrilled that we are able to help so many more people, we also are facing serious challenges as we look for ways to meet these needs.

There is no more generous community anywhere than Tillamook County. We had amazing proof of that generosity May 23, when Jeanna Stephens and a group of local musicians held a lovely musical event that raised \$2,000 for us! (See story Page 6.) We are so appreciative of their efforts and of the amazing turnout – approximately 200 people.

Jeanna is not a member of our organization. She is simply a caring individual who wanted to help. Fundraisers like hers can mean so much, whether they be public events, bake sales or small, private gatherings. Every dollar raised is important.

In addition, we encourage you to donate your unwanted furniture, appliances, clothing and household items to our Wild Flower Thrift Boutique. As you will note on Page 4, we can now refurbish your discarded large appliances for resale.

Your Wild Flower contributions bring multiple benefits. First, the revenue from the resale of your donations helps support our work. Secondly, you may receive a tax deduction for your gift. And, thirdly, the shop helps those who may be facing hard times by providing a low-cost, and sometimes free source for things they may need.

Thank you for whatever help you can give. Together we can end violence in our community.

– Kathleen Marvin, Executive Director



## Summit

From Page 1

the fields of law enforcement, education, human services and health.

Topics will include a discussion of available resources and services, the effect of violence on children and families, working to engage young men in violence prevention and social change, law enforcement challenges and religious resources and roadblocks.

Marvin said some of the concurrent sessions will be targeted to human services and law enforcement professionals to help them improve their skills and knowledge base. Others, however, will have a broader appeal.

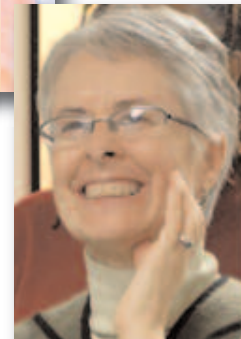
One session will involve a group of Tillamook teens, who will discuss a school violence survey in which they took part and share their perspectives on such topics as teen dating violence and healthy relationships.

Another session, entitled “What Can I Do?” will offer information about what to do if a friend or family member shares that he or she has been abused.

Marvin said some of the costs of the summit will be underwritten by a grant from U.S. Department of Justice Office



Lundy Bancroft, left, and Rev. Dr. Marie M. Fortune, below, will be keynote speakers.



on Violence Against Women, which also has been funding a major public information and outreach campaign by TCWRC during the past year.

There is a registration fee of \$90 for attendees, \$80 for participants who register before Aug. 15. The fee includes the two days with continental breakfasts, lunches, keynote sessions, networking, workshops and a silent auction. Some scholarships will be available. For more details go to: [www.TCWRC.net](http://www.TCWRC.net) or call (503) 842-8294.

## Trafficking

From Page 1

lieves that is the tip of the iceberg.

“Because these people are isolated, they are difficult to find and they don’t understand that there are laws to protect them,” he said.

Bickford said the state will launch a radio campaign on Hispanic stations in July, hoping to reach some of the victims who listen to radio while they work.

He said sex trafficking of minors is another large area of concern.

“Portland Police Department, alone, has identified 83 prostitutes under the age of 18 who are being controlled by traffickers,” he noted.

Killmer, whose work is primarily among immigrant populations, agreed that the problem of labor trafficking is likely grossly underestimated.

“There is a misconception that human trafficking is not happening in rural areas or on the coast. It is. In the past 18 months, I have found it all over the state,” he said.

He said labor trafficking takes two

primary forms: people brought in to work in agriculture, timber and other industries and people brought in for domestic servitude.

Killmer pointed to an informational website on the topic – [oregonoath.org](http://oregonoath.org) – which states the following:

“Each year an estimated 17,500 men, women, and children are trafficked into the U.S. for purposes of sexual and labor exploitation throughout our states, including Oregon. In a recent nationwide FBI sting operation to rescue this population, Oregon ranked second in victims recovered – seven victims in a single eight-hour shift.”

Killmer and Bickford said the July 14 forum will provide information about the nature and extent of human trafficking in Oregon, the law and how to identify victims. Bickford will discuss the work of his task force and the partnership between law enforcement and social service providers.

The forum is open free of charge to the public and refreshments will be served. For information or to sign up to attend, contact Romy Carver at Tillamook County Women’s Resource Center, (503) 842-8294.

# Community Outreach



Junior Mudd-Nicks from Nehalem Elementary School show off the goodie bags they created for Pacific House kids.



## In the Bag!

### Nehalem youngsters create 'joy bags' for shelter kids

What if you were a kid and you had to leave home in a hurry without taking anything with you to stay at a shelter with your mom? What kind of personal things would you want to have when you got there?

That's what a group of fourth and fifth graders at Nehalem Elementary School asked themselves earlier this year while figuring out what kind of community service project they wanted to do.

The students are members of the Junior Mudd-Nicks, named after a widely known philanthropic organization in North Tillamook County, and they are dedicated to "working together to help our community and our environment."

According to Donna Miller, a special edu-

cation teacher at Nehalem Elementary, the students came up with the idea of providing "joy bags" of goodies for kids who find themselves staying at Pacific House, a shelter for victims of domestic violence and their kids run by the Women's Resource Center of Tillamook County.

It was the culmination of months of hard work by the students to raise money for Junior Mudd-Nick projects.

"The kids asked to set up a booth at this year's Nehalem Bay Garden Club plant sale and were, I think, the first outside group ever given that permission," Miller said. "They worked for weeks tending plants and painting pots. And, at the Mother's Day weekend plant sale, they raised \$658."

That money went into 15 joy bags, which

were stuffed with items such as Beanie Babies, tooth brushes and tooth paste, combs, crayons, journals and other writing materials.

Onto each bag went a personal note of encouragement from a Junior Mudd-Nick.

"We want you to be happy with the joy bag," wrote one student. "We all helped buy stuff." It was signed, "Your secret friend."

Also helping with the project were fourth grade teacher Virginia Birkby and parent Joan Henderson, Miller said.

The bags were presented to Women's Resource Center Executive Director Kathleen Marvin at a school assembly June 7.

"It really moved me," Marvin said. "We always talk about how it takes a community of people caring for each other and here it was. It gives me huge hope."

# Community Outreach

## Nestucca High students study dating violence

The students wrote poems, songs and raps, designed magazine ads and posters, researched and wrote papers. It sounds like a fairly typical high school research project. But the topic – dating violence – wasn't typical at all.

The students – boys and girls in Susan Lenzi's junior Wellness; Teen Issues class at Nestucca High School – had some exposure to domestic violence issues earlier in the school year when they viewed the film, "The Burning Bed." Then came the assignment to research and report on dating violence.

Lenzi, who has taught health and physical education at Nestucca High for 35 years, said the project was partly inspired by the TCWRC billboard on U.S. Hwy. 101 in Hebo. The billboard notes that one in three women in Tillamook County have been affected by domestic violence.

"Some of the kids already knew something about dating violence," Lenzi said.



Susan Lenzi shows posters created by her Nestucca High students.

"There had been a couple of incidents here in years past and they had heard about problems encountered at other schools by two students who had transferred here. We have educated our students on this topic for many years, having local former victims speak to make the message real to our students."

Lenzi said her students approached the problem from different perspectives.

"For instance," she explained, "one student wrote from the viewpoint of a friend of a victim who was not responding to her problem."

Another student wrote from the perspective of a victim who was just beginning to come to grips with the problem.

"The hope was that the boys would take a protective stance," Lenzi added. "I'm a real believer in teens helping other teens to recognize negative behaviors and together seek help."

After the students presented their work in February, the displays went up on a wall in the school's second floor corridor for all students and members of the public to see.

"We've had many positive reactions," Lenzi said of the display recently. "We hope it starts some discussions."

## Wild Flower begins repairing appliances

There is a new source for refurbished large appliances in Tillamook County. The Wild Flower Thrift Boutique, which is operated for the benefit of Tillamook County Women's Resource Center, is now accepting donations of used appliances, such as stoves and refrigerators, and is refurbishing them for resale.

The new service is part of a regional initiative among a number of domestic violence groups in our region to find a more efficient way to work together recycling used items while also providing job training for people re-entering the workforce.

In Tillamook, the initiative is focusing on large appliances. Recently, the Women's Resource Center hired Mike Haynes as its appliance service technician.

Haynes, who in the past had worked in logging, construction and as a handyman, was brought aboard early this spring and was sent to a training program in Lane County operated by St. Vincent de Paul to learn how to repair appliances.

"I've always worked with my hands," said Haynes. "I started stopping by the Wild

Flower to visit friends and, before I knew it, I was helping out. Now I am really part of the operation. It's a great place to be."

Wild Flower Manager Melissa Finnell said she had long wanted to offer used appliances to her customers, but had no one on staff to recondition them. Bringing Haynes on board solved that problem.

"This means we can now accept donations of used refrigerators, stoves, washers, dryers and dishwashers," said Kathleen Marvin, TCWRC executive director. "We'll be able to repair them and offer them to our customers at prices well below retail."

In addition, Finnell said the Wild Flower now has a truck and can pick up larger items by appointment.

Marvin said the Women's Resource Center is collaborating with a number of non-profits in Clatsop and Columbia counties. Each will be focusing on a particular type of product to refurbish – such as small appliances or furniture. Items that can't be repaired in one location could then be shipped to another.

"Right now, there are three thrift stores

like ours in the region that have huge garbage bills because we can't repair or repurpose everything we receive," explained Finnell. "This will reduce that problem and also make sure more things can be used. Plus, it will help provide job training."

Marvin explained that the Women's Resource Center receives funding from the Oregon Department of Human Resources to provide job training and work experience to individuals who want to re-enter the workforce. These individuals are given work experience at the Wild Flower.

"DHS is extremely excited about this new collaboration," Marvin noted. "This kind of regional effort means that more people can receive job training in such things as marketing, appliance repair, recycling, truck driving and shipping and receiving. These are all highly marketable skills."

The Wild Flower is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Donations are accepted at any time during business hours. The Wild Flower is at 114 Main Ave. in Tillamook, phone (503) 842-2996.

# News Briefs

... The annual **Soup Bowl** fundraiser April 17 raised \$9,000 and attracted some 200 people. Thanks to all the volunteers and sponsors!

... In late June – thanks to scholarships – many TCWRC staff members were able to attend a statewide conference held by the **Oregon Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault** in central Oregon.

... For the first time this past April, representatives from TCWRC were invited to participate in the annual **Tillamook Preschool Multi-Modular Health Exams**, which provide free health and developmental screenings to local children. We were able to be available to parents to provide information and make new connections. We are extremely grateful for the opportunity to have taken part in this very worthwhile annual event.

... In May, Eleanor Watkins and Norma Obrist attended the **Victim Rights Law Center Sexual Assault Law Conference** in Scottsdale, Ariz.



### Plaque Ceremony

Tillamook Police Chief Terry Wright installs a plaque outside the police department April 20. The plaque reads "Imagine No Violence ... Tillamook County Working Together 2010."

# Volunteer Profile



## Susan Barksdale

When Susan Barksdale first transplanted herself from La Jolla, Calif., to Tillamook County about 15 years ago, she had never had much contact with the subject of domestic violence.

"I was newly divorced and new in town and a friend told me that I needed a life," Barksdale laughs. "So I took the volunteer training and started working on the crisis line."

Barksdale, who also was a Head Start teacher, said she quickly learned that the most important quality of a crisis line volunteer was the ability to listen.

"I found out quickly that the work was a good fit for me. Every time I worked the line, I listened and learned more about the subject of domestic violence."

Soon, Barksdale began volunteering in the office. Eventually, about 10 years ago, she joined the board of directors.

And then there was the food.

"I love to cook," she explained. "So over the years I would prepare food for some of the events."

Barksdale's food became a staple of small fundraisers and meetings and, in particular, the annual Soup Bowl. Kathleen

Marvin, TCWRC executive director, said Barksdale is particularly famous for such things as her lemon bars, cheese-cake, crab mold, brownies, cheese bread, cream of broccoli soup and, Kathleen's particular favorite, artichoke squares.

"Cooking is a real pleasure for me," Barksdale noted. "It's a way to balance out the more serious part of the work."

"Susan is just incredible," remarks Marvin. "She works the crisis line every weekend and she is always ready to pitch in whenever she is needed."

But, according to Barksdale, the pleasure has been mutual.

"This work has been as much for me as for anyone else. It has changed the way I live my life. Since I got involved in the crisis line, I find myself telling friends that they can call me anytime, day or night, if they need to talk."

Barksdale encourages others to get involved in the work.

"This has been an incredibly enriching experience for me – not only helping people but also being able to work with this group of women who all share a passion to end domestic violence. It is extremely fulfilling."

# Summer Calendar

**Thursday, July 14**, there will be a public forum on the subject of "Human Trafficking." (See story, Page 1.) Two sessions will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. and from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Oregon Department of Human Resources offices, 4670 3rd St., in Tillamook. Contact Romy Carver, (503) 842-8294, for information.

**August 1-10**, Pacific House shelter will be closed for cleaning.

**Saturday, Aug. 7**, a women's self-defense class will be held at Tillamook Bay Community College. Scholarships available. Contact TBCC for info.

**Thursday-Friday, Aug. 12-13**, TCWRC will participate in the Huckleberry Health Fair at the Tillamook County Fair.

**Thursday-Friday, Sept. 9-10**, the "Imagine No Violence" Summit will be held at Tillamook Bay Community College. (See story Page 1.)

# Fund Raising

## Musical event raises \$2,000 for TCWRC

Cellist Jeanna Stephens had never undertaken a fundraiser all by herself before. But when she did, the results were huge.

Stephens and several local musicians and volunteers, put together a musical event on May 23 at St. Alban's Church in Tillamook that raised \$2,000 after expenses to benefit the Women's Resource Center. And, according to Stephens, it all began with the TCWRC newsletter.

"I saw the newsletter one day," said Stephens. "I had no idea that the

7-year-old Emily Nord-Rush sang; Jeanna Stephens played cello.



Women's Resource Center did so many things for the community. So we asked Romy Carver (TCWRC outreach coordinator) to speak at our church."

After hearing Carver's presentation at the Seventh-day Adventist Church, Stephens said she wanted to contribute in some way.

"I knew I didn't have a lot of money to give, but I had my cello. I thought, perhaps we could put on a program and raise a little money that way."

Stephens said she had frequently performed with pianist Joanne Petty and harmonica stylist Dennis Wagner. So they formed the core entertainment for the event. In addition, her son Jonathan Stephens plays guitar and sings. He also volunteered to perform. Then, to add one more irresistible attraction, she invited 7-year-old Emily Nord-Rush, whom she had heard sing once at a school talent contest.

Women's Resource Center board member and volunteer Susan Barksdale stepped up to cook the food.

"We really didn't know what kind of response we would get," said Stephens. "We expected maybe 100 people and that's how much food we prepared. We were absolutely amazed at the turnout."

That turnout filled St. Albans to capacity, with standing room only. Stephens estimates that about 200 people attended.

"Needless to say, the food didn't last long," Stephens said. "But everyone was so enthusiastic about the music."

Stealing the show was Emily Nord-Rush, who sang "Somewhere Over

the Rainbow."

Emily was a particularly appropriate performer for the event, according to her mother, Paulette.

"As a baby, she had been removed from a home where she had been neglected," she explained. "My mother-in-law took her in and we helped out from time to time. But we fell in love with her." Paulette and her husband, Ron Rush, adopted Emily when she was about a year old."

Paulette said Emily always loved to sing.

"When she was a baby, we used to sing 'Lolly Pop' to her while she was eating. She would keep tempo with the song. And as she got older, she was just always singing. She starts singing when she wakes up in the morning. She is just amazing!"

Her precociousness was evident in another way the day of the concert, as well. According to Paulette, Emily decorated a "tip box" and went from person to person after the musical asking for tips that would all go to the Women's Resource Center. When she was done, she had collected \$86.

All in all, the event was so successful, Stephens hopes to do it again next year.

"The most rewarding part was when I looked out at the audience and saw so many of our friends there, as well as a lot of people we didn't know. I was really moved by the response. It was just amazing that we were able to do this for such a worthy cause."

If you would like to stage a fundraising event of your own, contact Women's Resource Center Development Coordinator David Guard at (503) 842-8294.

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Administrative Assistant .....Kandy Staples-Cooper  
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