

 The Community Foundation Serving Riverside and San Bernardino Counties	S.L. Gimbel Foundation Fund Grant Evaluation Form
Grant Period:	November 15, 2012-November 30 2013

Organization: Barren River Area Safe Space, Inc.

Contact Name: Lee Alcott

Title: Executive Director

Phone Number: 270-781-9334

Grant Period: Nov. 15, 2012-Nov. 30, 2013

Award Amount: \$25,000

Grant Number: 2012844

- Describe the project's key outcomes and results based on your goals and objectives. Provide the number of clients served and other relevant statistics.
 The Economic Justice/Career Services Program exceeded the established goal to promote self-sufficiency, asset building and safety for homeless victims of domestic violence.
 - 134 unemployed/underemployed homeless women secured and/or maintained employment.
 - 134 unemployed/underemployed homeless women participated in individual budgeting and financial education classes that led to new employment or an increase in earned income.
 - 65 individuals attended "The Intersection of Economic Justice & Domestic Violence" group session.
 - 5 individuals attended a Financial Education forum presented by Allstate Agents.
 - 134 unemployed/underemployed completed "The Economic Abuse" Webbing Activity in preparation for Board Game Development.
 - 10 assisted with Board Game Design and Layout.
 - 100% completed safety plans related to safety at the work place and when traveling to and from the shelter.
 - 97% identified and established career goals.
 - 50% completed resume training and learned how to prepare a resume.
 - 13 employed homeless women opened Individual Development Accounts (IDA/Asset building objective).
 - 2 employed homeless women used the CAR IDA to purchase cars.
 - 32 employed women participated in Credit Report training and learned how to access a free credit report, read it and plan to pay down debt.
 - 62 individuals participated in the "Dress for Success" event that included the "ABC's of a Job Interview."
 - 6 unemployed/underemployed homeless women participated in training and testing for the National Career Readiness Certificate and achieved silver status.
 - 3000 bus passes were provided for job related transportation (barrier removed)(GOBG is a small community bus that charges \$2 per ride or \$1 with a medical card).

- What were the challenges and obstacles you encountered (if any) in attaining your goals & objectives? How did you overcome and/or address the challenges and obstacles? What were the lessons learned? We did not anticipate that some of the participants would not sign a release to pull a credit report. Due to Federal and state confidentiality laws we are permitted to access information on behalf of a client only with a signed and dated release of information. We encouraged clients to

perhaps do this on their own and provided instructional material on how to pull and read a credit report.

A large percentage of participants were able to gain employment or keep current jobs. We had to readjust scheduling for groups and individual interventions in order to meet the participant's schedule needs. This involved some strategizing but we were able to accommodate all of the participants with either group or individual sessions. In retrospect, we should not have estimated high numbers for each activity.

- Describe any unintended positive outcomes as a result of the efforts supported by this grant. We were able to recruit new community partners in our economic justice work as a result of the news coverage of this project. Our Dress for Success Program increased collaborative participants from two to six, including two retail stores (TJ MAXX and CATO's). This involvement was a result of the success of the grant program.
- Describe the overall effect this grant has had on your organization. The S.L. Gimbel Foundation grant was an unexpected asset to our organization. It allowed us to focus on developing economic justice materials, engage more participants in classes and projects, provide job related transportation assistance, incentives for participation and completion of projects, and identify additional data on the impact economic abuse has on an individual.
- Tell us a few success stories that made an impact on your organization and/or community as a result of this grant.

Economic Justice/Career Services Program

Success Story 1:

This success story involves a 35 year old female and her three children. The client's children include a female child age 4 and two male children ages 9 and 12. The advocate first made contact with client at client's DVO hearing. Client's abuser is her husband and father of the children. Client has been physically, economically, and mentally abused throughout her 16 year relationship with the abuser. Abuser has also used the children to try and control the client. Client and advocate discussed the DVO process and court protocol. Advocate sat with client at the DVO hearing and discussed the outcome afterwards. The DVO was granted for 3 years with contact allowed to discuss issues with the children. The client made called the domestic violence crisis line and entered the shelter. It was the beginning of her healing journey.

The client's abuser violated the terms of the DVO on many occasions and law enforcement had to intervene. The abuser was arrested and charged with violation of KY EPO/DVO. Due to the abuser's behavior and emotional distress to the children the client decided to file a motion to amend the DVO to request no contact be allowed between the client and her abuser. The advocate met with the client before the court proceedings and attended the hearing with her for support. The abuser denied the allegations in court, but the judge granted the client's request and ordered no contact between the client and her abuser. This provided a sense of peace for the client so that she could focus on starting her life over again. She agreed to participate in the Economic Justice/Career Services Program and began to remove barriers to self-sufficiency. She was pleased to learn how to open a checking account and keep a checkbook after she gained employment. She had worked in the past but her abuser always took her money. She now realized that earned income would open many doors for her family.

She took the 3 National Career Readiness Tests and scored high enough to earn certificates. She was able to work on a resume, something she had never done before.

The client had limited income and could not afford the house payments for her current home without the abuser and would have to relocate. Advocate made referral to Legal Aid for assistance with child support, and applying for food stamps. Once the client was able to begin to save money, increase earned income and secure safe housing through the agency's permanent

housing program she realized that life without abuse was possible. She was able to utilize the skills she learned through the Economic Justice/Career Services Program.

Success Story 2: LB is a mother of two boys, ages 11 & 12. She faced many barriers before she came into the shelter: language, hearing, undocumented worker. She remained quiet and withdrawn for the first week of shelter residency. LB had lost most of her hearing as a result of the domestic violence she experienced from her husband. She could speak but only limited English and was very self-conscious. She is a native of Mexico but her sons were born in the United States. Shelter Advocates assisted her through the use of Pacific Language Line services and were able to build a rapport. Her sons were enrolled in the local school. She attended the economic justice groups and received materials in Spanish. She was also assisted in applying for a UVISA that she eventually received. Her progress in the career readiness and budgeting groups was impressive. She could not wait to work and earn her own money. Once she received her work permit she was able to secure employment through Vocational Rehabilitation. She was assisted with a hearing aid and became more confident in her ability to hear and speak English. LT qualified for our permanent housing program and continues to excel in everything. She applied to the local university to become a counselor. She is a self-taught artist and returned to the shelter to repaint the children's room. She also works as a mentor for other undocumented battered women and shares her story to give them courage as they learn about legal protections under the Violence against Women Act.

- Provide a financial report on the use of your grant funds (expenditures).
 - \$11,000: Partial salary and fringe for Career Specialist (expended)
(facilitated financial literacy groups, job readiness training,
Developed forms and orchestrated board game development.)
 - \$5,000: Emergency Financial Assistance (expended)
 - \$4,500: Board games (at printers at this time-will be spent by 9/30/13)
 - \$2,500: Program supplies (expended)
 - \$2,000: Economic Justice Brochures (in final stages of development/will be spent by 9/30/13)
- ❖ Please send copies of publicity and other promotional materials.
- ❖ All variances or time extensions must be approved by The Community Foundation's Grant Committee. Please contact us at 951-684-4194, ext. 114 immediately if a variance or extension becomes necessary.

Please return the completed form to:

Celia Cudiamat, Executive Vice President of Grants & Programs
3700 Sixth St., Suite 200, Riverside, CA 92501 or fax to 951-684-1911
Or email to: ccudiamat@thecommunityfoundation.net



BARREN RIVER AREA SAFE SPACE, INC.

Domestic Violence Shelter & Program



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

The Barren River Area Safe Space, Inc.

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S.L Gimbel Foundation Fund supports Local Domestic Violence Program

\$25,000 Grant Awarded to the Barren River Area Safe Space, Inc. for Job Development

Bowling Green, KY, 01/18/13—The S.L. Gimbel Foundation Advised Fund at The Community Foundation Serving the Counties of Riverside and San Bernardino, CA has awarded a \$25,000 grant to the Barren River Area Safe Space, Inc. (BRASS) to enhance programming for financial empowerment for homeless domestic violence survivors. Funding will be used to increase job readiness, job placement and sustainability in the workforce.

The agency will serve 100 homeless victims of domestic violence through this grant. Services include initial assessment of unemployed and underemployed participants, career readiness assessment, job development interventions, and job searches. Participants will have the opportunity to earn the National Career Readiness Certificate. A community training on the impact of economic abuse on individuals and families is also planned.

“The S.L. Gimbel Foundation grant is a significant contribution to our economic justice program and will enable the agency to provide additional services and resources to battered women who have not only experienced abuse but homelessness.” reports Lee Alcott, Executive Director.

The mission of the S.L. Gimbel Foundation is to enhance the quality of life for people and animals by providing effective support in the Founder’s specific fields of interest.

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Serving Allen, Barren, Butler, Edmonson, Hart, Logan, Metcalfe, Monroe, Simpson, and Warren counties since 1980.

Grant will help those who've been abused

By The Daily News | Posted: Sunday, January 27, 2013 1:00 am

The Barren River Area Safe Space domestic violence center in Bowling Green serves as a place of support for battered residents in our area and anything that can be done by the organization to help women with job placement and help them excel in life is something we should all support.

Agencies such as BRASS aren't as well-financed as they would like, so anytime they receive a grant, it is always great news for the organization.

BRASS recently received a \$25,000 grant from the California-based S.L. Gimbel Foundation to help women develop and maintain job skills.

The money ultimately helps increase incomes and build assets. The funds will also be used to build programs to enhance financial literacy. Implementing the programs might include hiring a part-time employee to help meet those needs. The grant's emphasis is supporting and empowering women to excel in the workplace.

This grant, which was so generously given by the California organization, has the potential to really help women, many who have been through very traumatic experiences, to find jobs and help provide them some financial stability.

Also, the grant will allow BRASS to host two community training sessions on how economic abuse affects not only a family, but a community.

Physical abuse is unacceptable, whether committed by a male or female, but one of the most disturbing aspects of these violent acts is the abuser can sabotage the victim's ability to work because of visible injuries that prevent them from going to work.

Victims also, in many cases, are emotionally battered as well. This grant could help change all of that.

Many victims have a sense of no self-worth, guilt and no family to turn to for support.

Through this grant and BRASS' actions that could all change. We hope it does.

Funds to help women land jobs and excel

By RIALDA ZUKIC, The Daily News, rzukic@bgdailynews.com/783-3246 | Posted: Wednesday, January 23, 2013 11:26 am

California-based S.L. Gimbel Foundation awarded the Barren River Area Safe Space domestic violence shelter a \$25,000 grant to help women develop and maintain job skills.

The money will be used to offer programs to assist women with job placement and in developing necessary skills to help increase incomes and build assets. The funds will also be used to build programs to enhance financial literacy, according to Lee Alcott, director of BRASS. Implementing the programs might include hiring a part-time employee to help meet those needs.

Although BRASS serves both men and women at its Warren County shelter, the grant was awarded with an emphasis of supporting and empowering women to excel in the workplace. It will also be used to empower women to strive for financial stability and sustainability, Alcott said.

“The grant will allow us to host two community trainings on how economic abuse affects not only a family, but the community (as a whole),” she said.

During the initial proposal and application process, BRASS said the grant could help the shelter reverse the damaging cycle of economic abuse, Alcott said.

An abuser can sabotage a woman’s ability to work by causing visible injuries and by preventing her from going to work, Alcott said. This is another example of economic abuse that affects the workplace as well, she said.

“We’re already working with women in the shelter to gain employment, maintain employment and increase their own income,” she said. “This (grant) will help with that.”

A woman who was abused by her ex-husband and prefers to remain anonymous said that during her four-month stay at BRASS, she was provided with information about job openings in town, which led to a full-time job as a cook at an assisted living facility in Bowling Green.

She has been employed there since September 2011, she said.

“I love my job,” she said. “I’ve never had a job that I’ve enjoyed as much as this one.”

After being repeatedly beaten and abused by her ex-husband, the woman knew she had to get out but found herself alone without any relatives or friends nearby.

“I was scared for my life,” she said. “I was so thankful that there was a place like BRASS in Bowling Green.”

She said that the organization not only helped her with the overall job application process, but also helped her find an apartment and get on her feet.

“They’re a really great foundation that helped me get my life back together,” she said.

By offering programs that can help boost the economic position of a person or family, the community as a whole benefits.

“We’re very excited about it,” Alcott said. “We hope that it will have a powerful impact on the participants.”

YOU ARE INVITED!

NCRC Testing

06/12/13

Time: 9a.m-12p.m



Barren River Area Safe Space,
INC

NATIONAL CAREER READINESS CERTIFICATE

While looking for jobs, we all need an edge over the competition, the NCRC may be just what your looking for...

The NCRC confirms test takers have certain basic skills needed for work place success

-Applied Math

-Reading Information

-Locating Information

Testing will be available tomorrow during group and all clients are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity!

- ◆ This Economic Justice/Career Services program is supported by a grant from the S.L. Gimbel Foundation and a collaboration with the Green County Adult Learning Center.

**Participants will
receive a \$20 Gift Card!**

Economic Justice & Asset Building: Weaving the Lessons Learned

By Lee Alcott

Nine years ago the Barren River Area Safe Space, Inc. began an orchestrated effort to develop financial literacy programming in order to expand services to victims and domestic violence and reverse the cycle of poverty. Realizing that the damage to families affected by domestic violence often goes beyond physical violence and assault, the agency began a program that focused on the economic crisis faced by battered women. Domestic Violence Advocates have long recognized the impact of economic abuse. It runs the gamut from withholding to controlling money, isolation from family and resources, and incurring debt in a victim's name. Economic abuse also includes coercing a victim into illegal activities that result in criminal charges and incarceration, both of which escalate debt, prohibit employment and affect outcomes for housing choice.

According to national statistics, one in four homeless women identifies domestic violence as the reason for homelessness. This sobering statistic helped us to build upon the experiences of homeless victims of domestic violence, make the connection between the dynamics of domestic violence and economic abuse, homelessness and poverty and to develop programming that empowers women economically, provides a forum for skills development to increase employability, self-sufficiency and reverse the cycle of poverty. Each building block demanded the removal of barriers that often impact battered women. One of the first set of barriers were ones we had placed ourselves. In our attempt to be autonomous and create an atmosphere of safety for shelter residents we isolated our agency from the mainstream. In the early days of our economic justice programming we realized the need to invite non-traditional partners to the table and to engage in new conversations that would have a direct impact on our clients.

By making the connection between the dynamics of domestic violence and homelessness, and creating a focus on economic abuse, we developed programs that empower women economically provide skills that increase employability and self-sufficiency and reverse the cycle of poverty. The development of the economic justice program involved a commitment to investigate and seek new avenues of revenue. United Way of Southern Kentucky funded a three year Homeless Advocacy Program in 2002. This program set the stage for the Economic Justice Program that is currently in place. Our agency trained and certified Domestic Violence Advocates as Homeownership Counselors in 2004 in an attempt to expand the ability to open new doors for homeless clients. Advocates were trained to work with financial literacy programming, debt reduction, budgeting and spending plans. Their lens focused on establishing economic opportunities for homeless battered women who often worked at minimum wage jobs. Their lens expanded to include asset building in 2005 with the opening of the first Individual Development Accounts (IDA), a federally matched savings plan.

Efforts to remove housing barriers for battered women paid off in 2006 when the agency was awarded a Supportive Housing Permanent Leasing Grant from the Kentucky Housing Corporation and HUD. PEACE Housing (Permanency Empowerment and Change Equals Housing) is a housing first project that incorporates financial literacy goals and is structured to help women increase income, build assets and reside in safe housing. This service enriched housing program provided the platform needed for follow-up assistance as well as rental assistance. Advocates worked with former shelter residents to ensure housing stability.

At the same time we were beginning PEACE Housing, the IRS approached us to become a "Champion" in promoting the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) in our community, as well as opening free tax preparation sites. Another piece to the economic justice puzzle fell into place with the creation of the Barren River Asset Building Coalition, a group of non-traditional partners who promote free tax preparation services for low to moderate wage earners and financial literacy education. It was a

stepping stone into the community that offered a balance of old and new opportunities for battered women.

In 2010 we were awarded a Community Development Block Grant from the City of Bowling Green Kentucky to build the PNC Foundation Economic Justice Institute of South Central Kentucky. The EJI houses the agency's economic justice programs, including a free tax preparation site that is open to the public. A food pantry and community group room rounds out its use. Searching diverse funding helped the agency establish comprehensive services for battered women, services that reach beyond the shelter walls and engage the community at large. The EJI will also be the site for micro-enterprise development for homeless battered women. The pieces to the economic justice puzzle have fallen into place as we engage women in a new conversation. The conversation starts with money—how to get it, how to keep it, how to grow it. Discussions involving money and debt often lead to denial, resistance and withdrawal. However, Advocates trained in financial engagement strategies, have made great strides in breaking down those barriers. For domestic violence survivors, these barriers are reinforced by acts of coercion and control. Creative program development, designed to ease economic exploitation and injustice, has proven to be a key element in our work. Threads of domestic violence education, intensive safety planning, and financial literacy have been woven together in order to offer new opportunities, critical skills and the ability to make positive economic choices. The lessons we have learned include the premise that it takes an assortment of interventions, community partners and ideas to put together a program that is effective. In 2012 the agency received funding from the S.L. Gimbel Foundation Advised Fund at the Community Foundation serving the counties of Riverside and San Bernardino in California. These funds allowed us to expand programming to increase job readiness, placement and sustainability in the workforce in order to increase self-sufficiency.

Understanding the impact of economic abuse on an individual is critical to assisting in removing barriers that prohibit independence . Creating an intersection between economic justice and domestic violence provides participants in the program the opportunity to increase knowledge, set goals, remove barriers to safety and move towards self-sufficiency. A network of resources the agency provides includes job training and placement, transportation assistance, childcare assistance, affordable housing and on-going support services. It takes diverse funding and looking outside of our comfort zone to gather appropriate resources to affect change in the lives of battered women. It takes promoting this work so that non-traditional partners become interested and willing to invest time and resources. It takes recognizing the incredible gifts of the women we serve as we listen to their dreams.

Biographical Sketch:

Lee Alcott is the Executive Director of the Barren River Area Safe Space, Inc., a domestic violence shelter and program in south central Kentucky. She is a past President of the Kentucky Domestic Violence Association, and has received numerous awards for her work with homeless battered women. A self-taught artist, Lee is a Licensed Professional Art Therapist. She has been appointed to the Kentucky Board of Licensure for Professional Art Therapists as well as the KY Council for Interstate Adult Offender Supervision.