



## PASSAGES

*April is Domestic Violence Awareness Month  
Remember to wear your Teal Lapel Pin!*



### Letter from the Director:

Dear River House Supporters,

I would like to begin by thanking everyone who has so generously supported and donated to River House, especially during the holiday season. The services and shelter we are able to provide to survivors of domestic and sexual abuse and homelessness are strongly connected to the contributions we receive. From everyone at River House, please accept our appreciation and gratitude.

As we approach spring, River House is gearing up for April, which represents Sexual Assault Awareness month. Many of you may remember reading in our holiday mailing that one in every four women will be the victim of sexual assault. What you may not know is conservatively 1 in 10 men or 10% of sexual assault victims are men; with the assaults occurring in childhood or as adults. Also not included in the letter is that victims of sexual assault most likely have been assaulted by someone they know; not a stranger in the woods or in the parking lot.

Statistics compiled over the years by the U.S. Department of Justice found 67%-84% of women raped or sexually assaulted identified their offender as someone they knew. Another study found that 8 out of 10 sexual assault victims know who raped them. And yet another study found that 6 out of 10 sexual assaults occurred in the victim's home or at the home of a friend, relative, or neighbor. Sexual Assault is one of the most horrifying and life-altering experiences an individual can experience. Trying to comprehend that someone you know, maybe even trust like a friend or loved one, is the person who committed the assault can leave a victim with an ever changing array of confusing, shameful, and painful feelings.

### Sexual Assault Myths and Facts

**MYTH:** Rape is a **sexual crime**, where the attacker is seeking sexual gratification

**FACT:** Rape is a crime of violence in which sex is used as a weapon. The rapist attacks the victim seeking power and control. Satisfaction is gained from dominating, humiliating, and degrading the victim. Rape is NEVER a crime of passion.

**MYTH:** Rapists are easily identifiable by their physical appearance, actions, or words.

**FACT:** There is no standard mental or physical profile that defines a rapist. A rapist can be someone of any age, race, economic background, belief system or culture. Although the stereotype of the deranged stranger rapist abounds in our society, stranger rapes only make up about 20% of all sexual assaults, and even then the stranger may not be a mentally disturbed person.

**MYTH:** A person who has been drinking alcohol, doing drugs, or dancing seductively is asking to be raped.

**FACT:** No one ever asks to be raped. For sex to be legal, both parties must be of age and consenting. Both parties must be able to mentally, emotionally, physically, and verbally choose to engage in sexual activity. Vulnerable behaviors do not excuse the criminal behaviors of another person. The sexual appearance and/or seductive behaviors of a person DO NOT equal consent.

**MYTH:** Rape is an impulsive, uncontrollable act of sexual gratification.

**FACT:** This myth is sustained by those who argue that most rapes are spontaneous—that is, a sexually frustrated man sees an attractive woman and just can't control himself. In fact, the majority of rapes are planned, rather than being spontaneous. All evidence indicates that rape is a brutal act of violence and a display of power, rather than an act of passion or sexual gratification.





## BECOMING OUR BETTER SELVES

By: Liz Banker (Client Advocate)

As you read "Passages" you're learning about the many and varied ways that River House, Inc. is involved in our communities and the people we serve. You may also notice that there are unique ways to get involved as a volunteer for River House, Inc. Consider what you have to offer and remember that it only takes a moment to make a difference to others and to yourself.

There is nothing quite like the volunteer experience. In reaching out through small acts of kindness we become more human; we become our better selves.



### Michigan Campus Compact Award Winners!!

We are pleased to share that we are the recipients of the 2012 Campus Community Partnership Award through Michigan Campus Compact.

Our collaboration partnership is with Kirtland Community College. The collaboration provides service learning opportunities and supplementary curricular support for the college while enhancing River House services in our region. The partnership, going into its fourth year, started as a series of meetings to find the best way for the two organizations to have the greatest impact on our region. This partnership has not only flourished, but has been recognized at the national level as an exemplary model of college/community partnership.



Above: Marey Jurkovich and Nick Holton accepting the 2012 Campus Compact award in Lansing.



Thank you Monica Martinez, Sophie Tullier, and Mandy Charping for helping to make this Campus Compact award possible. You will always be a part of River House, Inc.

If you would like to receive  
**PASSAGES** via e-mail,  
e-mail us at:  
[office@riverhouseinc.org](mailto:office@riverhouseinc.org)



# In the words of a survivor

## There is Hope



Waking up every morning never knowing who I was supposed to be according to my abuser. I wasn't allowed to take a shower alone, he was there with me, checking me, making sure I was shaving, cleaning, and drying just right; his way. From there he picked out my clothes and told me how to wear my hair. He made every decision: what I was to wear, say, and how to act. If I didn't behave right, he reprimanded me. He always kept me at arms length, "striking distance", as he called it. Literally, if I didn't act as scripted, I would end up getting backhanded.

Bruises were nothing uncommon. Black eyes, broken nose, broken ribs, bald spot from hair being ripped out and losing two babies were just some of the things that happened by day. At night, still a different story. I was stalked and hunted. He had PTSD, or so they say. I maybe got 20 minutes of sleeping a night, for fear of being killed. He would relive prison life, with me as prey. He use to come after me with knives, scissors, pans, hangers, anything he could grab, would be made in to a weapon, and yes, sometimes even his bare hands. I was choked so hard once I was hoarse for 3 days. It all kept me in survival mode 24/7. I was scared, taunted, threatened, controlled, bullied, and harassed. Fear kept me in the relationship. Wanting to stay alive and be there for my son got me out, that, and the assistance of 7 other people, who I am thankful to because I am alive.

Getting to a shelter was like taking a huge bite out of the humble pie, but I am so thankful that I decided to go. It has shown me that life is better and I deserve to be happy. With assistance from the kind, caring staff, I slowly gained self respect, self esteem, and self perseverance in myself. They gave me guidance, and strength. With that I now believe in myself and know that no matter what life throws at me, my son and I will be safe because I left River House with the tools I need to stay alive.

A note to others: Remember to never try things alone, there is help; get it. There are people and places that so care; search and find, you deserve it, I deserve it. I have achieved it with the help of many, through caring and understanding. River House has given me my hope back. Thank you to all that were involved for saving me, because I was lost, the abuser was in control, but now I know I can control my future.

I am special, you are special.

**Congratulations** to our newest batch of volunteers:

Faye Brusso  
Jann Lehman  
Paula Marrs  
Pam Meeker  
Debbie Rapelje  
Kalara





# Break the Silence

## ROAR

Come join us for our first annual ROAR (Rock Out Against Rape). A battle of the bands held at Kirtland Community College on April 21<sup>st</sup>. Entertainment starts at 4:00pm. Enter your band for \$50 and rock out to support River House Inc. and a chance to win the \$250 1<sup>st</sup> place prize money. To register, call, visit our website or join us on facebook. T-shirts will be available April 1<sup>st</sup>. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor and would like your name on a T-shirt, contact:

Kim Vaughn-Hart  
989-348-3169

youthadvocate@riverhouseinc.org

Online: [www.riverhouseinc.org](http://www.riverhouseinc.org) or on Facebook!



To perform in River House's Rock Out Against Rape (R.O.A.R.)-Battle of the Bands.

Registration cost is \$50/band

All bands, styles, and genre's welcome.

For registration or additional information, please contact

Kim Vaughn-Hart at:

989-348-3169

youthadvocate@riverhouseinc.org

or check us out online or on Facebook

## Special Limited Edition T-Shirts \$15/pre-order \$20 at ROAR

*Rock Out Against Rape*



*River House, Inc.*

Sponsors will be listed on the back of the shirt.

Donation must be a minimum value of \$100 to be listed on the shirt.

There is a deadline of April 10, 2012 if you are interested in being listed as a sponsor on the shirt.

For more information please contact Kim:

989-348-3169



RHI & KCC  
PRESENT  
R.O.A.R.

## River House Events/Fundraisers Future

Event	Date/Time
<b>Take Back the Night</b> Kirtland Community College	April 3, 2012 11:00 a.m.
<b>Clothesline Project</b> Kirtland Community College	April 2-30, 2012
<b>Volunteer Appreciation Dinner</b>	April 17, 2012 5:00 p.m.
<b>R.O.A.R.-Rock Out Against Rape</b> Battle of the Bands Kirtland Community College	April 21, 2012 Doors Open 4:00 p.m. <b>Registration/Band Sign-up NOW</b>
<b>River House Annual High Tea and Silent Auction</b> St. Mary's Church	May 10, 2012 Doors open 4:30 p.m. <b>Tickets on sale now</b>
<b>River House Annual Gardening Party</b>	June 4, 2012 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.



Must be:  
Compassionate  
Empathetic  
Good Listener  
Hard Worker  
Open Minded

Be a River House volunteer, the rewards are priceless.  
Benefits are beyond measure.

If interested you can:  
contact Kim Vaughn-Hart  
989-348-3169 , or e-mail at  
volunteer@riverhouseinc.org, or  
fill out an application on our website,  
www.riverhouseinc.org

Director Brooke  
Oliver-Hempenstall  
and Staff Supervisor  
Marey Jurkovich  
enjoying the rivalry  
before "Hoops for the  
House" .



## River House Events/Fundraisers Past

<b>Empty Bowl's</b>	2,463.00
<b>Chili Cook-Off</b>	1186.55
<b>A Christmas Carole</b> Ticket Sales	788.91
<b>Giving Tree</b>	Christmas Gifts received from all four counties
<b>Hoops for the House</b> Mio AuSable teachers v Oscoda County Sheriff	986.11
<b>River House/ Kirtland Campus Compact Award</b>	\$5,000.00
<b>Ski-a-thon</b> X-country ski/snowshoe	200.00
<b>Appeal Letter</b>	8,783.84
<b>Volunteer Training</b>	Awareness Event February/March



Members of the  
Oscoda County  
Sheriff and Mio  
teacher's team  
join forces for a  
quick picture  
before "Hoops  
for the House".

Mio teachers  
prevail over the  
Sheriff's  
Department to  
win the coveted  
purple trophy.





## How to Help a Survivor of Recent Sexual Assault

**Believe them.** Nothing can be more devastating to a victim/survivor of sexual violence than knowing that their loved ones don't believe what they are saying. Understand that the assault is not the survivor's fault.

**Provide options to the victim/survivor and let them choose which option is best.** Sexual assault is a fundamental loss of control for the victim/survivor and they are the only person that understands what is right for them. Never force them to do anything that they do not want to do – this would only increase their trauma by continuing their loss of control.

**Be Patient.** Healing from a sexual assault takes time. Be patient and continue to offer your support to your friend throughout the coming weeks and months, or even longer. Remember that every healing process is unique.

**Let them talk.** Just having someone listen is a huge help for the victim/survivor. No matter how hard it is for you to understand or hear, it is harder for them to say. Do not impose your own thoughts or feelings on the victim/survivor – especially judgmental ones.

**Listen nonjudgementally.** Suggest options and actions (medical, psychological and other assistance), but let the survivor decide what action to take.

**Let the victim/survivor "name" their victimization and then you use their "name".** Use the same words that the victim/survivor is using to talk about what happened to them. If they are not saying "rape", don't say "rape".

**Refer them to River House, Inc. or RAINN.** Let the survivor know there are places where they can get help and different resources. If they aren't interested in these resources, don't force these options on them. You can contact these resources for guidance on how to help your loved one.

**Get help for yourself.** Having a loved one who has been victimized can be an upsetting and confusing experience. River House can help you process what has happened, to learn more about how you can understand this experience, how to help, and how you can get involved in anti-sexual violence work.

**River House, Inc Crisis:989-348-3169 or toll free:888-554-3169**



Ogemaw Co. Law Enforcement  
Vs.

West Branch-Rose City Teachers and  
Friends



Proceeds to benefit:  
River House, Inc.



June 7, 2012  
Softball Fields  
Dam Rd.  
6:00 p.m.

Admission: Suggested \$3.00 Donation

Concessions will be available for purchase:  
Hot dogs, popcorn, candy, etc.

# Green Thumb Not Required

## Green Thumb Not Required



River House annual  
gardening party  
Monday, June 4, 2012  
10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.  
Lunch will be provided

Our Gardening supplies  
are limited, so please  
bring your own, if you  
have them.

# River House Statistics 2010-2011

<b>Crisis Calls</b>	<b>526</b>
<b>Emergency Interventions (24/7 on-call assistance at hospital or police station)</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Residential Clients (women and children staying at shelter)</b>	<b>177</b>
<b>Non-Residential Clients</b>	<b>287</b>
<b>Clients (women and children) attending Support Groups</b>	<b>211</b>
<b>Information and Referrals provided to clients</b>	<b>1,660</b>
<b>Alternatives to Abuse Program (Batterer's Intervention Group)</b>	<b>78</b>
<b>Number of Individuals Receiving Community/School Awareness and Education</b>	<b>2,345</b>
<b>Meals served to Residential Children (breakfast, lunch, snack and dinner)</b>	<b>5,081</b>



Every day, folks just like you list and support the causes that they care about most on iGive. Members of iGive who join and support your cause can generate donations by shopping at any of our 968 stores, or by simply using our built-in search engine. There is no cost, obligation, or hidden fees.

iGive always has been and always will be a free service to causes and members.

## Top 8 Reasons to Join iGive

- 1. It feels good to help.
- 2. It feels even better when it's free and simple.
- 3. You save money with coupons and deals.
- 4. Since 1997, our 350,000 members have helped over 30,000 causes and charities.
- 5. It adds up quickly at over 900 stores. Vacations, shoes, computers, books, office supplies, clothes and more all help. And when your friends start helping, the money really multiplies.
- 6. Blush inducing testimonials on our Facebook page.
- 7. The money starts flowing fast. Review the monthly checks we've sent.
- 8. Your cause gets a \$5, even if you don't shop.

## NEEDS LIST (January 2012)

### Specific items

(in new or like new condition) which would be helpful:

**Professionally Processed Meat**

**Both Perishable and Non-perishable Foods**

New Convertible Car Seats (0-50 lbs)

**Gas Cards**

Laundry Baskets

Laundry mesh bags for washing machines

**Pillows**

**Bath Towels and Wash Cloths**

Underwear, Socks & Sport Bras– new

Electric Alarm Clocks (basic)

Paper Towels

Tall Kitchen Garbage Bags

Lawn & Leaf Size Garbage Bags

Bowls with Lids

Manual Can Openers

Non Skid Rugs

Baby wipes

Full Size Hair Conditioner

New Hair Brushes

Diaper rash cream

Diapers

Spiral Notebooks for Journaling

Q-Tips

HE Concentrate Laundry Soap

Disposable Gloves

Liquid Hand Soaps

Hand Sanitizers

Coffee

Sugar

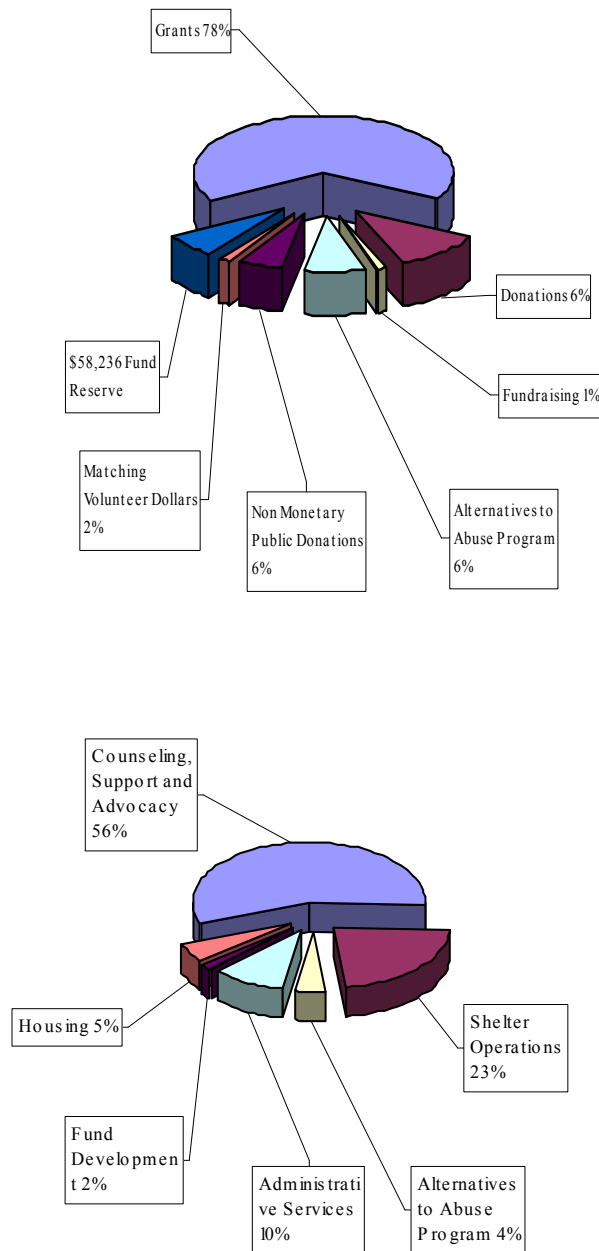
Dry Creamer



The River House, Inc. website now has Pay pal capabilities. If you wish to make a donation using paypal, click on the DONATE button associated with the fund of your choice. The website can be

# RIVER HOUSE, INC. 2010-2011 ANNUAL REPORT

## 2010-2011 Revenue



## River House, Inc. Assets and Liabilities For the year ending September 30, 2011

### Current Assets:

Cash	\$ 5,189
Investments	\$233,506
Accounts Receivable	\$ 37,639
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$276,334</b>

### Building and Equipment:

Building	\$714,593
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	\$233,813

**Total Current & Fixed Assets: \$757,114**

### Current Liabilities:

Accounts Payable	\$ 740
Deferred Revenue & Deposits	\$ 35,542
Advances	\$ 13,124

**Total Current Liabilities: \$ 49,406**

**Total Liabilities: \$ 49,406**

### Equity:

Unrestricted Net Assets	\$632,163
<b>Total Net Assets:</b>	<b>\$632,163</b>
Fund Balance-Unrestricted	\$135,464
Retained earnings-Unrestricted	-\$ 1,683
Current Year Retained Earnings	-\$ 58,236
<b>Total Equity:</b>	<b>\$707,708</b>

**Total Liabilities and Equity \$757,114**

*Copies of our complete audit are available upon request.*

## River House, Inc Board of Directors

John Thiel, President  
Judy Olsen, Vice President  
Kris Babcock, Treasurer  
Annette DiPonio, Secretary  
Brooke Oliver-Hempenstall, Director  
Rev. Elizabeth Chace  
Ann Galbraith

Cynde Kochensparger  
Vicki Nunn  
Jen Sieszputowski  
Amanda Thiel  
Mary Beth Wakulat  
Dr. Nancy Martindale