

# For Immediate Release

June 16, 2011

Contact:

Deb Pensyl-Reasy

814-944-3583 Ext. 333

[dpensylreasy@familyservicesinc.net](mailto:dpensylreasy@familyservicesinc.net)

## SWINGING FOR HOPE

### *With RMHC Grant Volunteers Build a Playground*

Playing on the playground is a normal activity for most children every day during the summer months. Swings, slides, and see-saws are constantly in motion with the smiles and laughter of children.

On any given day however women and children flee their homes trying to break the cycle of living with domestic violence. **1** in every **4** women will experience domestic violence in their lifetime. The Domestic Abuse Shelter, located in Altoona, is a place for those affected by domestic violence to go to find a safe haven. As part of those utilizing the shelter an average of four children stay there on a daily basis with no place for them to play.



Thanks to a grant provided by Ronald McDonald House Charities – Mid Penn Region and the work of our tireless volunteers, these children now have a playground in the back yard of the shelter to just have a good time! Before the new playground, children played in little children's houses and only had a large yard to run around.

On Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, volunteers from the N.E.W. Corp., Department of Public Welfare, and Knights of Columbus Council #8075 (Bellwood) spent the day creating a safe, state-of-the-art playground that will be used for many years to come. The playground features a brand new slide, swing set and a club house for all of the children staying at the Domestic Abuse Shelter to enjoy. The children who were residing at the Shelter on this day watched patiently as the playground was being constructed. As soon as the last board was in place the five boys and girls raced to play on the new set.

"It's the best day ever!" remarked one of the kids staying at the shelter. "And if you are a SpongeBob Squarepants fan, which I happen to be, you have to sing that to yourself."

Thankful for all the volunteers who came out to support this worth while cause, Sheila Pringle, Shelter Supervisor said, "I am so excited to provide the children with a safe place to play. The kids love every aspect of the play yard and often have trouble deciding which item to play on first."



\*\*\*MORE\*\*\*



Last year the Domestic Abuse Shelter provided services to over one hundred children under the age of eighteen in Altoona. This shelter serves all of Blair County and does not discriminate against anyone seeking support. As a safe haven for battered women and their children if you feel you have to leave your home, the shelter is here to help. In addition, counseling for you and your children is available as you transition on your journey.

The Domestic Abuse Shelter is open 24-hours, 7-days a week, 365-days a year and there is no charge for any service rendered. If you are in need of assistance, call the 24-Hour Victim Services Hotline at 1-800-500-2849 or 814-944-3585.

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