



January 22, 2013

New Domestic Violence Shelter Now Open

Safe Alliance (formerly United Family Services) proudly announces the opening of the Clyde and Ethel Dickson Domestic Violence Shelter this month. The new shelter is the realization of a dream and a source of hope for those in need of sanctuary from abusive situations. Community Matters' first fundraising campaign raised \$200,000 for the new shelter; Safe Alliance will continue to be our nonprofit partner next year.

The new shelter has 80 beds compared to the 29 beds at Safe Alliance's former shelter. It's located on a 5-acre site in West Charlotte, convenient to public transportation and other support services. The 40,000-square-foot facility has state-of-the-art security.

With an increase in capacity, Safe Alliance can now offer longer stays for its clients – up to six months or a year. In the former shelter, clients were limited to stays of 30 days due to a lack of space.

The new shelter space includes: 10 emergency units and 19 apartment-style units, counseling rooms, conference rooms, kitchen/dining room, children's spaces, donation room, health clinic, laundry and job training center. In addition to emergency and transitional accommodations, Safe Alliance offers the following services:

- Safety planning
- Trauma counseling
- Support groups
- Case management
- Child care
- Legal advocacy and representation
- Help with addiction issues
- Life skills training
- Health care services
- Career planning services
- Toiletries/clothing/furniture assistance
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Thanks to everyone at Community Matters who helped make the shelter a reality.

Three Community Matters Companies Furnish Shelter Rooms

Three of our companies furnished a shelter unit in advance of the grand opening. Lockton Companies, Great American Professional Risk Insurance Services and Arrowpoint Capital's Finance Group all sponsored a room, which involved raising money to furnish the unit and purchasing the necessary accessories to make it complete. Company representatives then headed to the shelter to assemble the furniture and decorate the rooms.

"We had a blast working on the rooms and hope those who stay there enjoy it as much as we did in putting it together," said Great American's Frankie Honeycutt. Megan Peura of Lockton

Companies agreed. "This was a wonderful charity project for our group. The staff at the shelter and all involved were wonderful to work with and we were amazed at their dedication and passion," she noted. And according to Arrowpoint's Karla Wiggins, "From creating the gift registry to decorating one of the rooms, our team was all in. A lot of thought went into the colors chosen, the artwork and extras -- right down to leaving a few stuffed animals in case there were children in the room"



Arrowpoint Capital's King Chan works in the kitchen area of his team's room.



Terri Hammer and Connie Burgess of Lockton Companies hang a full-length mirror in their unit.



The Great American team takes a break in their room for a photo opportunity! From left, Donna Harwood, Ashley Hofler, Heather Filliben, Angela Hart, Cathy Barnette, Frankie Honeycutt and Dana Palmer.

Mark Your Calendars Now -- 2013 Dodgeball Tournament Will Be Held Friday, April 12!

Community Matters will hold its Second Annual Dodgeball Tournament on Friday, April 12, 2013 - once again at the Sports Connection at 10930 Granite Street in Charlotte. And it's expected to be an even more popular event than last year, when more than 400 people from over 50 companies took part!

Registration will get underway on Friday, March 1, with this year's entries limited to 42 teams on a first-come, first-served basis. Most teams are expected to represent Community Matters member companies, but we'll also reserve two teams for individual registrants. And this year, a limited number of risk-management college students will be available to participate on company teams -- but through a bidding process only.

More details will be coming soon, but be sure to mark your calendars now. The tournament promises to be another terrific time!

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Keep up with all Community Matters news and activities by following and connecting with us on social media. You can find us at:

- <http://www.facebook.com/?sk=welcome#!/pages/Community-Matters-Insurance-Partners-of-Charlotte/128420923914026>
- http://www.linkedin.com/groups/Community-Matters-Insurance-Partners-Charlotte-4146689?trk=myg_ugrp_ovr
- @CityMatters on twitter
- And our own website at www.communitymatterscharlotte.org

Do you know of any other companies or groups who might be interested in joining Community Matters?

We'd love to hear from you about possible new members from the Charlotte insurance community -- property & casualty, life & benefits, independent agents, risk managers, insurance-related services -- any group that may be interested in getting involved. Our goal is to reach out to all 10,000 employees in the insurance industry in our city. If you have names, contact Tom Lott (704-749-2848, tom.lott@amwins.com), Angela Matherly (704-557-8953, AMatherly@snyderslance.com), or John Tighe (704-522-3166, john.tighe@arrowpointcap.com).