



Morrow Manor: building a better tomorrow

by Vicki Browning

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I have found my passion while trying to make the world a better place. That passion is creating safe housing for victims of domestic violence.

An abuser doesn't look any different than anyone else. They live anywhere in any community. They can be successful in their career and no one would imagine they go home and abuse the members of their family. In 2014 there were over 200 calls from Bainbridge Island to the Kitsap Hotline for Domestic Violence.

We have no idea how many victims didn't make that call because of shame or fear. We need to talk about domestic violence and bring it out of the closet. It can happen to anyone and that does not make them a bad person.

Statistics show that one in every four women will be a victim of domestic violence in their life time. Many live with these thoughts "If I don't upset him he won't hit me" or "I can't leave because I don't have any place to go." Or "How would I support my children?" or "What would my friends think if they knew he beat me?"

Morrow Manor will be a place where victims and their families can live. It will house 8 families and be administered by the YWCA. Their domestic violence program will make the decision as to which families get the housing. They can stay for up to 6 years in order to get their lives together as they become self-sufficient people. It will give them time to realize the abuse was not their fault. They will have time to further their education or have job training as well as counseling. Most will not take the full 6 years but some will. Their children will experience life without abuse and break the cycle.

I am excited that the Rotary Club of Bainbridge Island has joined forces with the Poulsbo Rotarians to help make Morrow Manor a reality. We have pledged \$50,000 in a matching grant to be turned over once it is matched with new money and the permits are in place. We have three members of our club on the capital campaign committee, Ed Gilbert, Bob Linz and me.

What we need are people who can help us educate others on what Morrow Manor is and offer us an opportunity to present an information program to their sphere of friends or associates. Yes, we are looking for money but equally important is educating people. Can you help us?

