

Dear Spruce Run Friend:

November, 2007

We recently received a letter from “Beth,” a woman who used many of Spruce Run’s services over a period of several years. Beth (not her real name) writes:

I wanted to write a letter of thanks to you. But there are really no words, they all seem small and inconsequential. Thank-you or I appreciate what you have done for us. These seem like nothing compared to what you have done for us.

Beth was beaten and terrorized by her husband. When they first met, he was attentive and charming; then he became jealous and possessive, isolating and controlling her. Only he could answer the telephone, and he frequently told callers that she was not there, when she was. He became physically violent when she was pregnant with their first child. She could not support herself because he had convinced her to quit her job. Beth felt alone and terrified. After the birth of their second child, she fled the home and came to Spruce Run’s shelter.

We had nothing. Now we have everything. You gave us a place to sleep when we had no where to go. You gave us food when we were hungry, money to wash our clothes so we wouldn’t feel dirty and humiliated. You gave me hope and direction. You allowed me to find a future.

Beth and her children lived in Spruce Run’s shelter and then in one of our transitional housing units for two years. She attended support and education groups and her children attended activity groups and participated in other children’s programs. With the help of her Spruce Run worker, she began her college education and found more permanent housing. Life for Beth and her family is still sometimes difficult and challenging, but full of promise.

As a member of Spruce Run, your financial assistance contributes to the provision of a wide range of services, including a 24-hour crisis hotline; emergency shelter and transitional housing; services to children; advocacy within the justice, welfare, and child protective systems; support, education, and activity groups; prevention programs; youth-based work; and much more, all at no cost to the people who need them. You also help fund the social change work that will ultimately lead to the eradication of domestic abuse.

If you are not already a member of Spruce Run, please join us. Add your support to the many individuals who have a vision of a community with zero-tolerance for domestic abuse. If you are already a member, we ask you to renew your commitment.

For peace and justice,

Ann Schonberger
Steering Committee

Rebecca Hobbs
Resource Development
Coordinator