

Celebrating 25 Years of Serving Southern West Virginia



SAFE

Stop Abusive Family
Environments, Inc.
PO Box 234
Welch, WV 24801
(304) 436-8117

SHED

SAFE Housing and
Economic Development, Inc.
Established 2002
PO Box 239
Kimball, WV 24853
(304) 585-7440

2005 – 2006
Annual Report



Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friends:

Happy 25th Anniversary to SAFE!

When I became the Executive Director of SAFE in 1990, I had no idea of what the next 16 years would be like. To see a domestic violence program in rural southern West Virginia grow from serving around 400 victims a year to over 2,000 was beyond what I could have imagined.

To go from a basic store front office in downtown Welch to being located in a four story former school building that became the first transitional housing facility in the State of West Virginia was the turning point for the SAFE program. This opened the door to move on to become a leading housing developer for our area. Little did we know that when decision was made to move in the direction of homeownership and rental housing that we would be responsible for 29 first-time homeowners and 70 rental units in McDowell County. This housing growth led to the formation of SAFE Housing and Economic Development, Inc. (SHED).

As I look back over the years of my term as Executive Director for SAFE and SHED, I see a defined plan for our three stages of growth for social services, housing and economic development. Our mission to serve domestic victims, homeless women and children will always take priority, however, to move into the housing and economic development arena would allow us to provide more services to these families.

To be celebrating 25 years of service is quite an accomplishment and could not have been done without a committed Board of Directors, a loyal staff and supportive funders. Over these years, our funders have provided so much more than money. The technical assistance and support has helped form our programs into what they are today. My life has been enriched since many of these funders have also become personal friends to me.

Twenty-five years are behind us and I am ready to say, "We are not finished yet". I cannot predict what will happen in the next 10 years but I know if we stay true to our mission the sky is the limit and I hope you will be a part of our program.

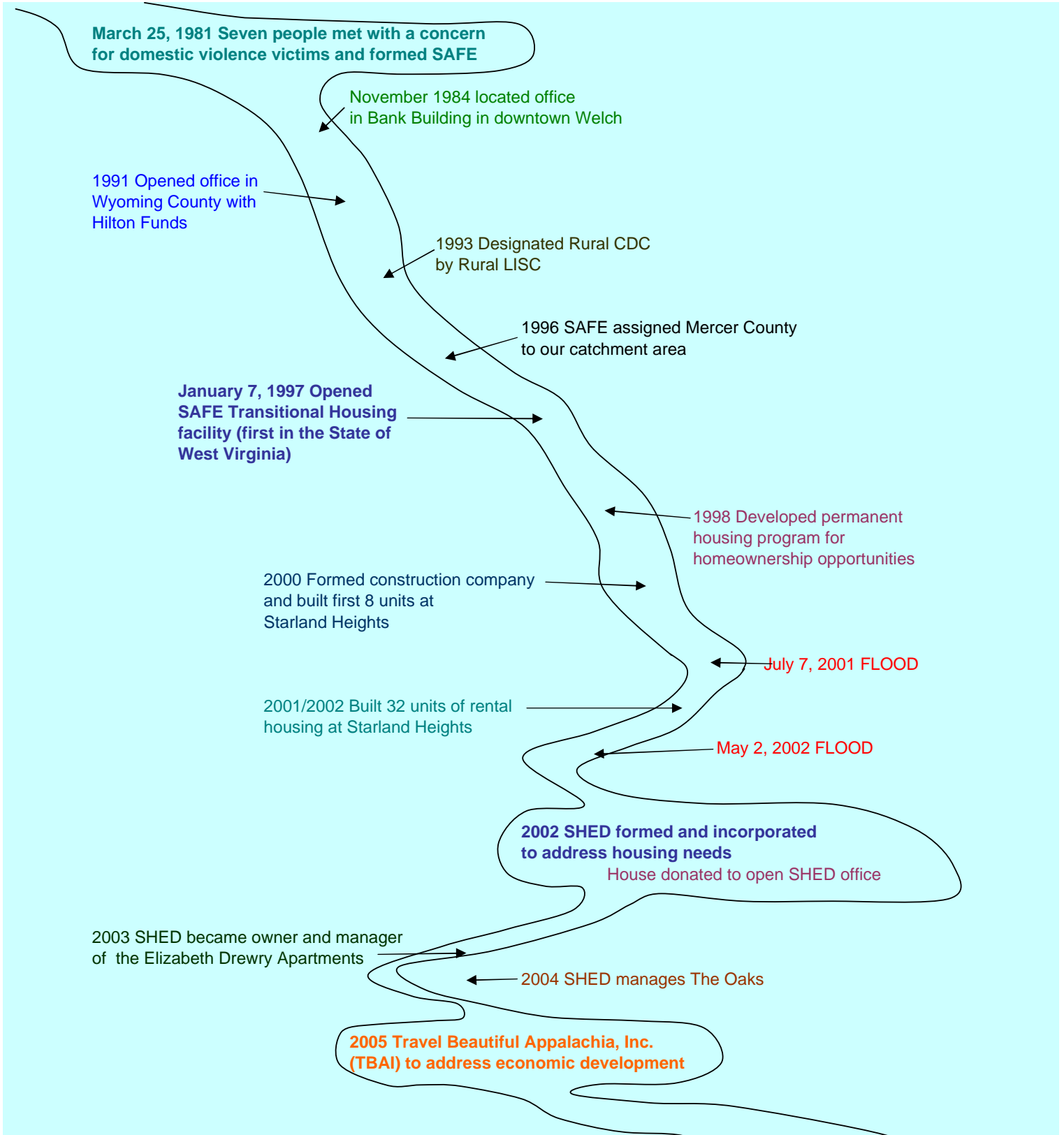
Sincerely,

Sharon A. Walden

Executive Director for SAFE and SHED

SAFE

Past to Present





Success



Stories



SAFE Transitional Housing Facility

My Stay at SAFE

Two years ago when I came to West Virginia I didn't know what I was going to do with my life. But since I have been staying at SAFE, I have received my GED which was my biggest achievement. What an accomplishment, walking across the stage to receive my GED diploma.



The following year I went to Business School. I have thought so many times of quitting but I received the encouragement that I needed to succeed. In June 2005 I graduated from Business School. During the summer I worked at the Circuit Clerk's office and I was later hired at the newly opened WalMart. Now I am just saving up to get a car and a place of my own!

To all the employees at SAFE, "Thank you for giving me the incentive to go and make something out of my life."

Cortney Beckius

Rental Property Tenant

Remembering Where I Came From

It has been said, "you must remember where you came from to appreciate where you are". I spent two months sleeping in a car, before I went to the SAFE Transitional Housing facility.

For five years I have lived in my own apartment and I work at the SAFE facility where I had once lived.



Words cannot describe what being on my own and independent has meant to me. In a word, it is "WONDERFUL". I've never been so content and happy.

Someone told me recently that I'm a success. Well, if being a success means being happy and content, then I guess I am a success.

When I went to SAFE I told a counselor that I had four goals – a home, a job, a car, and that some day I would work at SAFE. I have accomplished all of these goals and have added one more goal – owning my own home. It is not a shame to be homeless but it is a shame to stay homeless.

Being at SAFE taught me to set goals and do everything I could to reach them. I would not trade my seven months at SAFE for anything. What I learned at SAFE is a big part of who I am today.

Now I look around at my modest apartment and I smile, give thanks, and remember where I came from.

Agnes "Bonnie" Mitchell

Homeowner

I Have The Key

Years ago the thought of becoming a homeowner was a fleeting wish that I thought would never come to fruition, but on March 9th, 2006 that wish came true for me. Through a vision of SHED employees, the dream of becoming a homeowner has been made a reality for so many and I am so blessed to be among them.



This achievement has been empowering and liberating for me. As a single woman, I have been empowered knowing that I can achieve things in life such as becoming a homeowner. I've also been liberated knowing that from this accomplishment the sky is the limit for me.

Words could never express the sheer elation I feel from turning the key and walking into my very own house, it is all so very surreal.

Shanita Evans

Three Phases of SAFE

*Movement to Reach the Needs of
Southern West Virginia*

PHASE I Domestic Violence SAFE



*Licensed to Serve McDowell,
Wyoming, and Mercer Counties*



Advocacy
Shelter
Food
Clothing

Transportation
Case Management
Learning Center
Child Care



PHASE II Housing Opportunities SHED



Housing Counseling – HUD Certified
Single Family Homeownership Program
Rental Units – Section 8, Section 515, Section 202
Home Repair
Secondary Market and Bond Loans
Partner with MCC (Mennonite Central Committee)



PHASE III Economic Development TBAI

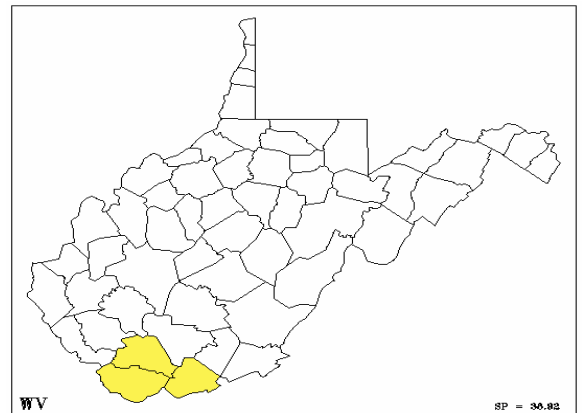


Ashland Company Store
Tourism
Business Incubator
Shared Kitchen Use
Restaurant



Southern West Virginia Demographics

- **Mercer County** – Population: 62,980
17.40% are 65 or older
Median Household Income: \$26,628
14.70% of families are below poverty line
Racial Makeup: 92.56% White, 5.82% African American
- **McDowell County** - Population: 27,329
16.10% are 65 or older
Median Household Income: \$16,931
33.80% of families are below the poverty level
Racial Makeup: 87.06% White, 11.89% African American
- **Wyoming County**- Population: 25,708
13.90% are 65 and older
Median Household Income: \$23,932
20% of families are below the poverty line
Racial Makeup: 98.59% White, 0.63% African American



SAFE/SHED
Board of Directors

Connie Toler
Eva Jones
Linda McKinney
Kathy Gentry
Carolyn Stuart
Kathy Brunty
Rosemarie Williams

Carol Carter
Robin Pruitt
Jeff Molenda
Sherry Belcher
Tammera Cook
Steve Collins

SAFE Staff

Executive Director
Administrative Assistant
Housing Manager
Advocate Director
Financial Manager
Adult Case Manager
Child Case Manager
Child Care Director
Learning Center Director
McDowell County Advocate
Rural DV Advocate
Mercer County Advocate Director
Mercer County Advocate
Mercer County Advocate
Wyoming County Advocate
Cook
Maintenance Manager
Transitional Housing Aide
Part Time Cook
Monitors:

Sharon Walden
Dianne Hale
Susan Lundy Trent
Patricia Daniels
Dreama Padgett
Dorothy Watson
Shanita Evans
Wanda Sluss
Constance Evans
Sherry Brooks
Rosie Jackson
Susie Reed
Ulissa Dowell
Heather Sisk
Linda Vance
Sandy Riffe
Terry Trent
Crystal Hale
Mary Blizzard
Natasha Steward
Marsha Mitchell
Nina Burke

SHED Staff

SHED Director
Financial Manager
Construction Manager
Housing Counselor
Starland Heights Manger
Maintenance Manager

Cathy Rose
Beverly Browning
Sandra Proffitt
Judith Bailey
Peggy Datson
Randy Green

Program Placements at SAFE

AmeriCorps*VISTA:
Foster Grandparents:
Title V:

Nicole Manual & Latasha Dotson
Nellie Green & Thelma Blevins
Agnes Mitchell, Brenda Rose, & Phyllis Vanover

SAFE/SHED Funders

We gratefully acknowledge the generous support of these organizations and individuals, who, through grants, loans, donations, volunteer work, and the sharing of expertise, contributed to SAFE/SHED's success.

1981 – 2006 Funding Sources

In 1981 SAFE's funding came through bake sales, hot dog sales and individual donations. It was not until 1985 that SAFE received their first grant to provide assistance to domestic violence victims by the Department of Health and Human Resources through Title XX funding.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING:

Family Protection Services Board
Family Violence Prevention
Legislative Digest
USDA Community Facilities
HUD
Victims Of Crime Act (VOCA)
Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)
Emergency Shelter Food Program (ESFP)
Child Nutrition
School Day Plus
Tutorial for Homeless
Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR)
AmeriCorps*VISTA
Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention
Drug Free Communities Grant
West Virginia Housing Development Fund
USDA - Rural Development
Department of Education
Emergency Shelter Grant/Office of Economic Opportunity
Division of Public Transit
Small Cities Block Grant
Civil Legal Assistance
Child Abuse Prevention Technical Assistance
Emergency Shelter Food Program (EFSP)
Vitamin Grant from Attorney General's Office
West Virginia Development Office

PRIVATE FUNDING:

Conrad Hilton Foundation
Benedum Foundation
USX Foundation
Christian Appalachian Project
Commission on Religion in Appalachia (CORA)
Appalachian Community Fund
Local Initiative Support Corporation (Rural LISC)
Schoenbaum Foundation
Sisters of St. Joseph
Evangelical Lutheran Church of America
McDonalds Foundation
Fannie Mae Foundation - Maxwell Award
Kellogg Foundation
McCAN (EC Designation)
Audrey Hillman Foundation
Catholic Campaign for Human Development
Federal Home Loan Bank of Pittsburgh/Pioneer
Community Bank
Housing Assistance Council (HAC)
United Way
Phillip Morris Foundation
RESA IV
Development Leadership Network - Success
Measures
McAuley Institute
West Virginia Community Works
Lightstone Foundation

Looking toward the future with new adventures with a vision and compassion for growth of services to: Domestic violence victims, homeless, women and children, potential homeowners, and entrepreneurs.

“Accomplishment and success are often the result of commitment and perseverance rather than skill and talent.”

--George Van Valkenburg

“To fulfill a dream, to be allowed to sweat over lonely labor, to be given a chance to create is the meat and potatoes of life. The money is the gravy.”

--Bette Davis

“The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well.”

--Ralph Waldo Emerson

