

SpeakingOut & Serenity Shelter (Knoxville, TN)

Serenity Shelter

(A Program of Knox Area Rescue Ministries)

“Serenity Shelter for women provides Biblically-based recovery services, case management, individual and group counseling, spiritual support, crisis intervention, life skills classes, community-based mentoring, and refuge from abusive relationships for women who are seeking help.” (*Source of Information: <http://www.karm.org/index.php/What-We-Do/recovery.html/>*)

At the end of June, SpeakingOut met with the Serenity Shelter Program Director, Barbara Davis. We brainstormed on how we felt SpeakingOut may be able to best assist the women who participate in this Residential Recovery Program. What I learned is that Serenity Shelter is a biblically-based, long-term recovery program for women facing various life situations, many who have suffered various types of abuse throughout their lives with much of that being of a sexual nature. I also learned that many of these ladies are Mothers & several are Grandmothers.

Barbara and I wanted to look at the idea of starting a new class at Serenity Shelter where SpeakingOut would meet with these ladies weekly; on an ongoing basis. So on **August 10th**, I sat down with the group, told them who I am, told them about SpeakingOut and where it came from, and gave them a brief overview on what SpeakingOut does. When asked if they felt they may benefit from starting a new class, I was welcomed with open arms. That day, as a group we decided to call our new class “SpeakingOut”.

We’ve held 4 classes so far and have discussed the following...

- Week 1: My Personal Experiences with the Crime of CSA / Overview on SpeakingOut & What We Do
- Week 2: Message to Survivors
- Week 3: Truth & Reality of Child Sexual Abuse / The Statistics
- Weeks 4: What Child Sexual Abuse Is
- ◆ Next Group Session: Signs & Symptoms of the Sexually Abused Child.

During each class to date, the ladies have been very interactive, sharing their experiences openly and asking questions in an effort to gain a better understanding on the crime of child sexual abuse. We are having very productive discussions on not only the crime itself, but on what each one of us can do to help prevent this crime from happening to other children.

“SpeakingOut against Child Sexual Abuse, Inc. has recently partnered with Knox Area Rescue Ministries’ Serenity Shelter. Serenity Shelter is a program that provides restoration and recovery to women with various life struggles. SpeakingOut’s President, Susan Suafoa-Dinino is providing a weekly group session with the ladies of Serenity to educate and inform regarding the facts and myths surrounding Child Sexual Abuse and to process some of the personal struggles faced by some of the women at Serenity surrounding sexual abuse. The ladies of Serenity have welcomed Susan into their home and their lives and are eager and willing to learn.” ~*Barbara Davis, Program Director, Serenity Shelter*

Thank you Barbara for inviting us to facilitate a SpeakingOut class at Serenity Shelter of Knox Area Rescue Ministries...falls right in line with our Mission...Child Sexual Abuse Awareness & Prevention...we also touch on Healing! The ladies have been very kind and open to what each one of us can do to aid in the prevention of this crime for other children. ~*Susan Suafoa-Dinino, President/Founder, SpeakingOut against Child Sexual Abuse, Inc.*

***Coming together as Leaders
in our Homes, our Churches & the Community
to address the issue of Child Sexual Abuse in America!***