



Bedford Domestic Violence Services

"building a future without fear"

November 3, 2004

Dear Jodi and Jim,

I wanted to take the time to let you know what a difference the clothing recycle project has made for domestic violence victims and their children in Bedford. The money that is generated from the clothing bins allows Bedford Domestic Violence Services funding that can be used for discretionary expenses. As you know Domestic Violence programs rely heavily on grant funding, which requires a well planned budget submitted before the year begins, and reimbursement for allowed expenses. This does not allow for unexpected expenses such as a computer needing to be replaced, or an increase in rent or utilities. Stable funding from Green Earth Recycling, LLC has enabled me to build solid dollar amounts into the budget to meet those emergencies.

The pattern of Domestic Violence frequently involves the batterer trying to maintain economic control, and many times victims of domestic violence find themselves in financial crisis. Financial emergencies have included installation of a replacement front door for a home where the batterer kicked the door until it would not close or lock properly as well as installation of outdoor motion sensitive lights. In a rural locality where there is no public transportation, a personal vehicle is essential to self-sufficiency. Funds for car repairs can make a critical difference in the lives of victims and their children. Often when families leave the shelter, they may need money for a security deposit, or furniture like beds and dressers, or kitchen appliances. Bedford Domestic Violence Services is in a position to provide financial assistance to victims because we have stable monthly financial support from Green Earth Recycling.

I hope that as I increase the number of recycle locations to my goal of 15 bins in Bedford City/County I can use the additional dollars to support grant applications. Many grants require a 20% match in funding, and \$9000 per year from Green Earth will give me the opportunity to develop local Domestic Violence intervention services to meet the increasing demand for services in Bedford.

And last but not least, the recycle bins allow domestic violence advocates to utilize their time providing crisis intervention services to victims in Bedford, rather than accepting, recording, and sorting clothing donations. I am looking forward to our continued association, and want you to know that Green Earth Recycling, LLC has been a valuable partner in helping families in Bedford to start "building a future without fear".

Sincerely

Conni St. John, Director

