

## **MAKE FALL A TIME OF ACTION AS A VOLUNTEER FOR HAVEN**

### **Social Action Volunteers Needed**

PONTIAC, MI, August 23, 2011...Fall is the ideal time to get reengaged in community and volunteering and one non-profit has an ideal opportunity to be on the front line of both. HAVEN is presently seeking volunteers to start training in September for their Social Action Program. .

A Social Action Volunteer is the first point of contact to support someone who has been through a domestic violence or sexual assault incident. They provide compassion and understanding during a time of need and act as an advocate.

"The people that a survivor sees in those first few hours and the support they receive can set the tone for how the rest of the survivor's recovery process will play out," says Belle Kleinberg Hornung, Volunteer Coordinator for HAVEN.

Social Action Volunteers do not require any prior counseling or advocacy experience and are provided comprehensive training and on-going supervision from HAVEN staff. They are on-call a total of 48 hours each month between Friday 5 p.m.-Sunday 5 p.m., although shifts are flexible and can be as short as 12 hours.

Volunteers carry a pager so they can respond immediately when notified by the police or hospital. Volunteers make a commitment to HAVEN of one year. They must live in or near Oakland County and have a car and a valid driver license.

There are several training sessions totaling 24 hours. For training dates and an application, contact Belle Kleinberg Hornung at [bkleinberg@haven-oakland.org](mailto:bkleinberg@haven-oakland.org) or (248) 334-1284, ext. 659.

Jennifer Coleman of West Bloomfield has been a Social Action Volunteer for a year and a half. It was her desire to find a way to help women and children that led her to HAVEN

Jennifer cites her experience as "incredibly gratifying." As a Social Action Volunteer she feels she can "make a difference for a woman at very difficult time through listening, comforting and being empathetic".

HAVEN is Oakland County's center for the prevention and treatment of domestic violence and sexual assault. The nationally recognized non-profit organization is a leader in preventing and treating the trauma of domestic violence and sexual assault, through community education and empowerment of survivors. HAVEN believes that everyone deserves to live without fear.

For more information about HAVEN and its programs and services, visit [www.haven-oakland.org](http://www.haven-oakland.org) or call (248) 334-1284.