



# Community Ministry *Newsletter*

March 2024

## Shelter in the Storm



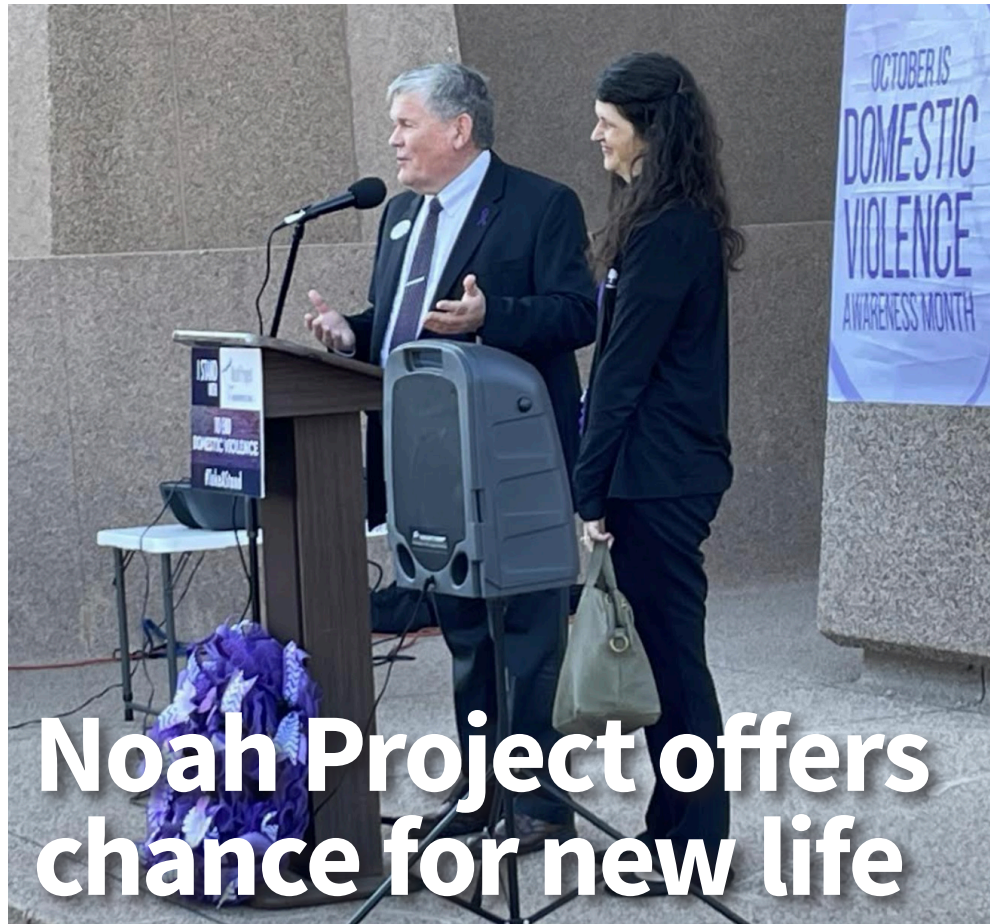
**I**magine being hurt by someone you love, wanting to leave, and scared of leaving the only home you know. That is the reality for one in three women and one in four men, who will experience some form of intimate partner violence in their lifetime.

Thankfully, here in Abilene, since 1980 these survivors of violence, sexual assault and human trafficking have a local lifeline. The Noah Project serves as a safe, center of care for our friends and neighbors who need support and even shelter to start a new life, one that is free of violence.

Noah Project opened its first shelter in 1980 and quickly outgrew its initial location, relocated in 1985 to a larger facility, and again in 2012 to a custom-designed, highly secure facility with administrative offices.

Noah Project's services and programs have been designed with the purpose of increasing the safety of victims, providing victims with individualized support and advocacy, and increasing victims' awareness of resources through a trauma-informed approach.

Onsite staff at Noah Project



## Noah Project offers chance for new life

Past and current executive directors Dan Cox and Alana Jeter participate in last October's Domestic Violence Awareness proclamation event.

includes victim advocates, therapists and even an attorney. Additionally, every day in our community, our primary prevention team members are educating our youth on safe, healthy relationships. All staff work towards a common goal, to provide safety, security and a future for those who call Noah Project home.

Last year 980 of our neighbors received services from Noah Project, with 478 of calling Noah Project home.

Noah Project's mission is empowering victims to become survivors and working to end domestic violence and sexual assault, a mission that would not be possible without the unwavering support of our community.

Noah Project has had six executive directors during our 44-year history. Alana Jeter most recently stepped into the role when Dan Cox retired last fall.

Alana Jeter



**B**ig Country CASA advocates for the best interest of abused and neglected children in the court system through trained community volunteers.

Volunteers for CASA – Court Appointed Special Advocates – are everyday people from diverse backgrounds and cultures. They can be teachers, businesspeople, retirees, stay-at-home moms, or grandparents – people just like you who are committed to making a difference for children who might otherwise slip through the cracks in an overburdened foster care system.

These volunteers are appointed by judges to guide one child or one set of siblings through the system to safe, permanent homes as quickly as possible.

CASA volunteers research case records and speak to each person

involved in a child's life, including family members, teachers, doctors, lawyers, and social workers. They monitor the progress of the child and family throughout the case and advocate for the child's current and future needs in court, in school, and in agency meetings. Their independent evaluations allow the court to make better-informed decisions.

Because CASA volunteers serve on one case at a time, they truly get to know the child and can give each

of these vulnerable children the sustained, personal attention they deserve.

We invite you to join our family of volunteers and make a difference in a child's life— and your own. Remember, every child has a chance – it's you!

Please reach out to Dana Ward at [danaward@bigcountrycasa.org](mailto:danaward@bigcountrycasa.org) for more information or go to our website at [bigcountrycasa.org](http://bigcountrycasa.org).

*Sandra Shirey*



Supporters of CASA participate in the organization's Superheroes 5K Fun Run annual fundraiser.



**BigCountryCASA**  
Court Appointed Special Advocates  
**FOR CHILDREN**