

"I thought a women's shelter was something dreadful, the very last chance for a woman. The shelter is the end, there's nothing worse, and that's what I thought.

But today I rather think of it as a beginning. I don't know where I'd be now without the ACT shelter. Shelter to me means a safe haven. Here you can rethink your life in peace and quiet. You are not alone, there are many women in similar situations, and all have to start a new life. To see that others are doing it gives you strength and courage."

Did you know

A woman is beaten in this county every 9 seconds – a woman is killed in Florida every 36 hours – 1 in every 3 women and 1 in every 5 men will be raped in their lifetime.

Abuse Counseling and Treatment, Inc., (ACT, Inc.), has a mission – to eliminate domestic and sexual violence through the provisions of crisis intervention, education and empowerment instilled and sustained by the commitment, determination and standards of excellence of its board, staff, volunteers and the community we serve.

ACT, Inc. is a nonprofit agency that provides safe shelter and services to victims of domestic violence and their children, survivors of sexual assault and their families and the new and temporarily homeless. ACT also provides a 24-hour crisis hotline, counseling, forensic examination, advocacy, education, information and referral. The agency was incorporated in 1978 and serves three counties, Lee, Hendry and Glades. The agency also owns and operates a thrift store and fine art gallery, proceeds from the sale of items at these locations benefit ACT, Inc.

The agency relies heavily on the support of the community and its volunteers. Volunteers can help us break the cycle of domestic violence and sexual assault by helping with fundraising, children's programs, clerical assistance, advocating through the court system, on-call support at Hospital ER's and our rape crisis center, assisting with our 24-hour crisis hotline calls, working with our clients or at our thrift store or our art gallery. To volunteer for a great, rewarding organization, please call Christine at 939-2553.

Individuals needing assistance can call **ACT's** 24-hour hotline at 939-3112. In Hendry and Glades counties, call 1-800-500-1119. To make an appointment for counseling or to speak to someone in administration you can call 939-2553. Visit the ACT website at www.actabuse.com or email at act@actabuse.com