



2017 NOV 15 AM 11:13
GREEN CITY COUNCIL



JOIN THE 3rd ANNUAL THANKSGIVING CHALLENGE

In just a few weeks, you will be sitting around a table with turkey, dressing, potatoes, gravy, and if you are lucky a really good cranberry relish! But, in reality, it does not matter what you are eating. What matters is WHO YOU ARE EATING WITH AND WHAT YOU ARE THANKFUL FOR. Most of us have more blessings than we can count, more love than we often know what to do with, more food than we need, and more to be thankful for than we can comprehend.

The peace, love and joy that most of us are surrounded by throughout life is not the reality for all. My professional career has been spent working with people who have often never known a true, quiet, peaceful Thanksgiving dinner. A Thanksgiving Day that involves appetizers, toasts and hugs as you arrive at a welcoming destination filled with family and friends. A Thanksgiving that includes a hearty and plentiful dinner table combined with shared stories of wonderful childhood memories and plans for successful futures. A Thanksgiving Day that ends with warm pie and warm hugs as you leave safe, comfortable surroundings, to return to your own home with a stomach and heart filled to the brim.

How very blessed we are and what a great tradition we have as Americans to actually stop our busy lives and take a day to appreciate, celebrate and THANK our families and friends who are often the most important part of what makes us special.

So as I did for the past few years, I issue this challenge to each of you. Use this letter and this holiday to begin or continue a tradition of taking time on Thanksgiving to spend a few moments going around your dinner table inviting each person to share a story, memory, moment in time or person who they are thankful for. Share something from your heart and express "thankfulness" for your good life. Or call those who are far away and tell them about the challenge. Share with them what you are doing and offer your thoughts of thanks.

As you each take a moment to talk, I ask that you pass the enclosed small envelope. Ask those old and young to place a donation into the envelope as a sign of your wonderful life and desire to help others find the joy, love, and peace that you have and are experiencing. All donations collected will be directly used during the holidays for those families spending this precious season in our shelter. In the past year the Battered Women's shelter has been able to help over 8,000 individuals and we anticipate doing the same in the year to come. You can return the donation to our offices in the enclosed envelope or you can take your family donation to Wayside furniture the day after Thanksgiving and THEY WILL MATCH YOUR DONATION, doubling your family gift!

I pray that you enjoy your life,

Terri Heckman
CEO, Battered Women's Shelter & Rape Crisis Center



BATTERED WOMEN'S SHELTER 974 EAST MARKET ST. , AKRON, OH 44305