i knew it was time when...

An In-Depth Look at Jenesse Center and the Families Served
The issues of time and time management are ones we deal with daily. What time do I go to work? What time will I wash my car? What time do I have to pick up the kids? Sometimes the issue of time is life changing...

Families in crisis face questions about how they can do their part to make their lives better. They must ask themselves the hard questions such as: “When will I get out of this abusive situation?” When a woman decides that it is time, where does she go? Who does she call? When she calls, will they have the resources to assist her? Will the agency understand that she might not have a high school diploma, job skills, or any hope for the future?

Jenesse Center understands these issues and for more than a quarter of a century, has worked to provide shelter, educate the community and sought to end poverty and homelessness. We understand that it takes a village – including men and women – to affect change.

Jenesse has prepared the briefing “I Knew It Was Time When...” to outline some of the tragedies that our comprehensive programs have turned into triumphs. You will encounter a few of these stories. Together, we can do so much more.

We welcome this opportunity to implement A Partnership for Better World, which we believe will culminate with a healthier community where families can live peacefully in their homes. The partnership opportunities include Program Support, Outreach & Education, Operations and Capital Development.

What this partnership will accomplish can be replicated in cities around the world.

We are honored to share this world with you...
here is Sam’s story

Children have a unique perspective on domestic violence. They are equal victims in this nightmare, yet they cannot just get up and leave. All they can do is wait for the time when their mommy decides that it is time to leave.

This is how I got here. One night my mom and my dad got in a fight and my mom left and went to a police station. Then, she said this paper, with a 1-800 number, she called and they talked and then they asked her do she need shelter. My mom said yes and they told her where she was going. First we went to a motel. Then that morning a lady name Sandra took us to a shelter far away. Then, I got there and there were nice people there.

I made lot’s of friends and have a teacher name Ms. Lynnell and she is a little nice. After school we take a bath, then we eat, and watch TV. Then go to bed.
I knew it was time when I felt my life calling me back from the emotional and psychological hell I was living in…

I had no idea who this man was anymore. I began to try and sort through all of his lies and thievery, which left my son and me in complete financial ruin. My bank account was empty, my cell phone bill was over $400 and our house phones had all been disconnected; there was no food in the house for three days, and the power was turned off.

I was living with a man who would fabricate the death of friends and relatives in order to have an excuse to access my bank account in order to feed his alcohol and drug additions. This sort of thing happening often caused me to doubt my own reality. The first time he said someone had died, it was his childhood friend.

His friend, he claimed, died in Iraq. The guy, whose name I will not mention, never showed up on the lists of servicemen killed in this ongoing war.

While I was on bed rest, recuperating from a stressful pre-term labor and post partum depression, he told me he needed money to help with his sister’s drug addiction. He claimed he was paying for her rehab treatment. I wanted to meet his sister; he and I had agreed I would meet her after she finished a six-week rehab program. The night before I was to leave to meet her, he told me his sister had supposedly killed herself.

I checked with the Los Angeles coroner and there was never a record of a verifiable death of his sister. His mother was supposedly in a psychiatric ward.

For our entire relationship, there had been a recurring theme of him helping himself to my money. Very early on, he got a hold of my bankcard and blank checks and used them to the point where I had to dispute the charges. I had nothing left, not even my sanity.

With six minutes left on a temporary cell phone, I was able to call Jenesse. I was able to get to their confidential location.

—Jackie*

Survivor Update

Jackie graduated from Jenesse’s Transitional Program in January 2007, after only 1 year in the program. She has been moving forward ever since. Jackie is employed in the headquarters of a major jewelry company in Glendale, CA. She proudly boasts of finding a 20+ year old error in the Latin translation on a piece of jewelry. This earned her recognition from the company president. Since leaving Jenesse for permanent housing, Jackie has become an advocate for survivors of domestic violence and specifically Jenesse Center. She recently made a presentation before the Board of Directors of her company to solicit funds for our program.

* Names and certain events have been changed to protect the client’s identity.
I knew it was time when I woke up in a pool of blood…

After enduring months of almost daily physical, psychological and emotional abuse and the fact that I was 10-weeks pregnant gave me the courage to make the call that would change my life for the better.

I waited until my husband left our apartment before I retrieved the phone book and began looking for a shelter. I called five shelters but none of them had room for me. Finally, I came upon a name I couldn’t even pronounce, Jenesse Center. I called the number and spoke to the Residential Assistant (RA). I thought it was odd when the RA immediately asked for my phone number but I gave it to her. In the course of our conversation, my husband returned and angrily asked me who I was talking to. I quickly hung up the phone and tried to calm him down. A few hours later the phone rang. It was the RA from Jenesse Center calling to see if I was okay! In a matter of moments the RA convinced me to get to the closest police station, so I did. In a few hours, a representative from Jenesse Center arrived at the police station and brought me to the Emergency Shelter.

I arrived at Jenesse Center’s Emergency Shelter in April 2005. All my medical needs were attended to and I was able to obtain a restraining order immediately. I attended classes in Domestic Violence Awareness and Anger Management while in the Emergency Shelter. With no income and ineligible for cash benefits because of a prior open case with CalWORKs, Jenesse considered me as a “special needs” case and allowed me to enter the Transitional Program in May 2005.

---Vivian*

Survivor Update

Vivian gave birth to a beautiful baby girl. She also earned a certificate in Computer Literacy from Metro Skills Center. Currently, she works at a major hospital in Los Angeles. She graduated from Jenesse’s Transitional Program in August 2007 after a referral from her Case Manager to Beyond Shelter, an organization that helps shelter residents find permanent housing.

---Vivian*

* Names and certain events have been changed to protect the client’s identity.
I knew it was time when he started blowing cigarette smoke directly into my face, determined to harm my unborn baby and me...

as if the physical abuse that had been ongoing was not bad enough. I was a recent immigrant to this country and pregnant with my third child. I was experiencing an extremely high-risk pregnancy at the time, and was unsure what the outcome would be if I carried the baby to term.

At the time, I was also experiencing some of the most horrific treatment a woman could go through. I was alone and confused about this man and about the uncertainty of my life and the lives of my two small children. This man, whom I thought loved me, would unplug the telephone from the jack before he left the house, and would dare me to leave or seek help from anyone. He would not deliver my messages and would brag to his friends that he could make me do whatever he wanted me to do.

He would demand sex from me, knowing of the risk involved, and he showed no concern regarding the multitude of tests I was taking. He even claimed that I got pregnant on purpose and that the baby I was carrying was not his. He would deliberately stress my two smaller children and me by slamming doors around the house and yelling at my children.

He threatened me with a gun and I lived in fear of my life and the lives of my children every single day once the abuse started.

When I found Jenesse Center, I had not slept in days; he threatened my children for the final time. I watched my children sleep and vowed that I would not put them through this again.

—Iona*

Survivor Update

In the spring of 2007, Iona successfully graduated from Jenesse’s Transitional Housing Program after 2 years of carefully rebuilding her life. Using the skills she learned in Jenesse’s empowerment workshops and permanent housing assistance, Iona and her three children are happy, healthy and safely living in their own apartment. She is extremely grateful to Jenesse Center for the services that were provided to her and her family.

—Jenesse Center assisted Iona by providing the following services:
• 24-Hour Hotline Assistance
• Immediate Shelter Care
• Advocacy for Immediate Emergency Hospital Stay
• Advocacy for Department of Children, Family Services
• West Central Mental Health Services Referrals
• Transportation Services
• Domestic Violence Education
• Self-Esteem Building
• Legal Services - Immigration Issues
• Mental Health Counseling - Individual/Family/Group
• Life Skill Support
• Household Establishment Classes
• Financial Planning/Savings Planning
• Family Fun and Group Activities
• Client Recognition Activities
• Successful Transition Ceremonies

* Names and certain events have been changed to protect the client’s identity.
more than a shelter

Jenesse Center, Inc. is more than just a shelter for survivors of domestic violence. We are a family institute whose programs, services, and outreach efforts heal families and connect communities on a global scale. Since our inception in 1980, Jenesse Center has been on the forefront in providing women and children with a comprehensive, centralized base of support and services that ensure their transition from immediate crisis, to stability and self-sufficiency.

**Our History**
The oldest domestic violence intervention program in South Los Angeles, Jenesse Center was founded by five African American women who were survivors of domestic violence and who were determined to break the cycle of violence that shattered their own families.

**Our Clients**
Jenesse Center serves women and children who are traditionally identified as unspoken and undeserved due to their racial and/or economic issues. While the majority of our clients are African American, Jenesse Center serves women of all ethnic backgrounds. We have a growing Latina population, as well as many clients of European and Asian decent. Jenesse Center also serves clients of all racial make-up from around the world with recent clients from as far as South America, Central America, the Middle East, Africa, Russia, China, Japan and Korea.

**Our Circle of Services**
Jenesse Center offers services and programs that rebuild lives, reunite families and enrich our community. Women who come to Jenesse Center for help are not only provided with the necessities of life (food, clothing, shelter) but are given a case manager, a trained social worker, who works intimately with them to access their immediate needs and assists them in planning and accomplishing their goals.

**Cultural Relevance**
Women of color face significant barriers transitioning from domestic violence situations. Often times, their educational and employment levels, as well as perceived limited opportunities and resources in the community, prevent them and their children from transitioning to stable, permanent living situations. Jenesse Center has a growing immigrant population, who experience additional barriers in terms of language access, but are given a case manager, a trained social worker, who works intimately with them to access their immediate needs and assists them in planning and accomplishing their goals.

**Extensive Employment & Education Programming**
Employment and education are two very important allies in breaking the cycle of violence. Women who feel empowered through employment and education are more likely to become self-sufficient and successful once they leave. This is why Jenesse Center has its own Economic Freedom Vocational Education curriculum that is geared towards our clients’ unique economic, social and cultural needs. Our vocational education program includes:

- Computer Literacy: On-site computer lab in which clients learn to use computer software and navigate the Internet.
- Education Now: Assistance in achieving academic goals through the following: GED training; enrolling in English as a Second Language classes; applying for colleges or universities; and enrolling in trade schools.
- Employment Focus: Special classes and workshops on topics such as resume writing, how to conduct a job search, preparing for a job interview, and posting resumes on-line.

**Mental Health Services**
Jenesse Center knows that part of the healing process for domestic violence survivors is mental as well as physical. This is why Jenesse Center offers a myriad of classes and counseling to help women work through their emotions and rebuild their self-worth through art, music and writing. Peer counseling includes topics such as anger management, substance abuse and empowerment.

**Legal Program**
Based on information collected from internal surveys, Jenesse Center created an in-house legal program. Jenesse Center is one of the few domestic violence programs that provides direct legal assistance. It has become a model program for other shelters to replicate. Including a Domestic Violence Clinic operated out of the Inglewood Superior Courthouse, Jenesse Center’s In-House Legal Department offers its services to everyone in the community. Jenesse Center’s legal services include assistance with:

- Restraining Orders
- Immigration Issues
- Traffic Tickets
- Custody Issues
- Landlord/Tenant Conflicts
- Credit Issues

**Impact of Violence in the Workplace:**
In an abusive relationship, even the most basic medical needs are often overlooked. Jenesse Center has an on-site nurse who ensures that women and children receive health assessments, referrals and are accompanied to the hospital/clinic for treatment. Jenesse Center also offers classes on exercise, nutrition, living with a disease and women’s reproductive health.

**Outreach and Education**
Jenesse Center is dedicated to community outreach and education. In addition to being an intervention program, Jenesse Center also focuses on prevention by teaching the community as a whole about healthy relationships between family members, friends and partners.

**Youth:** Jenesse Center understands that in order to break the cycle of violence you have to educate the young. In addition to workshops and activities that teach children about healthy relationships, Jenesse also has the Jenesse Teen Angel Program (JTA) in which youth volunteer at the shelters and are an integral part of the Jenesse family.

**Faith Based Outreach:** Jenesse Center not only believes in honoring the religious diversity of our clients, but also reaching out to the faith-based community to discuss issues of domestic violence that affect their congregations. Jenesse has also established a collaborative with churches throughout the county to develop viable faith-based programs to teach ministers protocols for working with women and families victimized by domestic violence and created a workbook for churches to use.

**Domestic Violence Training:** Jenesse Center offers a Certiﬁed 40-Hour Domestic Violence Training to all interested members of the community.

**Administrative Office**
3761 Stocker Street
Los Angeles, CA 90008

**Emergency Shelter**
• 25 beds
• Confidential location
• Residents stay approximately 30 days
• Residents attend classes 5 days a week

**Drop-In Center**
• Confidential location
• Classes available to anyone in need
• Three classrooms & computer lab
• Office
• Child care provided

**Transitional Housing Site A**
• Two apartment buildings
• Secured and staffed 24 hours a day
• 50 beds
• Recreation room
• Children’s play area

**Transitional Housing Site B**
• Two apartment buildings
• Two and three bedroom units
• 61 beds
• Secured and staffed 24 hours a day

I knew it was time when…

…after 7 years of abuse, I realized I was repeating the legacy of my parents and I had to stop the cycle.
more than intervention

Jenesse Center firmly believes that a woman in crisis is a woman in crisis regardless of the cause. Many families travel to Jenesse Center from across the country to escape an abusive relationship. The map above reflects some of the cities women and children have traveled from in search of safety and a better quality of life. Jenesse Center sends aid to individuals and organizations across the country. In 2005, Jenesse sent gift cards and funds to domestic violence shelters in the Gulf Coast after hurricane Katrina.

In March 2007, Jenesse Center’s executive director was one of twenty women from the United States invited by the Ambassador of Cultural Affairs for Belize to attend a Family Violence Prevention Conference to help fund a local transitional shelter. She had the opportunity to exchange programmatic information with shelters and participate in television interviews about violence. However, the portion of her trip that stood out the most was an incident that occurred while visiting a local school. The group witnessed a husband beating his wife on the school yard in front of children, staff and visitors. While she and others in the group were shocked by this violence, none of the children responded in any way.

This is an example of the outstanding need for domestic violence intervention services around the world. Although Jenesse Center is not yet able to be in every country, we are able to reach out to international communities in various ways. From women who come to Jenesse Center from around the world to educating the masses via our website, this South Los Angeles agency reaches out to anyone who comes to us with a need.
Jenesse addresses the needs of the community by providing comprehensive services coordinated by family case managers. Jenesse seeks to reduce and hopefully eliminate problems that permeate our community and the world.

**Lin**
When Lin, 21, entered Jenesse Center’s Transitional Housing Site she and her two children, Amber and Erik, were in need of a haven in which they could feel safe.

The family was suffering a great deal of emotional trauma as a result of their ordeal and Jenesse Center facilitated both family and individual weekly counseling sessions that helped them bond as a family and allowed Lin to let go of her fears and take charge of her own life.

Lin enrolled in a local junior college and was able to get her children into day care so that she could work and go to school.

She worked with her case manager to find permanent, affordable housing with the Los Angeles Housing Authority and she now has her own apartment that is minutes away from her college and her children’s daycare. Now a drop-in client, Maria continues to utilize the life saving services and programs that Jenesse Center offers as she continues to be empowered and self-sufficient.

**Amy**
Amy, 41, had been mentally and physically abused by her boy friend for six years. She caught the bus to the shelter from Bakersfield and upon entering the shelter she was soon diagnosed by one of Jenesse Center’s on-site medical professionals as suffering from b-polar disorder.

Jenesse Center immediately referred Amy to a hospital that supplied her with affordable medicine and helped her understand her condition. She was also referred to West Central Mental Hospital for weekly counseling sessions.

Jenesse Center also enrolled Amy in their mental health and anger management classes and she soon felt strong enough to live on her own and was confident that she could be self-sufficient and live a normal life.

She was awarded a Section 8 voucher through the Los Angeles Housing Authority and found permanent housing. She still receives counseling and medical referrals from Jenesse Center.

**Tonya**
Tonya, 26, and her son Tyrell entered Jenesse Center, Inc.’s Transitional Housing in need of counseling and legal services. Tonya was in the middle of a bitter custody fight with her abusive boyfriend and fighting off creditors due to her boyfriend using her name to purchase goods and services.

Tonya also had no medical insurance for her son Tyrell, who is partly deaf, and her lack of education and resources, along with her ex-boyfriend’s tendency to stalk her at work, made it next to impossible for her to find employment.

Jenesse Center immediately went to work, referring Tonya to a hospital that would treat her son, putting the family in counseling, and referring her case to our in-house Legal Department. Jenesse’s on-staff lawyer assisted her in procuring a restraining order against her ex; got involved in her custody dispute, escorting Tanya during her court dates; and helped her with her creditors.

Jenesse Center worked with Wal-Mart to get Tonya a job and she was quickly promoted to manager of her department.

Jenesse Center’s on-site legal department immediately referred Tonya to a hospital that supplied her with affordable medicine and helped her understand her condition. She was also referred to West Central Mental Hospital for weekly counseling sessions.

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We have a vision of a world where shelter is no longer needed. We have a vision of a world where families live in their homes peacefully. Peaceful living in homes translates to peaceful living in the communities.

A partnership between Jenesse and our friends can make this vision a reality. We believe we can combine resources and expertise to establish a model of the 21st Century that can be replicated around the world. We can do this…

Partnership Opportunities

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<th>Program Support</th>
<th>Includes</th>
<th>Your Financial Commitment</th>
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<tr>
<td>Outreach and Education</td>
<td>Prevention and pre-prevention activities designed to teach conflict resolution strategies that do not include violence, designed to make community aware of consequences of violence including – schools and workplace</td>
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<tr>
<td>Operations</td>
<td>Enhancing administrative capacity of agency, including contract management, technology, strategic planning, program development and sustainability</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capital Campaign</td>
<td>Building acquisition – non-traditional community center to be open 24 hours, available to community residents; separate space for Jenesse clients, made accessible by corporate and community mentors</td>
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The Jenessse Family Institute – a non-traditional community center that we have lovingly coined the “Fake It ‘Til You Make It Center.” It will feature the following:

- Staffed 24 hours a day/7 days a week
- Offer evening and weekend classes on topics such as computer training, literacy programs, parent-child classes, “self esteem” classes
- A community daytime, drop in childcare center specifically for women who are in domestic violence shelters and/or who participate in our business center programs
- Food and clothing distribution
- Computer lab and business center
- Administrative offices
- Services provided free of charge

Permanent, affordable housing: Jenesse Center is dedicated to offering affordable housing to all members of our community. In addition to domestic violence survivors, Jenesse Center will be offering:

- Transitional housing for emancipated youth and low-income women in need of a safe and clean place to live.
- A development team of five staff members to increase the sustainability of Jenesse Center’s programs and services.

I knew it was time when…

...after 19 years of marriage, he beat me three times and I knew we were no longer one.

healing families…

… connecting communities
Jenesse Center, Inc. has received both local and national recognition for its culturally relevant and family-oriented programming. Below are just a few of the Center’s many recognitions:

2007
- Trumpet Awards Foundation Community Spirit Award including the gift of a General Motors passenger van
- Jenesse Center’s Executive Director, Karen Earl, receives the Women Who Make A Difference award from the Los Angeles Business Journal
- Jenesse Center’s Executive Director, Karen Earl, received the Inspirational Outreach Partnership award from Harvard Westlake
- Jenesse Center’s Associate Director, Adrienne Lamar, received the Community Practice Award from Institute on Domestic Violence in the African American Community
- Jenesse Center’s Executive Director, Karen Earl, receives the Black Business Association’s 2007 Salute to Black Women
- Los Angeles City Council Commendation

2006
- Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Rolling Hills Chapter Community Service Award
- New Frontier Democratic Club Community Service Award
- City of Lynwood, Helping Adolescents *Choose Respect* Award
- Los Angeles Watts Times Making A Difference Honor
- County of Los Angeles Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke Commendation

2005
- Commendation from Los Angeles City Council
- Commendation from the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
- Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Century City Chapter Community Service Award

2002
- Jenesse Center receives the Joan J. Willis Leadership Award from the Women of the NAACP

2001
- Jenesse Center’s Executive Director, Karen Earl, receives the Rosa Parks Award from the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC)

2000
- Jenesse Center’s Executive Director, Karen Earl, appointed to the California State Domestic Violence Advisory Council by the California Speaker of the Assembly
- Jenesse Center awarded the Shining Light Award from the Ministerial Alliance
- Jenesse Center is recognized as 1 of 17 organizations in California as a model program by the Communities of Faith

1999
- Jenesse Center’s Jenesse Mothers and Children’s Program (JMAC) receives national recognition from LINKS, a not-for-profit organization of more than 12,000 women of color, committed to enhancing the quality of life in our communities

1998
- Jenesse Center receives the Community Catalyst Award from Bank of America

1997
- Jenesse Center receives the Community Service Award from the Greater Los Angeles African American Chamber of Commerce (GLAAACC)

1982
- Jenesse Center receives recognition from the Black Women’s Lawyer Association of Southern California, Inc.
JENESSE CENTER, INC.
Domestic Violence Intervention Program

it’s time...

contact

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3761 Stocker Street, Suite 100
Los Angeles, CA 90008

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PO Box 8476
Los Angeles, CA 90008

Phone:
(323) 299-0496 phone
(323) 299-0699 facsimile

www.jenesse.org

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Adrienne Lamar, Associate Director
Rhonda Brinkley Kennedy, Psy.D., Clinical Director
Sherelle Robertson, Project Director
Angela Parker, Director of Training and Programs

Jenesse Center, Inc. is a non-profit organization.
Tax identification number 95-3652529.

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Eva Davis, Ana De Castro, Kimberly Freeman,
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Cliff Watts, Photography
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quotes

“Until this society pays more attention to educating people about
domestic violence, we need places like Jenesse Center. We must
do everything possible to provide educational programs so that
we can learn to respect each other and therefore eradicate
domestic violence.”

— Pat Greene

“I was a long-time volunteer of the Jenesse Domestic Violence
center prior to becoming a recent Board member. I believe
strongly in the services that the center so effectively provide.
Jenesse is unmatched when compared to like organizations.
I am indebted to Karen Earl and the staff for the ongoing impact
that they have on families experiencing domestic violence.”

— Bobbie Jean Anderson

For more than 15 years -- in one capacity or another -- I have
worked with Jenesse Center to make a difference with families.
It is my passion and my joy.

— Josephine Downs

“My first job after Law School was with Palmetto Legal Services
in my hometown of Columbia, South Carolina where I was
employed as a Family Law attorney. In 1980 domestic violence
shelters were a rarity in the rural communities of South Carolina
and it was extremely difficult to see my clients repeatedly aban-
don attempts to escape abusive situations... simply because they
had no other place to go.

The Jenesse Center provides its clients with that extremely pre-
cious ‘other place to go’ and so much more; and this is the rea-
son why I proudly serve on the board of Jenesse Center Inc.”

— Avis Frazier-Thomas, Esq.

20 I KNEW IT WAS TIME WHEN...
there is a way out....

JENESSE CENTER, INC.
Domestic Violence Intervention Program