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The mission of SAFE Shelter Center for Domestic Violence Services is to prevent domestic violence, protect victims and promote change in lives, families and our community.

Since 1979, SAFE Shelter has been Savannah’s only shelter dedicated to victims of intimate partner violence and their underage children. Open 24-hours a day, 7 days a week, the Shelter provides safe, confidential services to all victims of domestic violence.

About SAFE Shelter
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SCAD FBD EX-COM 2017-18
The backyard at SAFE Shelter is highly used by both women and their children. Even though the home is at a secure and undisclosed location, residents can use exterior amenities such as this yard, the playground, and the gazebo it encompasses.

Cheryl Branch led us through our first visit to Safe Shelter, and we became aware of the sensitivity an environment shielding people from domestic abuse needs to have. Because of this secure environment, the place that struck most contrast was Safe Shelter’s backyard a highly used and ample exterior space that had very noticeable maintenance issues problematic to residents and children.
In further efforts to understand the nature of the problem of Exterior conditions at Safe Shelter we went on a rain site visit. The main problems we encountered were:

- Clogged rain gutters
- Excessive water being released in the middle of a pedestrian circulation path
- No natural drainage on pedestrian path resulting in large muddy puddles
- Even though it was raining, residents still ventured outside to the gazebo and walked through the muddy and water pooling.
With our first Design Charrette we reached out to the student body for them to become familiar with Safe Shelter. It was very important to begin establishing awareness of safe shelter and our efforts to create a path and minimize the flooding to the path. Students interested in these early stages tended to stay with most phases of the project up to completion. Many designs that came out of this first ideation were further researched and/or prototyped by the FBD Excom and greatly aided us in our final proposal and construction.
Since flooding is closely tied to site drainage, our design and construction mentors arranged for our team to have a site survey at Safe Shelter. This provided a unique experience for students to record and understand the site’s topography.

We then calculated the cubic footage of fill dirt we would require to reshape the landscaping of the yard to optimize drainage in a way that would minimally affect residents using the path.
Design Proposal

Our team decided to concentrate on three interventions to the site:

1. Create a paved path with key custom pavers to make the experience thoughtful and unique to the residents and the children.

2. Deviate the downspout of water away from the path end via rain barrels.

3. Landscape the edge of the path and connect the overflow water from the barrels to select plants to control flooding.

Due to a combination of budgeting issues and looking forward to potential future build proposals for SCAD FBD we decided not to extend the path all the way to the Gazebo.

A potential future project could be a larger yard pavilion better for the multitude of purposes the women of safe shelter use this small gazebo now for.
Providing students with exposure to freely experiment with different properties of concrete was one of our goals as a chapter.

We accomplished this by hosting multiple concrete play days, through which we also refined our ultimate patterns for the concrete pavers.

The ultimate imprints were the Safe Shelter Logo, the purple ribbon for domestic violence awareness, and three different scales of footprints.
Rain Barrels are a great solution to control excess water released from gutter spouts. They are also an easy way to retain rainwater and then choose what it should be used for.

For our Safe Shelter Path, we installed the rain barrels where the gutter spout location was most damaging pedestrian access to the yard. We then rigged the harvested water to drain right into a channel of water retaining plants. We are very grateful to Moon River Company, that donated three large drums which we then converted to rain barrels and attached on site.
Our landscaping research consisted of finding regional plants that require minimal maintenance and were consistent with the solar and water exposure that lining the path would have.

We had the great local nurseries as a resource not just in our acquisition of the plants, but also for advice in how to plant them.
Build Day 1

Site Prep:
Filling and re-shaping existing topo
Build Day 3

Landscaping and Rain Barrel Install
Final Shots
$ 2580.04 Total Expenses
$ 2029.61 Pathway
$ 200.00 Leveling Sand
$ 99.85 Topsoil & Nutrients
$ 125.21 Donated: Fill Dirt
$ 205.48 PermaSand
$ 300.24 Base Panels
$ 30.00 Pavers
$ 700.63 Pavers Edging & Spikes

$ 2029.61 Total Budget
$ 1165.81 Club Allocation
$ 1500.00 NCARB Grant
$ 490.20 Fundraising

DONATIONS
Moon River Brewing Company
-55 Gallon Drums (3)
Eastern Excavating Co. Inc
-Fill Dirt (16 yd³)

Expenses
$ 3156.01

Lumber
$ 15.28 Decoration
$ 11.74 Tempered Hardboard
$ 23.65 Hardware
$ 11.50 Mortar Tub

Rain Barrels
$ 205.48
$ 300 (appr.) Donated: 55 Gal. Drums
$ 37.67 Hardware
$ 26.73 Paint Supplies
$ 99.48 Rain Barrel Kits
$ 29.63 Lumber
$ 11.97 Soaker Hose

Other
$ 219.74
$ 30 Gloves
$ 10.97 Twines
$ 104.86 Tools
$ 10.56 Spray Paint
$ 63.35 Sunscreen/Water/Snacks
Thank You!

To everyone who supported the 2017-2018 FBD SCAD Path for Safe Shelter!