

## OUTREACH NEWS

### Roadside Theater Conducting A Support Group For HOPE House.....What's That All About??



We try to do many things as a part of our support groups for victims of domestic violence. For the past two months the support group in Norton has been privileged to have Roadside Theater be a part of our group. Roadside Theater is a part of Appalshop, an arts and education organization, home based in Whitesburg, KY. They are involved in many projects all over the country, but one of their main interests is to celebrate our Appalachian culture. Through the use of story circles, Roadside Theater, enabled our group to tell **our** stories and remembrances. We have all enjoyed the story circles and performances by Roadside Theater.

The story circles have been more than just fun, they have been an enlightenment. By being a participant in the story circles, we all learned that we have a story to tell, a story that no one else can tell. We became more aware of our unique culture, found more to appreciate and cherish about where we live, and learned how important it is to pass on knowledge of traditions and history of our region.

The story circles gave each woman a chance to have her voice heard, to tell her own story. It helped to give each one encouragement to talk in the midst of a group, a place that she could feel comfortable, and to feel o.k. about her feelings and experiences. Story circles can also include written words from a poem or a journal that help to tell the story, or even a song. Although most of us don't consider our story to be important, and don't see ourselves as being actors, we all have something to contribute to our culture and to our communities. We thank Roadside Theater for helping us to realize how important it is for each person in our community to be heard.