



# Womensong

## 30th Anniversary

A publication of the Women's Resource Center

### DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COUNTS the National Census of Domestic Violence Services Executive Summary for Pennsylvania

On November 2nd 2006, 61 out of 61 identified local domestic violence programs (100%) in Pennsylvania participated in the National Census of Domestic Violence Services (NCDVS). Designed to address the safety and confidentiality needs of victims, the Census collected an unduplicated, non-invasive count of adults and children who received critical services from local domestic violence programs during the 24-hour survey period.

#### VICTIMS SERVED

During the 24-hour survey period 1,007 victims of domestic violence received housing services from a domestic violence program, either in emergency shelter or transitional housing 2,477 adults and children were served in Pennsylvania.

- 617 adults and children found refuge in emergency domestic violence shelters
- 390 adults and children were living in transitional housing programs, designed specifically for domestic violence survivors
- 1,470 adults and children sought non-residential advocacy and services such as individual counseling, legal advocacy, and children's support groups

#### LIMITED RESOURCES

Programs reported a considerable unmet demand for services due to a lack of resources, including limited staffing and overflowing shelters. 109 requests for services were tragically unmet due to a Lack of resources.

- 29 unmet requests for emergency shelter
- 38 unmet requests for transitional housing
- 42 unmet requests for non-residential services

#### HOTLINE CALLS

Domestic violence hotlines provide critical support and information for victims in danger. 802 hotline calls were answered, more than 33 hotline calls every hour.

#### PREVENTION AND EDUCATION

Local domestic violence programs implement prevention and early intervention curricula at schools, and provide

- trainings in the workplace and to the broader community. 3,450 people were trained during the survey day by local domestic violence programs.

#### LIMITED STAFF

Most programs operate with relatively few staff.

- 13% of participating local programs employ less than 10 staff
- 49% employ 10-20 paid staff
- 23% employ 21-40 paid staff
- 11% employ over 40 paid staff
- 3% staff numbers not provided

#### COMMUNITY POPULATIONS

Across Pennsylvania, local programs provide support to victims in a variety of communities.

- 52% of local programs are

- primarily rural
- 23% of local programs are primarily suburban
- 25% of local programs are primarily urban

**Great Chefs XVII**, "Best of Texas Wieners", will take place on Thursday, May 10, 2007, at the Radisson Lackawanna Station Hotel, beginning at 6:00pm with a cash bar, Texas wiener tasting, and voting. A full course, sit-down dinner will follow at 6:45pm.

A fun and friendly competition will take place featuring Coney Island Lunch, Coney Island of Scranton, Keystone Restaurant, The Barrel Family Restaurant, Yankee Lunch Room and The Stadium Club. All who attend will have a chance to cast their vote. There will also be a panel of local celebrity judges to offer their opinions!

Ticket prices are \$75, General Admission, open seating. Tables of 8 or 10 may be reserved.

If you are interested in becoming a Community Sponsor for this very popular event, or would like to place an ad in the Great Chefs Program Booklet, call Bert at (570) 346-4460, ext 211.

## **Shedding Light on Stalking: Barbara J. Hart Justice Center Hosts Conference In Honor of National Stalking Awareness Month**

*"Stalking is often invisible to everyone except the victim,"  
Mary Lou Leary, Executive Director, National Center for Victims of Crime.*

For far too long, stalking has not garnered the serious attention that it deserves. Especially when stalking incidences involve activities that are not criminal in themselves, stalking is often ignored in favor of focusing on specific criminal acts. We often fail to 'make the connection' between stalking and other forms of violence, even murder, and this failure can be lethal. Mary Lou Leary perhaps best describes this conundrum when she states, "stalking is often invisible to everyone except the victim." So how do advocates, law enforcement and individual victims fight for justice for something so often felt but never seen? The Barbara J. Hart Justice Center attempted to answer those questions in a conference entitled "Stalking and the Use of Technology In Incidents of Domestic Violence Sexual Assault & Dating Violence" held on November 3, 2006 at the University of Scranton. Several special guests, including Attorney Bromley, Patricia Brennan, Special Agent Applegate, Louis Fasnacht and Stephanie Truckenbroad.

Domestic violence advocates, law enforcement, and attorneys were among those who received this day long training. The conference focused not only how to define and recognize stalking and keep victims safe but also how to most effectively prosecute stalkers.

In a presentation entitled "Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Stalking: Making the Connection", Attorney Sandy Bromley, of the Stalking Resource Center, made a powerful case for victims, advocates and law enforcement to recognize

the direct connection between stalking and other types of violence and assault. The statistics she presented us with were frightening. Almost 90% of femicide victims had been stalked in the 12 months prior to the murder and 3 out of 4 females murdered by their intimate partners have been stalked by that offender at least once in the year prior to the murder. Stalking, defined by the National Center for Victims of Crime, is "a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to feel fear" (<http://www.ncvc.org/src/main.aspx?dbName=Home>). This definition is very important as it illustrates the differences between stalking and harassment, namely living in fear. In the past, when stalkers were prosecuted, they were often prosecuted for harassment which carries a much lighter sentence. One of the goals of this conference was to help those involved in stalking cases to more effectively recognize and prosecute these crimes.

The Stalking Resource Center is an invaluable resource for victims, advocates and law enforcement. Visit their website at <http://www.ncvc.org/src/main.aspx?dbName=Home> for more information.

### **Stalking Resources**

National Center for Victims of Crime  
<http://www.ncvc.org>  
Stalking Resource Center  
<http://www.ncvc.org/src>

## **Thank You Holiday Donors**

WRC would like to thank all the private and corporate donors that helped make the holiday season cheerful for so many women and children who are victims of violence. The generous contributions of food, toys, clothing, gift cards and holiday decorations were needed, well utilized and appreciated. Thank you again on behalf of all our program participants.

Several local companies sponsored giving tree programs to help with specific individual needs. These needs remain constant, and anyone interested in helping meet the needs of program participants should call WRC at 346-4460 x201 or visit our website at [www.wrcnepa.org](http://www.wrcnepa.org) "Wish List".

## **Mark Your Calendar**

**April 19 , 2007** Seminar on **"The Health Impact of Childhood Abuse and Sexual Assault"**, 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at CMC Auditorium. Registration \$120/professionals, \$60/students. Watch for a brochure from Marywood University. Co-sponsored by Children's Advocacy Center ,Women's Resource Center and Marywood University

**April 26, 2007** Annual Take Back the Night March & Rally. Details to come.

**May 31, 2007** Training for Advocates and Allies of Battered Women: **"Economic Justice" - Working with Women Towards Economic Justice.** Limited space. Watch for a brochure from Marywood University or call 346-4460 x242 for more information.

## WRC Receives \$5,000 Grant from Verizon Foundation



Verizon Pennsylvania. "These organizations work behind the scenes and do not look for acknowledgment."

"Through this partnership between Verizon, Verizon Wireless, PCADV and 32 community-based organizations, we hope to raise awareness of domestic violence and make a positive difference in the lives of those in need," Cervenak said. "I know the program at the Women's Resource Center is also striving to meet those needs."

For more than a decade, Verizon Wireless has been a leader in ensuring the safety of battered women. The HopeLine® Program, introduced by Verizon Wireless in 1995, collects wireless phones and accessories from any wireless service provider, and then refurbishes the phones or recycles them in an environmentally sound way.

"Through HopeLine, Verizon Wireless helps domestic violence survivors with the rebuilding process," said Roger Tang, region for Verizon Wireless. "Support from our customers, partners and community volunteers has been crucial to the success of HopeLine as we combine resources to become a part of the solution to this national epidemic. We are pleased to join Verizon in providing funding to assist the Women's Resource Center in their efforts to end domestic violence in this community."

The Verizon Foundation and Verizon Wireless support crisis services for those who have experienced domestic violence and sexual assault through a \$5,000 grant to the Women's Resource Center (WRC). The funds will support new technology to improve services related to the free and confidential 24-hour hotline, crisis response and advocacy services provided by WRC in Lackawanna and Susquehanna Counties. "The Verizon Foundation and Verizon Wireless are valuable partners in our work with survivors. The crisis services remain the lifeline for many in our community and support for those services is vital," according to Peg Ruddy, Executive Director for WRC.

WRC is a member of the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence (PCADV), with whom Verizon Foundation and Verizon Wireless collaborated to bring the much-needed funds to the domestic violence programs in Pennsylvania. WRC was one of thirty-two community-based non-profit organizations in PCADV to receive the funding.

"The applications submitted by PCADV and its community-based organizations reflected a critical need to help improve the safety of families and break the cycle of violence," said Anna Cervenak, Director of External Affairs for

### Women's Resource Center Mission Statement

The mission of the Women's Resource Center is to provide programs and services that support and uphold the principle that women have the right to choose and maintain a life free from oppression and violence. The Women's Resource Center supports a feminist philosophy which places a high value on the individuality and equality of women and all persons, and is committed to enhancing the sense of dignity, self-worth and self-confidence of women.

**Entercom Pocono Northeast Partners with WRC  
for Public Service Announcement:  
*Why Does She Stay?***

Do you listen to ez103, 98.5 KRZ, Froggy 101, The Mountain or WILK? If you do, you have heard the powerful public service announcement produced by the WRC and Entercom Pocono Northeast.

John Burkavage, Entercom's Vice President and Market Manager, recently provided WRC with a unique opportunity to educate the community regarding domestic violence and services available to victims and survivors.

The theme of the 60-second announcement is "Why Does She Stay"? Commonly, individuals in our

community find it difficult to understand the complexity of domestic violence. In order to offer insight to these dynamics, WRC gathered information from survivors of domestic violence to compile the most pressing reasons why battered women remain in their homes. In purposeful contrast, the spot ends with the most important question for our community: Why do men batter women and what can we do to intervene?

WRC extends very special thanks to John Burkavage and staff at Entercom for donating their time and resources on this very important project.

***Is your church or community group looking for a way to help WRC?***

**Why not host a *Spring Shower*, to help our families get the things that they need to start over.**

**Safehouse Wish List**

- New Dish Sets
- New Vacuum cleaners
- New kitchen utensils
- New glasses/mugs
- New dish towels
- Pots and pans
- Cleaning supplies, window cleaner, counter cleaner, bathroom mops, buckets, brooms, laundry detergent
- New sheets, twin and full sets most needed
- Comforters, quilts, blankets
- New bath towels, wash cloths
- Curtains/ blinds
- Kitchen and bathroom garbage cans
- Hampers or laundry baskets
- Can openers
- Small tool kits
- Toiletries


For a more comprehensive list of ongoing needs, visit:  
<http://www.wrcnepa.org/community/wishlist.php>



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