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Spruce Run News (August 1992)

Spruce Run Staff

Spruce Run

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SPRUCE RUN

Services for Victims and Survivors of Domestic Violence

Hotline 207-947-0496



Stop

Preparing for
Peace

Hostilities will end
Thank God, It's Over!
War 'Over,
But Fighting Continues

Bangor Daily News
JUN 1991



The War

Maine Salutes
Viet Cease-Fire

A Time For Hope

WORLD WAR IS ENDED



ON



Enemy POW Camps

WOMEN

CEASE-FIRE OKAYED



End War

August 1992

Dear Friends of Spruce Run,

1991 brought this country into and out of a war. Our women and men were asked once again to lay down their lives for the freedoms we enjoy. The citizens of Bangor welcomed every plane load of returning soldiers with music, hugs, food and presents.

Next year Spruce Run will celebrate it's 20th anniversary and still the war on women wages on. Our volunteers and staff recognize the difficulties of remaining strong as the casualties of war mount. There have been 50,000 reported cases of domestic violence in Maine. Four women a day, in the United States, die at the hands of their abusers. Last year over 800 people, of whom nearly 700 were women, called Spruce Run. Our statewide coalition reports serving 7,000 women and children last year. Need for our services to individuals has doubled in the last five years and our group hours have increased to four times what they were in 1988. Spruce Runners can be proud that we fulfilled these needs. We believe our efforts to harbor, to care for, to educate and enlighten our communities on the issues of domestic violence have been and continue to be worthwhile. We hope someday to see the fanfare of BIA from our own little foxholes.

We still need your help fighting this war on women! If anyone is interested in volunteering for Spruce Run please see the box on page 3 inside this newsletter.

Lyn M. E. Carter

Funded by
the State of Maine,
United Way and
your generous donations

P.O. Box 653, Bangor, ME 04401 (207) 945-5102
P.O. Box 524, Ellsworth, ME 04605 (207) 667-9489

SOME 1991 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Limited space in this newsletter allows us to honor only a small portion of the tremendous work done by our volunteers and staff.

* Every police department in Hancock County sent at least one officer to a day long training on domestic violence and has done at least 4 hours of d.v. training on their own.

* Women's Services provided Getting Free for residents, support group attendees, and others for the second year in a row. They also developed ways to extend our services to isolated groups such as battered women on Indian Island and battered lesbians.

* Volunteer Services were able to express our deep pride and gratitude to our volunteers with a recognition party and an advison program to ask for their input and ideas.

* Shelter Services completed an interior painting of our shelter and our office space and worked to make our space safer for women and children.

* Children's Services offered individual/group support in shelter and during Wednesday support groups, provided advocacy with agencies and educated in the schools on domestic and dating violence.

* Our Community Response program participated in creating pro arrest policies, a training for law enforcement, a model prosecutor's policy for DV cases, with CHCS a court mandated abuser education program and the Family Law Project which you may read about later in this newsletter. Thank You All!

****MILLINOCKET OUTREACH****

In June of 1990, Spruce Run expanded it's services in Northern Penobscot County. From June until January, we used space in the District Court in Millinocket to meet with victims, service providers, and community members. Maddy H. volunteered a lot of her energy that first summer postering, contacting service providers, and covering in the court. Thanks Maddy.

Since January of '91, a Spruce Run worker has been available in Millinocket every Wednesday. We are using space donated by the First Congregational Church to meet with people by appointment.

Currently we are trying to build a Millinocket support group to meet Wednesdays. We will provide babysitter money since we do not have resources for an on-cite child care.

Emergency shelter is available at a N. Penobscot motel. We can talk with women needing shelter through the Hotline and Millinocket Police will provide emergency transportation.

The Katahdin Area Committee planned and participated in a Public Forum against DV held in February '91. The Forum drew a large audience, and the Formerly Battered Women's Panel played a major role in educating the audience.

The KACADV also sponsored another successful grassroots event on the 4th of July in Millinocket. At the 1991 festivities, we distributed flyers and brochures and sold a lot of t-shirts.

Written by
Sally S.

VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Beginning the week of January 27th there was a six hour general training for people interested in being Spruce Run volunteers. Following the general training, there were specific trainings for:

- hotline (40 hrs)
- children's workers (22 hrs)
- support group facilitators (6 hrs)

In order to continue our work to aid battered women and their children, we need more volunteers. Our next scheduled training will be for hotline volunteers beginning September of 1992.

Call 945-5102 for further information and application.

CHOCOLATE! CHOCOLATE!
THANK YOU!! THANK YOU!!

This year Spruce Run's chocolate party was bigger and more financially successful than last year. We raised approximately \$3200 after expenses, an increase of \$700. Also 200 people attended, compared with 120 people last year. Almost twice the number of desserts did not outlast the line of eager guests. We appreciate the good spirits of those last people who were satisfied with fruit and coffee, music and good company and supporting a great cause.

Terri L. and Ann S. would like to thank everyone, (just as we would like to thank Terri and Ann) who helped with the party this year. Special thanks to:

Lyn C. Martha N.
Felicity M. Nancy R.
Ronelda W.

for picking up and delivering desserts, etc., to the party.

Linda R. Peggy D.
Judy N. Marlene C.
Kathleen M. Emily J.
Carole B. Roberta B.
Martha W. Linda Z.
Sharon J. Francine S.
Sue B. Noel T.
Luanne W. Sandy M.
Maisie H.

for working at the event.

Blair B. Ann B.
Astri B. Carol L.
Lee Ann M. Mary P.
Beverly S. Nellie S.
Geoff H. Sandra S.
Naomi J.

and all the businesses who provided desserts.

Steering committee, staff and
Cristina S. Leslie H.
Jane S. Naomi J.
Scott R. Rosie P-S
Tina B. Kay C.
Sandra H. Alex G.
Julie G.

for selling tickets.

Carole B. for providing publicity, Jan O. for creating our poster, Wild Ginger for their wonderful music, Peggy B. for setting up displays and T-Shirts, Anita K. for donating milk and sugar, Gaye G. for creating the lovely fruit salad, Reis W., Sharon J., Gaye G., Sandy M. and Linda Z. for soliciting desserts.

MAINE COALITION for FAMILY
CRISIS SERVICES

** ** ** ** **

The coalition has been working on our commitment to statewide unity and consistency. Kathleen M. was instrumental in obtaining funding for and hiring a Statewide Coordinator, Peg Slater. Peg worked diligently for almost a year and a half before deciding to minister to a large church in southern Maine. The coalition is currently searching for a temporary employee to work for six months on securing the funding for the Statewide Coordinator's position. Martha P. is presently working part-time to develop quality assurance standards across the projects statewide.

Recently, the coalition developed and adopted new by-laws meant to bring us in line with the work we were actually doing. For example: correcting the by-laws from Robert's Rules of Order to consensus which has been used since '86.

The coalition has also been represented over the last few years at other statewide coalitions such as, The Homeless Coalition, the Domestic Violence Council and the Family Law Project.

We support our coalition and are committed to it's work and growth.



UPDATE: STATEWIDE TASK FORCE
HOMOPHOBIA & LESBIAN BATTERING

Maureen F. and former S.R. staff member Lynn B. currently serve on the statewide task force which deals with issues of homophobia & lesbian battering. This committee helps local domestic violence projects respond more effectively to the needs of battered lesbians.

The first step toward this goal is to address homophobia both to understand its effect on gay men and lesbians and as a way of helping domestic violence workers look at how we can help to create a safer and more welcoming atmosphere for callers who may be battered by their same sex partners. Members of the task force participated in a two-day training on homophobia and have spent the last several months offering a basic homophobia training to the nine domestic violence projects throughout the state.

Next, the task force is preparing to deal more directly with the needs and complexities of lesbian battering. In October, the task force met with resource people from both New Hampshire and Massachusetts where services are already being effectively provided to battered lesbians. The group then hopes to offer concrete, practical suggestions - probably in the form of more trainings - to our Maine D.V. programs.

Anyone who would like more information about this task force or this work may feel free to call Maureen F. at our State St. office 945-5102.

MAINE'S FAMILY LAW PROJECT

The Family Law Project, a new Pine Tree Legal Assistance unit, was founded in Jan. '90 to address the overwhelming need for family law services for ME's low income residents. The Maine Commission on Legal Needs says over 28% of people in low income households experienced family law problems last year. Without family law assistance, many people are unable to access the judicial system to obtain child support or alimony, to obtain a division of marital property, to protect themselves and their children from abusive spouses, to enforce the right to have contact with their own children, or to obtain a divorce. Families often live in poverty and face legal problems such as evictions, debt collections, and repossessions.

FLP's advisory board is made up of representatives from the judiciary, the court mediation service, projects for abused women, social service and state agencies. FLP is staffed by an Attorney/Project Coor. and a Paralegal/Assis. Program Coor. Currently FLP gears it's services toward enabling people to initiate and finalize their own family law actions. Over 70 agencies and many volunteers work to provide services which include pro se divorce clinics, provision of client materials, a family law helpline and in person assistance at some district courthouses.

The pro se clinics provide an overview of the law and procedures involved in divorces and determinations of parental rights and responsibilities and step by

step instructions on the paperwork. The clinics help people decide between self-representation or hiring an affordable lawyer. The clinics are taught by vol. attorneys (any attorneys interested in teaching may contact FLP) and coordinated by staff from family service agencies whom FLP recruits and trains.

Materials on parental rights/responsibilities for unmarried parents, divorce amendments concerning child support, visitation and custody, and the divorce process are available through the FLP and the Volunteer Lawyers Project. Also, FLP participates in the production of the Do Your Own Divorce in Maine book.

The helpline was developed in April of '91 to provide phone assistance to those who represent themselves in family law matters. Each Wednesday night, volunteers help callers review court forms and procedures, prepare for final hearings, and provide follow-up for the pro se divorce clinics. While they are currently focusing on supporting pro se litigants, FLP hopes to start a Family Law Center in the future to provide individual attorney representation for those who require it.

Despite PTLA's budget cuts the vision of a Family Law Center remains intact. But, Pine Tree is struggling to keep the FLP in existance.

Contributions are welcome and may be specified for the FLP and sent to: PTLA, P.O. Box 547 DTS, Portland, ME 04112

Adapted from Dina Jellison's article/National Center on Women & Family Law newsletter, 3/92.

NCADV '90 CONFERENCE

The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence sponsored a week long conference in August of '90. Twenty-one volunteers, formerly battered women and three children drove to Amherst, MA to represent Spruce Run and themselves. Thanks to Spruce Run's generous supporters all who wished to attend did so.

Freedom Through Unity and Diversity 1990 and Beyond was the theme at this display of the Battered Women's Movement in action. Workshops, panel discussions, a membership meeting, large forums, a candlelight vigil and time to get to know one another were some of the highlights! The chance for us to be with others who share our vision and our challenges is always an empowering event.

Although I am sure that all of us came away with different opinions on the information offered, I believe that our diversity is great and to be celebrated. Unfortunately, the same diversity we celebrate makes our struggle to unite a long and difficult one. Yet, we are all women of great strength who share a common dream - to end violence in the lives of women and children.

NCADV's challenges have always been tremendous and the last few years have been no exception. The coalition is planning another national conference for the summer of 1993 to be held in the same location as their newest office, Denver, Colorado. Contemplate the Rockies. Shall we attend in Colorado!?

Lyn C.

Statistics F.Y. 1991

It is our goal and our intention here at Spruce Run to do all that we can to end violence in the lives of women and children. Here are some of the ways we worked toward that goal last year.

In 1991 we served a total of 838 individuals (692 women, 18 men and 128 children). The services we offered these folks were individual advocacy, crisis intervention, emergency shelter and support groups. We also spent countless hours responding briefly to questions and concerns from the families and friends of those we serve and other service providers.

Of the 838 served over 500 were from Penobscot County (a large percentage from the Bangor area), approximately 150 from Hancock County the rest were from other areas of the state or we had no knowledge of their usual residence.

We feel that educating the public about domestic violence is a vital part of obtaining peace at home. Our community response workers gave 75 presentations in 1991 to approximately 1600 people from area schools, churches, hospitals, police departments and community groups. That total number of 1600 did not include radio, TV or newspaper audiences.





OURSELVES

OUR WONDERFUL SELVES!

We had an opportunity to interview a few of our many terrific volunteers and ask them about themselves, their connection to Spruce Run and their advice to new volunteers.

Paula K. spends the majority of her time nurturing her family. But in September of '88 she saw an ad in the paper for S.R. training and decided to give us the gift of her energy. Over the past 3 years she has gained self-esteem, self-growth and developed a variety of helping skills.

Paula currently volunteers on our fundraising and steering committees, hotline and accompanies women in court. Paula would encourage women to realize that working for S.R. means making conditions better for all women not just those experiencing violence in their homes.

Elaine T. also answered an ad for S.R. but hers ran 10 years ago. Yes, folks! This is a woman dedicated to our cause. When Elaine's not S.Running she has 3 kids, a house, bills and a job search to keep her busy. Elaine's artistic abilities generate miraculous Tucker Angels. A woman-craft worth owning! Ask her about a craft show near you.

Elaine has given S.R. countless hours and energy. She feels her return has been "Wonderful friends" and a

sense that it's really special to be a woman.

E.T. feels if a woman is to volunteer for S.R. she must be able to give time and dedication. S.R. will encourage her to set her own limits - say Yes when it's right for you - Say No when it isn't - ask for help when you need it.

Cristina S. began baking for one of our fundraisers about 7 years ago with her friend, Julie. Last year she took a year off from teaching chemistry at U.Maine to spend time with her kids and with women. Through her involvement with S.R. and campus ministry, she has been discovering herself through contact with other women.

Cristina runs, writes poetry, bakes bread and reads mystery novels in her spare time.

She feels she has gained the "woman touch" from working at S.R. which for her is a textural feeling, almost a sensual touch, an electricity, a power gained from being connected to women's energy.

C.S. has also gained a sense of her own pliability. She feels empowered by the variety of things she can do.

She would encourage women to volunteer for S.R. because the experience can often be tailored to the volunteer's needs and to aid in understanding self and others.

Connie H. applied for a job with S.R. 11 years ago and was hired as a kid worker.

Connie has been a member of our Steering committee and is currently office manager for Dr. Leonard Levy, serves on the Board of Directors for the Eastern Maine AIDS Network is an active member on the

council of the Bangor Unitarian Church and spent last summer's nights keeping score for a local women's softball team. Busy lady!

She feels S.R. has given her an opportunity to challenge more of her own issues than in any other forum. Connie told her story on TV and spoke out in public as a battered lesbian/battered woman which made it "OK" for her to try new challenges.

Connie would say to women volunteering for the S.R.'s hotline; Be honest, it's difficult, demanding, time consuming, challenges everything you ever thought you knew about domestic violence and yourself. If you can get through into the first phone call it's worth it.

Ency W. responded to a newspaper ad about 3 years ago and took time out from her busy schedule of kids, working and graduate classes in a Masters of Student Services program at UM to volunteer for S.R.

Ency enjoys the opportunity volunteering gives her to practice her counseling skills and to help others.

Ency suggests to a woman considering volunteering for S.R. that she ask herself what it is she wants to do with her life and would this fill some of her needs.

Cathy S. was working at her current job, as a mental health worker at BMHI 2 years ago when a friend suggested volunteering at S.R. She has given wonderful help on hotline, as a trainer and on committees ever since.

Cathy values S.Running as a learning experience and is especially grateful for a

wonderful trip to our National Conference in MA. last year.

Cathy wants to encourage women to offer themselves and their talents to S.R. as she has. She believes when we share our experience, the benefits are mutual.

WHO ARE THE KID WORKERS?

One of the many dedicated groups of volunteers around Spruce Run is the kid workers group. These women have completed a twenty-two hour training and perform a variety of functions. On Wednesday evenings, Blair, Mary C., Linda, Cindy and sometimes Martha help out with our 90 minute activity/support group for children whose mothers attend our support/discussion groups. On Thursday mornings, Blair leads an activity group for shelter children during the time that the women are involved in house meeting. Cindy, Martha, Leslie, Mary M., Mary C., Blair and our newest group Barbara, Janet, Kristin, Bethany and Amanda, also take turns working with children over the age of three on a one-to-one basis during these children's shelter stay. The kid buddies are there to listen, reflect feelings, be supportive, and have fun! If you see one of these women at a Spruce Run event, say hello and ask them about their very important work with the youngest victims of domestic violence.



Domestic violence
does not have to be
a fact of life

A RESPECTFUL WAVE

*** *** *** *** ***

We bid a sad farewell to Lynn B. our Children's Services/Community Education Coordinator. Lynn's accomplishments in 5 years at S.R. were many. To name a few: several successful hotlines and children's volunteer trainings, superb public speaking in schools, churches and civic organizations, a nationally presented training for children's workers, and a helpful book for kids in shelter.

Lynn B. has been a warm, loving, caring presence in our office. Her dog stories were a delight and we looked forward to her daily. Lynn is passionately committed to our social change vision and our grass roots approach to that change. We miss her immensely and we envy those in her congregation as she ministers to a church in southern Maine.

*** SHELTER WISH LIST ***

Our shelter is consistently in need of many things. Some of which our benefactors supply. But still we like to dream. If you would like to support Spruce Run here are some ways to do so:

Towels	Cleaning items
Blankets	Lamps
Housewares	VCR
Pajamas	New underclothes
Diapers	Canadian rockers
baby items	Gift certificates
Picnic table	Answering machine
Infant swing	Lawn furniture
Sewing box	Bedspreads
Hampers	Chairs/Benches
Brooms	Sewing machine
Fans (large)	Rakes
Craft items	Playing cards
Clocks	Pads of paper



MOST RECENT EVENTS

Domestic Violence and Abuse:
How Can Health Care
Personnel Respond?

Spruce Run's Hancock County Outreach Coordinator, Ronelda W. in conjunction with Zonta Club of Hancock County and Tri-Hospital Educational Forum put together a full day program to provide information and guidelines to assist health care personnel in identifying, treating and referring victims of domestic abuse and violence.

Mary Cathcart was the keynote speaker for this event held at the White Birches in Ellsworth on May 6th.

Family Violence A Katahdin Area Concern

Spruce Run's Northern Penobscot County Outreach Coordinator, Sally S. and many Millinocket area churches, schools, civic and service organizations are produced a second Public Forum on Family Violence on Thursday, April 30th.

Community awareness is vital in putting an end to family violence. This group is beginning a much needed service considering that family violence is the most consistently occurring crime in the Millinocket area.





Spruce Run
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