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Spruce Run Staff

Spruce Run

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SPRUCE RUN NEWS

Works for Peace at Home

Vol. No. 1

December 1996

Standing Up

Standing up

Like a New England aster
offering purple
Dotting October
with defiant true grit
Long past
The fading of a colorful summer.

Standing up

Exiting a gathering
where careless laughs
in smug superiority
Respond to a blond slut joke.

Standing up

for the beauty of the women
Hiding her feelings
Under an extra-large sweatshirt
Made to think she's not worthy
By the ad man's standards.

Standing up

For the child with no laces
in her cousin's last sneakers
Taunted by children
Allowed to judge based on looks.

Standing up

For the women, all my sisters
Taught subservience

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Degradation's evil purpose.
Standing up.

Standing up

With our hands out
With our backs straight
With our heads high

in a we-count-circle
in a we-vote-circle
in a we're-strong-circle
in a we're-unified-circle

With more power

Than all the six-packs
All the clenched fists
All the calculated degradation

Unity becoming our comforting hymn
Resonating across oceans
Over mountains
Through the deserts
Reaching every woman without a
voice.

Women

Burned alive in India

Women

Starving in Guatemala

Women

Bleeding in Mississippi

Women

Bruised in Bangor.

Standing up

In a circle all together
In a circle for each other
For our children
For our futures
For our lives.

By Nancy Mc Clure

In Recognition...

Blaine House Tea 1996

Florence Jordan

One of Spruce Run's first shelter residents. For many years, Florence has shared her story of abuse and survival, reaching out to battered women and those trying to learn how to respond to abuse appropriately. She has testified before two field Senate hearings and has spoken to nursing classes and at public forums. Her courage and grace are extraordinary, and we honor her.

Mark Woodward

Editorial page editor of the Bangor Daily News, Mark responded to an editorial board meeting with representatives of the Bangor Area Task Force on Domestic Abuse by offering three days of editorial and Op-Ed pages dedicated to the discussion of domestic violence. This was only the second time in the paper's history to have provided this kind of focus on a single issue. There was heightened community awareness of abuse and the challenges faced by battered women in our legal, social, health care, and faith communities. We honor him for this important contribution.

Kathy Maietta & Damian McCabe

For years, Kathy has been trying to establish a batterer intervention program in Bangor. Damian & Kathy teamed up, working out of Acadia Hospital, the Penobscot County Sheriff's office, and with Sue Bradford of Spruce Run staff, and forged a strong program, placing the safety of battered women first. Kathy worked earnestly on the development of Maine's batterer intervention program standards. We honor them for actively seeking to create a quality batterer program while working closely with Spruce Run.

Alice Clifford

Alice is an Assistant District Attorney for Penobscot & Piscataquis Counties. She serves on the Maine Commission on Domestic Abuse and chairs the Spruce Run Steering Committee. She served in leadership roles of statewide groups which developed model prosecution policies for Maine and participated in the Violence Against Women Act planning group. She is part of the team which has trained police departments throughout the two county area in conjunction with Spruce Run and the Bangor Police Department and has been instrumental in the creation of the Greater Bangor Area Task Force on Domestic Abuse. She works diligently to improve the prosecution of batterers and the response to battered women by all components of the criminal justice system. We honor her for her many dedicated hours of consistent and effective work.

Ann Schonberger

Ann has been part of Spruce Run for about twenty years. She has been the chair or treasurer of the Steering Committee, always a member of the Finance Committee, and has led the organization through two successful Capital Fund Campaigns. In her capacity as Women in the Curriculum Director at the University of Maine, she was instrumental in the development of the oral history project documenting Spruce Run's history and the readers theater production, "The Somebody Else Was Us". Ann cares about staff and all members of the organization. When things are particularly hard, she bakes us brownies, sends a card, or makes a call of encouragement. We honor her for her gifts of time, emotion, math skills, humor, and ongoing dedication.

Grace Hughes

When Grace escaped an abusive husband after more than forty years of marriage and life threatening abuse, she moved to Bangor and joined the Spruce Run support group. For several years, she consistently attended group to give her support through a prolonged,

complex divorce. She has grown tremendously as a person and has reached out to help many others. She testified before two Senate hearings on abuse and has offered her story as part of many training sessions for service providers in the Bangor area. We honor her for her courage, strength, compassion, and generosity.

Linda Bishop

Linda owns Penobscot Cleaning Services. Many years ago, Spruce Run hired her to clean the shelter. Linda was so moved by the women she met there, that she has donated a day of cleaning each month since then. She squeezes her Spruce Run day in each month, no matter how busy she is. She takes a personal interest in seeing the shelter is a sanitary, bright, and welcoming place for the residents. We honor her for her generosity, caring, and enormous energy.

Renovations Update

The success of Capital Fund Campaign 1995 is transforming the Spruce Run Resource Center in Bangor to reflect its purpose as an oasis of hope and freedom from domestic violence. In addition to a major interior improvement, renovations to the exterior of the building should be complete by the end of the year.

Due to the generosity of Webber Energy Fuels and cash contributions, a much needed new hot water boiler is keeping us comfortable and energy efficient. Thank you to Parker K. Bailey & Sons for removing the old boiler and delivering the new one.

The garage has been separated from the main building to allow for frost movement. Extensive brick work has been done to both chimneys and one has been completely relined.

Significant rot repair was necessary for installation of new windows and doors, exterior insulation, and vinyl siding. The new roof is quite attractive, and we are no longer in need of those rainy day drip pans! A new handicapped-accessible entrance has been constructed. Under the direction of Aaron Smart, wonderful, talented UM Civil Engineering students designed and are building the ramp and stair access.

Thank you again to the wonderful women who chaired Campaign 1995, Katherine Cutler, Susan Kominsky and Ann Schonberger and to all of SR's generous supporters. Thank you to our friends and neighbors at the Essex Street Baptist Church for lending us their facility while we are under construction.

Please stop by and see our new look! Interior improvements are in the planning stage. We'll keep you updated.

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING DREAM

Spruce Run received preliminary approval from the Department of Housing and Urban Development for a proposal to create three units of transitional housing for victims of domestic violence.

Establishing transitional housing units has been a long-held dream at Spruce Run. A thirty day shelter stay is simply not enough time to put together all the pieces of a new life. Transitional housing provides a secure and supportive environment in which women can work to resolve legal issues, find new resources for financial

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and emotional support, complete job training or further education, secure services for family members who have experienced trauma, address mental health or substance abuse issues, and find permanent housing.

The units will be self-contained apartments; families will have their privacy and independence but can maintain close ties to other residents, allowing for mutual support. Spruce Run workers will help each family set their goals and will provide regular assistance and encouragement along the way.

The technical application which will secure funding is currently being prepared. The grant was submitted through the City of Bangor, and the project is also being funded by the Maine State Housing Authority and the Maine Department of Human Services.

Staff Changes--

Jessica Smith is our new Children's Services Coordinator. An active volunteer in the children's program and as a hotline volunteer, Jess is already an energetic part of Spruce Run. Tracy Goodridge will begin in January as our Community Education Coordinator. She brings a wide range of experience in community work, including a term in the Maine House of Representatives. We look forward to having her fresh input to our ongoing public awareness and outreach efforts.

Peggy Badran will be leaving the staff at the end of December. Peggy began as a hotline volunteer and has been part of the permanent staff for 12 years, most of which were as the

Volunteer Coordinator. She later extended her superb organizational skills to helping make the smooth transition from Spruce Run to The Next Step serving battered women in Hancock County. She was instrumental in coordinating our move into the Resource Center in 1993. Spruce Run has been enriched by Peggy's quiet humor, sensitivity, attention to detail, and exceptional hotline and support group facilitation. She has trained many hotline and children's program volunteers through the years and signed hundreds of birthday cards for Spruce Runners with her trademark balloons. Her skills will be a great asset in her new role as Volunteer Coordinator of Hospice of Eastern Maine. We wish her well!

A Sunday in the Park Community United Against Domestic Violence

On October 6, the annual Speakout for battered women was held in the context of an afternoon of activities in the park, a collaborative project of the Greater Bangor Area Task Force Against Domestic Abuse and Spruce Run. Community members came to hear the speakers, including eight formerly battered women and eight community leaders, to mourn those who have died because of domestic violence, and to celebrate the survivors. The Clothesline Project, including T-shirts designed by survivors, graphically expressing aspects of abuse as well as the road to freedom, was particularly dramatic, strung up among the trees in the park, whipped by the wind off the Penobscot. Many traced their hand prints on the Hands are Not for Hurting banners and included personal pledges of support. Colorful

balloons, refreshments, and a family of clowns provided a warm atmosphere, affirming the tremendous hope and courage of those who have escaped abuse and gone on with their lives.

Statistics FY96

Total number served (Hotline, group, shelter)	997
Women	847
Men	21
Children	129

Hotline--total served	793
Hotline hours provided	1,915
Avg. Hotline calls/month	274

Group--total served	252
Hours provided	1,825

Shelter--total served	116
Number of bed nights	2,407

Community Education/ Response hours	1,565
(includes only time spent actually speaking, teaching, meeting, and consulting--not preparation or planning time)	

Volunteer hours	1,304
(includes only time spent actually interacting with hotline callers, shelter residents, or support group participants)	

New Groups

Three new kinds of 10 to 12 week education groups for women were offered in 1996. In the spring, a group was provided for young moms at St. Andre's Group Home. A group was conducted during the summer for

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women who have substance abuse issues and who have experienced domestic abuse. This fall, we were able to provide a group in Lincoln, reaching women in the northern part of Penobscot County. The development of new and expanded group services has been made possible by funds from the United Way of Eastern Maine.

The Shelter Wish List January 1997

Women & Children-- socks, underwear, pajama's and nightgowns
White bath size towels, wash cloths
Over-the-counter pain killers, cough and cold medications for adults and children
Shampoo and conditioner

Shelter Wish List continued...

Twin-size pillows, crib sheets
Paper towels, toilet paper
Liquid laundry detergent, bleach
Bubble bath, hand-lotion
Dental floss, lip balm
First Aid supplies
Baby Monitors, baby bottles
Pole lamps
Hair Dryers
Large sturdy combs, large hair picks
Alarm clocks, radios
Sanitary napkins (not Tampax)
Rubber gloves

For the Children's Program--
crayons, play dough, unscented shaving cream, floor puzzles, doll clothes, hand puppets, child scissors, classical music tapes, craft items such as beads, glue, ribbon or yarn.

More Expensive Items -- these items or \$ for these items are very much needed:
Two couches in excellent condition
Small table and chairs set
Sturdy wood dressers
" " end tables
" " bedside tables

Spruce Run Services

HOTLINE: We are available 24 hours/day, 365 days/year to offer support, feedback, advocacy, and information about options, with the firm belief in a woman's right to make her own decisions and act on her own behalf.

SUPPORT/EDUCATION

GROUPS: Women meet weekly to help each other by sharing experiences and offering encouragement and understanding to one another. Education groups provide insight into the dynamics of battering and abuse. Children's support groups or childcare are available for most groups.

SHELTER: We assist women and their children in obtaining safe shelter, which may be their own home with a Protection from Abuse order and safety plan in place, for example, or may be our emergency shelter, another shelter, or a motel.

TRAINING AND EDUCATION:

We provide training, consultation, and education sessions about domestic violence for the general public and specialized training for people working in professions where they regularly come into contact with victims of domestic abuse.

Spruce Run
PO Box 653
Bangor, ME 04402

Address correction requested

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SPRUCE RUN

Services for people affected by domestic violence

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207-945-5102 • FAX 207-990-4252 • Hotline 1-800-863-9909



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