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## Spruce Run News (Fall 1984)

Spruce Run Staff

*Spruce Run*

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# Spruce Run Association

P. O. BOX 653 - BANGOR, MAINE 04401

INCORPORATED AND SERVING  
THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1973

SERVICES FOR  
ABUSED WOMEN  
207/947-0496

VOLUME 11, NO. 2

FALL, 1984



A PENOBSCOT VALLEY  
UNITED WAY AGENCY

## SHELTER WISH LIST

Dear Friends,

Thank you for the tremendous response to the last Wish List. We received toys, coffee, food for the shelter, and the vaporizer we asked for! Here are more things that would really be useful:

- Pots and pans
- Utensils, silverware, dishes
- Unbreakable toys
- Movie projector and screen (for volunteer training and also to show films on abuse to residents)
- Furniture for third floor\*
- Coffee (ADC grind) and filters
- Canned goods
- Disposable diapers
- Laundry detergent
- Easy-to-read cookbooks
- Microwave oven.

We really appreciate your gifts!

Gratefully,

*Katharine*

Katharine

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS WEEK

October 8 - 14 is Domestic Violence Awareness Week, an annual observance to (a) celebrate women who have survived and gone on to violence-free lives; (b) mourn those who have been beaten and died; and (c) educate the community about the extent of the problem and the need for everyone to become part of the solution.

The Bangor Public Library will feature a display of books on domestic violence during this special week, and the library has ordered extra copies of some of the best books on the subject. We appreciate the cooperation of Mr. Robert Woodward of the Bangor Public Library in informing the public of this important issue.

\*Please note that we need sturdy bedroom furniture in excellent condition only.



Cartoon reprinted by permission of Feminist Connection, Madison, Wisconsin

## THE BURNING BED

Another special event during Domestic Violence Awareness Week is the airing of the movie The Burning Bed. Based on the true story of Francine Hughes and the book by Faith McNulty, The Burning Bed will air on WLBZ-TV, Channel 2, on Monday, October 8, at 9 p.m.

This is an important film depicting the devastating effects of wife battering on one American family and reflecting the hopelessness of the thousands of women who feel trapped and alone in a life-threatening environment within their own homes.

In light of the fact that nationwide the FBI estimates that wife abuse occurs approximately every 18 seconds and is reported less than 10 percent of the time, we feel Francine Hughes' story being aired on national television will encourage women in similar circumstances to seek the help they so desperately need.

The film stars Farrah Fawcett as Francine and Paul LeMat as her husband, Mickey, with Grace Zabriskie and James Callahan playing the roles of Mickey's parents, and was directed by Robert Greenwald and produced by Jon Avnet of Tisch/Avnet Productions.

Spruce Run and other members of the Coalition for Family Crisis Services have been working with Channel 2 in Bangor and Channel 6 in Portland to arrange a local call-in program during which viewers could air their questions and comments. The TV stations plan also to publicize the domestic violence hotline numbers for Maine and Atlantic Canada as a public service, and to show public service announcements on this issue frequently during the entire week. Debby Goodspeed of WLBZ-TV has produced an excellent public service announcement for Spruce Run, which is being shown on Channel 2 already.

We sincerely thank NBC and the Maine Broadcasting Corporation for this important presentation on domestic violence and its affects on American families.

## WHAT WE DO

Spruce Run Association is a non-profit organization that counsels women in crisis and shelters abused women and their children. Our shelter, which opened August 1, 1983, provides a safe residence for three or four families. Because of the large demand for shelter in our area, we are renovating another floor of our house, and we hope eventually to shelter six or seven families.

Our office is open Monday through Friday for walk-in and telephone counseling (947-0496), and our volunteer counselors can be reached 24 hours a day, including weekends, by phoning Dial Help (947-6143).

Spruce Run counseling is geared to the needs of battered women. We give information about protective orders, pro se divorce, and we make referrals to other community services. We work also with the children of our clients, who often have been profoundly affected by the violence in the home.

Through our Community Education program, we tell people about Spruce Run and encourage open discussion about domestic violence and our efforts to end violence against women.

## SUPPORT GROUP

The Spruce Run support group for abused women meets on Tuesday mornings, and child care is provided. The women who attend the group say it helps them realize they are not the only ones who have suffered abuse, and gives them strength to make their own decisions.

We do need more people who would help with child care during the support group. If you are free on Tuesday morning, and like to be with young children, please call 945-5102 and volunteer,

## SHELTER UPDATE

Except for furnishings and some minor carpentry work, the third floor of our shelter has been completed. We have three more bedrooms, a bathroom, and a wonderful playroom exactly like the one you always wanted when you were small. Many thanks to Noel Tewes, whose imagination, creativity, and caring attention to detail made it a reality.

Outside, the children's play yard with Noel's castle is almost finished. You have to see it to appreciate just how fantastic it is. Again, thanks to Noel, who donated his labor on this fine project.

We wish we could open the third floor immediately, but the experience of the past year has shown us that we would, with our present reduced staff, be unable to deal effectively with the needs of so many residents. Above all, we need a Children's Program Coordinator to help the many frightened and often hostile children to work through their confusion, and to give their mothers the time and peace to heal and to make plans.

The Shelter Committee needs you! With most of the renovations and repairs done, we are now concentrating on planning programs for the residents. We need as many ideas and fresh perspectives as possible. If you are interested in participating, please contact Katharine Storer or me right away.

- Elaine Opitz

## SPEAKERS AVAILABLE

Spruce Run does provide speakers for civic clubs, church groups, school and university classes, and other interested organizations. We are eager to share our knowledge with other people. If you'd have someone come and speak to your group, call Mary Cathcart at 945-5102.

## NEW VOLUNTEERS ARE COMING!

Relief is in sight for Spruce Run's faithful hotline volunteers! Twelve women began the 40-hour training course on September 12, and trainers Peggy B. and Mary C. expect the new volunteers to begin working on November 1. So far, the trainees have been introduced to battered women both through the film We Will Not Be Beaten and also in the shelter kitchen. They are concentrating now on learning to do crisis counseling and on becoming familiar with community resources.

We hope to start training another new volunteer group early in November, as the increase in numbers of clients who call us means a greater demand for hotline counselors. If you would like to work with women, and can make a one-year commitment to Spruce Run, please call the office (945-5102) for information and a volunteer application.

## DV FILMS SHOWN IN BANGOR

On September 13, representatives from the nine-member Maine Coalition for Family Crisis Services gathered at All Souls' Congregational Church in Bangor to preview eleven films on family violence. Several other people from other community agencies attended, as well.

While several of the films focused on battered women and their needs, others concentrated on the abusers, and still others were aimed at teaching children how to prevent sexual abuse and what to do if it should happen to them.

Spruce Run and other Coalition members hope to get funding for a statewide project of public education which would establish a library of films to be shown at public seminars. These meetings would address the needs of all the members of violent families and would offer different points of view on how to combat violence in the home.

## UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN

Spruce Run supports United Way of Penobscot Valley in their efforts to raise "a million or more in '84." To this end we were a Pacesetter Agency this year, and we are speaking throughout the community to employee groups.

United Way funds many worthy agencies important to our communities, and while we hope that they can continue to serve and grow also, the success of this year's campaign is very important to Spruce Run. We have already been approved to receive \$24,479...if the funds are there. But 1984's campaign goals must be exceeded before our request for an additional \$15,382 can be considered. This money is necessary to fund the position of Shelter Coordinator (Katharine Storer's job) between January 1 and June 30, 1985, and to hire a permanent part-time Children's Programming Coordinator. THE SHELTER PROGRAM CANNOT CONTINUE WITHOUT THESE POSITIONS.

Let's all strive for a very successful United Way campaign.

- Sandy Turallo

## STATISTICS UPDATE

Spruce Run provided services to 315 new families in the first eight months of 1984. While this averages 40 new families a month, August alone brought us 47 new families! During the same period, we sheltered 51 families with 68 children for a total of 1703 bed/days. Our average during June, July, and August was 311 bed/days per month. THIS AVERAGE IS 71 BED/DAYS A MONTH ABOVE OUR EXPECTATIONS. AT THE SAME TIME, 11 FAMILIES WERE REFERRED ELSEWHERE BECAUSE OUR SHELTER WAS FULL.

We provided 691 hours of counseling to non-residents and 245.5 hours of community education through August. We also answered 446 information calls and extended 158 hours of advocacy through July, 1984.

These statistics certainly help explain why we all feel so frazzled sometimes. They also support our conviction that we must hire a Children's Programming Coordinator before opening the third floor (and doubling our capacity). Programs and support must be in place before we are sheltering from 15 to 20 children at one time.

- Sandy Turallo

## FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

After an active year as chief fundraiser, Sandy Gardner has resigned from the job, and we are looking for new members for that committee. Do you have ideas about creative ways to raise money, or would you be willing to help organize a fundraiser now and then? If so, please call the office (945-5102) and volunteer for the fundraising committee.

You need not be a member of the Steering Committee or a volunteer counselor to work on this committee.

## SHOPPING SPREE

Congratulations to Marguerite Rosen, winner of the 3-Minute Shopping Spree at Doug's Shop & Save. A regular customer at Doug's Third-and-Union store, Marguerite hauled in great quantities of food and household goods, and then gave it all to the Spruce Run shelter. Well done, Marguerite!

Thanks to Sandy Gardner and all of you who helped sell tickets for this big fundraiser. We sold more than 1600 tickets, making this the most profitable Shopping Spree we've had yet.

## CONNIE RESIGNS

Connie Huntley, our Counseling Coordinator, has left us, and we all miss her calm, soothing voice on the hotline and her organization skills in the office.

Connie came to Spruce Run in the summer of 1980, as Children's Coordinator. While her job description shifted more toward counseling adults during her four years here, she never lost her special concern for the kids, and working with and advocating for children was always important to her.

Connie was also a great organizer, who worked with efficiency and common sense, and she kept up with statistics for us (and the state) and also handled the billing for the Capital Funds Campaign. Since she left, the other staff members have realized just how many such tasks she quietly did, and we are still struggling to learn these things for ourselves.

Finally, Connie's was a cheerful and familiar face at yard sales, health fairs, and school classrooms, and she did much valuable fundraising and community education for Spruce Run.

Thank you, Connie, for four years' contribution to Spruce Run.

## FAMILY VIOLENCE CONFERENCE

The Maine Council on Family Relations and the School of Human Development at UMO are sponsoring a conference on "Violence in the Family," to be held at the Augusta Civic Center on Tuesday, October 30, from 9 to 4.

Dr. David Finkelhor of the University of New Hampshire, a noted author and expert on family violence research and policy, will provide the keynote address. The conference will also include a variety of panel discussions and small group workshops on topics such as current research on family violence, design of successful intervention programs, and implications of public policy for the prevention of family violence.

The Maine Coalition for Family Crisis Services will present a workshop on "Empowering Women: The Shelter Movement's Approach to Stopping Violence." Mary Cathcart of Spruce Run will participate in planning and presenting the workshop.

For more information about the conference and registration, contact:

Dr. Robert M. Milardo  
Secretary/Treasurer, MCFR  
32 Merrill Hall  
University of Maine  
Orono 04469

## ANNUAL MEETING

Spruce Run's Annual Meeting was held on September 19 at All Souls' Congregational Church in Bangor. Approximately thirty-five members and friends attended the gathering, where reports were given from various committees in the organization, and five new Steering Committee members were elected.

Spruce Run has a number of committees on which interested members of the community may serve: public education, steering, fundraising, shelter, finance, personnel, volunteer, as well as ad hoc committees such as membership and annual meeting. For information about joining these committees, phone the office (945-5102).

Other business of the annual meeting included acknowledgment of the years of service of three employees who have left in the past year, Nancy Gentile, Marian Allen, and Connie Huntley; & Deb Leavitt, for this summer.

Welcome to our new Steering Committee members: Mary D'Alessandro, Peggy Sumter, Kathleen Morgan, Mary Hancy, Laura Levenson.

Finally, the crowd enjoyed refreshments and conversation and congratulated themselves on another year of good work at Spruce Run.

Thank you, Martha Nadeau of the Steering Committee, for sending notices and planning the agenda, and to the staff members who helped her, Katharine, Sandy, Mary, and Sue. And thanks also to Ann Schonberger, longtime member and past chair of the Steering Committee, for chairing the meeting.

(This newsletter is edited by Mary Cathcart and is written by her except where otherwise noted.)

## HEAR ME! PUBLISHED IN DOVER

Two women who work with Womancare/Aegis Association in Dover-Foxcroft have compiled a book of writings--poems, stories, letters--by abused women from Piscataquis County. Entitled Hear Me! Voices of Abused Women in Piscataquis County, Maine, the booklet hopes to reach both abused women and the general public with its message. It can be ordered from Womancare/Aegis Association, P.O. Box 192, Dover-Foxcroft, Maine 04426 (telephone 564-2016). The cost is just \$1.00.

## VOLUNTEER APPLE-PICKING

Katharine Storer has invited the Spruce Run volunteer counselors to her house in the country for apple-picking and cider-making. The party will welcome new volunteers, as well as providing a "fun" event for the volunteers who work so hard for us. Question from Katharine: Does anyone know where we can find a cider press? Call her at 945-5102 if you have an answer for her.

## HOTLINES IN MAINE

For your information, we are listing here the numbers of the domestic violence hotlines in Maine, all members of the Maine Coalition for Family Crisis Services.

Augusta . . . . .	623-3569
Auburn . . . . .	783-2042
Bangor . . . . .	947-0496
	(1-800-432-7810)
Dover-Foxcroft. . .	564-2016(1-800-432-7810)
Machias . . . . .	255-4785
	(1-800-432-7303)
Portland . . . . .	774-HELP
Presque Isle . . .	769-8251
Rockland . . . . .	594-2128
Sanford . . . . .	282-2182

## STAFF NEWS

Summer was busy and hectic for the staff at Spruce Run, with a full shelter always and somebody always on vacation. Katharine became a happy homeowner in July, and took a week off from house-painting in September to attend the New England Women's Music Festival in New York State. Sue and Sandy also vacationed in New York State, both attending weddings at different times and in different places. Mary C. spent time in London and returned wearing "boiler suits" and skirts whose hems need pulling down.

Two others have gone now, and we miss them: Deb L., in her second summer as a work-study student at Spruce Run, concentrated on children in the shelter, assessing their needs while playing with them. She also supervised the children's support group and child care on Tuesday mornings. Connie H. resigned after four years at Spruce Run, and her valuable service to the agency is described elsewhere in this newsletter.

Connie's departure leaves in us need of a new Counseling Coordinator, and a hiring committee is being formed now.

## JUNE YARD SALE

Spruce Run held another successful Yard Sale in June, thanks to the organizing by Sandy Gardner of the Steering Committee and hard work by many others. The Yard Sale was a fun weekend for workers and customers alike, since many Spruce Runners--members, friends, former shelter residents--stopped by to say Hi and hunt for bargains.

Thanks to all of you who helped bring in a grand total of nearly \$1000: Sandy G., Laura P., Tedd M., Dottie M., Carol L., Karla McD., Loretta L., Kathleen M., Valerie M., Terri L., Mary McP., Sue McL., SDN, Ann P., Pam O., Elaine O., Marty S., Ann S., Howard S., Mark S., Jim G., Katharine S., Deb L. (Apologies to anybody I left out!)

## MYTHS AND FACTS ABOUT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The truth about battered women in America has been clouded by persistent myths, such as:

- They aren't really hurt that badly.
- Beatings and other abuse just happen; they aren't a regular occurrence.
- Men are abused by their wives, too.
- If all of the above were not true, they why do so few women press charges...and why do so few leave?

The facts dispute these myths.

- At least 1.8 million American women are beaten in their own homes every year....This estimate may under-represent the extent of the problem because many incidents are never reported.
- It is estimated that violence vs. wives will occur at least once in two-thirds of all marriages.
- Men commit 95% of all assaults on spouses.
- A 1982 survey in Texas revealed that 25% of abused women were victimized at least once a week.
- Twenty percent of visits by women to emergency medical services are caused by battering.
- Twenty-five percent of suicide attempts by women are the result of battering.
- Statistics for 1982 indicate that one of every four female murder victims is killed by her husband or boyfriend.

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