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Spruce Run News (Winter 1984-1985)

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Spruce Run

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INCORPORATED AND SERVING THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1973

Spruce Run Association

P. O. BOX 653 - BANGOR, MAINE 04401

Volume 11, No. 3
Winter, 1984/85

SERVICES FOR
ABUSED WOMEN
207/947-0496



Dear Friends of Spruce Run,

This year has been a good one for us. Our Shelter has been open for over a year, and we've seen about 200 women and children come through its doors. The uncertainties, fears, and "I-can't-believe-we're-really-going-to-have-a-shelter" shakes have settled into relatively smooth operation.

Now we're about ready to open our third floor. We've been holding off until we had some assurance of being able to hire a children's services worker. With United Way contributions topping all records, we just might get our Christmas wish.

A major venture this year has been our outreach project in Hancock County, thanks to seed money from an anonymous donor. Katharine Storer will be spending half time during the next six months getting that program off the ground. We're all really excited about being able to expand our work in Hancock County, something we've wanted to do for years.

We've had all sorts of fundraisers this year, and, thanks to Sandy Gardner's enthusiasm and your support, we've added hundreds of dollars to our coffers.

However you contributed to Spruce Run in the past year--by buying a shopping spree ticket, donating clothes or food to the shelter or a "family heirloom" to the yard sale, offering your time to help with a fundraiser, giving to our Capital Funds Campaign, supporting us through your membership--we appreciate your being part of our family. Without you, Spruce Run could not make it. Yes, we get funding from the State and United Way, but it's our friends in this area that make Spruce Run a reality. One of the greatest feelings I have is when I'm out representing Spruce Run, at the Mall selling raffle tickets, for instance, and someone exclaims, "Spruce Run! I want to support you. You've supported me. Thanks."

Our thanks to all of you, and good wishes for a grand New Year.

Sincerely,

Eloise Stiglitz

Eloise Stiglitz

Chair of the Steering Committee

Funded in part by the Department of Human Services, the United Way of Penobscot Valley, memberships, and private donations.

Attorney General's Task
Force Reports on Family Violence

On September 19, 1984, the Attorney General's Task Force on Family Violence issued its report on findings from six hearings conducted across the United States. The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence was involved in the hearings, helping to find victims and others to testify before the Task Force and making recommendations regarding the importance of shelters.

The Task Force recognized the need to treat family violence as violence, stating that "a victim of family violence is no less a victim than one set upon by strangers."

The Task Force report recommends:

- Coordinating the response of police, prosecutors, judges:
- providing more counseling and shelter to assist the victims
- giving victims priority on waiting lists for public housing and Section 8 Certificates (a rental subsidy program for needy families)
- increasing public awareness through a nationwide media campaign
- improving training for criminal justice officials, and compiling and reporting more useful data on domestic violence
- studying further the violence in the media and exploring the relationship between pornography and violence
- giving top priority to federal funding for shelters, police training, and media campaigns, while urging the states to seek creative funding sources for projects .

We are heartened by the response of the Task Force to this problem, and also by the new federal legislation which will begin to address the need for more funding.

Spruce Run 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 have renovated another floor of our house, and we hope to open another three bedrooms as soon as we have a children's services worker. 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 (1-800-432-7810).

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 encourage women to learn to advocate for themselves, and we also provide advocacy with courts and other agencies when necessary. We also work with the children of our clients, who have often been profoundly affected by the violence in their homes.

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.

Shelter Receives Grant

Spruce Run recently received a grant for \$7,760 from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to provide emergency food and other necessities to residents for an eight-month period. These funds will help to fill the needs that have been expressed by many former residents; for instance, if a woman is admitted to the shelter on the weekend, and has no food or money, Spruce Run will be able to provide food for her and her children until other funds can be found.

- Sandy Turallo

Awareness Day Planned for Ellsworth

On February 1, several Spruce Run people will participate in a one-day conference on "Breaking the Cycle: Help for Battered Women," at the Hill-top Restaurant conference room in Ellsworth.

The day will begin with an overview by Mary Cathcart of Spruce Run, followed by a panel of experts: people who have actually experienced violence in their homes. F.L.I.T.E. will offer a scenario, with the entire audience involved in discussion. After lunch, which is included in the registration fee, participants will hear a legal panel, including an assistant district attorney, a victim/witness advocate, and a police officer. Then another panel of service providers will describe their roles in helping abused women break the cycle of violence: Katharine Storer of Spruce Run; Katherine Lord of Blue Hill, a therapist who works with people in abusive relationships; a town welfare official; a minister; and a nurse.

The general public is invited to the program, and the planners expect that participants will return home with a plan of action for their own communities.

The day is sponsored by the Hancock County Mental Health Association, Ellsworth office of Community Health and Counseling Service, Ellsworth Extension Service, and Spruce Run.

If you'd like to be sure of receiving a brochure about the conference, please call 945-5102 and we'll put you on the mailing list.

Volunteers Needed

The next round of volunteer training will begin late in January. Peggy B. and Connie H. will lead a 40-hour course in crisis intervention counseling, focused especially on the needs of battered women.

We're always willing to accept late applications, so if you can make a 1-year commitment, phone 945-5102 now!

Congress Passes DV Bill

On October 9, 1984, the President signed a congressional bill which should provide nearly \$50 million for the states over the next three years. The money will be used for preventing and mitigating the effects of domestic violence, according to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence. However, so far no money has actually been appropriated for the bill.

This bill represents the "first action by Congress ever to authorize funding for shelters for battered women and their children," said Donna Medley, Director of the NCADV.

The Family Violence Legislation, an amendment to the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, concurs with the findings of the Attorney General's Task Force, which recommended funding of shelters as one of its top three priorities for ending domestic violence (see page 2 of newsletter).

Last year, over 122,000 women and children were served by more than 700 shelters and safe homes in the nation. However, more than half of the requests for shelter had to be denied because of lack of space. The federal funding should help existing shelters and encourage establishment of new programs. The bill will also provide funds for police training, a national clearinghouse on domestic violence, and more research on elderly abuse.

It is significant that President Reagan signed the bill during National Domestic Violence Awareness Week, during which time NBC-TV aired The Burning Bed and other observances were held throughout the nation to commemorate the women who have died from domestic violence and to celebrate the efforts of women's groups such as Spruce Run toward ending violence in the family.

Spruce Run wishes to thank our representatives in the nation's Congress who supported this bill.

Staff News

Two new Spruce Runners have been hired as staff members: Peggy Badran, as Counseling Coordinator; and Kathleen Morgan, who recently completed our volunteer training, as half-time Counselor until July 1.

Peggy, who still lives in the woods in Frankfort and plays the violin, is no stranger to Spruce Run, for she has been a faithful volunteer counselor here for two years (with an extended vacation in her native California). In addition to her hotline and office counseling, Peggy has led two sessions of volunteer training, and she will work with Connie H. on the next training course.

Besides counseling, Peggy's new job includes making up volunteer hotline schedules; planning supervision of volunteers; and working with shelter children until we are able to hire a children's worker. When I interviewed her for the newsletter, Peggy said she loves working here and that the most difficult part of the job so far is filling out her Tally Sheet, which shows exactly how she spends her time here.

Kathleen Morgan, who feels like a Maine native though she was born in California and reared in Nevada, says she feels at home in her new work environment. Like Peggy, she loves music, but plays only wind-up toys.

In addition to counseling on the phone and in the shelter, Kathleen will assume many of the duties of the Shelter Coordinator during the days when Katharine is working on the Hancock County outreach project. Kathleen says she feels "honored to be working with both the clients and the staff at Spruce Run. This is a growing place for me, and that's very important."

After just eighteen days of stability as a fully staffed agency again, the staff learned that Sandy Turallo will be leaving January 31, to become Director of Downeast Big Sister/Big Brother. While everyone is happy for Sandy and wishes her well there, we shall miss her jokes and her organizational skills, and we regret to announce that Spruce Run will soon be seeking applications for a new Administrative Coordinator.

Coalition to Seek More Funding

Spruce Run, together with the other eight members of the Maine Coalition for Family Crisis Services, plans to approach the Legislature this session with two bills to fund a more complete and comprehensive program of services to victims of domestic violence. Locally, one of these bills would provide a program of children's services and would enable us to deliver services on location in Hancock County and northern Penobscot County. This would effectively increase the amount of direct service provided to both women and children.

The other proposal would support Community Intervention Programs. Based on the highly successful Minnesota model, these programs encourage a systems change whereby communities deal with the criminal behavior of abusers. It has been found that arresting the abuser does deter future attacks.

Much work will have to be done for these bills to pass in financially tight times. We urge your support. If you are interested in working with our Legislative Committee, call the Spruce Run office at 945-5102.

-Sandy Turallo

"Fashionable" Violence

"'Let's fight till six and then have dinner,' said Tweedledum"--and Christian Dior, in an alarming advertisement that blithely forays beyond the tasteless. A full color, two-page ad for Dior's clothing line in the May 27 New York Times Magazine shows a slightly perplexed man wearing a double-breasted pin-striped suit--and a black eye. The facing page shows a woman pulling a twisted sweater tightly around her neck, with a smile bright enough to match her clothing--and her bruised forehead. The little quotation from Lewis Carroll's Through the Looking Glass sits, out of context, in the corner of the ad; its presence is yet another subtle form of bringing children and their world into the adult male playground of violence.

Turn the page and you see another two-page spread of a man and woman curled up head-to-toe, sexual suggestions tangled in with brightly colored Dior sheets.

Sex has been used for years as a big seller. But now we have "violence as foreplay" introduced into a mass media publication. Fighting is fun; abuse is an exciting forerunner to socializing and sex, the ad is telling us. The matter-of-factness of the scene is frightening in what it says about our desensitization to violence, and about the media's role in this desensitization.

This connection was strongly made by Chicago Tribune editorial writer Stephen Chapman:

"Why is a little teasing about wife battering more objectionable than using conventional sexual images to stimulate conventional sexual appetites? Because it trivializes conduct that lacerates the bodies and psyches of unwilling victims, and obliquely excuses those who inflict the wounds.

What violent husband (or wife) could fail to feel satisfaction at Christian Dior's subliminal endorsement? The ad makes this kind of abuse something to be not merely tolerated, but positively celebrated. Instead of being seen as deeply shameful, which it is, sexual violence has become chic."

The fact that the man in the ad is also hurt and looking confused while the woman wears a big smile is an insidious perversion of the goals of the women's movement. The Dior ad debases women's claim to equality (I could say "in typically male fashion") by showing it as an equal capacity to abuse.

The fact that this scene appears as an advertisement for one of the world's highly respected clothiers in a magazine geared to a cultured, trendy crowd is particularly alarming. We have come to expect such messages from the likes of Hustler and Playboy. But just when the struggle to control pornography is intensifying, it is tragic to think we must also work to keep domestic and sexual violence off the pages of our Sunday magazines.

Reprinted from For Better Times,
Summer, 1984



Nadine Carpenter Dies

We have heard of the death of Nadine Carpenter, who had been in a coma since July of 1983, when she was brutally attacked by a stranger while walking home one night. Nadine never completely regained consciousness after the attack. She finally died on December 8. Spruce Run mourns her death.

We deplore the kind of gratuitous violence that struck Nadine.

Gamma Sigma Sigma Holds
Benefit Dance-a-thon

Gamma Sigma Sigma, National Service Sorority at the University of Maine at Orono, recently presented a check for \$767.24 to Spruce Run. The sorority held a benefit dance-a-thon for Spruce Run last Spring in Lengyel Gym on the UMO campus. Naomi Jacobs of the Public Education Committee at Spruce Run attended the sorority's November meeting and accepted the check.

Thank you, Gamma Sigma Sigma, for an excellent fundraiser!

Outreach Project Begins in
Hancock County

Our anonymous benefactor has again encouraged us to expand our services by giving us a major donation: first a shelter, now outreach in Hancock County. We're on the move again!

The staff has worked long and hard, brainstorming and meeting with interested women from Hancock County to develop a plan. Ann Schonberger pulled it all together in a proposal to our donor, who responded immediately with a check. We have received enough funding so far to hire Kathleen parttime so that Katharine can spend 20 hours a week on the Hancock County project. We're all very excited and very nervous.

Although Katharine has officially started working in Hancock County, she is so far limited to a booth in Yogi's Diner for office space. Donated space would be a great help in implementing her agenda.

The plan for expanding our work in Hancock County includes the following:

- 1) training for Hancock County volunteers
- 2) involvement in February 1 awareness day in Ellsworth
- 3) visits to existing services in Hancock County to find what is offered already
- 4) public education and fundraising.

- Martha Nadeau

Santa Visits Spruce Run

Instead of printing a Wish List for the Shelter, we want to use this space to say Thank You to all those wonderful people and organizations who've sent special donations to make this a happy Christmas for the women and children in the Shelter.:

- National Honor Society, Bangor High
- Nancy Dudley
- Holden Congregational Church
- Channel 7 and Y-101
- Zonta of Bangor
- Bette Clark
- Off-Campus Board, UMO
- Women of St. James' Episcopal Church, Old Town
- Mrs. U. LeBoutillier
- Insurance Women of Eastern Maine
- Neeburban Club of Old Town
- Terri Bryant
- Marlene Geiser
- Valerie Martier
- Anonymous
- Robert A. Dubay

United Way Makes "A
Million and More
in '84"

Spruce Run shares the excitement resulting from United Way's successful campaign. It was announced recently that contributions and pledges topped the \$1 million mark for the first time in the Penobscot Valley. As a result, we are hopeful about the status of our supplemental request for hire a Children's Services Coordinator and to continue the Shelter Coordinator's position.

We would like to express our appreciation to all those who designated their United Way pledges to Spruce Run. It is important to us that individuals in our community support our work.

-Sandy Turallo

OUR T-SHIRTS ARE HERE!



Spruce Run T-shirts are now available in our office. Created by Susan Dunn Nichols, further developed by Rosie Park-Sagall, drawn by calligrapher Nancy Yarborough, and silkscreened by Judith Cooper, the 1984 T-shirt design has been applauded by all who have seen it so far.

If you can't come in to buy yours, you may send your check with this order form and we'll mail it to you.

Please send me ___ T-shirt(s) at \$7.50 each, plus \$1.00 postage/handling.

Color: light blue ___
royal blue ___
kelly green ___
purple ___
red ___
fuchsia ___

(Please give several color choices if you want yours quickly; otherwise you may have to wait for the next order to come in.)

Size: Adult Small (34-36) ___
" Medium (38-40) ___
" Large (42-44) ___
" Ex-Large (46-48) ___
Child's Small (6-8) ___
Other kids' sizes may be available; ask us for what you need.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Spruce Run Association
P.O. Box 653
Bangor, Maine 04401

