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## New Hope for Women Newsletter (Fall 2007)

New Hope for Women Staff

*New Hope for Women*

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October 2007



**NEW HOPE**  
*for* **WOMEN**

# Fall Newsletter

October 2007



## Meet the Board of Directors

**Left to right:** Joanne McNally, Allison Pringle Bennett, Sally Carleton, Annette Zelman, Bettie Fiske, Brenda Batty

Not pictured: Jean Lenderking, JaneA Kelley

## Development Director hired

New Hope for Women steps up fund-raising efforts with the hiring of a new Development Director

**N**ew Hope has a new Development Director, Kim McClain.

Kim has a sales and marketing background in both non-profit and for-profit businesses. In her previous work life she has trained sales executives for Fortune 100 companies and worked in development at Save the Children headquarters in Westport, Connecticut, managing its retail operation.

After moving to Maine in 2000 with her husband, Kim worked with at-risk students as a Job Specialist in the Jobs for Maine's Graduates program at Lincoln Academy. That experience brought her closely in touch with the reality and scope of domestic violence in our communities.

Widowed in 2002, Kim established her own business, The Original Gingerbread Lobster

Company, a home-based, state-licensed mail order bakery that has enjoyed a steady growth over the past five years.

For the past four years, she has volunteered at Maine Public Broadcasting's Great TV Auction, both as a business contributor and auctioneer.

Through consulting work in marketing and publicity for small businesses, particularly woman-owned businesses, Kim has developed a passion for empowering women in all areas of their lives.

She is excited and honored by the opportunity to work in the communities of Waldo, Knox, and Lincoln counties, spreading the word about New Hope's services and growing the donor base on all levels for New Hope for Women.



*Kim McClain  
Development Director*



*Thomaston Place Auction Galleries presents a check to Kim McClain, second from left, Development Director at New Hope for Women.*

## Thomaston Place “Bid for the Future” auction shares with New Hope and others

The Thomaston Place Auction Galleries put on a spirited and colorful auction in late July to support New Hope for Women and three other area agencies making a difference in the lives of young people. Over 900

decorative art and antique items were auctioned by Kaja Veilleux and John Bottero during the two-day event. They were ably assisted by their staff and volunteers from the agencies. The auction was well-attended and wonderful items

went home with happy, successful bidders. New Hope for Women is grateful to everyone at Thomaston Place Auction Galleries for their generosity.

## Strand Theatre hosts successful pie auction to benefit New Hope

The Strand Theatre in Rockland put on a delightful evening in June as they opened a run of the movie “Waitress.” The movie has as one of its themes an abusive relationship in which the victim concocts and bakes imaginative pies to take her mind off her plight.

In order to underline awareness of the domestic violence theme and raise money for New Hope, the management and staff of the theatre secured donations of fabulous pies from businesses and individuals in the community, and held a silent auction before each of the two showings. The evening was a hit, and everyone seemed to have a great time. The sale of the pies brought in a hefty slice of dough...\$1,000! Well done and many thanks to the Strand for this terrific event. Yummmmm!



## A mile in her shoes



During the second week of August, Jennifer Gunderman-King of Montville was gearing up for a daunting mission. On August 14th, she left her home in Waldo County on the first leg of a 5-day, 130 mile walk to Portsmouth, New Hampshire to raise awareness of domestic violence and raise funds for New Hope for Women.

Jennifer, a wife, mother, organic farmer, and epidemiologist, was inspired to walk by the title of a talk, "Walking the Path of Love in Muddy Shoes" to be given by Thich Nhat Hanh, a Vietnamese Buddhist teacher and peace activist, as part of a weekend event in Boston that Jennifer and her husband had planned to attend. Instead of opting for a quick drive, Jennifer decided to turn her journey to Boston into a witness for peace, "The Muddy Shoes Walk." She hoped to inspire those living in violence to seek safety, and challenged businesses and individuals in New Hope's service area of Waldo, Knox, and Lincoln counties to support our missions of advocacy and outreach.

After planned stops in Bremen, Topsham, Portland, and Southern Maine over the 5 days, Jennifer boarded a bus in Portsmouth for the remainder of the trip to Boston.

Amazing commitments like Jennifer's continually inspire our work at New Hope for Women; others equally inspired and wishing to donate funds in the name of her walk may do so by mail at: P.O. Box A, Rockland, ME 04841-0733.



## Pets frequently first victims of domestic violence

For those of us at New Hope who do direct service, it comes as no surprise that a great deal of attention is being generated locally and nationally with respect to the link between animal cruelty and human violence. Fifty-eight percent of American families own a companion animal and we know that in homes where pets are present, and where there is domestic violence, the pets are likely to be the first victims of the batterer.

The Linkage Project is a privately funded initiative organized to bring together animal welfare, human services, and law enforcement professionals in order to address this disturbing connection, and to provide leadership and education around creating community solutions.

Much hard work has been done in Maine to bring this issue to the forefront thanks to the leadership of Linkage Project Director Linda Jariz, Director of the Maine Animal Welfare Program Norma Worley, recently appointed Commissioner of Public Safety Anne Jordan, citizen advocate Susan Walsh, and members of the Maine Legislature. On March 31, 2006, Governor John Baldacci signed into Law LD 1881, "An Act to Amend the Animal Welfare Laws." This first-in-the-nation legislation allowing pets to be included in protection from abuse orders went into effect in the fall of 2006, and prompted other states to take similar action.

In the most recent legislative session in Augusta, two new acts, LD 583 and LD 584, were signed into law on May 18, 2007 allowing medical and social service professionals and animal

control officers to report animal cruelty.

All social service personnel at DHHS in Child Protective Services are including screening questions that address pets in the home, in an effort to increase safety for them and for their human family members.

We are truly fortunate that this level of work is being done on behalf of all victims of violence in Maine and delighted that funding from the Bingham Program and another matching grant have made it possible for the Linkage Project to move into our service area. The inaugural meeting of the Lincoln County chapter was held in October of 2006, and this chapter has been gathering in Wiscasset on a monthly basis since then. The goals of this group include working with other chapters across the state and with the Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence to provide standardized and safe pet foster homes, to educate the community about the Project's work, and finally to imbed the work in an existing program or agency to ensure its continuance after the funding ceases.

Community Educators from New Hope are available to train agencies, schools, or other interested community groups on "making the link." Please contact us at 594-2128 for more information.



# Men's organization addressing sexism and violence against women

A Call To Men aims to challenge men to reconsider beliefs about women

On June 8, 2007 the Maine Office of the Attorney General, The Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence and the Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault hosted a gathering of approximately eighty men together with domestic violence and sexual assault advocates. Anthony Porter, co-founder of "A Call To Men" was the keynote speaker.

A Call To Men is a leading national men's organization addressing sexism and violence against women. By strategizing with groups across the country, A Call To Men aims to shift social norms that define manhood in our culture and produce a national movement of men committed to ending violence against women.

All attending were challenged to return to our counties and gather a group of committed men and women to work at the local level, to forward the goal of ending violence against women.

It is exciting to report that the Knox-Waldo county group will have held its third meeting by the end of September. A core group elected Chief Jeff Trafton, Belfast Police Department, and Patrick Walsh, Waldo County Preschool and Family Services as

co-chairmen. It became apparent to the group that a focus on education of youth might provide the format for positive action.

Lists of groups already working with young men and women are being collated to see how our message can be incorporated, and new members are being invited to join.

Lincoln County, which is paired with Sagadahoc County in this project, has started the organizational process, and specific projects are in the planning stage.

"A Call To Men believes that ending violence against women is primarily the responsibility of men. Although historically it has been almost entirely women who have been at the forefront addressing this issue, we think it is essential that men play a primary role in the solution to end it. To do that, well-meaning men...men who, for the most part don't see themselves as part of the problem...need to get involved. A Call To Men challenges men to reconsider their long held beliefs about women, in an effort to create a more just society."

New Hope is proud to be a part of this exciting social change project.

## October is domestic violence awareness month

New Hope's library campaign will donate books to local libraries to help raise awareness

New Hope for Women will be visiting libraries delivering gifts of books, which will be displayed during October. These books explore different aspects of domestic violence, and will become a part of each library's collection. Six libraries in each county, Knox, Waldo, and Lincoln have been chosen to receive six books each.

This campaign, *Knowledge is Power: Building Healthy Relationships Through Reading*, is a joint project of The Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence and New Hope for Women.

### Book selections for 2007

*Tails Are Not for Pulling*  
by Elizabeth Verdick

*If I Am Missing or Dead*  
by Janine Latus

*No More Secrets: Violence In Lesbian Relationships*  
by Janice Ristock

*The Breakable Vow*  
by Kathryn Ann Clark

*Family and Friends' Guide to Domestic Violence*  
by Elaine Weiss





## Empty Place at the Table

In 2002, as New Hope for Women's community educators began to prepare material and presentations to highlight October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month, they also felt a need to remember those victims who were murdered by their partners in acts of domestic violence homicide. Inspired by a memorial project called An Empty Place at the Table, which originated in Pennsylvania, the advocates began to work with families who had lost loved ones to create a display that would honor victims in our own service area.

The memorial consists of a dining table surrounded by empty chairs, a powerful reminder that the tragic deaths left an empty place not only in the lives of their families, but in the community as well. The table is set with tableware donated by the families of Kimberly Sue Palmer of Camden, Candace Butler originally of Bristol, Lori Trahan Cantwell of Rockport, and Brenda Gray-Knost of Swanville. A fifth place honors the Unnamed, all those who remain unknown to us but not forgotten.

The donated items either belonged to the victims or were selected to reflect and celebrate their personalities, passions and dreams. The intent of the exhibit is to point out that those whose lives were taken in such a tragic and senseless way were more than statistics to be tallied at the end of the year. They were parents, children, neighbors, friends and valued members of the community. Their deaths have left us with many empty places at the table.

This powerful memorial has been displayed in Waldo, Knox, and Lincoln counties each year since its creation, in libraries, churches, museums and other quiet, contemplative indoor settings. New Hope for Women welcomes invitations to host the Table. If you are interested in honoring the lives of these women by sponsoring An Empty Place at the Table at your location or if you are interested in adding items to the table to honor a family member killed in an act of domestic violence, please call 594-2128 for more information.

**Empty Place at the Table  
will be on display at the  
following locations:**

Camden Public Library  
Tuesday, October 2

Belfast Free Library  
Tuesday, October 9

Damariscotta Skidompha  
Library  
Tuesday, October 30

# Remember my

## **Roland Poirier**

Age 65 | Lewiston, Maine

Shot and killed in November of 2006. His son has been charged.

## **Charles Nickerson**

Age 44 | Searsport, Maine

Stabbed to death in November of 2006. His brother was charged and later acquitted on the basis of self-defense.

## **Anthony Tucker**

Age 13 | Palmyra, Maine

Shot and killed in November of 2006. His mother's boyfriend has been charged.

## **Rhonda W. Reynolds**

Age 37 | Fairfield, Maine

Shot and killed in January of 2007. Her estranged husband has been charged.

## **Donald McKay**

Age 60 | Standish, Maine

Stabbed to death in March of 2007. His son has been charged.

## **Emmy-Leigh Cole**

Age 8 months | Auburn, Maine

Died of head trauma in March of 2007. Her mother's boyfriend has been charged.

## **Margaret Peters**

Age 70 | Auburn, Maine

Shot and killed outside her home by her son in March of 2007. He was shot and killed during a standoff with police.

## **Nicole Oliver**

Age 24 | Wells, Maine

Shot and killed in July of 2007 by her estranged husband in murder-suicide.

## **John S. Okie**

Age 59 | Newcastle, Maine

Stabbed to death in July of 2007. His son has been charged.

## **Alexandra "Aleigh" Mills**

Age 19 | Wayne, Maine

Beaten and stabbed to death in July of 2007. Her former high school boyfriend has been charged.





New Hope for Women is a non-profit organization funded by the Maine State Department of Health and Human Services, United Way of Midcoast Maine, United Way of Eastern Maine, United Mid-Coast Charities, and local donations.

**Belfast**  
111 Church St.  
338-6569

**Rockland**  
93 Park St.  
594-2128

**Damariscotta**  
17 Water St.  
563-2404

24 hour crisis hotline | 1-800-522-3304

# Domestic violence is a crime.



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Email: [newhope@newhopeforwomen.org](mailto:newhope@newhopeforwomen.org)

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