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New Hope for Women Newsletter (Fall 2008)

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New Hope for Women

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Fall 2008 Newsletter



NEW HOPE *for* **WOMEN**

New Hope for Women offers support to people in Lincoln, Knox, and Waldo counties affected by domestic and dating violence and provides resources to assist our communities in creating a safer and healthier future.

20 Years of Giving

The history of the *Information Guide for Abused Women in Maine*

New Hope for Women incorporated in 1981, and that same year Lisa Pohlmann was hired as the first Executive Director. She served for ten years, and New Hope will forever be in her debt. Her work brought us into being, provided us with a solid underpinning, and set us on our course. She has many accomplishments to her credit, and one of the most lasting is the development and publication in 1988 of the *Information Guide for Abused Women in Maine*. Lisa, along with Skeek Frazee and Merrill Cousin, co-authored this 48-page booklet.

The initial idea came from Connie Whiteley who saw a similar booklet when she attended an American Association of University Women conference in Missouri. She kept alive the idea of creating one for Maine until time could be found to compile the information and compose the pamphlet. Eventually, Connie was able to begin production with Lisa, Skeek, and Merrill. When Connie was unable to continue her work, she turned the project over to Katrinka Wilder, another local member of AAUW. With AAUW underwriting development, Katrinka saw the project through to completion. The copyright later passed to the Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence, and twenty years later, this informative and wonderful Guide, affectionately known to us as *The Black and White*, is still available to victims of abuse everywhere in the State.

New Hope has handed out hundreds and hundreds of copies of the Guide over the years, as have the other domestic violence projects in Maine, and we have witnessed first-hand the critical importance of this information to the clients we serve, to their

friends and family members. It contains information about the dynamics of abuse, discusses effects of the violence, offers legal information, and provides other helpful resources. It lets the readers know that abuse is not acceptable, and lets victims know that they are not alone, that abuse has happened to others, and that there are people willing to help them make a change.

Two things became apparent when speaking with Lisa and Katrinka about the development of the Guide. The first is that everyone had fun doing the work. The second is that all involved believe this was one of the most important pieces of work they have done. We are all very grateful to the authors for their vision and commitment in writing the Guide, to Connie and Katrinka for their inspiration, and to the American Association of University Women for their vision and generosity in supporting the work of its authors. It is a remarkable accomplishment and an extraordinary gift. Thank you.

On October 28, at the annual Blaine House Tea to acknowledge significant contributions to ending domestic and dating violence, New Hope for Women honored the Mid-Coast branch of the AAUW for their contribution in creating the *Information Guide for Abused Women in Maine*. AAUW's mission is to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research. Judy Dinmore, President of the Mid-Coast Branch, and Molly Brown, who worked on the original book, attended representing AAUW.


Executive Director

New mission statement, same dedication

New Hope for Women has changed its mission statement. Since our beginning in 1981, we have provided support and services to victims of domestic violence, without regard to gender. In the mid-1980's, we expanded our work to include victims of teen dating violence. In 2000, we updated our mission statement to make explicit our long-standing work with victims of teen dating violence. At the same time we expanded our programs so that everyone affected by violence—victims, family members, and abusers—had access to services. Our new mission statement continues this commitment to serve anyone impacted by domestic and dating violence. Our new mission statement is as follows:

New Hope for Women offers support to people in Lincoln, Knox, and Waldo counties affected by domestic and dating violence and provides resources to assist our communities in creating a safer and healthier future.

Fundraising News



Bonnie Gushee (left) and Lolly Mitchell (right) participate in the first annual Volleys Against Violence tennis tournament.

Volleys Against Violence

On Saturday, August 23rd, fourteen women tennis players gathered at the Samoset Resort for the first annual Volleys Against Violence tennis tournament.

Glen Rainsley, New Hope's Development Director and teaching tennis pro of thirty years, collaborated with volunteers Betsy Clemens Saltonstall and Dale Temple to put together an event that merged fun, friendships, and awareness of New Hope's work. Betsy put up the tourney's grand prize, determined by drawing, a week at a Sarasota, Florida condominium, and Dale donated a new Fischer tennis racquet as a prize for the tournament's playing winner. All participants played five twenty-minute doubles matches with five randomly selected partners. The calibre of play was outstanding and the quality of collegiality superb. Judi Lydon of Lincolnville won the tournament with a .001 victory over runner-up Deb Merchant of Camden. Toni Vander Veer of Spruce Head was the winner of the grand prize drawing.

Thanks to Betsy and Dale, the Samoset Resort (for contribution of court space and staff support), Amy Fischer Designs (for assistance with event posters), Maine Sport Outfitters (for donation of tennis balls), Lani Temple of Megunticook Market (for donations of food items to participants), and Creative Images (for contributions to gift bags for participants).

We plan to hold another Volleys Against Violence tournament next year. Look for information next spring.

Stiletto Run

Although it is not yet an Olympic event, running a dash in stiletto heels is no easy feat (and not easy on the feet!). On June 1st, over two dozen wildly garbed participants in New Hope for Women's first annual Stiletto Run sprinted down Bayview Street in Camden to the cheers of an enthusiastic crowd. Winner Amanda Thorndike covered the 80+ yards in an amazing 15.6 seconds.



Amanda Thorndike crossing the finish line at the first annual Stiletto Run.

Organizers Erin Hufnagel and Jenna Lookner put together a terrific event that was both fun and financially fruitful. Entrance fees and donations at our information table brought in over \$1,000. The Waterfront Restaurant donated space and food, Dunkin Donuts supplied coffee, and several area businesses contributed an

outstanding prize basket for the race winner.

Requests have already come in from women around the state and out of state seeking to take part in next year's race. We also hope that other male runners will join Kim Slawson, who dashed in a full gorilla suit. Sign-up information will be available in 2009.

Other

Bintliff's Ocean Grille in Edgecomb and The Historic Russell House in Boothbay Harbor continued to support New Hope for Women by hosting events that offered an opportunity to raise awareness about domestic violence and to raise funds for our ongoing work. By contributing a portion of proceeds from meals on the day dedicated to New Hope, the restaurants provided us with over \$200.

In August, we received funds through an event initiated by the Restorative Justice Project of the Mid-Coast. This project arranged to have two offenders hold a car wash and bake sale as a community service project, with proceeds going to the organization chosen by the crime victim. As designated recipient of funds, New Hope for Women accepted \$141.

Also in August, New Hope for Women received a gift of \$25,000 from David and Beverly Worthington, seasonal residents of Spruce Head. This is the second such gift from the Worthingtons, and we appreciate their confidence in the work of New Hope. Their gift is a wonderful expression of commitment to ending domestic and dating violence. We are grateful to be the recipients of their generosity.

We are also thankful to former Board member Gloria Young for holding a Country Auction to help raise \$200 for New Hope for Women.

Developing reliable funding at New Hope

Years ago I had a small room in the basement of my house devoted to turning photographic negatives into finished prints. The place was outfitted with special darkroom lights, trays, chemicals, lines for drying prints, piles of paper and cloths, and other assorted equipment.

The process of developing photographs was wondrous. It required great care and a span of time. It was always with a sense of accomplishment that I watched the picture slowly emerge on the paper into a recognizable and sometimes beautiful thing.

Development of reliable funding for New Hope for Women has some of the same characteristics as development of a photographic print. It requires great care and a span of time. And as with the photo process, how satisfying it can be when the picture, in this case a financial one, emerges as a thing of beauty.

Perhaps you're asking, "How can I be part of this wondrous process? How can I put myself into the picture?" (O.K., maybe you're not asking, but I'll offer my suggestions nonetheless.)

Give generously and gladly. I'm a firm believer that folks should not "give 'til it hurts," but rather "give 'til it feels good."

Tell your friends about New Hope for Women and encourage them to learn about

our work and the need for it. If anyone shows an interest, I am always pleased to speak with potential donors.

Share with me your fundraising ideas, things you would like to do. I'll work with you. Also, support existing fundraisers with your attendance or assistance.

Consider an alternative style of giving for holidays or other celebrations. For one of my "big" birthdays, my wife requested that family members make donations to NHFW. My gift, announced at the celebratory gathering, was a meaningful contribution of over \$300 to New Hope for Women. If you know people who don't need more "stuff," might they be pleased to have a donation to NHFW made in their name? I'll provide you with a suitable card to send.

I look forward to my ongoing work. And though I have the title of development director, I know that successful financial development is not a solo venture. Put yourself into the picture. Thanks!



Glen E. Rainsley
Development Director



JonahBeadStudio.com is a web site featuring the hand work of local bead artisan Ray Menard.

Ray writes:

"In the summer of 2006, when I first started doing beadwork, the reminders of the loss of my vibrant friend Shelli Calloway and her mother-in-law Sarah Murray and the issue of domestic violence were dominant news themes as our community commemorated the tragedy of their senseless deaths two years earlier. Like many, in 2004 I mourned but was at a loss as to how I might be able to help break the cycle of domestic violence. It was during the 2006 commemorations that I decided that if my beadwork ever evolved into a marketable venture I would commit 10% of my profit from each piece in honor of Shelli to New Hope for Women and to another organization that is doing crucial work among my neighbors, The Boothbay Region Ecumenical Food Bank." And so it begins. Hope is good.



Elliot P. Lowe joins New Hope for Women's Board of Directors

New Hope for Women is proud to announce that Elliot P. Lowe has joined its Board of Directors. Elliot is a 1998 graduate of Rockland District High School and a 2003 graduate of the University of Maine in Orono with a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering. A native of Owls Head, he is Vice President of Lowe Hardware, a manufacturer of custom interior hardware predominantly for the yachting industry. Elliot has joined New Hope with the intent of working with the organization to provide support for all those affected by domestic violence and to help in the growth of the organization for the future.

Law enforcement to receive training to aid in dealing with elder abuse

Elder abuse is a growing problem in Maine. The Attorney General's Office estimates that there are 14,000 cases of elder abuse in the state each year, 84% of which go unreported. Add that information to the fact that Maine's population has the highest median age, and we see the potential for a crisis situation as more and more people retire in Maine.

Elder abuse, like domestic violence against younger women and men, happens in silence and isolation. These factors are magnified in the older population, particularly in situations where chronic illness, physical disabilities, and dementia are present. Seniors are vulnerable, and communities are trying to cope with meeting the challenge of protecting their aging citizens.

As of last October, law enforcement agencies across the state have been given the opportunity to learn tactics that will help them support victims while holding the abusers accountable. Two-day elder abuse training is open to law enforcement officers and personnel, prosecuting attorneys, victim witness advocates, emergency medical service officers, and 9-1-1 dispatchers. Funding for the project originated with the U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women. Maine received a three-year grant to participate in the Elder Justice Training Partnership, the program designed to educate law enforcement agencies about elder abuse. According to June Koegel, President and CEO of

Volunteers of America Northern New England, the agency that is managing the program, "Maine is one of ten programs, and the only statewide program, to receive such funding." The grant provides for five two-day training events around the state, one of which has already been held in Presque Isle. Other training dates have been scheduled in Wells, South Portland, Hampden, and Augusta.

Partners participating in the program are Volunteers of America Northern New England, the Office of the Maine Attorney General, the Maine Prosecutors Association, the Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault, the Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence, and the Elder Abuse Institute of Maine. New Hope for Women is pleased to have a role in this important work; staff member Tina Tucker, Community Educator in Lincoln County, currently serves as the domestic violence trainer representing the Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence.

After participating in the EJTP, law enforcement officers will be better equipped to investigate cases brought to their attention. Successful prosecutions will empower families, friends, and communities to advocate for abuse victims. As in all areas of domestic abuse, it takes the work of the entire community to bring about the change that will eventually end abuse; this training is moving us well along toward that goal.

New Hope welcomes aboard new Lincoln County youth educator



New Hope for Women is delighted to welcome Hannah Ives as the new Youth Educator working in Lincoln County. Hannah was a hotline volunteer at Spruce Run, the domestic violence project in Bangor, and most recently worked as the Children's Advocate at a domestic violence shelter in Juneau, Alaska. There she worked with children who were both witnesses to and victims of domestic violence, and she learned the importance of prevention services in schools.

Many of the women she worked with revealed being abused for the first time at a young age, and not knowing who to talk to or where to turn for help. Hannah is committed to providing classroom presentations and individual consultations to offer crucial information and resources to children.

Hannah looks forward to taking an active role in empowering young people, and increasing awareness and understanding of issues. She feels especially privileged to be based in her home community of Lincoln County, and to be able to put her experience to use on a local level.

In her spare time, Hannah enjoys dancing, spending time with her family, and being on, in, and next to the water.

New Hope for Women partners with local libraries to raise awareness

Each October, as part of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, New Hope for Women is able to bring books pertaining to domestic and dating violence to a rotating group of about 18 libraries in our service area. The libraries and their associated communities have been enthusiastically responsive to this initiative, and usually create a display to showcase the books and encourage community members to learn about resources. This year, thanks to a generous grant procured by our statewide coalition from the Avon Foundation, we are able to bring a set of five books to each of the 52 public, law, and business facility libraries in our service area. Libraries were also given informational bookmarks, wooden nickels with New Hope for Women's crisis contact information, and educational posters. In addition, we were able to bring an age-appropriate book about healthy relationships to over 50 elementary school libraries, and fictional works that depict the confusing world of dating violence to middle and high schools in our service area.

One of the goals of the community outreach efforts was to bring domestic violence out of the shadows, and to continue to refute the

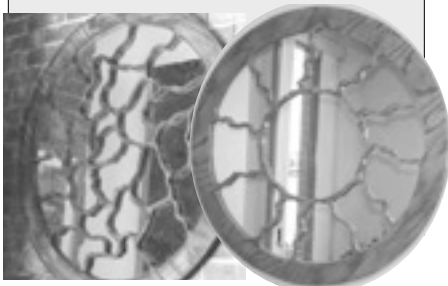
myth that it is a private family matter. A victim of domestic violence needs a community that does not blame the victim of a crime for that crime, believes the victim and offers support, and holds batterers accountable for their actions.

A community that has accepted a collection of books devoted to domestic and dating violence has begun the process of breaking the silence and offering a consistent and helpful response to victims of domestic and dating violence. A community that displays these materials in a prominent location is sending the message that this is a topic important enough to showcase.

We would like to take this chance to thank each person involved in the planning and operation of the libraries in our service area for their continued commitment as partners in ending domestic violence.

Ray of Hope, Reflections of Peace

One of New Hope for Women's creative friends, Charlene Lastella, has begun making and marketing two designs of handcrafted mirrors. She has labeled these Ray of Hope and Reflections of Peace, and she donates a portion of her sales to New Hope for Women. We appreciate her artistry, skill, and generosity. If you are interested in purchasing a mirror, you may contact Charlene at 207-215-2942.



Empty Place At The Table

Every year during the month of October the Empty Place At The Table, a memorial to members of our community who were murdered by their partners in acts of domestic violence homicide, is presented at local libraries. This year, the Empty Place At The Table was displayed at the following libraries:

October 7th
Skidompha Library in Damariscotta

October 14th
Belfast City Free Library

October 21st
Camden Public Library

October 22nd
Rockland Public Library



Remember my name

Zachary Henderson

Age 3 months / Harrison, Maine

Died at his home. His mother, Pamela Henderson, 43, was indicted and arrested for murder on May 9, 2008.

Debra Audet

Age 47 / Lewiston, Maine

Strangled at her home on March 16, 2008. Her son, Matthew Audet, 22, was charged with murder.

Christopher Rugen

Age 61 / Portland, Maine

Stabbed to death inside his home on April 8, 2008. His wife, Laureen Rugen, 49, was charged with murder.

Naomi Buzzell

Age 60 / Augusta, Maine

Beaten to death inside her home on April 8, 2008. Her ex-boyfriend, Albert Violette, 63, was later found dead of a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

Blake Mishou

Age 20 / Bradley, Maine

Shot and killed inside a house in Bradley on April 20, 2008. The former boyfriend of a woman Mishou was seeing, Eric Niles, 19, later shot and killed himself.

Jennifer Lessard

Age 40 / Gray, Maine

Shot and killed by her estranged boyfriend, Albert Merrill, 48, at his home on May 19, 2008. Merrill then shot and killed himself.

Jessica Nichols

Age 22 / Hope, Maine

Beaten and stabbed to death on July 1, 2008. Her body was found in the trunk of a car. Steven Pomeroy, 23, was charged with murder.

Michael Petrucelly

Age 24 / North Haven, Maine

Stabbed to death on August 10, 2008. His brother, 23 year old Enoch Petrucelly, was charged with murder.

Ava Harford

Age 9 weeks / Rockland, Maine

Beaten to death at her home on August 19, 2008. Her father, 24 year old Robert Harford, is charged with murder and domestic violence manslaughter.

Domestic violence is a crime.

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

Belfast
111 Church St.

Rockland
93 Park St.

Damariscotta
17 Water St.

Boothbay Harbor
115 Townsend Ave



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.

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