



Voices Against Violence



Laurie's House

Working Together to End Domestic and Sexual Violence in our Community

Annual Report 08/09

Dear Friends,

This past year has been one of change and growth for Voices. The economy and its subsequent impact on our budget has made this year one of the most challenging in my 13 years as Director. It has made all of us cognizant of our limits regarding staff and client resources. It has caused us to look at programs and make tough decisions about core services. Where do we focus our energies, resources and continued commitment? The most important is to keep Voices true to its mission of working towards the elimination of domestic and sexual violence and stalking through direct service, education and systems change. Voices could not continue to provide quality services without its most important resource—our staff of committed advocates, educators, shelter staff, community outreach coordinators and Supervised Visitation coordinator, monitors and incredible volunteers. After a span of time being short staffed, Voices once again is operating at full staff capacity. Despite the unbearable stories we hear from victims/survivors, or the injustices we see every day, I am heartened to see staff continue to empower with compassion and empathy.

Voices has grown in its strength and purpose. Our evolution has moved us to a place where we can better articulate and actualize our vision of survivor-defined advocacy and empowerment. Effective safety planning and advocacy requires a survivor-defined approach, whether victims leave, stay in contact; remain in the relationship, or come and go. Survivor-defined advocacy begins with an understanding of the needs, resources, perspectives and culture of each victim. As part of that process, a working relationship or partnership is built in which the victim's perspective and the advocate's information, resources, and assistance are combined to enhance the victim's safety strategies. As the challenges lay before all of us, we will continue to work hand in hand with our community towards ending violence in our homes and on our streets.

Thank you for your continued support.

In Peace and Partnership, **Kris Luğens-Rose**

INSIDE

Mission

Voices Against Violence/Laurie's House works towards eliminating stalking, domestic and sexual violence through direct service, education and systems change.

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Program Highlight—Community Outreach and Education

"Education," according to the 2009 Random House Dictionary, "is the process of imparting or acquiring general knowledge." We provide the framework for others to understand how domestic and sexual violence impacts people. Those "others" are the victims, their children, their batterers, and a multitude of the agencies in Franklin and Grand Isle Counties who work with families.

Last year we held a multi-day training for law enforcement and one designed specifically for emergency medical personnel. We are in the new prison facility to help women better understand some of the dynamics that landed them there and to help the correctional officers become domestic and sexual violence informed.

Voices advocates are in courtrooms, child protection team meetings, and on panels working to improve the housing shortage. By educating others on how domestic or sexual violence creates barriers for it's victims, we can increase the likelihood of future success for the people accessing *and* those services.

We work in the schools to educate children, their parents, and school employees about healthy relationships, internet safety, dating violence, and preventing child sexual abuse. We provide support groups and after-school programs where kids can come and talk about the disturbing things they have witnessed. Among their peers, they feel

less isolated and can heal themselves by healing others. We all know how powerful the feeling of helping someone can be.

In addition, during the past year, Voices coordinated and participated in many events to promote awareness about domestic and sexual violence. During October, Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Voices, in conjunction with the Franklin Grand Isle Domestic and Sexual Violence Task Force hosted a legislative breakfast that brought community members and policy makers together to discuss issues affecting our families. In April, Sexual Violence Awareness Month, the Education Committee of the Task Force revitalized the "Take Back the Night" march and speak out. While the march began as a way to protest the violence women experienced while walking in public at night, the purpose of this event is to speak out against violence and raise community awareness as a preventive measure against future violence. It symbolizes taking back the night free from sexual violence. The rally offered survivors of violence an opportunity to give voice to their experiences and publicly affirm their transition from victim to survivor. Voices engages in community outreach as a means of raising awareness and fostering community accountability.



Staff

VOICES

- Director—*Kris Lukens-Rose*
- Legal Services Coordinator—*Deb Bartlett*
- Advocate/Trainer—*Liz Conforti*
- Advocate/Educator—*Deirdre Clifford*
- Children's Services Coordinator—*Gwen Lavoie*
- Shelter Services Coordinator—*Jo*

- Kinney* til 3/09, *Sonya Rochon*
- Outreach Coordinator—*Karen Giroux*
- Shelter Manager—*Melissa Greeno*
- After Hours Shelter Staff—*Lisa Therrien*
- Office Volunteers—*Ann, Linda, Pat*

ALL ABOUT KIDS

- Director—*Diana Langle*
- Head Monitor—*Elaine Gunther*
- Security—*Grant Gunther*
- Monitors—*Ed Adams, Greg Hale, Nancy West, Kim Goss*
- Franklin and Grand Isle Domestic and Sexual Violence Task Force Coordinator—*Nancy West*

Program Services

Crisis Support - 24 hour crisis line coverage, assistance with Relief from Abuse Orders, assistance with protection and safety plans, ongoing individual support, problem solving, information and referral, support and educational groups, and hospital emergency room support.

Advocacy Program - Court watch and court support, working with other systems on behalf of clients, limited transportation, and information and referral.

Laurie's House - Temporary emergency housing for women and children is available in our shelter.

The Children's/Youth Program - Individual follow-up and support, playgroups, parent education, and support groups.

Community Outreach, Education and Training - Workshops, trainings, presentations and other awareness activities on domestic and sexual violence provided for schools, groups, businesses, other service providers and the community. Enhancing Coordinated Community Response through partnerships.

Systems Advocacy— We work in collaboration with our partners to strengthen policies and systems to be more responsive to victims.

All About Kids— Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange Center for families involved with domestic and sexual violence and child abuse. Also provide supervised visitation for children in state custody.

The Bookmobile is now visiting our local battered women's shelter!! I have been working on making this a possibility for over 2 years! The first visit took place in July 2009; we will continue to visit once a month in the fall and throughout the school year! At this first visit, when the Bookmobile arrived there was a young boy in the second floor window waving and smiling at the truck, as soon as we opened the Bookmobile door we had three people ready to board, one child and two adults. The little boy never stopped smiling and was very happy to receive free books! One of the woman said, "This is great" "this is so great" over and over again. She also said, "Thank you so much" and "It's nice when the library comes to you!" The woman's shelter is such a great service in and of itself and now even better and stronger having collaborated with another equally as great a service as the F.G.I. Bookmobile-it's a wonderful thing!"

Franklin Grand Isle Bookmobile

The Year In Numbers

Voices Against Violence provided services to (unduplicated):

- ⌘ 416 victims/survivors (does not include other service user calls)
 - ⌘ 369 domestic violence
 - ⌘ 29 adult sexual assault
 - ⌘ 18 child sexual abuse
- ⌘ 48 children served

Services provided:

- ⌘ 518 crisis calls received
- ⌘ 1608 instances of support and advocacy (Legal, hospital, housing, social service, etc.)
- ⌘ 55 people (41 women and 14 children) were provided safety and

support in Laurie's House for a total of 2675 bed nights

- ⌘ Helped 86 families with direct financial assistance or Victim's Compensation
- ⌘ Reached over 491 students and professionals through our school education programs, and professional trainings. Engaged in 12 public awareness events reaching thousands of community members.

Outcomes:

- ⌘ 90% of victims served stated they were connected to resources
- ⌘ 96% of victims served stated their safety needs were met

All About Kids provided services to:

- ⌘ 54 families with 96 children.
- ⌘ Out of that number, 9 witnessed direct physical abuse and 2 witnessed direct sexual abuse. In addition, 10 children suffered direct physical abuse, and 2 were sexually abused.
- ⌘ In 53 cases, the primary issue was domestic violence and in 14 cases, it was sexual violence within the context of domestic violence.
- ⌘ AAK provided a total of 203 supervised visitation services, 182 monitored exchanges and 23 telephone monitored services .

Currently, the vast majority of Voices Against Violence's revenues come from grants, mostly federal, and often in collaboration with other agencies. Funding sources include:

Family Violence Prevention Services Act

Victims of Crime Act (VOCA)

Office of Child Support

Violence Against Women Act Funds

STOP Funds, Grant to Encourage Arrest Program, SAFE HAVENS Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange Program, Rural Domestic Violence Program, Legal Assistance to Victims

Rape Prevention Grant

State Allocation and grants

Emergency Shelter Grant

Franklin Grand Isle United Way

Foundation grants

Donations— Individuals, Groups, Court fines, Fundraising events and activities, Town Donations

We acknowledge the important and critical role volunteers play in our organization and recognize the work they do in such a caring and compassionate manner.

♦ Volunteers contributed 8,000 hours of service at an estimated value of \$96,000.00

♦ Donated goods were valued at \$37,911

THANK YOU to our many friends and partners for their continued support and commitment to ending violence.



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ALL ABOUT KIDS

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A program of CVOEO

Financials

REVENUES

Federal Grants	375,873
State Grants/Reimbursement	200,863
Local Grants/Foundations	4,858
United Way	22,268
Donations	20,464

Total Revenue \$624,326

EXPENSES

Salaries/Benefits/Indirect	484,721
Operating Costs	86,948
Program Services	47,727
Total Expenses	\$619,396
Net Assets and Reserve	4,930

Resource Allocation

