



Voices Against Violence

Annual Report 09/10

WORKING TOGETHER TO END DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE
IN OUR COMMUNITY

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Mission

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

Dear Friends,

It is hard to believe another year has passed. As I sit here reflecting on the accomplishments and challenges of the past year I also have to marvel at how much this movement has evolved over the years to meet the needs of families experiencing domestic and sexual violence. While there remain many underserved populations in need of ongoing services, one such group has become a focal point for Voices over the past year. While women are still a relatively small percentage of the total population involved in the criminal justice system, they are the fastest growing segment of the prison population. According to a study cited by the VT Department of Corrections, 71.9% percent of incarcerated women have been victims of domestic violence as an adult and 31.3% have been sexually abused as an adult.

Upon reentry into the community, women face difficulties of untreated issues of trauma, mental health and substance abuse; scarcity of appropriate "gender responsive" community services; and treatment conditions that fail to take into account women's parental responsibilities or abuse/trauma histories. They also have a greater need for wraparound services; domestic violence/safety supports; and affordable and safe

housing that includes their children.

In response to the needs of incarcerated women, the DIVAS Program (Discussing Intimate Violence and Accessing Support) was instituted in 2003 through a contract with the Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence funded by the Department of Corrections. Now that all incarcerated women are housed in one facility, the Northwest State Correctional Facility in Franklin County, Voices has taken a lead in facilitating support and advocacy (through a Verizon grant) services through the DIVAS program.

Through groups and individual advocacy. DIVAS provides participants with information about domestic and sexual violence and community resources. For many, it is the first time they have had access to good information about these issues and a chance to discuss them with other women. The project is growing as more and more women reach out for support and advocacy in an effort to enhance their re entry back into their community. It has been an amazing learning experience for Voices as we have reached a better understanding of the unique needs of survivors involved with corrections.

"I find behind the walls, even if I scream, my voice is only heard as a whisper..." a survivor behind the walls

Kris Luzens-Rose



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FREE AND CONFIDENTIAL SERVICES

S*upport Program* - 24 hour hotline 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.

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

L*aurie's House* - Temporary emergency housing for women and children available at our shelter.

C*hildren's/Youth Program* - Individual follow-up and support, playgroups, parent education, and support groups.

C*ommunity Outreach, Education and Training* - Workshops, trainings, presentations and other awareness activities on domestic and sexual violence provided for schools, groups, businesses and other

service providers. Enhancing Coordinated Community Response through partnerships.

S*ystems Advocacy*— Working in collaboration with our partners to strengthen policies and systems to be more responsive to victims and hold abusers accountable.

A*ll About Kids*— Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange Center for families involved with domestic and sexual violence, stalking and child abuse.

T*ransitional Housing Project*—A scattered site supportive housing model with strong, strengths-based support services for domestic and sexual violence and stalking victims and their children.

D*IVAS Program*—Support and advocacy for Department of Corrections involved women who are survivors within Northwest State Correctional Facility

YEAR IN NUMBERS

Voices Against Violence provided services to (unduplicated):

⌘ 478 victims/survivors (does not include other service user calls)

⌘ 416 domestic violence

⌘ 36 adult sexual assault

⌘ 26 child sexual abuse

⌘ 80 children served

Services provided:

⌘ 556 crisis calls received

⌘ 2480 instances of support and advocacy (Legal, hospital, housing, social service, etc.)

⌘ 79 people (41 women and 38 children) were provided safety and support in Laurie's House for a total of **2675** bed nights

⌘ Helped 42 families with direct financial assistance or Victim's Compensation

⌘ Reached over 419 students and professionals

through our school education programs, and professional trainings.

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 .

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAM

Approximately 50% of the families that stay in shelter want to move on to more permanent housing situations, however, the lack of safe and affordable housing in our area is a barrier to self sufficiency. As a result, Voices staff is spending more and more time providing housing related services in a limited way – an increase of 77% over past years.

Transitional services are the next step in our continuum of care for victims/survivors. Identified as a need in our community by the Franklin Grand Isle Domestic and Sexual Violence Task Force, Voices was able to secure funding to start a transitional housing program to serve survivors in our area. This initiative provides a scattered site supportive housing model with strong, strengths-based support services for domestic and sexual violence and stalking victims and their children.

Certain tenets Voices incorporates into program policies and service provision are:

- Battered women’s experiences should inform and shape the services provided.
- Long-term support is critical to maintaining a safer life.
- Economic independence is essential for long-term stability.
- Housing is crucial. Without a safe, secure base from which to operate families cannot achieve stability.

The purpose of the project is to provide a

bridge between emergency shelter (whether in shelter or on a waiting list or at risk of homelessness due to abuse) and permanent housing while offering participants sufficient time to explore their housing and employment options. The length of time a participant can stay in this transitional housing program depends on the family’s situation but will range from 3 months up to 2 years.

Voices is working with area landlords and partnering with other organizations working on housing issues. Voices currently leases 6 scattered site apartments located in Swanton and St. Albans. The program’s focus is on helping to empower women: to live self-sufficient safer lives; to make informed decisions; to undergo personal growth; and to participate in both self-help and peer support with other battered women and their children. A wide spectrum of services are offered to participants once they are accepted into the program including but not limited to: childcare, child services in conjunction with the children’s services coordinator, financial assistance, support (individual and group), advocacy, job development, money management and savings plans, life skills training, safety planning, educational options, transportation, etc.

The TH housing program has greatly improved my life by providing myself and children with stable housing during a time of need. TH participant

STAFF

VOICES

Legal Services Coordinator—*Deb Bartlett*

Advocate/Educator—*Deirdre Clifford*

Shelter Manager—*Melissa Greeno*

Outreach Coordinator—*Karen Giroux*



Children’s Services Coordinator—*Gwen Lavoie*

Director—*Kris Lukens-Rose*

Shelter Services Coordinator—*Sonya Rochon*

After Hours Shelter Staff—*Lisa Therrien*

DIVAS Advocate—*Liz Conforti*

Office Volunteers—*Ann, Sandy, Barbara*

Franklin and Grand Isle Domestic and Sexual Violence Task Force Coordinator—*Nancy West*

ALL ABOUT KIDS

Director—*Diana Langle*

Head Monitor—*Elaine Gunther*

Monitors—*Ed Adams, Greg Hale, Nancy West, Jeffery Gilmore*

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Voices Against Violence Laurie's House

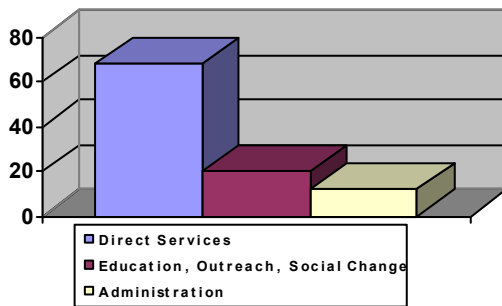
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Phone: 802.524.8538
Fax: 802.524.8539
Hotline: 802.524.6575
voices@cvoeo.org
A program of CVOEO



All About Kids

P.O. Box 1092
St. Albans, VT 05478
Phone: 802.527.6380
Fax: 802.524.3817

Resource Allocation



FINANCIALS

REVENUES

Federal Grants	501,409.62
State Grants/Reimbursement	195,289.07
Local Grants/	2,056.43
United Way	19,991.94
Donations	19,312.45
Total Revenue	738,059.51

EXPENSES

Salaries/Benefits/Indirect	499,996.75
Operating Costs	58,021.71
Program Services	72,713.73
Sub grantees (pass thru)	93,063.73
Total Expenses	723,795.92
Net Assets and Reserve	14,263.59

FUNDERS

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 (federal):

STOP Funds · Rural Domestic Violence Program
STOP Recovery Act Funds · Grant to Encourage Arrest · Legal Assistance to Victims · Transitional Housing Recovery Act · SAFE HAVENS Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange

State Allocation and grants
Emergency Shelter Grant

Franklin Grand Isle United Way

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 9,095 hours of service at an estimated value of \$109,140**
- ◆ **Donated goods are valued at \$37,911**

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

