Adults and Children Served By Member Programs 2004

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<th>Program</th>
<th>Victims of Sexual Violence</th>
<th>Victims of Domestic Violence</th>
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- Network Programs received and responded to 12,975 hotline crisis calls.
- A quarter of the victims served received support and/or advocacy in criminal or family court in addition to other services.
- 6,922 children and youth were identified as having been exposed to domestic violence in their homes; 219 children were sheltered in Network Program shelters or safehomes; 415 children received services in addition to shelter, and 383 children and youth under the age of 18 were victims of sexual violence.
- 74 Vermonters over the age of 60 received services from Network Programs, as well as 578 Vermonters with physical or emotional disabilities.
- The Programs’ prevention-education work throughout the state reached 23,507 kindergarten thru high school youth, and 16,017 college students.

Greetings from the Statewide Coordinator

I am privileged to work with hundreds of people all over the state of Vermont who have dedicated themselves to eradicating domestic and sexual violence by providing support for victims and survivors, and creating social change. Those who call themselves advocates are kind and persistent women and men, of all ages, paid and unpaid. They ensure that the hotline is answered 24 hours a day; assist victims with emergency housing and in finding economic stability; work to engage children in learning to live nonviolently; analyze policy and confront systems that unintentionally make access difficult for victims. These advocates remain dedicated to their vision of a world where no woman, man or child is abused or sexually violated. Yes, I am privileged and honored to work with them.

We continue to be humbled by the courage of those who have and continue to be impacted by domestic and sexual violence. Our work is guided by them.

We are pleased to have new allies join with us. These partners are individuals, community agencies, and government entities who are ever advancing us toward our vision of a safe and healthy Vermont. This annual report highlights some important activities of the Network and our partners over the last year, and we look forward to more accomplishments ahead.

— Rose Pulliam

2004 Vermont Network Staff

- Rose Pulliam
  Statewide Coordinator
- Marty Levin
  Fiscal/Information Manager
- Amy Torchia
  Children’s Advocacy Coordinator
- Sarah Kanney
  Project Coordinator – Public Policy
- Antje Ricken
  Project Coordinator – Health Care
- Alex Botinelli
  Library/Resources Coordinator
- Chani Waterhouse
  Program Support Coordinator
- Karen Vantine
  Elder & Disability Training Specialist
- Jenny Reaunus Ring
  Legal Issues Coordinator
- Jill Richard
  Economic Justice Project Coordinator
- Bethany Fombar
  Training and Outreach Manager

Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence

P.O. Box 405
Montpelier, VT 05601
802-223-1302
TTY: 223-1115
E-mail: vtnetwork@vtnetwork.org
Website: www.vtnetwork.org
(new site coming soon!)

STATEWIDE HOTLINES
1-800-228-7395 (for Domestic Violence)
1-800-489-7273 (for Sexual Assault)
**Mission**

The Vermont Network is a feminist organization committed to eradicating domestic and sexual violence through advocacy, empowerment and social change.

**Who is the Vermont Network?**

We are a statewide coalition of member programs governed by a Board of Directors whose policies are implemented by the Network Office. The Network is comprised of two parts: the 16 Programs located throughout the state and the Network Office in Montpelier which consists of a Statewide Coordinator and Staff. The Network Board and the Coordinator provide shared Network leadership.

**Taking Care of Our Children and Youth**

- Vermont's Model Protocol: Law Enforcement Response to Children at the Scene of a Domestic Violence Incident was created by a multi-disciplinary group including the Network, finalized, and distributed to all law enforcement agencies in Vermont. The training component Kids, Cop, and DV will regularly be presented to law enforcement officers. For a copy email the Network at library@vermontnetwork.org.

- In response to new legislation requiring Vermont schools have a comprehensive plan for responding to bullying, many Network Youth Advocacy Task Force members have offered programs that address best practice responses.

- The Youth Advocacy Task Force’s 2004 Youth Survey indicated a strong interest from Vermont youth to become peer educators/cohorts around issues of domestic and sexual violence. The Task Force has begun supporting local Network Programs to intentionally involve youth in their work throughout Vermont.

**Increasing Public Awareness**

- Sexual Violence Awareness Month: In April, with the support and inspiration of Gedakina, the Network Office hosted a Healing Fire, thus symbolically ushering in light to the darkness of silence around issues of sexual violence in Vermont.

- In October, Domestic Violence Awareness Month: In October, the Network Office collaborated with the Battered Women's Services and Shelter Program of Burlington County to stress a woman's right to live free from fear in her own home. Former governor Madeleine Kunin spoke, and seven red roses were laid on the ground in a moment of silence commemorating the seven women killed in Vermont in 2003 at the hands of an intimate partner.

**Sexual Violence Prevention/Services**

- The Joyful Sexuality Workgroup, a statewide composite including the Network, has created a new approach to sexual violence prevention. Their mission is to shift cultural norms by providing individuals and communities with opportunities to explore, reclaim, and discover deeper understandings of sexuality. In addition to providing numerous trainings within Vermont, the group was invited to present nationally at the University of Kansas. Canons Violence Against Women Programs in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

- As part of the Rape Prevention Education Program, we have partnered with the Department of Health in creating a strategic plan for sexual violence prevention in Vermont, and a statewide conference scheduled for 2003.

- Our Sexual Violence and Youth Advocacy Task Forces collaborated to organize the third annual training for advocates on Sexual Violence and Teens: Men Can Stop Rape from Washington D.C. will provide a 2-day advanced training on Engaging Young Men in the work to end violence against women.

- We continued our work on the Legal Assistance to Victims of Sexual Violence Grant which offers staffing for the two stand-alone rape crisis centers as well as funding for private attorney contracts.

- The Network’s seventh annual Sexual Violence Survivors’ Conference was held in April.

**Health Care Initiatives**

- A statewide action plan to improve the health care response to intimate partner violence (IPV) in Vermont was created by the Vermont Leadership Team.

- A Resource Web Page for Health Care Providers who want to enhance their response to IPV was jointly designed with the Vermont Medical Society: www.vtd.org/Domestic%20Violence/DVHome.html. In partnership, we published the Vermont Curriculum on Intimate Partner Violence for Healthcare Professionals.

- The Network Office supported the BlueCross Blue Shield Provider Education Initiative in creating Reaching Out, a clinician’s guide to IPV, for distribution throughout New England.

More information on all the health care initiatives and resources mentioned here can be found on the website: www.vtd.org/Domestic%20Violence/DVHome.html

**Enacting Legislative Change**

The Network Office worked with the Legislative Committee toward the following successful legislations:

- Sex Offender Registry – expands law enforcement’s ability to notify community about released sex offenders and creates a Sex Offender Registry Web Site.

- Interpreter Privilege – prohibits sign language interpreters from disclosing information that they obtain while interpreting for someone who is Deaf or Hard of Hearing.

- Harassment in Schools – expands the definition of harassment in school to include racial as well as sexual harassment and requires greater accountability from schools.

- Dancing with Drinks – allows patrons of bars, restaurants, and clubs to carry their drinks wherever they go (in response to increasing reports of drug-facilitated sexual assault).

- Access to Juvenile Proceedings – provides greater opportunity for victim involvement in proceedings where the offender is a juvenile.

**Economic Justice**

The Network’s commitment to addressing economic justice is an opportunity to explore violence against women through the lens of class relations and poverty. It allows us to envision a community where all are able to meet their basic needs for self-sufficiency, safety, self-determination, and dignity. New Partners/New Challenges: Making the Economic Connections; Women and Sexual Assault Survivors was this year’s annual meeting/training, presented by attorney and author Jill Davies, and activist of 25 years, Anne Menard.

**Supporting the Network Programs**

- Network Program Advocates from around the state attended the first ever Basic Advocacy Training in December. Developed by and for the Network to represent the “best thinking” of the Network as a whole, this new training offers program advocates, volunteers and board members a consistent orientation to the practical and philosophical issues at the heart of domestic and sexual violence advocacy. The Network expanded its work with incarcerated survivors of violence through the DVJ's Project (Discussing Intimate Violence and Accessing Support), providing educational/support groups on domestic violence in the women's correctional facilities in Vermont.

**Legal Issues**

- The Court Advocate’s Task Force is going strong with participation from Programs, Vermont Legal Aid, and the Vermont Legal Clinic. The group is working to offer regional trainings for Guardians Ad Litem and Family Court personnel.

- Vermont’s Federal Violence Against Women Grant.

- The Network Office worked with the Vermont State Police Academy.

- The Network continues to be involved with Project Safe Vermont in educating professionals and the public about the Federal Firearms law and how it relates to domestic violence.

**Individuals Who are Elderly, Have Disabilities and/or are Deaf**

- The Network participated in a multi-disciplinary collaboration to design and implement a statewide conference and regional trainings. The focus of the trainings was to build partnerships amongst service providers for elders and people with disabilities.

- The Network collaborated in a statewide campaign to eliminate all of Vermont’s probate judges’ abuse of elders and people with disabilities.

- We worked with a self-advocate to persuaded “Got something important to say? Learn to tell our stories,” at the Voices and Choices Conference. This conference is hosted by the Green Mountain Self-Advocates and promotes self-advocacy amongst people with developmental disabilities.

- Funding was secured through an Office of Violence Against Women Grant to create a statewide resource for Health Care Providers and physical accessibility for victims with disabilities.

**Finalizing Goals for 2001-2004**

The Network has engaged in an intense period of development that has included:

- completing Board structure and development planning

- clarification of Network Office, Board, and Program roles

- delineation of decision making

- expanding and redesigning the member Programs’ Standards for an increased less complexity, consistency, excellence, and accountability

The Network Library

A growing collection of books, manuals, video, curricula, and reference materials is available to all Network Office and Program staff and partners who worked with us in the Program roles.

The Network acknowledges the federal organizations that fund us: the U.S. Office of Justice Programs and the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act.

The Network wishes to thank our partners, volunteers and friends who worked with us in planning and leading a way toward ending domestic and sexual violence.