Adults and Children Served By Member Programs 2006

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Member Programs</th>
<th>Victims of Sexual Violence</th>
<th>Victims of Domestic Violence</th>
<th>Victims of Sexual Violence / Victims of Domestic Violence</th>
<th>Persons exposed to Violence / Survivors</th>
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<th>Survivors</th>
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<td>TOTAL</td>
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</table>

- Network Programs received and responded to 17,172 hotline crisis calls.
- 1,450 children received services from Network Programs; of these, 283 children and youth under the age of 18 were victims of sexual violence, and 218 children were sheltered in Network Program shelters or Safehomes. 9,119 children and youth were identified as having been exposed to domestic violence in their homes.
- 1,017 Vermonters with physical or emotional disabilities received services from Network Programs.
- The Programs’ prevention-education work throughout the state reached 17,217 kindergarten through high school youth, and 6,382 college students.

Director Rose Pulliam Moves To The National Arena

Rose Pulliam, Director of the Vermont Network since 2001, has moved to Austin, Texas and a national position as Director of the National Domestic Violence Hotline, continuing her skilled and passionate dedication to anti-violence work. Though sad to lose her, we are grateful for the wonderful work Rose did with and for us, and wish her the best in her new position.

The GALA

The Network’s 20th year was commemorated in November 2006. All of the Programs’ advocates were honored with gladness for their critical work in supporting survivors. The first Director, Dianne Maughan, spoke about the early days, and international posters were on exhibit. The Network has an annual tradition of celebrating the work of our allies – the following awards were given:

- Statewide Community Advocacy Award to the Agency of Human Services Domestic Violence Initiative Steering Committee
- Two Statewide Contributor Awards to Police Officer Jeff Fontaine and Professor Susan Roche

Four of the 11-member AIDS Domestic Violence Steering Committee: left to right — June Bascow, Ellie Breitmaier, Sherry Burnett, Amy Hollisway

Network Office Staff

Karen Tronnard-Scott Director
Mary Lovis Fiscal/Information Manager
Amy Torchia Children’s Advocacy Coordinator
Sarah Kenney Public Policy Coordinator
Alex Bottinelli Library/Resources Coordinator
Bethany Pimbar Education & Outreach Coordinator
Chani Waterhouse Program Support Coordinator
Karen Vance Creating Access Team Coordinator
Diane Jabar Legal Issues Coordinator
Jill Richard Economic Justice Project Coordinator
Anne Smith Sexual Violence Specialist
Claudia Marib Safe Havens Project Coordinator

Statewide Hotlines

1-800-228-7395 (for Domestic Violence)
1-800-489-7273 (for Sexual Assault)
Network Office Highlights 2006

**Violence In Vermont**

2006 has been a difficult year. From Judge Cashman’s conviction in sentencing of Mark Hulett in January to a string of murders across the state this fall, we have witnessed firsthand the brutality and tragedy of domestic and sexual violence in our communities. These crimes have had an incredibly deep impact on all of us.

The extensive media coverage of some of this year’s tragedies has led many Vermonters to wonder why we are seeing increasing levels of violence against women in our state. Our response, sadly, is that the violence we have witnessed does not represent an overall increase. It is, in fact, quite average. Over the past decade, domestic violence has been the leading cause of violent death for Vermont women: from 1994 to 2003 there were 73 domestic violence-related fatalities in Vermont – an average of 8.5 per all Vermont homicides – and this number doesn’t include sexual violence-related homicides.

Unfortunately, these numbers are just the tip of the proverbial iceberg. For Vermont’s gut-wrenching, high-profile victims like those of Michelle Gardner-Quinn in Burlington and Linda Lambrash and Alicia Proctor in Hinesburg, there are thousands of others who are experiencing the trauma of domestic and sexual violence in their lives every day. There are also thousands of people who have broken free, who have survived and thrived and supported others, and raised amazing children. Many of the Vermont Network’s Member Programs were founded by these survivors, these warriors – and many are part of the movement today, working to end violence in our communities, support survivors and create a more just world. Continuing to work together to meet these ends is critical to all of us being able to enjoy the basic human right to live free from fear and violence.

**Supporting Network Programs**

Every day, staff from Network Programs around the state call the Network Office with questions. What’s the best statistic available on the frequency of sexual assaults in the U.S.? Is it legal for law enforcement from a neighboring state to refuse to serve a protection order delivered to them by fax? What are the political, ethical and liability implications of responding to a particular request by a survivor or community partner?

Supporting the strength of Network Programs is one of the primary reasons for the existence of the Network. The Network Office does this in many ways, including: creating training opportunities for advocates that respond to their specific needs; collecting and creating resources that speak to the issues programs face every day; convening Programs to share challenges and best practices; and developing outreach materials for “awareness” campaigns and in response to critical incidents. Overall, the Network Office has created fertile soil in which relationshipships, expertise and best practices can thrive.

**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 16 Programs located throughout the state and the Network Office in Montpelier which consists of a Director and Staff. The Network Board and the Director provide shared Network leadership.

Greetings from the Board of Directors

This year the Board has experienced increased energy and commitment to the Network’s director, Rose Pulliam, who has moved on to a national position. The Board strongly supports the work of the Network Office and the Network’s director.

The Network Office

The Network Office and its Legislative Committee worked hard in 2006 to support and advocate for major changes in the state’s laws.

- Stalking and Sexual Assault protection orders
  for adults and minors who are stalked or sexually assaulted by someone other than a family or household member. These orders fill a significant gap in protections available to survivors victimized by acquaintances or strangers.

- Indeterminate life sentencing for sex offenders
  means that those found guilty on one, properly prosecuted sex offenses will automatically receive a maximum sentence of life. If they comply with conditions of release and treatment requirements they may return to the community, but if they pose a risk to victims or the community, they can be kept behind bars.

- Added language to clarify that strangulation – defined as intentionally impeding normal breathing or circulation of the blood by applying pressure on the throat or neck or by blocking the nose or mouth of another person – is serious bodily injury.

- Expanded funding for Special Investigative Units
  dedicated to investigating and prosecuting domestic and sexual violence and child abuse.

- Created the crime of sexual exploitation which
  is a crime for someone working for the Department of Corrections to engage in a sexual act with an offender under his or her supervision, both in correctional facilities and in the community.

**Work with individuals Who Are Deaf or Have Disabilities**

On behalf of the Creating Access Team (CAT), the Network Office co-authored and was awarded an Office on Violence Against Women grant for a three year project. With the new grant, the CAT, which is comprised of representatives from the Network Office, Network Programs, Deaf Victims Advocacy Services, and Disability Rights Advocacy Organizations, will continue to work to improve accessibility for survivors with disabilities and those who are Deaf. The project will work with all participants to increase their capacity to confidently and accessibly support these survivors. The first year of the project has focused on collaboration, planning and needs assessment. The CAT will be able to build on the work it has already done in creating an assessment process for all.

**Children**

The Youth Advocacy Task Force brought in trainers to their monthly meetings to talk with Child Advocates and Youth Educators throughout Vermont.

**Safe Havens**

Vermont was awarded a federal Safe Havens for Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange Grant. A coordinator was hired at the Network Office to promote Vermont’s Safe Havens program, which has as its goal increased safety for survivors and their children by improving opportunities for supervised visitation and safe exchange in cases of domestic violence, child abuse, sexual assault or stalking. A coalition of all the supervised visitation centers across the state has been formed along with a statewide coordinating committee to address the goals of the coalition. These groups have collaborated with the Court Administrator’s Office to develop the first statewide supervision, visitation and safe exchange referral protocol. In addition, best practice guidelines, a statewide training on parental contact (May 31, 2007), outreach plans for underserved populations, and sustainability planning are well underway for the second year of the grant project.

**The Vermont Approach to Sexual Violence Prevention**

The Network and its partners have released The Vermont Approach: A Strategic Plan for Comprehensive, Collaborative Sexual Violence Prevention. Over the next five years Vermonters will work together to create a greater community of support in the norms that allow sexual violence to continue in our state.

The Plan was created in collaboration with the Vermont Department of Health and the Anti-Violence Partnership at the University of Vermont and incorporates the best thinking from Vermont and the country.

The Vermont Approach was formally unveiled in April, at meetings which brought together citizens, policy makers from diverse organizations, service providers, and the highest levels of government. The legislature set aside funds to hire a professional staff to support the Vermont Violence Prevention and Response Leadership team and begin implementing the strategic plan, and established a Sexual Violence Education and Research Office to support increased sexual violence education in Vermont’s schools and look toward improving and expanding these programs.

**Economic Justice**

The Vermont Network is proud to announce receipt of new funding from the Allstate Foundation’s Domestic Violence Program. In its commitment to invest annually in communities, in 2005 the Foundation launched a new Domestic Violence Program. As part of this effort, the Vermont Network will create a one-year Direct Assistance Fund of $10,000 for survivors. We are happy to do this in collaboration with the Vermont Office of Economic Opportunity and community action programs, and look forward to increasing this resource in the future, thus becoming able to continue supporting survivors in achieving long-term safety and self-sufficiency.

**Vermont Network 2006 Financial Statement**

**INCOME:**
- Federal grants $1,855,116
- State allocations $231,378
- Other $23,982

**TOTAL INCOME** $2,143,479

**EXPENSES:**
- Pass-through to NWP Programs $2,282,305
- Outreach/Training/Education $106,420
- Consultants & Sub-Grants $152,935
- Salaries & Benefits $463,924
- Operations $12,174

**TOTAL EXPENSES** $2,125,336

**Balance $18,455**

*Note: This financial statement is not yet audited.*