As a newcomer to Vermont, I am thrilled with the level of commitment to ending the domestic and sexual violence that is epidemic across our state. A significant demonstration of this commitment is being demonstrated by our state legislature. During the 2007 session, the Senate Judiciary Committee collaborated with the Vermont Network and many other organizations to gather information and testimony about domestic violence in Vermont. As we approach the coming legislative session, the Network Office has continued to talk to organizations, constituents and stakeholders to develop suggestions we can make to the legislature to address Vermont’s most pressing needs related to domestic violence. The following broad themes have emerged:

- **Services for Survivors of Domestic Violence** – Expand and improve the availability of services for survivors in order to meet the growing need for such services; continue to build capacity within state and community organizations to help survivors, including children exposed to domestic violence.

- **Economic Justice and Domestic Violence** – Expand the economic resources available to assist survivors to maintain safety and to increase opportunities for long-term economic self-sufficiency.

- **Civil Legal Issues** – Increase the protections available to domestic violence survivors and their children through Vermont’s Family Courts.

- **Criminal Legal Issues** – Build on current laws to hold domestic violence offenders accountable through Vermont’s criminal justice system and provide additional resources to improve the investigation and prosecution of domestic violence.

The input of stakeholders has been vital to the development of these themes and the recommendations that will follow. But this work is only a part of the process. During the coming legislative session, we will need real participation from the citizens of Vermont who care about ending domestic violence. There will be opportunities for many of you to take an active, even activist role in letting our lawmakers know the importance of this issue to you. In January, the Network Office will sponsor a training for people who are interested in learning how to be active within the legislature. I urge everyone who is interested in becoming an active part of our democratic process to consider participating in this training.

The legislative session is but one of the areas that the Network Office has prioritized for 2008. Strategies for maximizing opportunities on behalf of the Member Programs of the coalition and the survivors they serve present not only unique opportunities but also important challenges. In addition to the legislative initiative described above, the Network Office staff has identified the following priorities:

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Network Priorities
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• **Strengthening the Coalition** – the Network Office works to further the interests of the coalition’s sixteen Member Programs, including representing these programs on both a statewide and national level, advocating for policy and systems changes, providing Member Programs with training and technical assistance, and facilitating opportunities for Member Programs and the survivors they serve.

• **Strengthening Community Partnerships** – the work of the Network Office happens in collaboration with many other disciplines, communities and organizations. In the coming year, the Network Office will work to strengthen these partnerships in order to strengthen and expand opportunities for victims and survivors.

• Focus on the following key issues:
  1. **Accessibility** – The sixteen Vermont Network Programs will continue to work with Vermont’s disability community to create expanded access to services for people with disabilities. This work will continue through the Creating Access Team Grant and through the Accessibility Initiative partnership between the Network Programs, the Vermont Center for Crime Victims Services and the Vermont Center for Independent Living.
  2. **Sexual Violence** – The Network Office will continue to focus on its role as a coalition of domestic AND sexual violence Programs and to improve its expertise in this dual role. The Network Office will offer support for the expansion of services for survivors of sexual violence, along with continued support for sexual violence programs throughout the state. Finally, the Network Office will continue its support of sexual violence prevention efforts, including its participation in the Anti-Violence Project at the University of Vermont and its implementation of The Vermont Approach, a strategic plan for sexual violence prevention in Vermont.
  3. **Building an Anti-Racist Domestic and Sexual Violence Movement** – the staff of the Network Office will continue to learn and strategize about overcoming racism within the domestic and sexual violence movements.
  4. **Technology** – the Network Office will work with Member Programs to improve information gathering systems related to the number of people served by Network Programs; to create opportunities to access the Network Library resources on the internet; and to continue to work on the new Network Office website.

These priorities fit well with the goals and objectives of the Network Office and each staff member has created a work plan that includes activities related to the goals and to the priorities. We are anticipating a successful year of working on behalf of Member Programs and the survivors they serve.

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Do you know someone who would like to receive this newsletter?
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Name ___________________________________________
Address ___________________________________________
City ________________________ State ________ Zip ______

Mail/E-mail to:
VNADSV, P.O. Box 405, Montpelier, VT 05601 or library@vtnetwork.org
Family Court Custody Issues and Domestic Violence

by Dianne Jabar,
Legal Issues Coordinator

[The following story is an amalgamation of real events]

Joanne had been married to Robert for eight years. She earned minimum wage from a part-time job while Robert earned a decent living working full-time. Throughout the marriage Robert had hit, kicked, strangled and raped Joanne. Robert was convicted three years ago on a misdemeanor domestic assault against Joanne.

Robert repeatedly degraded Joanne in the presence of their 8 year old daughter, Susie. Susie had exhibited symptoms of anxiety. During an incident of escalating threats, Joanne fled the home with Susie. After a stay at a homeless shelter, and with no money, no vehicle and no prospects for affordable housing she decided to stay with a friend. Both the shelter and her friend’s apartment were located outside of Susie’s school district. As a result, Susie had frequent absences from school, causing concern from her teacher.

At the encouragement of friends Joanne decided to file for divorce. Her friends opined that since Joanne was the mother and Robert was violent she was sure to get full custody of Susie, supervised visitation for Robert, and child support. Joanne hoped that through the Family Court she and her daughter could achieve autonomy and safety from Robert.

Unfortunately this hope did not reflect the reality of her court case. Robert appeared with a private attorney. With a poverty wage, Joanne was forced to represent herself. When Joanne testified, her voice shook with anger and fear when disclosing the abuse. She informed the judge that she planned to move Susie into a new school district in the section of town that offered affordable housing. She testified that she planned to terminate all communication with Robert and to restrict the contact between Robert and Susie.

Robert, guided by his attorney, calmly and logically presented evidence that Joanne had absconded with their child. He skillfully testified about his fear that Joanne was alienating their daughter from him. He talked about his willingness to cooperate with Joanne to ensure that Susie would have significant time with her mother. He explained that his past violence was caused by the ‘high conflict’ in the relationship and ensured the court that the marital problems would subside now that they lived apart.

He then testified that Joanne shuffled the child from one substandard living situation to another. Susie’s teacher testified about Susie’s truancy and her precipitous decline in important activities and connections in her neighborhood.

Robert concluded his testimony with evidence of his ability to provide stability in relation to Susie’s material needs, health care, housing, school and community.

Much to Joanne’s dismay, the court granted Robert full custody of Susie. Joanne was granted visitation.

The Family Court, through custody proceedings, is a paramount strategy that mothers like Joanne use to protect their children and extricate themselves from their batterers. Unfortunately for victims and children, many batterers like Robert are not only skilled at presenting themselves well in court but may also have some legal advantages.

As exemplified in Joanne’s account, a batterer’s desire to control the victim may be articulated in testimony as a desire to maintain positive communication with the victimized parent and to foster the relationship between the child and the parent. Batterers may also have the financial means to provide stable housing in the child’s school district and community, while victims are more likely to experience a significant decline in their standard of living after leaving an abusive partner.

These advantages mirror specific language in Vermont’s custody statute that favors the parent who demonstrates the following:

a. Ability and disposition to communicate and cooperate with the other parent
b. Ability and disposition to foster a positive relationship and frequent contact with the other parent
c. Assurance that the child receives adequate food, clothing, medical care, material resources and a safe environment
d. Provides stability in the child’s school and community.

A victim of domestic violence, conversely, may be less likely to present a cogent and succinct case. A victim’s well-founded fear of the batterer’s reprisal and her worry that the court outcome may endanger her child are often exacerbated by the batterer’s intimidation tactics in the court room. The conflation of these dynamics in the court room may negatively impact a victim’s ability to provide sufficient and legally pertinent testimony. In addition, victims often lack the financial resources to obtain the legal counsel that could ameliorate these dynamics. This is particularly problematic in Vermont, as crucial funding for legal services for victims is dwindling.
As a result, victims may offer custody and visitation proposals that make sense given their desire to safeguard their children from further harm, but that contradict the court’s determinants of the child’s best interest as enumerated in statute. For example, some victims request to cease all contact with the batterer, and to restrict contact between the child and the batterer. Attempts to protect herself and her child can be perceived as evidence that she is alienating the child from the other parent, refusing to foster a positive relationship between the child and the other parent and failing to communicate and cooperate with the other parent.

Victims may also be forced to flee the family home leading to a downward spiral of poverty and homelessness. The financial means to maintain the stability of the child’s housing, school and community is often difficult for victims to achieve. The circumstances so common to domestic violence can actually put the victims at a disadvantage in custody proceedings. As a result, batterers may be successful at convincing the court to award them custody.

Custody and visitation are difficult and complex cases for family courts. Vermont’s child custody decisions, like those of most other states, are statutorily guided by the best interest of the child standard in 15 V.S.A. This law enumerates nine factors the courts consider in determining child custody in contested proceedings. Because that statute does not specify how much weight to give to any one factor, including abuse, judicial practice varies in terms of how heavily domestic violence is weighed in custody decisions. The lack of clear guidelines for weighing domestic violence against other factors can result in the perpetrator of domestic violence obtaining full custody.

Supervised Visitation Centers
Protecting Battered Women and Their Children

by Claudia Marieb, Safe Havens Project Coordinator

Many people believe that the most effective action a battered mother can take to protect her children is to leave the battering partner. As a culture we believe that if women leave they will be safe, and so will their children. In actuality, leaving the abuser can cause the danger to escalate. By better using the programs that are already in place, we as a community can provide safety through a critical time.

Evidence of the gravity of separation violence is overwhelming. Battered women are at the greatest risk of being killed when they leave an abusive relationship. Up to 75% of domestic assaults reported to law enforcement agencies may be inflicted after the separation of the couple (U.S. Dept. of Justice, 1983). Even when they successfully leave, the dynamics of partner abuse seldom, if ever, go away. The Louisiana legislature described it well in 1992 when they stated, “…the problems of family violence do not necessarily cease when the victimized family is legally separated or divorced. In fact, the violence often escalates, and child custody and visitation become the new forum for the continuation of the abuse.” As one Supervised Visitation Program Coordinator in Vermont put it, “separation ups the ante, and now the kids are the main tool the batterer uses.”

One of the intentions of Supervised Visitation Programs is to reduce the incidence of post-separation battering when parents visit or exchange children. Vermont Programs provide safety through practices that specifically address post-separation tactics. Since battering fathers have limited access to battered partners, they often choose the visitation arena as a place in which to 1) coerce reconciliation, or, 2) penalize the battered partner for refusal to “reconcile”.

Post-separation tactics batterers use to achieve this almost always involve children:

1. Batterers often intentionally harm the relationship between the mother and the child:
   - Demeaning the mother in front of the children with remarks such as, “we wouldn’t have to visit here if it weren’t for your mother”
   - Reporting the mother constantly to DCF with accusations that the children are not being fed properly.

2. Batterers exercise control of the adult victim through the children:
   - Using the children to relay threats of violence to the victim
   - Scheduling supervised visits at a time they know the victim is working, so she is left with the choice of violating the court order or losing her job
   - Intimidating the children to reveal their current living arrangement, or if their mother is seeing anyone
   - Stalking the mother upon arriving or departing from visitation or exchanges
   - Threatening to take the children.
3. Sometimes batterers perceive their most effective tactic is to harm the child as a method of harming mom:

- Physically harming the children
- Telling a child that his or her beloved pet has died or had to be given away now that the child is no longer in the home
- Switching jobs, arranging to be paid under the table, and postponing court dates in order to avoid paying child support.

This 1991 example from Pennsylvania, unfortunately, is not outside the realm of possibility in a post-separation situation: “... on Father’s Day three children were murdered by their father as he exercised unsupervised visitation rights; rights which the surviving and grieving mother strongly resisted to no avail. The court in central Pennsylvania awarded unsupervised visitation to the father in an apparently sentimental gesture so that he could be with the children on Father’s Day... The father had attempted to ... bring her back into relationship. When she resisted, he took the ultimate revenge and killed their children.” (Barbara Hart, 1992)

Visitation, if it is ordered at all, must be in a secure environment, until the danger decreases. Failure to distinguish adult conflict from abuse can minimize the level of danger, and inadvertently embolden perpetrators, thus placing adult victims and their children at extreme risk. Supervised Visitation Programs provide key safety features including: monitored safe exchanges, separate intake interviews, staggered arrival and departure times, trained monitors who intervene when batterers attempt to use the children to relay messages, obtain information, or put down the other parent, and protections against parental abduction.

Story from a Vermont Supervised Visitation Center

Diana Langle, Center Director, All About Kids Supervised Visitation and Monitored Exchange Center

The following story is an amalgamation of different experiences, and an example of post-separation batterer and third-party harassment.

John came to our Center after a Judge had ordered weekly one-hour supervised visitation with his two children, Sarah age 6 and Daniel age 4. John’s past abuse of his ex-partner, Peggy, and the children included the following: two physical assaults on Peggy, with Sarah having witnessed one of them; ongoing emotional abuse with threatening behavior; and John’s frequent belittling andspanking of their daughter. The abuse came to light when Sarah disclosed to her teacher that Daddy had hit Mommy because Mommy did not want Daddy to spank Sarah again. The Department for Children & Families began an investigation for child abuse and Peggy obtained an Abuse Prevention Order against John.

Peggy’s fear elevated when John violated the Abuse Prevention Order by breaking into her home and threatening to kill her and the children. As a result of his attack, John was now on probation. Although she was fairly certain that John’s fear of possible incarceration would deter future assaults, she still lived in constant fear. During the intake and orientation at the supervised visitation center, Peggy disclosed that she felt terrified of John, as well as of his family. Since the separation, she had received numerous late night phone calls. Although she suspected that John had placed them, Peggy believed that his family was also involved. They blamed Peggy for the break-up and were angry with her.

The center scheduled supervised parent/child contact for John, and when he came to the center for his first visit, he appeared angry and told staff that Peggy had filed for divorce. The staff reminded him that he needed to focus on the upcoming visit with his children and not on Peggy. During the visit, staff had to re-direct John twice because his primary focus was on his son and he ignored his daughter.
Should children have contact with a parent who is the perpetrator of domestic violence? When is it safe to recommend contact? How do we ensure that contact between children and their battering parent is safe for both children and the other parent — the adult victim of domestic violence? National experts have started researching and articulating best practices for judges and court personnel regarding parenting arrangements after domestic violence. In Vermont, this issue has risen to the top of the agendas in the communities of domestic violence advocacy, family court, and child protection.

In May of this year over 250 Vermont professionals, including judges, court personnel, supervised visitation center staff, domestic violence advocates, and Department for Children & Families employees, looked specifically at the complexities of determining parent/child contact in domestic violence cases. This statewide conference, planned by a multidisciplinary group, brought national trainers to share their expertise on the impact of domestic violence on children as well as how best to make decisions for children who are impacted by batterers.

David Mandel, MA² gave the morning keynote address—his eighteen years experience working with perpetrators of domestic violence and nine years working with child protection has him regarded as a national expert in batterer accountability and change.

Safe and Together: Making Good Decisions for Children Impacted by Batterers³

David’s message was clear and relevant to the broad audience sitting before him: in order to make good safe decisions for children, systems have to work effectively with batterers and understand that children's best interests are served when they can stay safe and together with non-offending parents. David’s framework, highlighted here, is designed as a tool to assist systems in risk assessment, safety planning, documentation, case planning, and collaboration between community partners.

An appropriate response to the presence of domestic violence in a family, when children
are the focus, depends on the fullest identification possible of these five critical components:

• The batterer’s pattern of coercive control over the survivor and the family

• The range of actions the batterer has taken to harm the children

• The full spectrum of efforts made by the non-offending parent to provide for the safety and well-being of the children

• The adverse impact of the batterer’s behavior on the children

• The role of substance abuse, mental health, and socio-economic factors

If professionals tasked with recommending or deciding parent/child contact in domestic violence cases can use the above five areas in their orders and plans, the final outcome will be more effective in addressing:

• The safety, support and trauma needs of both the children and the adult survivor

• Keeping the children and the non-offending parent safe and together whenever possible

• Reducing the batterer’s risks and supporting his strengths as they relate to his family

• Collaboration with community partners, including domestic violence advocates, batterer intervention programs, police, courts, child protection and other community providers

When batterers have chosen to act against the best interests of their children, good case decisions for children flow from the following:

• Safe and together with the survivor parent

• Safe and healthy contact with batterers depends on the best understanding of that individual’s pattern of coercive control and behaviors to harm the children

• Court orders, child protection expectations and other interventions related to batterers as parents need to address their pattern of behavior

• Changes in levels of access/supervision can be tied to specific measurable changes in batterers’ behavior patterns: cessation of threats and harassment, consistent and congruent acknowledgement of history of abuse, and taking responsibility

Courts have the difficult task of determining the level and nature of contact a batterer has with his children. Sometimes no contact is better for the children and should be regarded as an option in domestic violence cases. When contact is occurring, which is in most cases, courts need to be active in enforcing orders and maintaining boundaries on the behaviors the batterer engages in to harm the children. Agreeing on a common framework helps us all listen to families and understand the needs of children.


2 David Mandel, MA; David Mandel & Associates LLC; davidmandel@endpingviolence.com

3 David Mandel, MA; David Mandel & Associates LLC; PO Box 745, Canton CT, 06019; 860-490-8638; davidmandel@endpingviolence.com; www.endingviolence.com

Basic Assumptions About Batterer Behavior after Separation

• Batterer’s behavior is not bound by the status of the relationship. An escalation in violence and other tactics is not unusual during and after separation.

• Children in common provide the batterer with an extremely potent weapon for continuing control.

• Batterers regularly use visits as vehicle to continue their pattern of coercive control and harmful behaviors toward the children.

• Not all batterers are the same. Levels of violence, patterns of coercive control, and parenting strengths vary.

Ways That a Domestic Violence Perpetrator Can Harm Children

• Exposure to the batterer’s abuse can include direct observation, overhearing or knowing about the abuse

• Using children as a weapon against the other parent

• Undermining the other person’s parenting efforts

• Accidentally causing physical harm to children as a result of the violence towards non-offending parent

• Physical/sexual/emotional abuse or neglect perpetrated directly against the children

• Secondary effects of battering on family
YOUR VOICE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The Vermont legislature makes decisions every year that have huge implications for survivors of domestic and sexual violence and advocacy organizations. It’s critically important for legislators to hear the voices of survivors, advocates and concerned community members as they’re crafting laws and changing policies.

Here are some great ways to make sure your voice is heard!

1 – Follow The Progress Online
   • www.vtnetwork.org – for policy updates related to sexual & domestic violence
   • www.leg.state.vt.us – comprehensive source of information about legislative issues. Search for and track legislation; find your representatives and senators; check out committee schedules, calendars and journals of action on the floor of the Vermont House and Senate; read the text of bills and resolutions; and learn about the statehouse and the legislative process.

2 – Network Legislative Alert Email List
   Sign up to receive periodic emails with updates about state and federal legislative action pertaining to domestic and sexual violence. To be added to the list, email sarahk@vtnetwork.org, or go to www.vtnetwork.org.

3 – Contact Your Elected Officials
   Talk to senators, representatives, select board members and other officials at town meeting or other events. If you’re a survivor and it’s safe for you, tell them about your situation, or just talk generally about the issue of domestic and sexual violence. Call them when you see something that needs to change; email or write letters in support of legislation that you like. Be sure to thank them for their time, especially when they do something great!

4 – Come To The Statehouse
   Testify, observe, mingle. Come for coffee or lunch. Come for hearings and testimony. The Network will be hosting a Legislative Advocacy Training on January 23rd and the Center for Crime Victim Services will host a Legislative Breakfast at 8:30 that morning; the Network will also host a Legislative Advocacy Day in April (date TBA).

5 – Legislative Advocacy Training
   (January 23, 2008, 9:30 to 4:00)
   The Network sponsors an annual training for advocates and survivors about legislative advocacy. Learn how a bill becomes a law, how to get around your Statehouse, tips for testifying and contacting legislators, and hear from survivor activists who’ve made a difference in Vermont. For more information or to register, contact Bethany at 802-223-1302, x.103 or Bethany@vtnetwork.org.

Resources For Legislative Advocacy:
   • www.snellingcenter.org – the Snelling Center for Government provides information about state officials, as well as an excellent Nonprofit Advocacy Resource Guide and the guide Getting Started At the Statehouse.
   • www.afj.org – The Alliance for Justice has lots of information about lobbying and the rules for nonprofits.
NEW AT THE NETWORK LIBRARY
To become a member of the Network Library contact Alex: library@vtnetwork.org

Parenting by Men Who Batter
Edited by Jeffrey I. Edleson & Oliver J. Williams
Oxford University Press © 2007

Visionary but also practical, this book guides professionals in understanding men who batter, assessing their parenting skills, making decisions about custody and visitation, and modeling treatment programs that engage fathers in their children’s lives while maximizing safety. This book breathes the fresh air of hope and reason into an old debate – the discourse about abusive men’s involvement with their children has been dominated by the proponents of two extremes: those who assert that abusive men should participate in their children’s lives regardless of the risks, and those who say that abusers should never have access to their children. It summarizes the relevant research about abusive men as parents as well as the effects of domestic violence on children. The useful practice perspectives put forth in this book will advance our ability to keep children safe in their families and also show how men with histories of domestic violence can be helped to become better parents.

It Happened to Me: A Teen’s Guide to Overcoming Sexual Abuse
Wm. Lee Carter, Ed. D.
New Harbinger Publications © 2002

Teens who survive sexual abuse do so because they find ways to talk and think about their experience, and to deal with what has happened. Written by a psychologist who works daily with abused teens, the book is especially sensitive to their needs and feelings. Providing a road map for the journey, it is a powerful resource for healing and overcoming.

Schools Where Everyone Belongs
Stan Davis
Research Press © 2005

This book is a goldmine of practical information for elementary school personnel & parents concerned with reducing bullying. The author is one of the leading interpreters and implementers of the pioneering “Whole School’ bullying prevention work of Dan Olweus. Evidence-based, clinically sound, and creative, here is an excellent guide to helping children thrive in school.

Protecting Children From Domestic Violence
Edited by Peter G. Jaffe, Linda L. Baker, & Alison J. Cunningham
Gilford Press © 2004

The plight of children exposed to domestic violence has received increasing attention, but awareness of the problem has not always translated into public action. This book provides an overview of the problem of child witnesses to domestic violence and considers the most promising assessment approaches. Also, the importance of teaching healthy relationships in school curricula at elementary and high school levels is emphasized as a vital step in preventing domestic violence in the next generation.

Boys Will Be Men
Paul Kivel
New Society Press © 1999

This wonderful book is about raising our sons for courage, caring and community. It is essential reading for all parents and educators determined to provide a positive future for boys and girls everywhere. Drawing on the author’s decades of experience as a social activist and his anti-violence work with men and teens,
he helps parents and educators grapple with the complex forces in our sons’ lives, including racism, homophobia, pornography, drugs, class, consumerism, sex, and violence. He then provides practical tools to empower boys to take the courageous step out of the “act like a man” box to become allies to themselves, each other, and all those who are vulnerable to violence and injustice in our society. The end result gives the reader a powerful vision of raising our sons to be the critically thinking, socially-invested men we need for a multicultural and democratic society.

No Room for Bullies: From Classroom to Cyberspace
Edited by Jose Bolton, Sr., Ph.D., L.P.C., & Stan Graeve, M.A.; Father Flanagan’s Boys Home © 2005

This book shatters popular myths about bullying. You’ll learn about the intimidation game and how it’s played …from social exclusion and emotional backstabbing to physical violence, sexual harassment, and cyberspace cruelty. Through helpful strategies on bystander silence, support for the victim, and accountability for the bully, readers will be taken beyond problem recognition to proven solutions for parents and teachers.

VERMONT NETWORK MEMBER PROGRAMS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AWARE</th>
<th>Rutland County Women’s Network &amp; Shelter*</th>
<th>Women Helping Battered Women* (WHBW)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>P.O. Box 307, Hardwick, VT 05843 Hotline: (802) 472.6463</td>
<td>P.O. Box 313, Rutland, VT 05701 Hotline: (802) 775.3232</td>
<td>P. O. Box 1535, Burlington, VT 05402 Hotline: (802) 658.1996 (also the TTY#)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Battered Women’s Services and Shelter* (BWSS)</td>
<td>Safeline</td>
<td>Women’s Crisis Center* (WCC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>P.O. Box 652, Barre, VT 05641 Hotline: 1.877.543.9498</td>
<td>P.O. Box 368, Chelsea, VT 05038 Hotline: 1.800.639.7233</td>
<td>P. O. Box 933, Brattleboro, VT 05302 Hotline: (802) 254.6954 or 1.800.773.0689</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clarina Howard Nichols Center* (CHNC)</td>
<td>Sexual Assault Crisis Team *(SACT)</td>
<td>Women’s Rape Crisis Center (WRCC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>P.O. Box 517, Morrisville, VT 05661 Hotline: (802) 888.5256</td>
<td>4 Cottage Street, Barre, VT 05641 Hotline: (802) 479.5577</td>
<td>P. O. Box 92, Burlington, VT 05402 Hotline: (802) 863.1236 or 1.800.773.0689 TTY: (802) 846.2544</td>
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<td>NEKCA Step ONE</td>
<td>Umbrella</td>
<td>WomenSafe</td>
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<tr>
<td>273 Main Street #1, Newport, VT 05855 Hotline: 1.800.224.7837</td>
<td>1222 Main Street #301 Ast. Johnsbury, VT 05819 Hotline: (802) 748.8141 or 748.8645</td>
<td>P. O. Box 67, Middlebury, VT 05753 Hotline: (802) 388.4205 or 1.800.388.4205 TTY: (802) 388.4305</td>
</tr>
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</table>
| New Beginnings | Voices Against Violence *(VAV) | *
| 12 Valley Street, Springfield, VT 05156 Hotline: (802) 885.2050 or (802) 674.6700 | P. O. Box 72, St. Albans, VT 05478 Hotline: (802) 524.6575 | represents Programs with shelters |
| PAVE (Project Against Violent Encounters) | WISE* | Statewide Hotlines [will connect you with closest local Program] |
| P. O. Box 227, Bennington, VT 05201 Hotline: (802) 442.2111 | 79 Hanover Street, Lebanon, NH 03766 Crisis Line: (603) 448.5525 or 1.866.348.WISE | For SEXUAL ASSAULT 1.800.489.7273 |
| | | For DOMESTIC VIOLENCE 1.800.228.7395 |
My name is Rebecca Shea and I have recently joined the team at the Vermont Network Office in the capacity of the Creating Access Coordinator. I look forward to working with other members of the Creating Access Team (CAT) in the effort to bring together disability rights groups with domestic and sexual violence advocacy programs to improve the services that victims with disabilities receive. I will be joining Dhiresha Blose of the Vermont Center for Independent Living as a co-coordinator of the CAT. I am very excited to jump into the project, and thrilled to see the work that has been done so far.

A little about myself — I am a recent college graduate, with a degree in Sociology. For the past four years I volunteered with the Sexual Harassment and Rape Prevention Program at the University of New Hampshire. While there, I worked as an advocate, peer educator, and served on the Take Back the Night planning committee. I also had the opportunity to meet many individuals with disabilities through the Disability Services for Students office and Northeast Passage. Through advocating for compliance at the University I gained experience with the Americans Disability Act.

Welcome
New Staff at the Network Office

October has come and gone once again and we mark the passing of another Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM). This year we had great help from the Vermont Agency of Human Services Field Directors in distributing posters and helping to get information out there. The Network re-vamped last years “Check Yourself” posters and created pens that featured the Network’s website www.vtnetwork.org.

The Vermont State Police also restocked their troopers with domestic violence wallet cards, a great resource for victims and those working with them. Keep your ears open for our Public Service Announcements on the radio and call your local radio station requesting airtime if you aren’t hearing them. Lots of resources available on our website — check it out and Check Yourself!