

Vermont Network NEWS

The newsletter of the Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence

Also in this Issue

The Evolution of VAWA Page 2
 VAWA 2011: Advocates' Priorities Page 3
 Providing Legal Assistance to Victims Page 4
 LAV – One Attorney's Experience Page 6
 New at the Network Office Page 7
 Vermont Network Member Programs Page 8

Network Office Staff

- Karen Tronsgard-Scott *Executive Director*
- Alex Bottinelli *Clearinghouse & Resources Coordinator*
- Zoë Gascon *Legal Projects Coordinator*
- Sarah Kenney *Associate Director of Public Policy*
- Dana Paull *Associate Director of Finance*
- Michele Olvera *Supervising Attorney*
- Rocío Mora *Training & Technical Assistance Coordinator*
- Bethany Pombar *Prevention Specialist*
- Corbett Sionainn *Associate Director of Community Outreach*
- Chani Waterhouse . . . *Associate Director of Member Program Support*
- Auburn Watersong *Economic Justice Specialist*

VAWA: A View of the Journey

by Karen Tronsgard-Scott, Executive Director

The year is 1988 and one morning a co-worker of mine shows up at work with two black eyes and contusions all over her head. She is in shock and a lot of pain, and feeling a little woozy. Something about her makes us nervous so we get her to the local emergency room where we learn she has a concussion and the bones in her cheek and around her eye are broken. We help her contact the local domestic violence shelter where she talks to a wonderful volunteer who tells her that she can get help. The help she can get is shelter and support, and while the volunteer on the phone is certainly open to doing all she can, she reveals that she is a bit confounded about what to do given that our co-worker's assailant is her female partner.



Fast forward twelve years with the same scenario and same location. We take her to the hospital where a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner guides her gently through treatment. She meets with a specially trained domestic/sexual violence investigator from the local police department. The nurse and police officer help her access the local domestic violence/sexual assault program, and a trained, paid staff person welcomes our co-worker into shelter. The shelter worker provides our co-worker with a brochure on domestic violence and sexual assault in lesbian relationships that includes information on local LGBT organizations. Her advocate helps her go to court and get a protection order, then helps our co-worker get a housing voucher and assists her in finding safe housing. Our co-worker meets a trained prosecutor-based victims' assistant who explains the process for following through on a criminal investigation. Our co-worker is able to enter into therapy with a knowledgeable counselor who understands domestic violence. She gains economic and emotional stability and begins the healing process.

The difference between 1988 and 2000 is simply the passage of the landmark federal legislation, the Violence Against Women Act, or VAWA. Enacted in 1994, VAWA has forever changed how we think about domestic and sexual violence; it created effective interventions that offer victims safety and hold perpetrators accountable; and it created

continued on page 2

VAWA: A View of the Journey*continued from page 1*

coordinated and collaborative community systems for ensuring that victims' needs are met. Since 1994, states have enacted over 660 new laws to combat domestic and sexual violence, and the rate of non-fatal partner violence against women has decreased by 63%.¹ Remarkably, the number of individuals killed by an intimate partner has decreased by 24% for women and 48% for men.¹

Today, the Vermont Network is working with national partners to reauthorize VAWA. We are incredibly fortunate that our own Senator Patrick Leahy is VAWA's primary sponsor in the Senate, a position he assumed when VAWA's original

sponsor, Senator Joe Biden became our Vice President.

In this issue of the *Network News*, we take a closer look at VAWA and its impact on Vermonters. Sarah Kenney, our Associate Director of Public Policy presents an overview of VAWA and its importance to all citizens. Zoe Gascon, our Legal Projects Coordinator, reviews the Legal Assistance to Victims Grant and Michele Olvera, our Staff Attorney provides us with an interview with an attorney who represents survivors through this grant. We are initiating a new feature, The Prevention Corner, where Bethany Pombar will update readers on our prevention initiatives. Finally, we welcome three new members to our team. 🌱

1 Kathryn Andersen Clark et al., (2002). "A Cost-Benefit Analysis of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994." *Violence Against Women*, 8.

The Evolution of the Violence Against Women Act

By Sarah Kenney, Associate Director of Public Policy

I started my career in the anti-violence against women movement as a volunteer with the Women's Rape Crisis Center in Burlington in 1997. I was doing education and outreach work, giving presentations in schools and staffing outreach tables at various events. There were four staff at the time, housed in a tiny two-room office furnished with rickety desks and old futons at the top of a long flight of stairs. I fell in love with the passion of the place, the importance of the work, and the dedication of the women who were working ceaselessly and tirelessly to do whatever they could to support survivors of sexual assault and end violence through education and organizing. I applied for the first job that opened up there, and started working as the Development Director in that tiny office in 1998.

I left the WRCC in 2002 to come work at the Network. By that time the WRCC staff had almost doubled, they were in a new office, and there were new community collaborations and inroads with systems that I couldn't have dreamed of just five years earlier. Today the WRCC is a staff of 11, housed in their own beautiful building, with widespread support and recognition in the community. I wish I could take credit for the dramatically expanded services that the WRCC offers today, but there was something much bigger fueling the



growth in Chittenden County, throughout Vermont and across the country.

What happened over the past 15 years to spur this kind of growth and unprecedented resources in the ongoing effort to support survivors, hold perpetrators accountable, and end violence? VAWA happened.

The Violence Against Women Act, first signed in 1994, was a groundbreaking piece of civil rights legislation. It provided guidance for national best practice in investigating and prosecuting domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and dating violence and responding to victims and survivors. Perhaps most importantly, it provided critically important funding for a whole host of services and collaborations, including much of the work happening throughout Vermont today.

Generally, VAWA addresses three critically important areas:

1. Helps governments keep victims and survivors safe and hold perpetrators accountable through policy and procedure development and improved criminal justice and coordinated community responses;
2. Provides supportive services and programs to help victims of violence and their children seek safety and rebuild their lives;
3. Supports prevention programming to eliminate domestic and sexual violence as cultural norms.

continued on page 3

The Evolution of VAWA

continued from page 2

In each of these areas, VAWA has actually saved money while helping to save lives. A cost-benefit analysis of the first six years of VAWA found that it saved taxpayers at least \$14.8 billion in net averted social costs from 1994 to 2000¹. Subsequent refinements and expansions have almost certainly increased that level of savings.

When I started working at WRCC in 1998, funds from the first VAWA had just begun flowing into the states. Based on the success of that first initiative, VAWA was reauthorized in 2000 and 2005 and is due to be reauthorized again this year. Vermont's congressional delegation has been integral in creating and passing VAWA over the years, and the lead sponsor and architect of VAWA's 2011 reauthorization is Vermont's own Senator Patrick Leahy.

continued on page 4

VAWA 2011 – Advocates' Priorities

Given the current divisions on Capitol Hill, all pending federal legislation is a work in progress and new developments unfold weekly. However, advocates for survivors of domestic and sexual violence, stalking and dating violence agree on several priority areas for the new Violence Against Women Act. These include enhancing current core VAWA programs:

- **Grants to Combat Violent Crimes Against Women (STOP)** supports law enforcement, prosecutorial and judicial training, supports advocates and encourages a coordinated community response to domestic violence and sexual assault. In addition to providing guidance on best practice for investigating and prosecuting domestic and sexual violence, Vermont's STOP grant establishes specialized domestic violence units to implement these best practices in communities around the state.
- **Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP)** provides funding for direct services for victims of sexual assault. In Vermont, SASP provides the only dedicated stream of federal funding for sexual assault direct services.
- **Legal Assistance to Victims (LAV)** funds critical legal services for victims of sexual and domestic violence. LAV funds in Vermont support vitally important representation for victims through a network of trained attorneys.
- **Transitional Housing Grants** help address the continued need for safe, affordable housing for victims after leaving emergency shelter, including several transitional housing programs in Vermont.
- **Rural Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual**

Assault, and Stalking Assistance Program (Rural Grant) enhances services available to rural victims and children by encouraging community involvement in developing a coordinated response and raising awareness through outreach and prevention education. Vermont's Rural Grant has supported a vital collaboration between the Network and the Department for Children and Families, resulting in dramatically improved response to children living with a parent who batters.

- **Sexual Violence Prevention and Education Program (RPE)** provides crucial funding and guidance to states and territories to support education programs aimed at preventing sexual assault. RPE has long been the only federal funding in Vermont geared toward primary prevention of sexual and domestic violence.
- **Grants To Encourage Arrest (GTEAP)** supports a coordinated community and criminal justice response regarding arrest and enforcement of protection order laws. In Vermont, GTEAP supports coordination of the Vermont Council on Domestic Violence, coordination and support for state's attorneys who prosecute domestic violence crimes, legal representation for victims seeking Relief from Abuse Orders, as well as certification of batterer intervention programs statewide.

Additionally, advocates are working to make other improvements to all VAWA criminal justice programs to make them more responsive to and inclusive of the needs of sexual assault victims; to implement housing protections for victims of sexual assault in public housing; and to improve response to underserved victims, including U-visa protections for immigrant victims and services for communities of color, tribal communities and victims in the military.

The Evolution of VAWA

continued from page 3

As a former prosecutor, Senator Leahy knows the power of a coordinated, collaborative response to domestic and sexual violence and stalking. He also knows the tremendous difference that VAWA funding has made in Vermont over the past 15 years and is dedicated to fighting for continued support.

“I saw the devastating effects of domestic and sexual violence early in my career as the Vermont State’s Attorney for Chittenden County. I’ve also seen how organizations like the Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence are working to help survivors,” said Vermont Senator Leahy. “When Congress came together nearly 20 years ago to enact VAWA, it sent a strong message that eliminating domestic violence is a goal we all share. And that’s why I’m proud to work with the Vermont Network and others as we propose ways to strengthen and improve VAWA, and renew our commitment to ending abuse.”

Each time VAWA comes up for reauthorization, a collaborative working group of state and national organizations come together to make comprehensive recommendations to Congress about necessary changes and priorities for the next iteration of the law. The group includes law enforcement, prosecutors, courts, tribal organizations, domestic and sexual violence advocacy organizations, children’s advocacy organizations, state coalitions, and more. Domestic and sexual violence advocates and survivors are well represented at that table.

Reauthorization of VAWA gives us a chance to refine and reinforce vital core programs, and to build in new protections for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and dating violence. The organizations

working to support the 2011 reauthorization of VAWA have agreed on priorities for the new bill; see a partial list in the “VAWA 2011 – Advocates’ Priorities” article.

Although VAWA has been an incredible resource and driving force for change in Vermont and across the country, it only became a reality because of decades of amazing activism by survivors and advocates around the country. Long before Congress endorsed and funded this work, there were women and men – like the incredible staff and volunteers I first encountered at the WRCC – working in communities all over the nation to support victims and survivors and to insure that systems and communities took survivors’ needs seriously. VAWA is a powerful endorsement of that amazing work, but advocates around the country must continue to raise our voices. We must make it clear to our elected officials in Washington D.C. that VAWA saves lives and money, that VAWA works and that there are ripe opportunities for improving these critically important programs. We have powerful and dedicated champions in Congress, but it will take widespread support from the grassroots on up for any piece of federal legislation to pass.

Congress rarely seems to agree on anything these days, but for the past fifteen years they have agreed to prioritize ending domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and dating violence by supporting the Violence Against Women Act. VAWA must be reauthorized – and fully funded – for this life-saving work to continue so that advocates and survivors can continue to foster dramatic changes in communities and in individual lives all across the country. 🌱

1 Anderson Clark, K., et al (2002). “A Cost-Benefit Analysis of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994”. *Violence Against Women*, 8, 417.

Providing Legal Assistance to Victims:
The LAV Project

By Zoë Gascon, Legal Projects Coordinator

One of the greatest challenges facing survivors of sexual and domestic violence throughout the United States is a lack of affordable legal representation. Imagine trying to navigate the complicated and imperfect civil, criminal and family court systems to support a course of action that allows for you and your



children’s increased safety. Imagine navigating these systems while trying to support a family, attend school or simply face the typical struggles of daily life. And imagine trying to navigate these systems while a rapist or batterer is working to sabotage and undermine you at every turn, perhaps even using these very same court systems to con-

continued on page 5

Providing Legal Assistance to Survivors

continued from page 5

trol and terrorize you. This is the reality that many survivors of sexual and domestic violence face every day, often alone.

In Vermont we are fortunate to have an important resource to support survivors who need legal assistance. The Vermont Network's Legal Assistance to Victims (LAV) Project is a federal grant program through the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) that provides legal representation and advocacy to survivors of sexual and domestic violence. The project supports legal advocates at 15 local programs and partners private attorneys from throughout Vermont with these advocates so that survivors whose cases are particularly complicated can be referred to attorneys. Project partner attorneys represent survivors at a reduced rate, paid by the Vermont Network through LAV funding. Legal/court advocates at local programs work with survivors on almost any legal issue that concerns them including civil protection remedies, custody of their children, divorce, or when they are victims navigating the criminal court system.

Programs may use any attorney who agrees to the LAV parameters set out in the Contract for Legal Services and who the survivor wants to represent them. This allows for flexibility and the ability to individualize legal services so that survivors can work with attorneys who are a good fit for their needs and personality. Not all of the 15 private attorneys who work under LAV came to the project with expertise in working with survivors of sexual and domestic violence. Michele Olvera, Supervising Attorney at the Network, is able to provide training, case consultation and technical assistance to project attorneys as well as monitor their practice. Michele's background in litigation on behalf of survivors and in depth knowledge of sexual and domestic violence legal issues is a crucial resource for the project attorneys and their clients throughout Vermont. An additional and important benefit to this supervision structure is that we are creating an ever-growing pool of Vermont attorneys who are gaining critical skills, knowledge and proficiency in representing those who have been impacted by sexual violence.

As the Legal Projects Coordinator and administrator of the LAV project, I am able to provide support and technical assistance to legal advocates to help them problem solve, identify resources, access specialized trainings and share information to better serve survivors. Under LAV, I also coordinate the Court Advocates Task Force, a group of legal advocates, Legal Aid and Legal Clinic attorneys who meet regularly to share information and expertise as well as successful strategies for overcoming the particular systemic challenges that face survivors of sexual and domestic violence. This kind of collaboration strengthens our legal

response to survivors throughout the state.

The Network's LAV project has a particular focus on meeting the legal needs of sexual violence survivors. We recognize that the needs of those impacted by sexual violence are often particularly under represented and under resourced. Through this project we strive to bring the distinct concerns of sexual violence survivors to the forefront of our conversations and our work. In practical terms, this means that the state's domestic and sexual violence programs are each allocated four attorney referrals for sexual violence cases and two attorney referrals for domestic violence cases over the two year grant period. Vermont's two stand-alone sexual violence programs may refer as many cases to attorneys as needed.

The Network's Legal Assistance to Victims project is a rich and crucial resource for survivors throughout Vermont, but it is not enough. Ideally all programs could make unlimited referrals and we would have skilled attorneys ready to take even the most difficult cases. Unfortunately, hundreds of survivors in Vermont must navigate court systems on their own because they can't afford to hire an attorney and there are simply not adequate resources to go around. We are working to fill these gaps by recruiting and training pro bono attorneys to provide representation to survivors who cannot afford attorneys. We also support the dedicated efforts of Vermont Legal Aid and Have Justice Will Travel in their efforts to provide free, quality legal services to survivors who cannot afford attorneys. Our goal is to ensure that all survivors have access to quality legal support and representation during these critical moments of their lives. 🌱

New at the Network Office

Dana Paul

Associate Director of Finance

Hello! I am so pleased to have become a member of the team here at the Network office. I am filling the large shoes previously worn by Jennifer Matthews. I have a history of working within the non-profit, community-focused realm and I am very excited to continue to support this personal mission of mine by joining the movement to end violence. I am a long time resident of Central Vermont, having grown up here in Montpelier and spent some time in neighboring communities as well. Thus, landing back



continued on page 7

LAV – One Attorney’s Experience

by Michele Olvera, Supervising Attorney

The Network’s Legal Assistance to Victims (LAV) grant just couldn’t work unless we had attorneys willing to participate and take cases for victims at a reduced rate. In this newsletter, we want to highlight Angela Eastman, who has taken many cases under the LAV grant. Angela is a perfect example of the commitment and passion it takes to seek justice for survivors of sexual and domestic violence. We couldn’t say enough about her so we thought we would let her speak for herself in an interview that is reproduced here.



Q. What made you interested in representing victims of sexual and domestic violence under the LAV grant?

A. Way back when, I was a Fellow at Legal Aid and a project manager for a safety audit on a PRAXIS grant looking at the rate of recidivism for batterers participating in IDAP. I

really enjoyed my work and when I came back to Vermont it seemed like a natural fit. Also, I just get a lot of satisfaction from this work and my clients are so appreciative of being heard and listened to in court. I think to myself, this is something I can do and it makes such a difference in the lives of my clients.

Q. What have you encountered as the major concerns of your clients under LAV?

A. Many of their concerns are related to facing the perpetrator in court and the fear that if they lose, the abuse will become worse. They are concerned about how they are going to make it on their own and take care of themselves and their children when their abuser is doing everything he can to make things difficult. Their legal goals usually start with protecting their children if they have children. That is number one. Then, they are of course concerned about their own safety.

continued on page 7

Prevention Today: Our Shifting Landscape

PREVENTION
CORNER

by Bethany Pombar,
Prevention Specialist

The landscape of Vermont’s prevention movement has been shifting over the last year as some long-term projects end and new ones begin. It is an exciting time!

In June we saw the “conclusion” of the Vermont Approach, a five-year strategic plan to prevent sexual violence. While we were sad to lose the tangible partnerships and resources that work brought, we are thankful for all that the project gave us. We know that endeavors like this never actually end; they just grow into something new.

We are thrilled about the creation of the Governor’s Prevention of Domestic and Sexual Violence Task Force. A thoughtful and diverse group of eleven people have been appointed who come fully loaded with ideas and energy for this work from a multitude of perspectives. I am honored to have been named Chair of this committee



and look forward to working with the other appointees, seeking input from stakeholders and working together to making recommendations around the State’s prevention priorities.

In our efforts to work closely with Vermont’s broad prevention community, the Network will be hosting a Prevention Advisory Symposium on December 5th to identify opportunities and messages we can infuse into our work.

In addition to this re-envisioning work, we’ve also got our boots on the ground. We continue to work with the Sexual Violence Prevention Task Force (SVPTF) to support schools in implementing ACT 1 mandates and create training opportunities and other points of information dissemination. Additionally, we have carried out a second round of Consent Campaign trainings, reaching almost 100 participants this fall. We won’t be offering any more Consent trainings until next year, but you can find the Consent Campaign handbook on our website under “publications> sexual violence”. 🍀

LAV – One Attorney’s Experience

continued from page 6

Q. How do you think being represented in court affects your client’s cases?

A. Mostly, that they are successful. The cases I take are meritorious. They are all winners. They would be meritorious without me but the difference is, if they go pro se (represent themselves) and I have seen this many times, they don’t know how to present their evidence and it is upsetting to the court. When they have an attorney, they are sort of a project manager that helps them present evidence and put their case before the court.

Q. How has representing your LAV clients affected you?

A. Recently, I saw a client that I had represented in a divorce

and she was doing so well. She was working at a really good job and living in stable and good housing. Her kids were doing well. I felt great and so happy for her. She had been successful in moving on with her life and surviving the abuse and then thriving, and I helped! That one case could last me five years in inspiration. I am so grateful also for the life that I have. I think about how paying for parking when I go to court is nothing for me but for some of my clients, that five dollars is enough maybe to keep them from getting to court or to a job interview. I am treated so well in my life and I would like for my clients to have that too.

I also get so much great courtroom experience.

On the difficult side, I sometimes worry about my clients and how they are doing and how their children are doing and that effects me too.

But overall I love what I do and I am not thinking about changing anytime soon. 🍀

New at the Network Office

continued from page 5

here this past spring, after four years of living abroad, has been a welcome homecoming to say the least. My son is especially enthusiastic about this change, as he much prefers the snow of Vermont over the sandy beaches of the Dominican Republic. Prior to this, I worked as the Finance Director for The Vermont Institutes (formerly The Vermont Institute for Science, Math & Technology or VISMT), a Montpelier based, non-profit that worked with the Department of Education. I am so looking forward to meeting and working with all of our partners within the Vermont community and nationwide. Until then, if you need me, I’ll be crunching the numbers.

Rebecca Thomforde Hauser

Batterer Accountability Coordinator

I am really excited to be starting my new contracted position at the Network as the Batterer Accountability Coordinator. In my prior work as a victim advocate and more recently working with courts and criminal justice stakeholders, I have come to believe strongly that batterer accountability must have victim safety at its core. That accountability can only be achieved when every agency is working together and holding themselves accountable. While victim safety and batterer accountability often seem at odds, I hope through statewide coordination, collaboration and training, batterer accountability programs



and victim advocates can gain insight from each other to better serve victims of domestic violence in Vermont. I do have another day job working for the Center for Court Innovation. As the Associate Director of Domestic Violence and Sex Offense Programs, I assist jurisdictions nationally and in New York State to plan and implement Domestic Violence, Integrated Domestic Violence, Sex Offense and Youthful Offender Domestic Violence Courts, providing training and technical assistance. I moved to Vermont last year with my husband, Rick, and our two boys, Fritz and Rex. We couldn’t love Vermont more!

Sarah Robinson

MSW Student Intern

I am thrilled to be joining the Network as a Masters in Social Work intern throughout the academic year 2011-2012. I am a second-year graduate student, and my academic focus is working on social welfare policy issues from a feminist/anti-oppressive approach. I am excited to be working on a range of legislative advocacy and policy related projects while at the Network. Before graduate school I worked for 5 years at Hunger Free Vermont where I advocated for increased access to federal nutrition entitlement programs, such as school meals. I live in Winooski, Vermont where I serve on the Winooski City Council. I look forward to meeting and working with Network programs and allies throughout the upcoming year.





Against Domestic and Sexual Violence

P.O. Box 405
Montpelier, VT 05601

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 222
Barre, VT
05641

Phone: (802) 223-1302 • vtnetwork@vtnetwork.org • www.vtnetwork.org

VERMONT NETWORK MEMBER PROGRAMS

**Addison County & town of Rochester
WomenSafe**

P.O. Box 67, Middlebury, VT 05753
Hotline: (802) 388.4205 or 1.800.388.4205

**Bennington County
PAVE***

P.O. Box 227, Bennington, VT 05201
Hotline: (802) 442.2111

**Caledonia, Orleans & Essex Counties
The Advocacy Program at Umbrella***

1222 Main St. #301, St. Johnsbury, VT 05819
Hotline: (802) 748.8645

The Advocacy Program at Umbrella

93 E. Main Street #1, Newport, VT 05855
Hotline: (802) 334.0148

**Caledonia County (Hardwick area)
AWARE**

P.O. Box 307, Hardwick, VT 05843
Hotline: (802) 472.6463

**Chittenden County
Women's Rape Crisis Center**

P.O. Box 92, Burlington, VT 05402
Hotline: (802) 863.1236

Women Helping Battered Women*

P.O. Box 1535, Burlington, VT 05402
Hotline: (802) 658.1996 (also TTY#)

**Franklin & Grand Isle Counties
Voices Against Violence***

P.O. Box 72, St. Albans, VT 05478
Hotline: (802) 524.6575

**Lamoille County
Clarina Howard Nichols Center***

P.O. Box 517, Morrisville, VT 05661
Hotline: (802) 888.5256

**Orange & NE Windsor Counties
Safeline**

P.O. Box 368, Chelsea, VT 05038
Hotline: 1.800.639.7233

**Rutland County
Rutland County Women's NW & Shelter***

P.O. Box 313, Rutland, VT 05701
Hotline: (802) 775.3232

**Washington County
Circle***

P.O. Box 652, Barre, VT 05641
Hotline: 1.877.543.9498

Sexual Assault Crisis Team*

4 Cottage Street, Barre, VT 05641
Hotline: (802) 479.5577

**Windham County
Women's Freedom Center***

P.O. Box 933, Brattleboro, VT 05302
Hotline: (802) 254.6954 or 1.800.773.0689

**Windsor County (NE)
WISE***

38 Bank Street, Lebanon, NH 03766
Hotline: (603) 448.5525 or 1.866.348.WISE

**Windsor County (southern parts)
New Beginnings**

23 Pleasant St., Springfield, VT 05156
Hotline: (802) 885.2050 or (802) 674.6700

Statewide Hotlines:
Domestic Violence: 1-800-228-7395
Sexual Violence: 1-800-489-7273

* Indicates Shelter