Our Position Statement
As the statewide leader of the movement to end domestic and sexual violence, the Vermont Network, in collaboration with its Member Programs, is the collective voice for social change on behalf of domestic and sexual violence survivors.

Our Global Goal
The Vermont Network exists so that conditions are favorable for Member Program success. Member Program success means survivors are supported and empowered in getting their needs met and communities are working toward eliminating domestic and sexual violence.

Our Core Values
Social Justice — valuing the dignity of every human being and promoting human rights and cultural equity.
Learning — embracing creative and innovative practices.
Empowerment — committed to supporting and inspiring staff, survivors, individuals and communities in the expression of their own agency.
Change — using our strength to advocate for social change.
Outcomes — striving to achieve the most good and the least harm for the greatest number of survivors.
Holism — acknowledge all aspects of the lives of individuals, including relationships to oppression.
Survivor Informed — guided by the voices and experiences of all victims and survivors.
Collaboration — informs our work and affords us the opportunity to build capacity, maximize resources, and bring new paradigms into view.
Greetings from the Director

Not of long ago, a neighbor of the Network characterized our work in this way, “They just type and talk.” Indeed, Network staff spends a good bit of time communicating using computers and phones. This is our charge — to support Member Programs and the survivors they serve by offering training and technical assistance as they use their wisdom and knowledge, gained from survivors, to guide our work with policy makers in Montpelier and Washington, D.C. Our work is perhaps best described by Meg Kugler, Co-Director from Circle “Circle relies upon the creative support of the Network as it connects us to best practices from state and national perspectives, provides support for meeting the ever-increasing demand...offers an incredible library of resources, promotes legislative change, and gathers Member Programs and other stakeholders throughout the course of the evolving social justice movement. Someone once said, ‘The thing about a movement is that it moves...’ The Network supports us in moving in the most courageous directions!”

This annual report provides a limited view of this year’s typing, talking and moving. New initiatives, partnerships, and priorities were added to the work we do to fulfill our Global Goal. We housed many statewide programs, including Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Program, Batteries Accountability Program, Domestic Violence Council, and Rural Children’s Advocacy Program. We supported projects such as the Domestic Violence Homicide Reduction Program, Database Implementation Project, Reach UP Work Groups, and the Housing and Homelessness Task Force. Thanks to the incredible advocates who support survivors at our Member Programs, our work is informed by the voices of survivors; the Network sits in awe of the strength and courage of survivors and the dedication and innovation of the advocates who serve them. We truly type and talk on behalf of survivors and advocates.

We and all victims and survivors benefited from the actions of an advocate who is very special to us. Senator Patrick Leahy, despite all odds, Printer of Congress to pass the Violence Against Women Act. As a Vermont, a Senator, and an ally, Senator Leahy embodies all the special characteristics of an advocate. We are grateful for his leadership and tenacity in 2013 and always.

— Karen Tronsogi-Scott

Vermont Network 2013 Financial Statement*

INCOME:
Federal grants ........................................... $551,160
State allocations.......................................$807,224
Other ......................................................$161,395

TOTAL INCOME ....................................$1,513,779

EXPENSES:
Support for Direct Services ..........................$358,758
Deborah’s Advocacy Services, Network Program grants ..................................................$335,934
Domestic Violence Council, Emergency Housing Funds for victims, Batteries intervention grants ..........................................................$162,981
Outreach/Training/Education .........................$93,929
Speculative Programming Contracts ...........$340,993
Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Program, Supervised Visitation Program Corroboration, Prison Rape Elimination Act Coordination, Domestic Violence Council, Batteries Accountability, Children’s Advocacy ...........................................$656,082
Network Operations .................................$155,415

TOTAL EXPENSES ................................$1,513,779

*Note: This financial statement is based on projections

2013 Vermont Network Highlights

Public Policy
The Network provides statewide and national leadership for developing policy and legislation that supports victims and holds perpetrators accountable. In 2013, the Network:

• Held the first annual conference for Economic Empowerment Advocates — those Network advocates working to support the economic needs of sexual and domestic violence survivors.
• Assisted the Department for Children and Families in developing several projects: a Domestic Violence protocol; a network on retrospective violence liaisons in the Reaches in the Reach (R4) program; and streamlining the process for victims of domestic and sexual violence who require emergency housing assistance and working toward a more trauma-informed process.
• Worked to pass legislation that improves service of protection orders, promotes accountability in the VT National Guard’s response to sexual violence, and extends the statute of limitations for criminal prosecution of crimes of sexual violence against children.
• Worked in partnership with the Coalition of Supervised Visitation Programs and the VT Council on Domestic Violence to move toward a process of certification of supervised visitation programs. Vermont will be the first state in the country to do this.
• Began implementing inmate education and advocate training on the Prison Rape Elimination Act.
• Participated as Amicus in a Vermont Supreme Court case affecting victims who flee to Vermont and their ability to obtain protection orders.
• Supported Expert Witnesses to provide testimony to help explain victim behaviors to fact finders and dispel prevailing myths.

Community Change
The Network builds momentum for community change through developing and moving policy, providing training and consultation, and promoting anti-violence messages. In 2013, the Network:

• Led the Governor’s Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention Task Force in making recommendations on how public and private entities can enhance prevention programming in Vermont; recommendations range from fundamental needs to strategy, and the Network is collectivizing action to build capacity throughout the state.
• Released the second edition of the WholeSomenesses curriculum, an innovative health promotion training which gives tools to adults so they can help support youth to develop skills which support safe and supportive relationships and networks; new workshops can be seen soon!
• Provided trainings for many diverse professional populations, including National Guard members and supervisors, Guardians ad Litem, Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners, and law enforcement.
• Published the Newsletter newsletter in spring and fall, each issue reaching about 2,700 Vermonters in print and countless others online.

Member Program Support
The Network supports its member programs to respond comprehensively to domestic and sexual violence in their communities. Network member programs accessed support in many areas, including:

• Data collection and program evaluation
• Statutory requirements for mandatory reporting of child abuse, Domestic Violence and Civil Rights
• Sexting and youth
• Sexual assault in prisons
• Economic empowerment for survivors, including public benefits and housing
• Non-profit leadership and administration
• Building comprehensive prevention programming
• Working with schools
• Healthy sexuality education
• Accessibility for people with disabilities and Deaf people
• Supporting healing with individuals, moms, kids and families
• Home visiting
• Accessing over 1,100 resources from the Network Library
• Network’s Housing Assistance Fund — member programs helped 76 families and 30 single adults secure stable housing.

With sensitivity to survivor confidentiality, the Network has efficiently filled in many housing funding gaps, safely re-housing women and their families facing domestic and sexual violence throughout our community.

— Advocate

When our community identified some concerning trends in law enforcement responses, the Network responded on the Network’s area of expertise to provide guidance...their knowledge of who and when a call was instrumental in bringing about a shift in response toward more sensitivity and support for victims and survivors.

— Advocate

The Network has consistently provided me with a wealth of current, unique resources and models that strengthen both my prevention work and direct service work with youth communities. Someone is always available to bounce ideas off of or offer technical support, and they share enthusiasm for the work we do at our program.

— Youth Advocate

DIVAS & DVAS
The Network supports projects providing direct services to two specialized populations. The Network supported projects providing direct services to two specialized populations. The Network supported projects providing direct services to two specialized populations.