



THE VOICE

A newsletter of the Nebraska Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Coalition,
Committed to the prevention and elimination of sexual assault and domestic violence.

Fall 2005
Nebraska Domestic Violence
Sexual Assault Coalition

Our Year in Review

Greetings,

Inside the pages of this issue of "The Voice" you'll find the Nebraska Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Coalition's Annual Report for 2004-05. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of the Coalition's 11 staff members and 18 board representatives, we expanded services and added programs during the past year in continued support of our mission to end domestic and sexual violence in the lives of women, children and families.

Our Mission

The Nebraska Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Coalition is a statewide advocacy organization committed to the prevention and elimination of sexual assault and domestic violence. We work to enhance safety and justice for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault by supporting and building upon the services provided by the network of local programs.

To this end the Coalition provides information, support and guidance by providing training on the local and statewide level, disseminating education materials, and, working to ensure laws and policies support victims and hold offenders accountable.

Our broader mission is to increase public awareness and involvement and to encourage local leaders and other key service providers to support efforts to change the institutional policies and cultural practices that perpetuate violence against women and children.

Providing support and assistance to the 22 domestic violence/sexual assault programs throughout the state remains our primary focus. Collectively, the programs assist thousands of survivors each year through their crisis lines, advocacy programs and shelters. Coalition staff provide support to the local programs through site visits, trainings and peer reviews.

In addition, the Coalition works with the legislature and other state leaders to set policies that support victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. We also build partnerships with other organizations and individuals who work with victims, and provide training for professionals, including attorneys, clergy, child care providers, and social workers, to help them address these issues when they encounter them in their work.

In April, 2005 we launched a new statewide Spanish Hot Line and hired a Latina Outreach Coordinator to staff the line and train program staff and others on a variety of issues relating to effectively serving Latina survivors. Two other new programs initiated last year were Josie's Fund, a program to raise awareness about the connection between animal abuse and domestic violence and to provide emergency financial assistance to families with companion animals; and Step Up Speak Out, an award winning public awareness program aimed at teens and young adults. (See page 2-4 for more information about these programs.)

I'm proud of all that we accomplished last year, yet I also recognize there is more to be done. We welcome your suggestions or comments and thank you for your support.

Sarah O'Shea, Executive Director

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Welcomes
New Board
Members

The Year in Review: Highlights

Training & Educational Activities

Throughout the year, the Coalition directed much of its attention toward providing education and training activities to Nebraska's 22 domestic violence/sexual assault programs, as well as to other professionals who work with victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

The Coalition's 2004 statewide conference, held last September, had over 200 participants. It focused on responding to the multiple challenges of domestic violence and sexual assault, including mental health concerns and substance abuse. The Coalition also offered many state and regional training opportunities for program advocates on topics ranging from expert witness training, to immigration relief, to media spokesperson training. Three intensive two-day, training institutes were also provided focusing on children's services, fundamentals of advocacy, and legal advocacy.



Conference keynote speaker Ellen Pence



The Coalition also co-sponsored a conference for clergy on the faith community's role in addressing domestic violence. It featured the Reverend Al Miles, a noted expert and author, on the subject. (See photo at left)

To ensure that the Coalition is providing the most current education and training, we send our own staff to national and international trainings throughout the year. Last year, Coalition staff attended over 25 such trainings as well as over 15 in-state conferences and trainings on topics of significance to the programs.

Public Awareness Activities

Last fall, the Coalition officially launched **Step Up Speak Out**, an innovative public awareness campaign aimed at changing attitudes of young adults regarding the images of women and violence against women that are shown in today's media. Since then, the Step Up Speak Out campaign, developed by Lincoln marketing firm ArchRival, has been awarded a number of advertising awards and has had over 25,000 "hits" to its website: www.stepupsppeakout.com. The campaign uses radio and television spots as well as movie theater slides to gain people's awareness about how women often are portrayed in the media and to encourage them to go to the StepUpSpeakOut.com website for more information.



(continued next page)

2004-05 Coalition Activities

Training, Technical Assistance & Peer Review

Services to Programs

Contact with Programs

- 687 Telephone or email contacts
- 134 Mailings to all programs
- 190 Mailings to individual programs
- 61 Program Site Visits

Trainings/Meetings

- 9 Statewide Program Trainings
- 3 Regional Program Trainings
- 3 Training Institutes
- 1 State Conference
- 9 Program Specific trainings
- 4 Program Peer Reviews
- 5 Director's Day Meetings
- 3 Batterer Intervention

Services to Other

Organizations/Individuals

- 390 Telephone or email contacts
- 161 Informational Mailings
- 7 Presentations to clergy/faith groups
- 4 Presentations to Community Organizations
- 5 Presentations to Educational Institutions
- 5 Presentations to Attorneys
- 11 Presentations to Law Enforcement
- 13 Presentations to Health & Human Services Providers
- 6 Testimony to Legislature

In 2004-05, Coalition staff gave a total of 101 presentations with a total of 2,358 people in attendance.

Statewide Public Awareness Activities

- 5 Informational Booths
- 2 Press Conferences
- 4 Media interviews

2004-05 Coalition Activities

Resource Library

The Coalition maintains an extensive resource library for use by the programs as well as individuals and organizations in need of information about domestic violence, sexual assault, incest, stalking or other related topics. The library includes over 160 books, 235 videos, 45 training curriculums, and numerous state and national newsletters and reports.

Last year, 133 resources were loaned out from the Coalition's Resource Library.

Publications

The Coalition distributed 91,912 materials last year, including booklets, newsletters, brochures, videos, promotional and training materials.

New publications developed in the past year by the Coalition included:

- "Ending Silence in Our Congregations: Faith Community Responses to Domestic Violence"
- "Building Bridges to Safety: Lessons Learned"
- Two brochures and a promotional poster about Josies Fund
- The 2003-04 NDVSAC Statewide Report
- Step Up Speak Out awareness cards
- Faith Community bookmarks

The Coalition also provided revised English and Spanish versions of the following:

- "Breaking the Silence" and "Rompiendo el Silencio"
- "Understanding Nebraska's Protection Order" and "La Orden de Proteccion en Nebraska"
- "The Personal Safety Plan" and "Plan Personal de Seguridad"

The Year in Review: Highlights

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Technical Assistance/Program Site Visits

Between telephone calls, emails and faxes, Coalition staff had 687 requests for information, assistance, advice and/or materials from the network programs. Our staff also made 61 visits to the programs during the year to provide computer and/or database assistance, new director orientations, and address specific training needs.

Programs undergo a peer review by the Coalition every three to four years. Last year, the Coalition conducted four program reviews. For each review, staff from similar programs assist Coalition staff in conducting the review. These reviews help the programs ensure the quality of their services and helps the Coalition ensure consistency of services across the state.

Building Partnerships & Policies

The Coalition worked closely with other organizations to increase support for victims and accountability for the perpetrators. Some of the organizations with whom the

Coalition had collaborative projects with in the past year include Interchurch Ministries of Nebraska, Nebraska Crime Commission, Voices for Children, the York Women's Prison, Nebraska CASA, the Family Violence Council of Lincoln/Lancaster County, Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services, the State Bar Association, and the Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force.



Executive Director Sarah O'Shea (second from right in front row) participated in the Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force.

Coalition had collaborative projects with in the past year include Interchurch Ministries of Nebraska, Nebraska Crime Commission, Voices for Children, the York Women's Prison, Nebraska CASA, the Family Violence Council of Lincoln/Lancaster County, Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services, the State Bar Association, and the Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force.

The Coalition's goal is to find ways to work together with these various partners to change policies and practices that perpetuate domestic violence and sexual

assault. Last year, the Coalition participated in the Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force which helped bring about changes in state law that eliminated the statute of limitations for sexual assault cases and standardized the sexual assault evidence collect kit statewide.

Filling the Gaps

One of the most important roles of the Coalition is to work with the programs to identify if there are needs that are going unmet, and, if so, what services can be developed to meet these needs. While the programs provide the vast majority of services to victims, the Coalition established three new programs to assist the local programs in meeting needs in their communities.

One of these programs is the Coalition's **LAPTOP Project**. Now nearing the end of its second year, the LAPTOP project helps victims of domestic violence find attorneys with expertise in domestic violence who will represent them at no cost. The program, which is offered in partnership with the Nebraska State Bar Association's Volunteer

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The Year in Review: Highlights

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Lawyers Project, is funded by a grant through the U.S. Department of Justice. LAPTOP is staffed by a full-time lawyer housed in the Coalition office who provides training for attorneys on issues related to domestic violence and assists in matching lawyers with potential clients.

As Nebraska's Hispanic population has grown in recent years, it has become more and more critical that the network programs are able to respond to the needs of this population. Thanks to an Altria Doors of Hope grant, the Coalition was able to launch a statewide **Spanish Crisis Hotline** last year. Staffed by a full-time Coalition staff member who is housed at the Safe Center in Kearney, the use of the Spanish Hotline has increased throughout its first year. The Coalition hopes to broaden the network of bi-lingual advocates who can share responsibility for answering the Spanish Crisis Line and assist Spanish-speaking callers to get the support and services they need.

Pets, like family members, are often victims of violence that is occurring in their homes. Program advocates often work with victims who fear for the lives of their pets or are dealing with injuries to pets resulting from domestic violence. In 2004, the Coalition established **Josie's Fund**. Through Josie's Fund, programs can apply to the Coalition for financial assistance to help a client pay for costs involved with their pet. In the past year, Josie's Fund was used to board six cats when their owner was fleeing from a violent marriage, to board two dogs that a woman's abuser had threatened to kill, to pay for the pet deposit for a woman who had fled her home and found a new apartment, and to board another woman's cat while she and her family lived in shelter waiting for housing to become available.



More recently, funding from Josie's Fund was sent to Domestic Violence Coalitions in Louisiana and Mississippi to help their programs assist clients who are victims of Hurricane Katrina and

have costs related to boarding and veterinary care for their pets.

Josie's Fund is supported entirely by donations.

To find out more about any of these three programs, contact the Coalition Office at (402) 476-6256.



**NEBRASKA'S
SPANISH 24-HOUR
HOTLINE:
1-877-215-0167**

**NEBRASKA'S
24-HOUR HOTLINE:
1-800-876-6238**

Coalition Funding Sources: 2004-05

The following is a summary of the 2004-05 funding sources for the Nebraska Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Coalition and the approximate dollars they generated.

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Nebraska Health & Human Services (NHHS): | \$ 90,000 |
| U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services – Family Violence Prevention & Services Act: | \$237,072 |
| U.S. Dept. Of Justice – Violence Against Women Act Legal Assistance for Victims Program: | \$202,478 |
| Rural Domestic Violence Child Victimization Grant: | \$ 35,577 |
| Grants to State Sexual Assault & Domestic Violence Coalition: | \$149,160 |
| Altria Doors of Hope: | \$ 40,000 |
| Program Members Dues: | \$ 10,300 |
| Community Services Fund: | \$ 5,000 |
| Individual & Organizational Members & Donors: | \$ 6,000 |

Coalition Welcomes Four New Board Members

The Coalition welcomed four new members to its Board in 2005. They are Deb Milligan, of Norfolk; Gwen Hurst-Anderson, of Lincoln; Chris Carberry of Lincoln; and Frances Hauptman, Executive Director of The Shelter in Omaha.

Three of the four new members are community representatives on the Board. In the early years of the Coalition, the Board was comprised solely of representatives from Nebraska domestic violence/sexual assault programs. In 1987, the Coalition changed its policy for board membership to include community representatives as well as program representatives. Today, 50% of the Coalition board is comprised of program representatives and 50% of community representatives.

“The decision to bring community representatives onto our board has served the Coalition well,” says Executive Director Sarah O’Shea. “While it’s important that we stay in touch with the needs of the programs through program representatives, the community representatives have helped us broaden our scope and receive valuable input from the community.”

New State Tax Credit for Donations to Non-Profits

A new state law provides added incentive for individuals and organizations to donate to endowments for Nebraska non-profit organizations, including Nebraska’s domestic violence/sexual assault programs. On August 24th, Governor Dave Heineman held the first of three ceremonial signings of LB 28, Nebraska’s new Charitable Tax Credit legislation. The legislation offers state income tax credits for qualified individuals and corporate donations to non-profit organization with endowments based in Nebraska.

The bill, introduced by Senator Matt Connealy of Decatur, creates state income tax credits of up to \$10,000 a year for planned gifts to qualified 501(c) 3 non-profits organizations. Corporations can deduct 20 percent of their total contribution up to a \$10,000 annual cap. Individuals can deduct 30 percent up to that amount. The law goes into effect on January 1, 2006 and expires January 1, 2010.

Eleven other states offer donation tax credits similar to the ones prescribed in LB28. Many of those states have seen positive impacts from incentives for charitable giving. In

PBS Special *Breaking the Silence: Children’s Stories*



Thursday, October 20th, 9:00 p.m. C.D.T.

This powerful new documentary chronicles the long term effects of domestic violence on children. From the adult children of abuse to those experiencing the trauma today, this documentary features profiles of people struggling to put their lives back together.

The broadcast is a partnership between Public Broadcasting Service, the National Network to End Domestic Violence, the Corporate Alliance to End Partner Violence, and the National Domestic Violence Hotline. It is funded by the Mary Kay Ash Charitable Foundation and Mary Kay, Inc.

Montana, \$74 million has been added to the endowments of Montana non-profits in the past five years.

Senator Connealy said one of his primary purposes for introducing this bill was to encourage Nebraskans to think first of Nebraska non-profits when they make their charitable giving decisions.

There are nearly 100 different community foundations in Nebraska that can help connect people to the charities they want to support. Many of these foundations do not limit charitable donations to non-profits in their community and can establish an endowment program to support your local program if there is not one in existence.

Contact your local domestic violence/sexual assault program to learn if an endowment has been established and how to donate to it. To establish an endowment for your local domestic violence/sexual assault program, contact your local community foundation or your local bank.

For a listing of Nebraska’s community foundations go to:
www.nebcommfound.org, or
www.tgci.com/grants/Nebraska/foundations.asp.

Coalition Donors

(October, 2004 - September, 2005)

Our members and donors provide the vision, support and leadership necessary to guide our work at the Coalition. The following list identifies those individuals who joined the Coalition or donated to it in the past 12 month period. Unless otherwise noted, the donors are from Lincoln. We also thank our many anonymous donors for their support. If a name has been inadvertently omitted, please contact the NDVSAC Office at (402) 476-6256.

Coalition Members

Individuals

Pam Baker
Laura Barelman, Wayne
Mary Bargman Crawford, Alliance
Kathleen Beashore, Kansas City KS
Jane Beck Smith, Waco
Cora Berry, McCook
Monica Braun, Seward
Ann Brost, Chadron
Janet Buck
Christina Carberry
Linda G. Cattau, Columbus
Melba & Thom Cope, Tucson AZ
Charla Daly-Lambert, Columbus
Leslie Deeter
Judith Degraf
Dawn Delay
Marc Delman, Papillion
Marcia Elder, Imperial
Dianne Fagner, Des Moines IA
Shawn Farrar
Dr. Larry & Peg Fletcher
Lisa & Barry Forbes
Trish Fradd, Grand Island
JoAnn Gallatin, Benkelman
Pat & Ed Gehringer, Omaha
Judy Glathar
Jim Gordon
Jewell Grasmick, Seward
Cheryl Guggenmos, Broken Bow
Judy Haney, Omaha
Roger Hansen
Ann Harker
Mary Harker
Dorothy Hayes
Rosemarie Heinisch, Columbus
Dona Hohensee
Katie Holmes, Omaha
Wayne & Lynne Holz
Ann Hoschler, Sioux Falls SD

Linda Hospodka, Omaha
Pam Hromadka, York
Gwen Hurst Anderson
Cindy Johnson, Norfolk
Mary Kamerzell, Tucson AZ
Carol Knieriem, York
Susan Koenig, Omaha
John Lehotyak, Bellevue
Dr. James & Sheryl Lindau, Wayne
Carol Lockwood, Scottsbluff
Carla Loemker, Beatrice
Dianne Lozier, Omaha
Gretchen McGill, Papillion
Lori McIntyre, Grand Island
Elmorine McKiernan, Omaha
David Mellinger, Kearney
Marcee Metzger
Laurie Millard, Norfolk
Vicki Miller
Deb & Stu Milligan, Norfolk
Michon Morrow
Barb Netherland, Scottsbluff
Carol Niemann
Reverand Roland Peschel,
Fremont
Lisa & Cary Peterson, M.D.'s
Marilyn & Paul Phillips, Scottsbluff
Paula Pollart, Cairo
Roalene Redland, M.D., Omaha
Jean Robinson
Brenda Rohren
Judy Rudloff, Omaha
Catherine Saeger, LCSW, Fremont
Judy Sandeen, Hastings
Sheryl Schrepf
Judy Schultz, Maywood
Mike Seacrest
Eric Seacrest, North Platte
Kathy Seacrest, North Platte

Dottie & Bob Shapiro
Sandi Skorniak, Omaha
Mary Spurgeon, Bellevue
Deanna & Theodore Suhr
Tracy Swanson, Omaha
John Tidball III
Harry & Caroline Walles, Ceresco
Roger Wiese, O'Neill
David Wysong

Organizations

American Association of University
Women-NE, Omaha
Boys & Girls Club of Omaha,
Omaha
Family Violence Council, Lincoln
Hites Enterprise, Inc, Omaha
NE Annual Conference of United
Methodist Church, Lincoln
Pinnacle Bank, Ogallala
Servants of Mary Provincial
Council, Omaha
State Troopers Association of NE



Josie's Fund

Josie's Fund was established by the Coalition in recognition of the link between domestic violence and pet abuse. Funds are used to provide financial assistance to victims of domestic violence whose pets are also victims.

Sue Michalski, Omaha
Mel & Barbara Finke
Ann Hoschler
Bob & Sally Morrow
Janice Walker

Community Services Fund Donors

The Coalition would like to thank the following individuals who supported our agency through Community Services Fund designations.

Christine Abraham
Patricia Amedeo
Rob Barnhardt
Jason Bougger
Laura Bowersox
Michael Carlin
Carolyn Caulkins
Sarah Chulufa
Allen Curtis
Andy Elder
Galen Erickson
Rebecca Faber
Sandra Franks
Eunice Green
Amy Guenther
Roger Hans Larsen, Fremont
Julie Harlan
Gerise Herndon
Leon Higley
Jennifer Hunt
Kelly Jenkins
Cherie Krueger
Gustavo Larsen
Nancy Lewandowski
Kristin Lowrey
William Lyons
Leah Margelis
Rachel McGill
Vicki Miller
Debra Miller
Mary-Jo Miller, Omaha
Yvonne Miller, Omaha
Jordan Niebur
Monica Norby
Nancy E. Pierce
K. Premanand
Patricia Ristow
Barbara Rixstine
Patricia Roland, Eagle
Mary S. Tomka
Debra Storz, Adams
Stephanie Tanner
Pat Tetreault
Laura Thies
Tom Tovack
Claudia Trexler, Omaha
Lauren Vagts
Kathryn Ward
Marc Wullschleger



NDVSAC Membership Form

Become a member of the Nebraska Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Coalition and support ending domestic violence and sexual assault. Your contribution will help ensure continued services for battered and assaulted women throughout Nebraska.

Name _____

Organization _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Please sign me up for an annual membership:

- Individual (\$30) New Renewal
 Organizational (\$50) New Renewal
 Accept my contribution of \$ _____.

Consider me a major donor with my donation of:

- \$50 \$100 \$150 \$ _____.

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Bill me for the remaining amount::

- Monthly Quarterly Bi-annually.

This donation is: In honor In memory of

This donation is for Josie's Fund:

- Please do not print my name in the newsletter.

Your donation is tax-deductible. Federal identification #47-0606289.

Make checks payable to:

NDVSAC
825 M Street #404
Lincoln, NE 68508

Nebraska Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Coalition

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Lincoln, NE 68508 (402) 476-6806 fax
www.ndvsac.org info@ndvsac.org

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Staff

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Karen Harker, Fiscal Manager/Technical Assistance
Patsy Martin, Public Relations Coordinator
Tara Muir, Legal Director
Sarah O'Shea, Executive Director
Angela Sandman, Administrative Assistant
Robert Sanford, Project Attorney
Marla Sohl, Sexual Assault Prevention Coordinator
Michelle Zinke, Children's Services Coordinator

Nebraska's Network of Programs

Family Rescue Services (Chadron) 308-432-3061
DOVES (Scottsbluff) 308-436-4357
North Central Quad County Task Force (Valentine) 402-376-5345
Domestic Abuse/Sexual Abuse Services (McCook) 308-345-5534
Rape/Domestic Abuse Program (North Platte) 308-534-3495
Parent-Child Center (Lexington) 800-215-3040
Sandhills Crisis Intervention Program (Ogallala) 308-284-6055
Cedars Family Violence Services(Broken Bow) 308-872-5988
The S.A.F.E. Center (Kearney) 308-237-2599
The Crisis Center, Inc (Grand Island) 308-381-0555
Spouse Abuse/Sexual Assault Crisis Center (Hastings) 402-463-4677
Center for Survivors (Columbus) 800-658-4482
Haven House (Wayne) 800-440-4633
Winnebago Child Family Services (Winnebago) 402-878-4308
Dakota Tiwahe Service Unit (Niobrara) 402-857-2342
Bright Horizons (Norfolk) 402-379-3798
Ponca Tribe of Nebraska (Norfolk) 402-371-8834
Rape/Spouse Abuse Crisis Center (Lincoln) 402-475-7273
Friendship Home (Lincoln) 402-437-9302
Project Response (Auburn) 800-456-5764
Blue Valley Crisis Intervention (Fairbury) 800-876-6238
Crisis Center for Domestic Abuse/Sexual Assault (Fremont) .. 402-727-7777
Heartland Domestic Abuse Program (Bellevue) 800-523-3666
YWCA-Women Against Violence Program (Omaha) 402-345-7273
Catholic Charities, The Shelter (Omaha) 402-558-5700
or for the program serving your area 1-800-876-6238
(Spanish Hotline..... 1-877-215-0167