



NO MORE

# NO MORE in Nebraska

Nebraska Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Coalition, Editor: Michelle Zinke

1st Quarter 2014

*Take the first step in faith. You don't have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step.*  
-Martin Luther King, Jr.

## 1994-2014: Remembering the Milestones

The year 1994 was a year of highs and lows.

It has been twenty years since the passage of the first Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) in 1994. A bipartisan effort, it was spearheaded by then Senator Joe Biden and Senator Barbara Boxer. The VAWA created new laws as well as new funding for organizations working to address domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and dating violence. Then U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno soon established the Office on Violence Against Women to oversee the new programs created under the Department of Justice. Other federal agencies, such as the Centers for Disease Control, the Office of Justice Programs and U.S. Health and Human Services would also administer funds.

### In this issue:

*Step Up! Speak Out!: Know More About NO MORE*

2

*Housing Protections in VAWA*

3

*Domestic Violence Counts*

4

*Housing Protections continued; SAAM*

5

*Program News; What's New at the Coalition*

6

*What's New at the Coalition*

7

*Mark Your Calendar*

8

VAWA has been reauthorized numerous times, most recently in 2013. Each reauthorization has brought new and/or expanded protections related to domestic violence, sexual assault, intimate partner violence, stalking and dating violence.

The VAWA passage came during one of the most well known cases of domestic violence in the U.S., the murder of Nicole Brown Simpson by OJ Simpson in June 1994. Sometimes described as “the most publicized criminal trial in American history,” the trial lasted from November 2, 1994 to October 3, 1995.<sup>1</sup>

The media attention on the case created a national level of awareness of the atrocity of domestic violence. Although acquitted in a criminal court, a civil court awarded a judgment against Simpson for the wrongful deaths of Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman. Additionally, a history of domestic violence was uncovered during the court proceedings.

The anniversary of Nicole’s death reminds advocates, allies, and the general public that we must continue our work to support victims of violence and our efforts to hold perpetrators accountable as well as increase our work to prevent violence from occurring. It is a reminder that while we have made great strides in the past two decades, much work remains to be done.

1. Domestic Violence Prevention: A history of milestones and achievements, VAWnet, <http://www.vawnet.org/domestic-violence/DVPreventionTimeline/>

Additional information from *The Violence Against Women Act: Overview, Legislation, and Federal Funding*, Congressional Research Service, <https://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R42499.pdf>



## Know More about NO MORE

By Rachel West, Prevention Coordinator



By now you may have already viewed a NO MORE public service announcement on television, spotted the symbol on a website or window decal, or read the tagline stretched across a billboard. NO MORE is a new overarching symbol, designed to unite everyone who is working to end domestic violence and sexual assault and to raise great awareness about these issues that – despite their epic proportions – remain quite hidden to the public at large. The letter ‘O’ in NO MORE resembles a blue vanishing point, based on the concept of zero and symbolizing zero incidences of domestic violence and sexual assault. The tagline “Together We Can End Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault” calls on each and every one of us to join together to speak out against domestic violence and sexual assault, to end the silence once and for all.

The Joyful Heart Foundation, in partnership with NO MORE, rolled out the NO MORE campaign in September 2013. In the next three years, the campaign will hit both national and local markets in a variety of media (e.g., print, broadcast, social media, online advertising, and outdoor advertising). You will see NO MORE in your major airports and medical facilities, and possibly in your workplace, local schools and campuses, community bulletin boards, and other venues with a little help from you.



Coalition staff saying NO MORE domestic violence and sexual assault during NO MORE week March 17 – 24, 2014.

Part of the success of the NO MORE campaign is due to the many businesses, organizations, and public figures that have rallied behind the campaign. The National Domestic Violence Hotline, the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence, the National Sexual Violence Resource Center, the National Network to End Domestic Violence, A CALL TO MEN, Men Can Stop Rape, Break the Cycle, Futures Without Violence, and Casa de Esperanza are some of the many allied organizations supporting the campaign. The Entertainment Industry Foundation, Lifetime Television, Viacom, and other companies are partnering with NO MORE on the campaign. More than 50 celebrities and public figures volunteered as cast in the campaigns PSAs. And of course local domestic violence/sexual assault programs are incorporating the NO MORE message into their work at the local level as well.

For more information on the NO MORE campaign, visit [www.nomore.org](http://www.nomore.org). You will find everything that you need to take action and say NO MORE domestic violence and sexual assault, including the NO MORE toolkit.

We encourage you to contact your local domestic violence/sexual assault program to learn how you can help bring the campaign to your community. Visit [www.ndvsac.org/get-help](http://www.ndvsac.org/get-help) for your local domestic violence/sexual assault program.

## Expanded Housing Protections for Victims and Survivors

The 2013 reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act includes expanded protections for victims of domestic violence, stalking and sexual violence. These changes specifically add victims of sexual assault and “affiliated individuals to the victim” as protected groups. The Housing and Urban Development agency (HUD) will issue regulations regarding some aspects of VAWA 2013 but the protections are already available.

VAWA 2013 states that a victim of domestic or sexual violence who is a tenant in public housing may not be denied admission to, denied assistance under, terminated from participation in, or evicted from the housing on the basis of sexual assault and/or domestic violence victimization. The following programs are included:

### HUD Programs:

- Public Housing
- Section 8 Vouchers
- Project-based Section 8
- Supportive Housing for the Elderly
- Supportive Housing for People with Disabilities
- Multifamily Rental Housing
- BMIR (Below Market Interest Rate)
- HOME
- Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS
- McKinney-Vento (Homelessness Programs)

### Department of Agriculture:

- Rural Development (RD) Multifamily

### Department of Treasury/IRS:

- Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC)

Listed below are some of the key protections included in VAWA 2013.

**Emergency Transfer Assistance.** Under VAWA 2013, HUD is required to adopt a model emergency transfer plan for use by Public Housing Agencies (PHAs), owners, managers, or other providers participating in covered programs. The plan must allow tenants who are victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and/or stalking to transfer to another available unit under a covered housing program if they have a reasonable fear of imminent harm from further violence. Victims of sexual assault, in addition to being able to qualify based on a reasonable belief of imminent harm, must also be allowed to transfer to another available unit if the sexual assault occurred within the past 90 days on the premises. HUD is also required to establish policies and procedures under which victims may receive tenant protection vouchers. The scarcity of public housing could present challenges for victims in receiving transfer assistance, and victim advocacy will be needed.

**Lease bifurcation.** If a tenant is evicted because he/she is the perpetrator of violence, the remaining tenant can stay if she/he is eligible or must be given adequate time to establish eligibility.

*continued on page 5*

## Domestic Violence Counts: Census 2013 Report



Since 2006, the National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV) has conducted an annual census of domestic violence programs in the United States. The purpose of this census, called Domestic Violence Counts, is to ascertain an unduplicated count of people who sought services in a single 24 hour period. The census also asks about the services requested, barriers to services and unmet needs.

NNEDV compiles a national report as well as state specific fact sheets. The 2013 report is now available and reflects data from September 17, 2013. Every local domestic violence/sexual assault program in Nebraska participated in the 2013 census. Information specific to Nebraska is included below. For the entire report, including the Nebraska fact sheet, contact the Coalition or visit <http://nnedv.org/projects/census/4225-domestic-violence-counts-census-2013-report.html>.

### **Nebraska Summary: 2013 Domestic Violence Counts**

#### Services Provided

- ▶ 532 victims served in one day (adults and children)
  - ▶ *This number is similar to the 2012 report, which listed 541 individuals served*
  - ▶ 235 people were provided emergency shelter or transitional housing through the domestic violence program (100 adults and 135 children)
- ▶ 297 people (adults and children) received non-residential services, such as individual support and advocacy, transportation, legal advocacy, medical advocacy, and bi-lingual advocacy
- ▶ 299 hotline calls were answered; this equates to more than 12 calls per hour
- ▶ 268 people attended 14 training sessions provided by the local programs

#### Unmet Needs

- ▶ 257 unmet needs were documented due to lack of resources
  - ▶ 102 of these were for housing (approx. 40%)
  - ▶ Other unmet needs included financial assistance and legal representation
  - ▶ *The reported number of unmet needs increased drastically from the 2012 report, which included 178 unmet needs. However, the largest category of unmet needs remains the same: shelter and transitional housing.*
- ▶ Programs reported the following causes for unmet requests for help:
  - ▶ Reduced government funding (32%)
  - ▶ Not enough available staff (18%)
  - ▶ Cuts in private funding (9%)
  - ▶ Reduced individual donations (9%)

Domestic Violence Counts: 2013 Census Report also notes that across Nebraska 30 staff positions were reported as having been eliminated in the past year, which is approximately 20% of the staff positions. The majority of these positions were focused on direct services (i.e. shelter advocacy, legal advocacy). This was a factor in the unmet needs since fewer staff were available to assist victims and survivors.

## Housing Protections *continued from page 3*

Landlords are required to give notice to victims of their VAWA rights when they are denied housing, when they are admitted to public housing, and/or when they are notified of eviction or termination.

Landlords are free to take tenants at their word that they are victims. Landlords, although they might ask for it, cannot generally require third-party documentation such as a police report. HUD has developed a self-certification form that has not yet been updated to include changes in VAWA 2013. However, HUD forms can still be used to assert the rights of victims of sexual assault and domestic violence. VAWA also requires that the victim's confidentiality be protected.

For more information, contact the Coalition (402-476-6256) or the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence (info@endsexualviolence.org).

Source: VAWA 2013 Sexual Assault Housing Protections, <http://endsexualviolence.org/where-we-stand/vawa-2013-sexual-assault-housing-protections>

## Sexual Assault Awareness Month



April is recognized as National Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM)! Local domestic violence/sexual assault programs are implementing public awareness and prevention efforts across Nebraska and nationwide. These activities supplement activities offered throughout the year.

**IT'S TIME ... TO TALK ABOUT IT!**

Your voice. Our future. Prevent sexual violence. The 2014 SAAM campaign focuses on healthy sexuality and young people. The National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC) has a variety of campaign materials and informational handouts on their website, [www.nsvrc.org/saam/sexual-assault-awareness-month-home](http://www.nsvrc.org/saam/sexual-assault-awareness-month-home).

Another national campaign occurs in April, Denim Day. This day began after a ruling by an Italian Supreme Court where a rape conviction was overturned. The justices decided that since the victim was wearing tight jeans she must have helped the rapist remove her jeans, thereby implying consent. The following day, the women in the Italian Parliament came to work wearing jeans in solidarity with the victim. Since then local domestic violence/sexual assault programs have coordinated activities linked to Denim Days as a symbol of protest and destructive, untrue beliefs about consent and sexual assault. In the United States Peace Over Violence creates a national campaign each year. This year's Denim Day will be held on April 23, 2014 and will focus on educating the community at large on the legal definition of consent.



For more information, contact your local domestic violence/sexual assault program or visit <http://denimdayusa.org>.

## Program News

### Executive Director Receives Recognition in Local Media

Hope Freshour, Executive Director of the Center for Survivors in Columbus, was recently featured in an article of the Columbus Telegram. Titled "Freshour Lives Up To Name Hope," the article focuses on the steps that led Hope to return to her hometown and become part of the local domestic violence/sexual assault program. Hope worked as the adolescent advocate for the program before accepting the Executive Director position two years ago.

In the article Hope is quoted as saying:

"I knew I always wanted to work in an environment where I could serve others...my reward is knowing I am using my skills to help uplift others to meet their full potential."

The title of the overall feature in the newspaper is "Power & Progress: Forty Men and Women Who Will Help Shape Our Future." The Coalition couldn't agree more. Congratulations on the recognition, Hope!

To read the article, visit [http://columbustelegram.com/app/Inserts/PP\\_031614/index.html#12/z](http://columbustelegram.com/app/Inserts/PP_031614/index.html#12/z)

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## What's New at the Coalition?

### Coalition Welcomes New Board Members

Two new people have joined the Coalition's Board of Directors, Mary Lou Burns and Toni Jensen.

**Toni Jensen** is the Domestic Violence Programs Service Specialist for the Administrative Office of the Courts and Probation. She is currently the President of the Nebraska Coalition for Victims of Crime and is the Treasurer and Past President for Family Violence Council in Lincoln.

Toni has a passion for working in the areas of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking as well as a passion for leadership. Toni has a Master's Degree in Social Work and Public Administration.

**Mary Lou Burns** is the Human Resources Director for Ameritas Life Insurance Corporation. She has a Master's Degree in Business, and has extensive experience as a trainer and speaker. She is "Achieve Global Certified" as a trainer.

Mary Lou also is a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteer, and is involved with Matt Talbot Kitchen and Outreach, Clinic with a Heart and the Make A Wish Foundation.

Leaving the board after serving their term include **Linda Olson** with Bright Horizons and **Andrea Rodriguez** with the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska. The Coalition thanks both Linda and Andrea for their service as Board members.

## What's New at the Coalition?

### Core Values of the Coalition

Since 2011, the Coalition has worked to implement a strategic planning process. A component of the strategic plan is creating an updated list of values.

To support its Mission and Vision Statements, the Coalition established eight core values to provide definition and direction for the work of the Coalition and the network of local domestic violence/sexual assault programs. These values guide our beliefs and actions.

Each value has a corresponding paragraph providing information about the value and the importance for the Coalition and the network of programs. The values and descriptive paragraphs were created in conjunction with the local domestic violence/sexual assault programs. The descriptive paragraphs recently were approved by the Coalition's Board of Directors.

Listed below are the values and some information from the descriptive paragraphs. For the complete list and information please contact the Coalition (402-476-6256) or visit [www.ndvsac.org](http://www.ndvsac.org).

**Safety:** Every person has the right to live without fear of violence in all forms in their personal and professional life.

**Prevention:** We strive to stop violence before it occurs and to change conditions to stop it from occurring again.

**Accountability:** We value holding perpetrators accountable for their actions. We also hold ourselves accountable for our own behaviors and beliefs when they support or fail to prevent violence.

**Diversity and Equality:** We actively value all people touched by our work and welcome diversity in those we serve, those providing services, and those in positions on the Coalition Board. We will represent the residents of Nebraska on our Boards, staff, and committees.

**Collaboration:** We recognize in our efforts to prevent violence and increase safety we must work with a variety of people and agencies. In this collaborative work, we model our values of diversity, equality and accountability.

**Education:** We recognize the importance of educating our communities about domestic violence and sexual assault. We value creating awareness in order to end the silence and ignorance that perpetrators leverage to justify their behaviors.

**Empowerment and Autonomy:** We strive to empower those we serve and those who are providing services. We support an individual's increased spiritual, political, social, educational, gender based, or economic strengths in order for them to make informed, un-coerced decisions.

**Leadership:** We will act in a leadership role, not as an entitlement, but rather in recognition of the urgent need to stop violence and abuse. We will devote consistent and determined effort toward changing beliefs that support the use of violence and abuse.



Nebraska Domestic Violence  
Sexual Assault Coalition  
245 S. 84th St, Ste 200  
Lincoln, NE 68510  
www.ndvsac.org



Community  
Services Fund  
of Nebraska

The Coalition is a proud member agency of the  
Community Services Fund. Learn more at:  
[www.communityservicesfund.org](http://www.communityservicesfund.org)

### Coalition Board of Directors

Christon MacTaggart, Chair, Papillion  
Hilary Wasserburger, Vice-Chair, Gering  
Bob Moyer, Treasurer, Lincoln  
Kelsie Myers, Secretary, Norfolk  
Suellen Koepke, Parliamentarian, Broken Bow

Mary Lou Burns, Lincoln  
Dawn Conley, Papillion  
Heather Duhachek, Omaha  
Toni Jensen, Lincoln  
Keisha Patent, Lincoln  
Jay Rose, Lincoln

## Mark Your Calendar

### April

- 23 *Denim Day* to raise awareness of sexual assault, nationwide, contact your local program  
24 *Legal Advocacy: An Overview*, Grand Island, the Coalition, 402-476-6256  
28-29 *Nebraska Crime Victims Rights Conference*, Omaha, US Attorney's Office and Nebraska Coalition for Victims of Crime, 402-661-3700  
30 *Nebraska Coalition for Victims of Crime Annual Awards Luncheon*, Omaha, 402-661-3700  
30 *Webinar Wednesday: Self-Harming Behaviors*, Your Desk, the Coalition, 402-476-6256

### May

- 1 *Why Does He Do That? DVC Annual Conference featuring Lundy Bancroft*, Omaha, 402-210-2195  
7-8 *Directors Days*, Gering, the Coalition, 402-476-6256  
12 *Program Sharing Day: Providing Support Groups*, Grand Island, the Coalition, 402-476-6256  
13 *Program Sharing Day: Providing Shelter Services*, Grand Island, the Coalition, 402-476-6256  
28 *Webinar Wednesday: Male Victims of Domestic Violence*, Your Desk, the Coalition, 402-476-6256

### June

- 4 *Prevention Summit: Comprehensive School Based Programming*, Lincoln, the Coalition, 402-476-6256  
11 *Program Sharing Day: Providing Crisis Advocacy*, Grand Island, the Coalition, 402-476-6256  
25 *Webinar Wednesday: Human Trafficking*, Your Desk, the Coalition, 402-476-6256  
26 *Legal Advocacy: Protection Orders*, Lincoln, the Coalition, 402-476-6256  
30 *Program Sharing Day: Providing Children's Services*, Grand Island, the Coalition, 402-476-6256