

Alternatives

www.abwrochester.org

Fall 2008

We just wanted to share with you...

A Story We Won't Soon Forget

An incredible tale of courage in the face of adversity and pain

We hear all kinds of stories here at ABW, as you might imagine. But we were particularly moved by this recent tale, told by one of the staff in our Court Advocacy program. Here it is, in her own words:

I was going down to the first floor to get my lunch and on my way back up, there was a woman standing by the elevator with a hospital bracelet on and bandages on both of her arms where she had had an IV put in. I asked her if she needed some help. She tried to speak and told me that her jaw was wired shut because she had been kicked several times in the head by her abuser and the Emergency Department sent her over here to get an Order of Protection or file criminal charges.

I told her that I would take her upstairs to the probation department where she needed to file her petition and that I would meet her in the waiting room. She began to cry and asked who I was...I told her my name and that I worked here in the court for ABW.

She then began to cry harder and stated that she felt so alone and I must have been an angel sent to help save her life.

She began to cry and asked who I was...I told her my name and that I worked here in the court for ABW. She then began to cry harder and stated that she felt so alone and I must have been an angel sent to help save her life.

I went into court with her and the judge granted her a complete stay away order. The respondent has been brought up on criminal charges and is now in jail.

We recommended that she get one-on-one counseling. She is currently receiving those services through our Transitional Support Group. We also provided her with a Verizon HOPE phone to stay in touch with the services she

needed during this time since the respondent destroyed both her phones.

When she came back to court for her next date she stated that we had saved her life and made her want to live again. She was crying very hard. Crying and

speaking are very difficult as she had surgery on her jaw and her mouth is still wired shut. She will probably need dentures or tooth replacements because when he kicked her in the head, he kicked out several of her teeth. I know I will never forget her as she was a completely different woman the next time I saw her.

We're happy to report that this client is now doing much better—her injuries



are healing, and her abuser is no longer in her life.

Her physical scars will heal; her emotional ones may last much longer—but rest assured, we'll be here to help her, every step of the way.

That help is possible because of the support of many kind people like you in our community! Thank you for making a positive ending to this very difficult story possible.

Alternatives for Battered Women SERVICES TO THE COMMUNITY

Honor/ Memorial Gifts

Gifts made between May 22, 2008
and August 18, 2008

GIFTS MADE IN HONOR OF

Carole Cooper-Haims' Retirement
Mr. and Mrs. Robert P. Yawman

**Amy Moyer's volunteer service at
West Ridge School**

Ms. Joanne M. Hall
Ms. Patricia J. Ozuna

Ms. Shira Hanau's Bat Mitzvah

Ms. Helen H. Cohen
Mr. Aaron R. Flajsing
Emanuel and Riane Gruss Charitable
Foundation
Ms. Camelia Marzouk
Ms. Rachel N. Rosen
Mr. Harold Slavny

**Cathy Mazzotta's 10th anniversary
as ABW Executive Director**

Joel and Deborah Reiser

B. Smith

Ms. Sheryl Seeger

In addition, **Sindee Shaulinski** asked that donations be made to ABW in lieu of gifts for her bridal shower; and **Sabrina Pribek**, a former ABW volunteer, made a donation to us in lieu of favors at her recent wedding. Many thanks to both of them, and best of luck for a bright and happy future!

GIFTS MADE IN MEMORY OF

Nance Hanlon

QCI Asset Management

Ellen Hawver

Ms. Sally D. Wilkins

Barbara Nixon

Elaine and G.R. Abbott
James and Sharon Allen
Ms. Marjorie L. Byrnes
Ms. Esther Nixon
Mr. and Mrs. David Norton
Ms. Lois Palmer
Mr. and Mrs. Salvatore J. Parlato
Ms. Carolyn Tetreault

Michael Shaben

Ms. Sandra Klein

Anna Smith

Mr. Albert Smith

Walk A MILE In Her Shoes®



A March to Stop Rape, Sexual Assault & Gender Violence

To benefit

ALTERNATIVES
for **Battered Women**

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2008

Registration 8:30-9:30 am - Walk begins 9:30 am

BISHOP KEARNEY HIGH SCHOOL

125 Kings Highway South, Roch., NY 14617

WALK A MILE IN HER SHOES® is a nationwide event that invites families to walk one mile to raise awareness about rape, sexual assault, and gender violence. The march invites men to join in the effort to make the world a safer place, and provides an opportunity for the community to talk about these important issues.

Walk a Mile in her Shoes® asks men to literally walk one mile in a pair of women's shoes while raising funds for Alternatives for Battered Women. It is a great opportunity for men to educate the community about a very serious subject. So, ladies, challenge your husbands, boyfriends, brothers, and friends. Guys, challenge your buddies and help raise awareness about this important issue.

Of course, women are welcome to walk—the men might need a little support along the way!

SPONSORS



BISHOP KEARNEY HIGH SCHOOL
A GOLISANO EDUCATION PARTNER



For more information please visit:

www.abwrochester.org

www.walkamileinher shoes.org

- 24-Hour Hotline • Bi-Lingual Services • Children's Programs • Court Advocacy
- Domestic Violence Prevention and Education • Emergency Shelter
- Individual Counseling and Support Groups • Professional and Community Education

In Celebration...

Members of the Cornell and Weinstein families attended a ribbon-cutting ceremony at our Court Advocacy Program in June. The **Cornell/Weinstein Family Foundation's** 2007 grant to ABW made possible a number of renovations and improvements to the CAP program waiting room, making it much more child-friendly and comfortable for our clients. This family foundation has been supporting ABW since 1997, helping us with such practical necessities as child safety seats, room air conditioners, security cameras, counseling program support and heavy-duty washers and dryers. We are deeply grateful for all they do for us!



(left to right): Sherwin Weinstein, Olivia and David Cornell, Linda Cornell Weinstein; and Janine Lucas, ABW Assistant Executive Director.



ABW held its annual Volunteer Recognition Reception in April, honoring the many people whose help all year long makes it possible to do what we do for the many people who need us. The recipients of this year's Volunteer of the Year Awards were board member **Amy Austin**, recognized for her hard work and accomplishments helping with ABW's fundraising events; and **Julie Cammeron** and **Amy Stern**, who were honored for their work over the past six years in leading group counseling sessions and otherwise helping our clients work through the challenging process of building new lives and recovering from their abuse. Their dedication and professionalism are an inspiration to us all!

Two other people were recognized for their dedication to the agency: **Wesley Bauer**, our Americorps Volunteer, who was lauded with an award for going above and beyond the usual level of commitment expected of members of this program; and the late **Janice Winterman** was remembered for her devotion to her volunteer work in the children's playroom, where she worked steadily for three years before her untimely death due to ovarian cancer early in 2008. Her cheerful attitude and obvious love for the children in our shelter will be deeply missed.



Wesley Bauer



Amy Austin

LEGISLATIVE Update



On July 22, 2008, Governor Paterson took the final step to end New York's 20-year marathon efforts to expand access to civil orders of protection for *all victims of domestic violence*. He signed into law a bill that ensures New York will join the rest of the nation in providing those protections, regardless of marital, parental, or blood relative status, via Family and Integrated Domestic Violence Courts.

A local coalition including ABW, SAFER (Survivors Advocating for Effective Reform), and the Rochester/Monroe County Domestic Violence Consortium as well as numerous unions and groups concerned about rights for women and children had a role in bringing this bill to fruition. Previously, a victim of domestic violence, even if she lived with her partner for many years, could not access Family Court unless she was married to, previously married to, related by blood, or had a child in common with her abuser.

This is a tremendous improvement in laws affecting victims of domestic violence—our thanks to the many people who worked so tirelessly over the years to ensure its passage!

Wish List

Space limits prevent us from printing our list here—but if you want a copy of our current Wish List, please consult our website, www.abwrochester.org, or call us: 585-232-5200, ext. 265

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Remember: October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month!

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

Twisted Sisters Motorcycle Club annual pig roast and fundraiser for ABW

- event begins: 2pm; meal served: 3pm
- tickets: \$15/adults; \$5/kids 6-10 yrs. (under 6/free)
- For more details, contact Diane Steeley at: 387-9147, or bsteeley@yahoo.com

MONDAY AND TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6 & 7

Annual ABW Volunteer Phonathon call 232-5200, ext. 265 to volunteer

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11

Walk A Mile in Her Shoes

- Bishop Kearney High School
- registration: 8:30-9:30am
- walk: 9:30am
- (see page 2)

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7

U of R Medical School Student Enrichment Program

Annual Silent Art Auction Fundraiser

- 5:00-7:00pm
- Flaum Auditorium, Konar Building

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12

ABW Annual Meeting

- Rochester Club Ballroom
- East Ave.
- 5:30-7:00 pm

Are you receiving duplicate mailings from Alternatives for Battered Women? Have you moved or changed your name? Do you know someone who would like to be added to the mailing list? Please call Janis at (585) 232-5200, ext. 265 and she will be happy to talk with you.

ALTERNATIVES is a publication of Alternatives for Battered Women, Inc.

Board President Teresa Anderson Editor Deb Howe Allen
Executive Director ... Catherine Mazzotta Layout and Design Debra Bishop

The Community Reaches Out to ABW

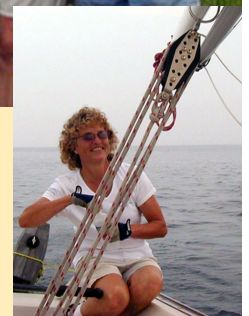
We continue to be honored and impressed by the many members of our community whose generosity of spirit benefits our work and our clients.

The **WOMEN'S CLUB OF PITTSFORD** recently held a garage sale that raised \$1,697 for general operating needs. The club helps ABW out in all kinds of ways—working with clients, collecting used clothing and other items, decorating rooms in our shelter. We are so lucky to have such kind, loyal friends!

We received a \$2500 gift from **M&T BANK** for our Prevention/Education program this summer. This is the 4th year in a row they've given a grant to our program. Many thanks to our kind friends at M&T for supporting this very important community effort, and for helping us to break the cycle of violence before it harms yet another generation.

The students of **NAZARETH COLLEGE** raised \$166 for us at a "Take Back the Night" rally on April 2. Many thanks to them for thinking of us, and for raising awareness about violence against women and girls.

The kind folks at **THE GENESEE YACHT CLUB** once again named ABW as the beneficiary of their second annual Women Skippers Invitational Regatta, which took place at the club on July 19 and raised \$600 for our agency! This year, 24 boats, including eight from visiting yacht clubs, competed in an exciting series of races. All the boats were skippered by women, and many had all-women crew. Over 29 merchants and organizations in Irondequoit, Charlotte and Rochester helped sponsor the event.



Does your partner ever act in ways that make you feel afraid?

Call Alternatives for Battered Women's Hotline

(585) 232-7353

TTY (585) 232-1741

CONFIDENTIAL
HELP
24 HOURS A DAY