

Alternatives

www.abwrochester.org

Summer 2008

5 THINGS YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW ABOUT ABW

Facts that might surprise even those who've known us for years!

Whether you're a relatively new friend to ABW, or you've been with us for many years, there may be a few things you don't realize about us! Here are the top five misconceptions we would like to clear up:

1. We're Just a Shelter

When most folks think of ABW, they think, "shelter." Even our staff and board members are prone to say, "I work at/I'm on the board of the local battered women's shelter." It's an easy, and common, way to describe what we do—but it's not accurate! We serve just as many women and children, if not more, in our non-residential programs as we do in shelter. Add in the 1,200-plus people our Court Advocacy Program helps, and the 10,000+ youth and adults our Education and Prevention program reaches every year, and you can see how many lives we impact beyond the traditional shelter setting.

2. We let people stay in the shelter for only a few days at a time.

While the average length of stay here is over 15 days, clients can stay for as long as 90 days. While we try to remain as supportive as possible, our shelter is never intended, however, to be a long-term solution, but rather a first step on the journey towards a safer and more secure future.

3. Staying in the shelter is like living in a hotel.

Not unless the last time you stayed at the Holiday Inn, they required that you help make meals, keep your own room tidy, and attend required group sessions! We always try to support our clients and address their needs, but we also need to provide the structure, safety and predictability that their lives have so often been lacking.

4. We provide only emergency services.

While crisis intervention and housing are some of our most well-known services, we offer much more, including long-term counseling (both individual and group), advocacy for clients dealing with the court system, and education for people of all ages, both in an attempt to prevent violence before it occurs (our Dating Violence Prevention program), and to dispel the many myths about domestic violence (our Speakers' Bureau). We also provide a great deal of educational services to the community, by offering short-term assignments to undergraduate and graduate-level interns in academic programs in counseling, social work, and art therapy, to name a few. Over the past 15 years, ABW has hosted over 100 interns from SUNY Brockport and Geneseo, the University of Rochester, St. John Fisher and Nazareth Colleges,

Rochester Institute of Technology and Roberts Wesleyan as well as other colleges further a field.

5. All of ABW's clients were residents in the shelter at one time.

We serve 3-4 times more women and children *not* in our shelter than we do residents. Some of them may have lived with us at some point, but many never have, and never will. That doesn't mean, however, that they don't need and use our services as much as those folks in our residential program.

We hope you've learned something new about ABW, and the beehive of activity that our agency is, 7 days a week. And don't worry, there won't be any tests or papers—we just want you to learn more about what we do, and be as excited by all that we accomplish as we are—***because of your support and involvement!***

Services to the Community

Executive Director Cathy Mazzotta Marks 10th Anniversary at ABW

ABW Executive Director Cathy Mazzotta recently celebrated her tenth anniversary at the agency, at a surprise party organized by the ABW Board of Directors.

On March 19 at the offices of Nixon Peabody, close to 40 friends, co-workers and community members lauded Cathy for her hard work and dedication on behalf of women and children everywhere who are victims of violence and abuse. Current and former board members, community officials, and fellow ABW staff members were all on hand to help Cathy commemorate this

landmark occasion.

Congratulations, Cathy—here's to another ten successful years of advocacy and accomplishment!

If you would like to send a gift to ABW in honor of Cathy's 10th anniversary, please mail it to: PO Box 39601, Rochester NY 14604 (feel free to use the enclosed envelope; or, donate online at our website: www.abwrochester.org). Be sure to put "In Honor of Cathy M." in the "memo" line of your check. Thanks!



ABW Staff Member Janet Chaize Wins Sunshine Lady Peace Award

ABW staff member Janet Chaize was honored recently by the Sunshine Lady Foundation, with their annual Sunshine Lady Peace Award, honoring her many years of work on behalf of victims of domestic violence.

As part of this award, the Foundation made a \$5,000 donation to the charity of Janet's choice, and she—kind soul that she is—chose us! What a generous and welcome gesture, on both her part, and on the part of the Foundation.

Janet has been instrumental in many initiatives here at ABW, including the implementation of "Windows Between Worlds," an

art program that uses creativity in the healing process for victims of violence; and in assisting with the founding of "SAFER" (Survivors Advocating for Effective Reform), a group that advocates for reform in the local community, as well as state- and nation-wide.

This is not the first such honor Janet has received: Last year, the Rochester/Monroe County Domestic Violence Consortium gave her their first annual "Outstanding Performance Award" for her tireless efforts. How nice to see hard work, talent and dedication recognized—again!

Honor/Memorial Gifts

Gifts made between November 3, 2007 and May 21, 2008

IN HONOR OF

Norma and Ken Busch

Ms. Judy N. Walsh

Ms. Angela Carpin

Mr. and Mrs. Peter N. Wallis

Ms. Marjorie Chapin

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Parker

Ms. Shira Hanau's Bat Mitzvah

Ms. Rachel Anisfeld
Mr. David Rogachefsky

Ms. Cynthia Kielon

Ms. Linda J. Weinstein

Mrs. LaBella

Mr. and Mrs. Peter N. Wallis

Irving and Lola Ladin

Ms. Dorothy Gordon

Ms. Allison Leet and Mr. Koel Sherman

Melissa and Gregory Schropp

Ms. Susan Luce

Mr. and Mrs. Peter N. Wallis

ABW Executive Director Cathy Mazzotta's 10th Anniversary

The Allen Family
Peter and Mary Ellen Carpino
Ms. Monica Guardino
The Honorable Karen Morris
Ms. Alpa V. Patel
Mr. Alan Saiger
The Sperandio Family Foundation
Ms. Ruth Weniger

Kerin McKenna

Mr. and Mrs. Peter N. Wallis

Mary Wadsworth's Anniversary

Mr. Barden Gerace

Ms. Ginny Weisel

Mr. Michael Sprenkle

Ms. Julie Wilson

Mr. and Mrs. Peter N. Wallis

IN MEMORY OF

Bernice K. Isaacson

Ms. Dian Wolk-Warnhoff

Michael Skaben

Ms. Sandra Klein

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

CORRECTIONS

- Our Annual Report last Fall incorrectly reported the starting date, and other facts, about our Education/Prevention Program. We should have said that the program officially began 1990, with support from the National Council of Jewish Women. And what a legacy they created for our community: Since its inception, this program has met with close to 50,000 students and other community members, increasing awareness and knowledge of dating and domestic violence, and teaching lessons about healthy relationships. This is one program whose effectiveness, we hope, will put our agency and shelter out of business someday!

- In our last edition, we did not properly credit Amy Schwart of the Empire Justice Center, whose article on housing discrimination provided the bulk of the information for our cover story on this issue. Many thanks for letting us tap into your expertise, Amy!

- 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

Tenth anniversary of this event breaks records
**Annual Fundraiser Nets Over
 \$53,000 for ABW!**
 new record means we can do even more,
 help more victims of abuse

This year's fundraiser was truly a "Knight to Remember!" Set once again at the Robach Community Center, on the shores of lovely Lake Ontario, the annual event featured fine food, great music, and some very special guests: Members of **The Society for Creative Anachronism** provided strolling entertainment, drummers and other musicians, even a

licensed falconer with her hawk, Clarice!

Dr. Carole Peterson, a partner in **Women Gynecology and Childbirth Associates**, was this year's honorary chair, and many members of her practice attended the event. **Chris Biehler** of **Beal's DJ Services** once again

donated his services to help make the night extra special; and **Brenda Cohen** of **Visual Memories** donated her photography services. **Ricoh Professional Services** provided the printing, while **DPI of Rochester LLC** donated the

printing of the posters and programs for the event. Many thanks to everyone for their participation and support—their generosity plays a big role in keeping our expenses low and our profits high!

We also appreciate the efforts of the dozens of

volunteers who pitch in every year for this event, both to set it up that day, and to help it run smoothly that evening. We truly couldn't do it without them!

Donna Mitchell, State and Federally-licensed falconer, with Clarice, the hawk



June Castellano; ABW Board member **Maggie Clemens**; ABW Board member **Sharon Roberts Rivais**



ABW Board member **Kandice King** (L) and ABW Board president **Teresa Anderson**



Dr. Carole Peterson, partner, Women Gynecology and Childbirth Assoc., honorary chair of the event

It was a magical evening that many of us won't soon forget. And, best of all, it raised over \$53,000 for ABW's programs and services, so we can help even more women and children recover from the effects of abuse.

Having a good time, while helping a good cause—what more could a lady or lord ask for?

Community Support!

The support we get from so many different groups in our community never ceases to amaze us! Here are just a few recent examples:

- **Allendale/Columbia School** raised \$2,850 for us at their Holiday Bazaar last December. What a terrific group of dedicated, caring students!
- **Julia Cammeron** organized a special donation of \$442 from the Academic Support and Special Programs Group at Rochester Institute of Technology.
- **Excellus Blue Cross/Blue Shield** gave a grant of \$1,000 to our Education and Prevention Program, which will help fund a dozen of our education specialist's presentations to middle and high school students all over Monroe County.
- **Megan Farrell**, a student at Spry Middle School in Webster, continues to

sell her "Jewelry for Justice" handmade items to raise money for ABW. Since 2004, she has raised close to \$800 for us. Some of our most dedicated supporters are also our youngest—how wonderful!

- As part of her senior class project, **Alexandria Mastrella**, a student at Webster Thomas High School, raised \$830 at a dance recital to benefit ABW.
- Thanks to the kind folks at the **Rochester Guild for Special Children** and the **Fred and Floy Wilmott Foundation**, which each gave us grants of \$1,000 to buy new cribs, crib mattresses, high chairs, and twin bed mattresses. Many of our clients will sleep better now—literally—due to these very generous gifts!
- **Gabriella Santiago**, a student from Webster, raised \$242 for us at a raffle she conducted at the local YMCA where she works.

• The **Alvin and Ruth Thiem Charitable Foundation** gave us \$1,000 for general operating support—some of the most needed and appreciated funding, as we can use it wherever the need is greatest (not always something that can be anticipated until a need arises!).

• Our friends at the **Zonta Foundation** granted our request for \$1,000 to replace outdated training materials (books, manuals, and DVDs) for our Transition Support Program. Many thanks for their continued support.

• The **Greater Rochester Women's Philharmonic** held their annual benefit concert for ABW in late April, and raised over \$1,600 for the agency. We are truly grateful for the support this wonderful group of musicians has shown us over the years!

Troop 529
(third-year
Brownies)

Thank you

from St. Rita's School in Webster collected over 200 pairs of flip-flops for our shelter residents. These items are used year-round, not just in summer, and come in very handy! Many thanks to troop leaders **Germaine Reinhardt** and **Laurie Giordano** for helping to organize this effort.

Pictured left to right are: Bernadette Bruu, Diana Colpoys, Sammy Partridge, Stephanie Staszak, Emily Davis, Annie Ripton, Jessica Giordano.



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 Theresa Anderson Editor Deb Howe Allen
Executive Director ... Catherine Mazzotta Layout and Design Debra Bishop

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**