

Alternatives

www.abwrochester.org

Spring 2009

From Victim to Victor A Familiar Tale from a Surprising Source

Police Recruit Is Motivated by His Own Childhood Trauma to Help Others

One of our clients often speaks to community groups about her experiences as a survivor of domestic violence. And often, the stories she hears from her audience are as frightening—and inspiring—as her own tale.

At a recent speaking engagement, she was talking to some law enforcement trainees, in an effort to educate them about the issues involved when they're called to an incidence of domestic violence.

Afterwards, one of the trainees, a tall, soft-spoken man in his late 20s, came up to talk to her.

He told her about his childhood, and how he had witnessed his father attack his mother and attempt to kill her. He was only five years old at the time, and was so traumatized by the incident that he literally couldn't speak afterwards—for an entire year. He missed his



first year of school because he was so severely affected by what he saw.

Luckily, his mother survived her injuries, and eventually remarried. Her abuser is still in prison, and her son grew up to have a successful career in the military before leaving to become a law officer, which is when we met him.

He says he hopes to be able to help women and children who are in the

same kind of situation his family found itself in many years ago, when domestic violence was much less understood, and thought to be a private matter—something that families were supposed to just “work out” on their own.

His story is ultimately one of success—but not without great struggle and suffering. We wish we could say we rarely see cases like his, but that's not true: the

people who come to us every day for help all have similar stories of abuse and trauma. Today, we are here to help them recover and begin their lives anew—thanks in large part to friends like you, whose support makes possible the good work we do. With your continued help, we can keep reaching out to those who need us most. *Thanks for making so many success stories possible!*

Alternatives for Battered Women SERVICES TO THE COMMUNITY

2008 VOLUNTEER PHONATHON RAISES THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS

Over 50 volunteers—board members, college students from SUNY Geneseo and RIT, community and staff members—all helped to raise over \$9,000 for ABW on two nights last October.

Special thanks to **Great Northern Pizza** at Twelve Corners for donating almost \$300 worth of food to keep our volunteers well-fed and happy! And to **Monroe Plan for Medical Care**, for donating their site/phones/volunteers for the fourth year in a row. We truly couldn't

do it without them.

And thanks to YOU, if you were one of the donors who responded so favorably and so generously to our callers. Particularly in this tough economic climate, we are extremely grateful for your continued support.



Honor/Memorial Gifts

Gifts made between August 19, 2008 and April 10, 2009.

IN HONOR OF

Michelle Ashby's Birthday

Ms. Karen M. Coffey

Liesi Berger

Ms. Dolores Seagren and
Ms. Nancy Richards

Teri Brown

Ms. Mona F. Kolko

Sarah Celentano

Ms. Mona F. Kolko

Rita Clement

Ms. Jenna Sanko

Community Bible Study carpool buddies

Ms. Sandra Blakey

Janis DeGaetano

Ms. Mona F. Kolko

Joan DiMaggio

Ms. Mona F. Kolko

Vickie P. Gross

Ms. Mary Johnson

Nada and Norman Hasman

Ms. Pamela H. Cooper

Keith Helmicki

Ms. Mona F. Kolko

Heather Jordan

Ms. Lynn A. George

The Marriage of Mary Jo Kiepper and John Divirgilio

Ms. Sara E. Moffitt

Lola Ladin

Ms. Dorothy A. Gordon

Amy & Marc Lanciault at Hanukkah

Ms. Sarra Beckham-Chasnoff

Ms. Allison Leet and Mr. Koel Sherman

Melissa and Gregory Schropp

Jill K. Lehmann

Mr. Warren H. Heilbronner

Barbara Russell

Ms. Mona F. Kolko

Stephan Sanko

Ms. Jenna Sanko

Adrian and Shawna Sannier

Ms. Dolores Seagren and
Ms. Nancy Richards

Delores Dyane Smith

Mrs. Lynn Coffey-Edelman

Lynn Tayrien

Ms. Mona F. Kolko

Mr. and Mrs. William Vargulick at Christmas time

Ms. Jessica Raines

Christine Vella-Cibella

Ms. Mona F. Kolko

The Parents of Mr. and Mrs. Seymour Warnick

Patty and Richard Yarmel

Maria Weber

Ms. Lynn A. George

The Parents Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Yarmel

Patty and Richard Yarmel

IN MEMORY OF

Angela Bracci

Corey Nichols and Peter Hadeed
Janet and Douglas Nichols
Janice and Gary Nichols

Henry Bracci

Corey Nichols and Peter Hadeed

Martha Clapp

Mr. and Mrs. Michael P. Morley

Ellen Clemmons

Ida and Frank Mangione

James Coon

Ms. Stacey A. Hill

Virginia Goldthwait

Ms. Elizabeth Anne Terzo

Shirley Goodwin

Karen and Matthew Sedita

Bernice Isaacson

Dr. Bernard Isaacson
Ms. Dian Wolk Warnhoff

Ms. Cynthia Kielon

Roger and Linda Weinstein

Sally H. Lecour

Mr. Charles Pujita and
Ms. Dulcy M. Lecour

Beth Legler

Ms. Cynthia M. Machia

Tammy Sue Otero

Systems Management/Planning,
Inc.

Gladys Sawhill

Joanne and Larry Cooper
Sandra and Michael Deignan
Jill and Jonathan Feldman
Ms. Suzanne S. Galasso
Ms. Colleen C. Klix
Ridgmont Country Club
Mr. and Mrs. Richard D.
Rosenbloom
Mr. Jeffrey A. Smith
Kathleen Vande

Michael J. Shaben

Ms. Sandra S. Klein

Maureen Steeburgh

Mr. and Mrs. Michael P. Morley

Josephine Tudesco

Barbara and Robert Schaefer

- 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



Fall 2008 - Spring 2009

So much has been happening since our last newsletter, we just can't wait to tell you all about it!

COMMUNITY EVENTS

☞ The agency received a \$5,000 grant from **Target Stores**, to help fund our Transitional Support Services (our non-residential program). Many thanks to board member and former Target employee, **Valerie Barbarito**, for helping us to get this grant.

☞ Last Fall, local hair and make-up artists attending a day-long seminar held by **Goldwell New York** raised over \$900 for the agency. Participants vied to win a lovely selection of products donated by Hollywood make-up artist and long-time ABW friend, **Élan Bongiorno**, who conducted the seminar.

☞ The **Twisted Sisters Motorcycle Club** raised \$600 for us at their annual Fall Pig Roast. They've been doing this event for a number of years, and have raised over \$7,000 for us since 2001!

☞ The agency's second annual "Walk a Mile In Her Shoes" fundraiser brought in over \$3,700 the second weekend in October. Over 50 participants and supporters attended the event, held at Bishop Kearney High School. Many thanks to the great folks at **WPXY**, who helped publicize the event, and who attended as both walkers and MCs. The sight of all those lovely, hairy, masculine legs encased in pumps, stilettos and sandals is a sight we won't soon forget (try as we might!). Look for this event again in October 2009, when we hope to break the \$5,000 mark in proceeds!

☞ The very kind staff at the **Monroe Plan for Medical Care's Call Center** raised \$153 for us through daily fundraisers in the month of October (as part of Customer Service Week).

☞ Our wonderful friends at **Kraft Foods** in Avon gave our Food Service program a generous check for \$5,450 recently, to help with the expenses of serving over 60,000 meals and snacks a year. They've supported our efforts since 1998, and we are very grateful to them for their continued interest in our work.

☞ Our friends at **Salena's Mexican Restaurant** raised over \$500 for us last Fall with a golf tournament. Be sure to thank them on our behalf the next time you're dining in their fine establishment!

☞ Sincerest thanks to the MANY folks who donated school supplies last September, and Halloween costumes last October, for our youngest clients. Both needs were well taken care of, thanks to the generosity of our wonderful community!

☞ Once again, the amazing **students at the University of Rochester School of Medicine** held their annual Art Silent Auction to benefit ABW, raising over \$4,000 last November for us at an event that is filled with lovely artwork, yummy food, and the wonderful enthusiasm of dozens of young people whose devotion to serving others is truly heartwarming!

☞ Volunteer extraordinaire **Laura Villanti**, and her crew of volunteers raised over \$2,700 at the Oak Hill Holiday Bazaar last December. This event is one that members of Oak Hill look forward to every year—the vendors, food, and decorations are truly stunning!

☞ Christmas was looking a bit bleak in early December for us. Donations were WAY down, due to the tough economy, and we were very concerned. Then, an elf—disguised as D & C columnist **Jim Memmott**—stepped in and wrote about our shortage in his Saturday morning column. As a result, 94 donors stepped up to the plate, donating loads and loads of gifts for kids of all ages and their moms, plus an additional \$1,616 so that we could buy what we didn't receive in donations. In just a few days, a space that we use as "Santa's storeroom" went from empty to full—to the ceiling! This program is especially important, because it provides us with gifts to use, not just at the holidays, but all year long,

for birthdays, graduations, and other occasions. We are now well-stocked for the remainder of the year, thanks to the amazing, kind-hearted members of our community!

☞ **Mike Danger/WPXY**, **Leah George/RNews**, and the **Downtown Athletic Club**, raised \$1200 at an event held in February on our behalf.

☞ Local **Mary Kay** sales consultants donated a number of Valentine's Day gift bags for our shelter residents, making sure that every client felt appreciated and pampered.

☞ Members of the Gates Chili Dynamics of Citizenship Class **Robert Mulhoond**, **Michael Tulensa**, **Kevin Taft**, **Donte Williams**, and **James Mattiole** raised \$172 for us last Fall. They researched the topic of domestic violence and chose to do projects to raise money to benefit the agency, including shoveling snow and collecting bottles/cans for the deposit money.

☞ The **Nazareth Dance Team** raised \$268 for us at a March 2009 fundraiser.



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

WHEN YOU WISH UPON A STAR...

Some fond wishes are held so long, you almost forget that they might someday come true!

For years, ABW staff daydreamed about how nice it would be to have an agency van, and not have to rely on a patchwork of staff cars and vans to transport clients, pick up supplies, and take staff to trainings and events like Legislative Awareness Day in Albany. But we never thought that dream could become a reality—until the kind folks at the **Cornell/Weinstein Family Foundation** gave us a grant last December to help pay both for a van, AND to create a fund for future vehicle maintenance and upkeep.



Staff are just thrilled to have this lovely, 11 passenger van at our disposal. As Food Service Manager PJ Leccese says, "I simply can't imagine how I did my job without the use of this van!"

MANY thanks to the wonderful folks at this family foundation, which has been supporting our efforts with grants since 1997, for this exceptionally generous gift. It truly is making an enormous difference in the lives of our clients and staff, every single day!

a festive evening of fun and adventure to benefit

ALTERNATIVES
for **Battered Women**

SAVE THE DATE

Treasure Island

May 28, 2009

Robach Community Center
Ontario Beach Park

5:30 p.m./patron reception

6–8 p.m./main event

\$50/guest ticket

\$75/patron ticket

- ✕ our famous Silent Auction
- ✕ gift basket raffle
- ✕ fine food
- ✕ great music

and—of course—a chance to raise money for a good cause while having a fun night out!

For information about tickets, donating Silent Auction prizes or gift baskets, or event sponsorship, please contact ABW at: 585-232-5200, ext. 265; or email DeborahA@abwrochester.org

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.

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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**