

Alternatives

Summer 2011

Second Annual Event a Huge Success Over 300 Guests Attend Celebration of Hope *Audience Moved to Tears by Stories of Courage and Survival*

“The house was always spotless. The rugs had to be vacuumed daily. We had fresh-baked cookies practically every day. And still, it was not enough—it was never enough.”

So began the comments of **Marguerite Herbert**, one of the featured speakers at ABW’s second annual “Celebration of Hope,” held on Tuesday, May 17, to record-setting crowds. Over 320 people attended, and heard the inspirational stories of former ABW client Marguerite, her son, **Michael Herbert**, and Rochester Police Department officer **Stephen Scott**.

Officer Scott, the brother of last year’s event speaker, Susan Still, spoke first, sharing his story of how shocked he and his family were when they found out about Susan’s abuse. “I’d answered literally hundreds of domestic violence calls as a police officer,” he said, “and I thought I knew all about this issue—and yet, here it was happening to my sister, and her abuser kept her so isolated from her family, we

had no idea what was going on.” Stephen’s comments



Marguerite Herbert

underline the fact that, even if you think you don’t know anyone who’s been victimized by this terrible problem, the sad fact is, you most likely do—you just don’t realize it.

Then Marguerite took the stage, and her story of pain and survival left hardly

a dry eye in the house. “When few other people would listen to us, much less offer help, ABW was there for us—time and time again,” she commented. Marguerite gave a special thank-you to retired ABW

girls and one boy, Marguerite’s marriage started out, like so many, full of promise and hope. But once the controlling behavior started, it just got worse and worse—as with all abusers, it’s always about having power and control over the people being victimized. “No matter what I did, it was never enough, never quite right, and I never measured up.” The psychological abuse was relentless, and, as Marguerite says, “In many ways, it’s almost worse than physical abuse—bruises heal, but the emotional trauma stays with you for years.” Even now, after all these years, it was emotionally draining for Marguerite to share her story in public, and at one moment in her talk, she had to pause to regain her composure.

counselor **Lois Tucker**, who was in the audience at the event. Marguerite commented afterwards, “It was particularly gratifying, not just to be able to tell my story, but to be able to thank Lois publicly for all she did for us.”

The mother of three

The four year custody battle cost Marguerite the custody of her children for three and a half years, and over \$100,000 in legal bills. She ultimately regained custody, and her son legally changed his last name to his **continued on page 2.**

Alternatives for Battered Women SERVICES TO THE COMMUNITY

Celebration of Hope, continued



Honorary co-chairs: Olivia Cornell and Linda Cornell Weinstein.

mother's maiden name in an act of solidarity with her.

Michael, now 27, working as an airline pilot and living in Chicago, spoke last, and ended the hour on a positive note. "When I spoke at ABW's 25th anniversary luncheon seven

years ago, it was all about looking back on our experiences. But today, I want to look ahead—my wife, Carrie, and I are expecting our first child in August, and I hope I can be the kind of husband and father to my wife and child that my mother and sisters never had—strong, caring, and loving. It's because, in no small part, of the help I got at ABW that I know what that means, and that I can say I'm confident I have the tools to do just that."

Both Marguerite and Michael received standing ovations from the crowd, and all three speakers helped personalize an issue that is so often swept aside as something that happens to "other" people. We thank them for their bravery in

sharing their stories with us, so eloquently and so movingly.

And, in response to their moving stories, our wonderful guests donated over \$17,000 that morning, with more gifts coming in every day. The event netted over \$41,000, \$6,000 over our original goal of \$35,000.

Many thanks to the underwriters who made it possible; our terrific table captains, whose hard work filled the room; and our lovely and supportive event co-chairs, **Linda Cornell Weinstein** and her sister-in-law, **Olivia Cornell Cornell's Jewelers** also donated some pearl bracelets for our incentive prizes (first-time donors to the agency, and anyone making a gift of \$100 or more, had their names placed in a drawing for these lovely bracelets).

We look forward to seeing everyone next year, and hopefully some new friends, as well!

Need a florist soon?

Marguerite Herbert, one of our speakers at the Celebration of Hope, is a professional florist who'd love to help you with your next special occasion—wedding, party, anniversary, you name it!

As Marguerite says, "Financial independence was a huge reason I was able to get out of an abusive relationship. It's so important that every woman has control of her own finances!"



Marguerite's contact information:

Phone: 585-248-2614, Email: herbert1@localnet.com

A special *thanks* to our ...

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- 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

Community Support

They're at it again—our wonderful friends in the community, that is! Many thanks to the following individuals and groups for their support.



Melissa Bockus, owner of **MB Studio** hair salon, raised \$642 and donated three carts full of wish list items in February.

Excellus/BlueCross BlueShield gave us a \$2,500 "Community Awareness" Grant to help support both our "Celebration of Hope" annual fundraiser, and our Prevention/Education program.

Joe Petraglia, owner of the **Bank St. Café** in **Geneseo**, raised \$220 for us in a coin jar drive this past March.

We were the lucky recipients of a first-time grant of \$2,000 from the generous folks at the **Joan Rothenberg Family Foundation** in April.

This past April, the **Shear Ego International School of Hair Design** raised \$800 in a cut-a-thon to benefit ABW, which was matched by an additional \$200 from the **Fusion Salon** of Park Ave., for a total of \$1,000.

The **TJX Foundation** awarded us a grant of \$4,000 to help support our Court Advocacy Program, which suffered over \$35,000 in cuts in last year's state budget, and which is vulnerable to further cuts this year.

The **University of Rochester Students' Association Appropriations Committee** sent us \$847 from a recent fundraiser.

The frozen food vendors at **Wegmans** made a gift of \$500 gift this past Spring.

The **Women's Rugby Team** and the **Women's Action Coalition** from **SUNY Geneseo** donated \$326 as a result of fundraising efforts on campus, including a rugby match played in prom dresses. Yes, you read that right! (and you thought there was no use for them after that one magical evening, eh???)

Honor/Memorial Gifts

Gifts made between January 22, 2011 - May 18, 2011.

IN MEMORY OF

Chauncey Ainsworth

Ms. Jane H. Biggs
Daniel and Marlene Bonamie
Mr. and Mrs. P. Bowen
Sharon and John Carr
Ms. Claudia Costello
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Renan Beckman Wills

Mr. Peter Lovenheim

IN HONOR OF

Lacy Carino's Volunteerism

Constellation Energy

Mackenzie Gotshall

Nazareth College of Rochester

Leonard Kalen's Birthday

Joyce and H. Robert Herman

In Memoriam



EVELYN PENGELLY, who was a longtime donor and whose fellow members of the Sweden Senior Center donated dozens of baby quilts and crocheted lap robes over the years. Evelyn was a frequent guest at our many events, and we all admired her indomitable personality and dedication to helping others.

CAP AINSWORTH, a former board member and supporter of ABW for many years. Cap was the Treasurer for ABW in the 1990s, and continued his support for the agency long after he left the board. He and his wife, Verna, are dear friends whose dedication to the cause of domestic violence awareness and prevention are unparalleled.

ROSE KORN, the mother-in-law of former ABW Executive Director Phyllis Korn, passed away recently at the amazing age of 102. The Korn family has been friends to ABW since our very beginning, and we were all saddened to hear of the passing of someone whose son and daughter-in-law have been instrumental in making us who we are today.

May we all learn a lesson about unselfish devotion to the community from these three wonderful friends. Their lives of service and generosity are an example to all of us, and they will be very deeply missed.

Walk A MILE In Her Shoes®



A March to Stop Rape, Sexual Assault & Gender Violence

To benefit
ALTERNATIVES
 for **Battered Women**

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2011
 Registration 9:00 am - Walk begins 9:30 am
Eastview Mall

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!

The participant who raises the most money will win a pair of Air Tran airline tickets, worth approx. \$1,000!

Start collecting your pledges today!

SPONSORS



For more information please visit:
www.abwrochester.org • www.walkamileinher shoes.org
 You can also find ABW on Facebook.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Women Skippers Invitational

Community Sail and Sunset
 Post-Sail Gathering/Reception
 Friday, July 15 • 6:00 pm
 Genesee Yacht Club
 10 Marina Drive
 \$25
 contact ljfisher13@yahoo.com
 for more information

Walk a Mile in Her Shoes

Saturday, October 1
 9 am registration • 9:30 am walk
 Eastview Mall

Wish List

Space limitations prevent us from printing our entire list here—check our website (www.abwrochester.org). PLEASE NOTE: because of severely limited storage space, we ask that you call us first before dropping off ANY donations! Just ONE bag of items we can't use and need to discard or pass along to another agency, costs us over \$22 in staff time and resources! If you really want to help us—and we're sure you do!—PLEASE contact us regarding future donations before you leave anything at our drop-off site. Just call our business line at 585-232-5200, and ask for Sondra.

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

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 our 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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