

Alternatives

Winter 2011

PARTICIPANT IN OUR ANNUAL WALKATHON ALREADY WISE AT THE TENDER AGE OF 15 Sometimes some of our youngest supporters are our smartest!

There are times when we at ABW get frustrated with battling all the misconceptions about domestic violence.

When we hear reactions like, “If it’s that bad, why doesn’t she just leave?” or “What did she *do* to make him that angry?”, it frustrates us enormously to think that so many people still don’t understand the issue of domestic violence.

Then, again...there are times—those “aha” moments—when we feel like our work is all worthwhile.

Case in point: at our walkathon last fall, “Walk a Mile in Her Shoes,” one of the teens who was there to participate, came dressed in shorts and a T-shirt. Normal attire for an adolescent—except that the winds were howling and the temps were in the 40s.

One of our staff members, a friend of his mom, asked him—aren’t you *cold*? Don’t you want to go to the car and get a jacket? No, I’m fine, he insisted.

Later on, his mom told our staff person, “I asked him when we were



driving here, ‘are you sure you’ll be warm enough? It’s pretty cold out today, you know.’” He replied that many of the women and children who show up at our shelter come with literally just the clothes on their backs—and if they could tough it out in a difficult situation, so could he, in solidarity with them and their plight.

Wow—someone’s mom did a great job of raising this kid! Only 15, and already he “gets it”—he understands what a challenge a lot of victims of domestic violence face, and how desperately they need help sometimes.

That’s just the kind of result we’re hoping for when we go to middle and high schools and colleges, to talk about healthy relationships and abuse. We meet with over 12,000 kids every year, and while we can’t claim that everyone walks away with the same depth of understanding that this friend of ABW showed, we hope that the message is getting across to as many kids as possible.

We’d love to put ourselves out of business some day—to teach enough people about domestic violence and why it’s not acceptable, that it simply stops. Maybe we’re crazy, maybe we’re daydreaming, but it’s a nice goal to have.

In the meantime, we’ll continue to be here, whenever anyone needs us, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week—*help we can provide because of generous donors like you and your support.*

And when we get tired or discouraged, or we wonder, will anything ever change?, we’ll remember the wise words of our young friend, and find comfort in the notion that perhaps things are improving, one person at a time.

Alternatives for Battered Women SERVICES TO THE COMMUNITY

In Memoriam

Last Fall, former board member Carson Piercy passed away in her home in Maryland. Ms. Piercy and her husband were supporters of ABW for many years. Carson served on our board in the 1970s and 80s, and was President from 1981 - 1983. Even after they moved out of state to retire and be nearer to family, they never wavered in their support for ABW and the important work we do.

Former ABW Executive Director Phyllis



Carson Piercy

Korn, who worked with Ms. Piercy for many years, comments, "Carson cared deeply for the rights of women...her heart was *always* in the right place."

It was a pleasure to know and have worked with someone as generous and thoughtful as Ms. Piercy, and we are deeply grateful for her many years of dedication to our agency, and to the cause of domestic violence awareness and prevention.

Honor/Memorial Gifts

Gifts made between September 9, 2010 and January 21, 2011.

IN MEMORY OF

Maria Cecilia Andrews

Ms. Sharon Stall

Darlene Chiszar

Ms. Diane G. Premo

Leonard Harris

Mr. Joshua N. Goldberg
Dean and Deborah Harris

Bernice Isaacson

Ms. Dian Wolk Warnhoff

Rita Kent

Rita and Sanford Kent

Sally H. Lecour

Dulcy Lecour and Charles Fujita

Mike Morley

Mrs. Jeannie W. Morley

Maria Rentsch

Catherine and Glenn Davis
Patricia Rentsch Kuhl and James
Kuhl

Ms. Bette L. Rowe

Liz Springer

Ms. Patricia Martin Simpson

Jackie Owens

Betty and Douglas Evans

Bea Valle

Ms. Gail L. Maas

Pieter van Meeteren

Mr. D. Jordan Conrad
The Holmans
Ms. Doris C. Lewis
Ms. Joan Quigley
Ms. Brenda E. van Meeteren

IN HONOR OF

Arc Foundation of Monroe

Tipping Point Media

Marilyn Barge

Donna and Philip Yawman

Sarah Celentano

Ms. Mona F. Kolko

Christine Vella-Cibella

Ms. Mona F. Kolko

On Kall Marketing

Tipping Point Media

Olivia and David Cornell

Cornell's Jewelers Staff

Janis DeGaetano

Ms. Mona F. Kolko

Tim Downs

Martino Flynn, LCC

The Teachers at the Timothy

M. Draper Center for Dance Education

Dianne and Jeremy Salesin

Patty Eckert's birthday

Ms. Margaret K. O'Keefe

Nancy Evangelista's birthday

Ms. Margaret K. O'Keefe

Faber Homes

Tipping Point Media

Jennifer Friedman and Janet

Paskin's 10th Anniversary

Ms. Ruth D. Drosdek

Rosyln Griesbach's 80th

birthday

Jacqueline and Howard Davidson

Vickie P. Gross

Ms. Mary Johnson

Keith Helmicki

Ms. Mona F. Kolko

Cynthia Kielon

Roger and Linda Weinstein

Phyllis Korn's 75th birthday

Ms. Dee Mosteller and Mr. Henry
Simon

Barbara Lampert's birthday

Ms. Margaret K. O'Keefe

Livingston County

Department of Health

Tipping Point Media

The guests at her wedding

Ms. Vanessa Lynn Mangan

Judge Marilyn Hoffman

O'Connor's retirement

Ms. Betty Ellerin
Greater Rochester Association of
Women Attorneys

Mary O'Reilly

Bridgewater Associates, LP

Quatela Center for Plastic

Surgery

Tipping Point Media

Rochester Hearing and Speech

Center

Tipping Point Media

Mark Roos

Ms. Mona F. Kolko

Ed and Molly Shill's marriage

Hank and Laura Minor

Brittany Smyton and

Kollin Beck's marriage

Marti and Paul Smyton

Lynn Tayrien

Ms. Mona F. Kolko

Tile Wholesalers of Rochester

Tipping Point Media

Holly Tronolone

Ms. Mona F. Kolko

Jujanna Vagedes-Bane

Ms. Karen Reixach

Wesley Gardens

Tipping Point Media

Edwina Wilcox's birthday

Ms. Margaret K. O'Keefe

Space limitations prevent us from printing our entire list here—please consult our website (www.abwrochester.org), or call us, for further details (see below).

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.

Wish List

- 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

Walk a Mile In Her Shoes Raises Over \$4,400 for ABW!



A fine fall morning (well, OK, it was cold and windy)...millions of participants (well, how about 75 or so—but they were VERY dedicated!)...thousands of steps taken confidently and boldly (well, maybe a bit wobbly and wiggly?).

What else could it be, but our annual walkathon, featuring hairy ankles, muscular calves, and elegant stilettos—in size 12 and up??? (really, it is possible to be elegant, even at that size—it's all about attitude!)

Participants (male and female), supporters, board members, other volunteers, and staff members all braved a chilly fall Saturday morning, and helped raise over \$4,400

Walk A
MILE 
In Her Shoes

for a good cause. Of course, getting to chuckle at all those big, tough guys teetering around in dress pumps didn't hurt! (if we had a dollar for every time one of the guys hollered, "Holy cow, how do you women WEAR these things?", we'd raise millions!)

Many thanks also to **Verizon Wireless** and **Mr. Rooter Plumbing**, our event sponsors; **WRMM/WFKL/WZNE**, our media sponsors; and **Starbucks** and **Wegmans**, whose generosity kept our walkers well-fed and caffeinated.

Watch our newsletter for details on our 2011 event, sure to be bigger, better, and wobblier than ever!

Second Annual
Celebration of Hope

Tuesday, May 17, 2011
8:00 - 9:00 am
Temple B'rith Kodesh
2131 Elmwood Avenue
Continental breakfast
No charge to attend

Join us as we honor survivors whose lives serve as an example of triumph over adversity!

Questions? Call 585-232-5200, ext. 265 or email JanisC@abwrochester.org
Details to follow this Spring

Linda Cornell Weinstein and Olivia Cornell, honorary co-chairs

■ We are very grateful to three local family foundations that have stepped up to help us with the \$35,000+ in budget cuts to our Court Advocacy Program: The **CORNELL/WEINSTEIN FAMILY FOUNDATION** gave us a grant of \$20,000; the **McGOWAN, GIN, ROSICA FAMILY FOUNDATION** granted our request for \$5,000; and the **POLISSENI FOUNDATION** gave us \$3,500 to help make up the loss of funding. The generosity of these three foundations means we can continue to offer assistance to clients seeking Orders of Protection in Monroe County court, a huge step in protecting themselves and their children, and in getting away from a violent situation. Many thanks to all three foundations for their compassion and support!

■ Once again, the **MARY KAY ASH FOUNDATION** has given ABW a most generous grant of \$20,000 for general operating support. We last received this very prestigious and competitive award in 2007, and are thrilled that the foundation decided to renew their investment in us. Many thanks to local Mary Kay representative **THERESA KUSAK-SMITH** for her help and support in applying for this much-needed funding!

■ The kind, hard-working students at the **UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER MEDICAL SCHOOL** raised over \$2,400 for us at their annual Art Show and Sale last November. Every year, they assemble a fine assortment of crafts, art, and other goodies, the sale of which benefits ABW. We all look forward to this event every fall—it's so much fun, and so nice to see the dozens of students who work so hard to put it together!

■ Not only did the kind folks at **GOLDEN STATE FOODS** approve our grant request for \$1,500 to buy much-needed (year-round, not just in the fall) school supplies for our youngest clients—they went out and did the shopping for

Community Support

us! Many thanks to them for their ongoing support, and best wishes to their co-worker, **JOE SIRIANNI**, upon his retirement this coming spring! We'll miss working with him.

■ A heartfelt thanks goes to **PAUL AND MARTY SMYTON**, who donated the equivalent of the cost of an after-dinner cash bar at their daughter's wedding, at her request. Best wishes to newly married couple, Brittany and Kollin, and thanks for their kind gesture!

■ Local interior designer **BLYNN NELSON** and friends assembled an amazing array of local artists, crafters, and vendors, at their third annual Women4Women event, held in December. Entertainment, food, fun, and fashion greeted those who attended the event, which raised over \$4,000 for the agency. Our thanks go out to them for their hard work and creative spirit!

■ The Women's Skipper's Invitational at the Genesee Yacht Club raised over \$500 for ABW last summer. Kudos to **LJ FISHER** for spearheading this lovely event and raising money on our behalf.

■ And a huge thanks to the many folks who've sent in gifts recently in support of our many programs: the **BRIGHTER DAYS FOUNDATION**, for an \$1,800 gift to help with expenses for our children's programs; the **MARY MULLIGAN CHARITABLE TRUST**, for granting our request for over \$6,800 in funding for our Windows Between Worlds program that uses art to help victims of domestic violence express themselves, safely and effectively; and the **ROCHESTER PRESS RADIO CLUB**, the **ROCHESTER GUILD FOR SPECIAL CHILDREN**, and the **ALVIN AND RUTH THIEM CHARITABLE TRUST**, each of whom gave us \$1,000 gifts recently.

We are indeed fortunate to have so many kind, caring friends in our community!

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 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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