

Coalition Chronicles

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SUMMER 2007

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND THE WORKPLACE

Women are at risk for violence at home, in the community and in the workplace. An estimated 52.3 million women are physically assaulted and nearly one-third of American women report being physically or sexually abused by a husband or boyfriend some time in their lives. In response, employers have begun implementing programs that encourage abused employees, or those concerned about an abused co-worker, to come forward and ask for assistance at work. Domestic violence is and should be a concern for everyone.

If your co-worker has unexplained bruises, or explanations that just don't add up, if they are distracted, have trouble concentrating, miss work often, or receive repeated, upsetting telephone calls during the day, they may be in an abusive relationship. Many people hesitate to speak with someone who they think are being abused because they don't quite know what to say or how to say it. Be yourself and you'll automatically communicate what's important: your concern.

You might feel awkward bringing up domestic violence with a co-worker. You may hesitate to get involved because you see domestic violence as a personal matter. Because what goes on away from work isn't your business. That's a natural reaction. And you don't want to put them on the spot if they're not ready to talk. But you can let them know that you support them.

Many victims find it hard to ask for help, especially when they have reached out for help in the past and been blamed for the violence instead. Most victims who are offered help deeply appreciate it, even if they don't say so. For many, it takes a lot of time, planning, help, and courage to escape the violence. In the

meantime, it is important for victims to know that help is available from people who know and care about them. Knowing there are people out there offering help makes it much easier to take action.

I think one of my co-workers may be experiencing domestic violence... what should I do?"

- **Ask** direct questions about their situation, gently. Give them time to talk. Ask again in a few days. Don't rush into providing an immediate solution.
- **Listen** without judging. Your co-worker may feel ashamed, inadequate and afraid they will be judged by you.
- Let them know that you care and that it's **not their fault**. Explain that there's never an excuse for violence in a relationship.
- Explain that domestic violence is a **crime** and that they can seek protection from police and the court.
- If they remain in the relationship, continue to support them while expressing your **concern** for their **safety**.
- Emphasize that when they are ready, they can make a choice to leave the relationship and that **help is available**.
- Give them the number of the statewide **domestic violence hotline** 888-774-2900.

As a co-worker, you can make a difference. Taking action against domestic violence works.

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*If you need help
or just someone
to talk to,
call our confidential
domestic violence hotline
1-888-774-2900*

**Visit us online at
www.ctcadv.org**

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MEMBER PROGRAM STAFF RECEIVE AWARDS

Congratulations to the following member program staff who received years of service awards at CCADV's annual gathering.

One Year

| | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| Marylliam Alvarado | Kathryn Jones |
| Billie Anderson | Stan Kimble |
| Donna Andrini | Chapel Love |
| Greg Bachmann | Peggy May |
| Laurie Baum Blefeld | Judy McAvoy |
| Kate Brennan | Kristen McLauvin |
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| Eugene Duponte | Kate Griffith Potter |
| Fayne Erickson | Nicole Sabel |
| Kim Farrar | Kathy Storch |
| Maria Hart | Roberta Sulls |
| Jessica Hewett | Lisa Thompson |
| Tamara Jemison | Michele Zowine |

Five Years

Ann Bott
Rosaria Campbell
Jorge Chaparro
Cyndy Goldberg
Ann Gorham
Karen Hughes
Helene Lessard
Anne Loin
Gisela Lugo
Anna Luna
Linda Malavet
Tracy Masservy
Terri Almo Perez
Jo-Ann Posiadala
Debbie Talmadge
Jeannette Duprey-Varnum
Gail Wiggins

Ten Years

Ileana Lopez
Judith Sheriden
Ann Von Stutler

Fifteen Years
Sharon Chappuis
Melanie Danyliw
Kathleen Johnson
Alex Lopes Massa
Anne Wernau
Patricia Zachman

Twenty Years

Marianne Baboo
Debbie Beaudry
Sandra Koorejian
Kathy Matson
Mayda Rivera

You're nothing without me.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE — IT'S NOT JUST PHYSICAL.



stopdomesticviolence.info

888.774.2900

YOU ARE INVITED...

Monday, October 1, 2007
3:00 p.m.
State Capitol
Old Judiciary Room
Hartford, CT

Special Guest Speakers
Gloria Steinem
Speaker James Amann

Please join the
Connecticut Coalition Against
Domestic Violence and its Member
Programs for the kickoff of our
2007 public awareness
initiative

MEMBER PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

Safe Haven of Greater Waterbury

Women's Emergency Shelter was founded in 1978 by a group of concerned citizens who determined a need for a shelter for battered women in the Waterbury area. These founders had the foresight to know that in addition to shelter, a battered woman would need other supportive services to enable her to leave her violent situation.

The Women's Emergency Shelter (WES) started out with a small three bedroom apartment. In 1980 WES opened a 17-bed shelter. The shelter served as a temporary home for battered women and their children until 1991. The agency moved the shelter to a different location, which was better suited for families. The current shelter provides space for 15 women and children. WES provides food, personal hygiene products and clothing for residents of the shelter.

In 1986, with the enactment of the Family Violence Prevention and Response Act, WES saw a dramatic

increase in the number of clients seeking non-shelter services. The Family Violence Victim Advocate Program made victims aware of the variety of services offered in addition to shelter. The Connecticut Judicial Branch then established a domestic violence docket in Waterbury Superior Court. The docket court aims to fight domestic violence by developing more effective sanctions for abusers.

Sexual Assault Crisis Services became part of WES adding crisis intervention, counseling, child advocacy, and outreach to the Hispanic community, a Male Violence Prevention program and extensive community education.

In 2000, WES became Safe Haven of Greater Waterbury. The name change reflects the fact that the agency supports all victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, which includes children, teens and men as well as women. In addition,

the name more accurately reflected the joining of the domestic violence and sexual assault programs.

In 2001, Safe Haven opened a satellite office in Southbury. This office serves victims in the suburban towns of Southbury, Woodbury and Middlebury who may be reluctant to seek services outside their community. Services include individual counseling, advocacy and counseling for children, legal advocacy, crisis intervention and peer support groups.

In 2003, Safe Haven took over management of the Southbury Community Thrift Shop. The shop is run by over 60 dedicated volunteers. The shop carries clothing, shoes, house wares and furniture. Proceeds from the Southbury Community Thrift Shop support the Safe Haven Southbury office and other Southbury charities. The Thrift Shop is located at 66F Bennett Square, Southbury. Store hours are Tuesday-Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.



Representatives of the Mock Court

Spanish Mock Court

On June 6th, the Lyceum in Hartford was the place to be. There was lots of action as CCADV held a mock court in Spanish to educate Latinos on the criminal and civil court processes in Connecticut. Both criminal and civil court domestic violence cases were acted out with representation from all players of the justice system including victims, abusers, judges, attorneys, court support services personnel, police, dispatchers and advocates.



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OUR MISSION

The Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence is a membership organization whose purpose is to work together to end domestic violence by changing the social conditions, beliefs and social actions that perpetuate abuse against women and children.

COALITION MEMBERS

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| The Umbrella Ansonia | Interval House Hartford | Domestic Violence Crisis Center Norwalk |
| The Center for Women & Families Bridgeport | Meriden-Wallingford Chrysalis Meriden | Women's Support Services Sharon |
| Women's Center of Gtr Danbury Danbury | New Horizons Middletown | Domestic Violence Crisis Center Stamford |
| Domestic Violence Program United Services Dayville | Prudence Crandall Center New Britain | Susan B. Anthony Project Torrington |
| Network Against Domestic Abuse Enfield | Domestic Violence Services New Haven | Safe Haven Waterbury |
| Domestic Abuse Service Greenwich YWCA Greenwich | The Women's Center of SE CT New London | Domestic Violence Program United Services Willimantic |