



KDVA UPDATE

Newsletter of the Kentucky Domestic Violence Association • Fall 2009

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KDVA UPDATE Fall 2009

Kentucky Domestic Violence
Association
P.O. Box 356
Frankfort, KY 40602
(502) 209-KDVA (5382) phone
(502) 226-KDVA fax
website: <http://www.kdva.org>

Lee Zuhars - editing/production
• email: lzuhars@kdva.org

KDVA Update is published by the Kentucky Domestic Violence Association. KDVA works to provide a strong, statewide voice on behalf of domestic violence victims and their children by administering state and federal funds to fifteen of Kentucky's domestic violence programs serving as primary service providers in the Area Development Districts, promoting public awareness, operating a Certification Program for domestic violence staff, and, among other things, advocating for state legislative initiatives to increase protection for domestic violence survivors and their dependent children.

KDVA provides networking opportunities for those helping end domestic violence, provides legal assistance to domestic violence programs and attorneys representing domestic violence victims, and helps promote public awareness of domestic violence.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

by Ann Perkins, President, KDVA Board of Directors

The summer is virtually over, and we are ready to go into one of our busiest months. As most of you know, October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. There will be vigils and awareness campaigns in every corner of the state. There will be big events, small events, and even no events in some remote communities. This brings me to the thought that, sometimes the hardest to reach areas are some of the places that need us the most.

Many of our families are isolated. Some are isolated in our own backyards as was proved by the fact that Jaycee Lee Dugard was held hostage for 18 years, gave birth to two girls and was surrounded and visited by neighbors, parole officers and family. She was right under our noses and we didn't know it.

We have all asked ourselves "How could this happen?" Yet we (domestic violence programs) know that it happens every day to hundreds of thousands of women and children. They are our sisters, co-workers, friends, neighbors, and strangers. Domestic violence is still hidden, not talked about, ignored, and denied by so many of the very people that need us the most.

It is so prevalent that we cannot imagine that 1 in 4 women are affected: college educated, rich, poor, young and old, every nationality and religion. Domestic violence crosses all boundaries.



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28 months and 24 murder-suicides: a cluster of concern

by Lee Alcott, Barren River Area Safe Space, Inc.

Domestic violence related homicide continues to devastate communities across Kentucky, although media coverage is often focused on high profile cases across the country. It may be easy to forget the women who lose their lives across the Commonwealth, but we challenge you not to forget. Twenty-six women lost their lives at the hands of an intimate partner during the last 12 months. Based on an unofficial count, 24 domestic violence related murder-suicides have been recorded in Kentucky during the last 28 months. Several national media reports have linked the economic crisis to a rise in murder-suicides and acts of violence. Battered women may be forced to stay in an abusive relationship due to economic pressures. An economic crisis creates increased stressors for any family, sometimes leading to heightened acts of violence, but this is not the norm. It is critical to realize that even in times of economic hardships, it is not the economy that causes domestic violence. It may influence an increase in battering. It may set the stage for the tragic loss of life. There are other factors to consider in determining the reason behind the most powerful act of a batterer—homicide.

A 2003 study identified three precursors to domestic violence fatalities. "Access to guns, threats to kill, and most of all, unemployment are the biggest predictors of the murder of women in abusive relationships."¹ Here we are six years later tracking a trend of murder-suicides during a time of economic crisis where the unemployment rate in Kentucky has reached a 26-year high at 11%. When this study was released, it was a call to action. What strate-

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Shop and Share

by Sherry Currens, Executive Director

More and more Kentucky families are struggling as the Nation's economic downturn brings rising unemployment. For those families already experiencing domestic violence, increasing financial pressures can be devastating. More victims are seeking shelter and staying longer. Kentucky's domestic violence programs are struggling to meet this escalating demand for services with decreasing resources.

For the second year in a row, Kentucky's First Lady Jane Beshear and the Kroger Company are commemorating Domestic Violence Awareness Month and helping shelters make ends meet, by sponsoring "Shop and Share" at Kroger stores around the state. On Saturday, October 24, the Kentucky Federated Women's Clubs and numerous other volunteers will collect much-needed staples for Kentucky's fifteen domestic violence programs and the women and children they serve.

Last year, "Shop and Share" raised over \$200,000.00 in goods and cash. Despite their own financial woes, Kentuckians were incredibly generous in their support. Paper goods, diapers, laundry detergent, cleaning supplies, hair products, canned foods and gift cards helped domestic violence programs shelter and provide services to 4010 victims and their children for over 150,000 resident days.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month is a time to remember the victims of domestic violence who have died, reach out to those who are still living in fear, and celebrate survivors who are now safe. This year, you can



First Lady Jane Beshear spearheaded the project.

help support the women and children who are working to restart their lives without violence. Please visit your local Kroger store between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 24. As you shop, add a few extra items to your cart to donate to Kentucky's shelters. They'll be glad you did.



A view of the Capitol Rotunda and some of the many household items donated during last year's Shop and Share.



To find a list of participating Kroger stores or to sign up to be a volunteer, go to <http://firstlady.ky.gov/shopshare>

Speak My Name 2009



Following is a list of females murdered by male intimate partners in the state of Kentucky who were identified within the last year. This is not an exhaustive list, including only those women that KDVA is aware of from Kentucky newspapers and from Kentucky's domestic violence programs.

Melissa Burchett, age 38, Jefferson County

Courtney Creech, age 30, Garrard County

Melinda Crump, age 23, Logan County

Amy Davis, age 29, Montgomery County

Terri Decker, age 41, Kenton County

Lavena Gibson, age 25, Fayette County

Antigone Graham Smith, age 43, Jefferson County

Isabel Lynn Hall, age 49, Mercer County

Christina Hodges, age 32, Laurel County

Jamie Jackson, age 30, Jefferson County

Dana McDonald, age 26, Jefferson County

Linda Mock, age 28, Floyd County

Lori Padilla, age 43, Kenton County

Melissa Patrick, age 38, Kenton County

Clara Porter, age 72, Carter County

Debbie Rediess, age 46, Warren County

Lea Revard, age 39, Shelby County

Denise Robinson, age 41, Lawrence County

Amanda Ross, age 29, Fayette County

Bryia Runiewicz, age 32, Harrison County

Ana Maria Shane, age 29, McCracken County

Kimberly Skidmore, age 52, Madison County

Amanda Smith, age 28, Campbell County

Natasha Sutton, age 27, Jefferson County

Cindy Tucker, age 38, Marion County

Carisa Walz, age 30, Boone County



Program news and updates

Safe Harbor holds Lobster Fest

On August 15, Safe Harbor held its annual fundraiser, Lobster Fest, at the Bellefonte Country Club. There were more than 330 people in attendance. The lobster dinner, dancing under the stars, and an opportunity to meet old and new friends alike, were little more than excuses for the crowd who came out to support Safe Harbor. In addition, there was a live auction with 4 items and a silent auction with over 50 items, which were all donated by individuals and local businesses. A local jeweler, Pollocks, donated over \$12,000 in precious, semi-precious and faux stones for the very popular Gem Scoop. Guests paid \$20 to try their luck by scooping a large spoon of sand from a fish tank, hoping that the all-elusive one-carat diamond would be amidst the sand in their scoop. Yes, there were actually two diamonds, among other precious stones, that were unearthed by evening's end.

Thanks to the Safe Harbor Board of Directors and staff, as well as the Boyd County Medical Alliance, this event is becoming an annual tradition!

Bethany House welcomes new Americorps member

Bethany House is pleased to welcome its first Americorps member, Tina Al-Kabandi. Tina joined Bethany House in September. She will serve as Housing Services Coordinator and her main task will be to secure housing for homeless and low income individuals and families. She will work with the Bethany House staff to assist victims of domestic violence who are homeless or inadequately housed to secure emergency, transitional or permanent housing. She will work in all ten counties of the Lake Cumberland Area Development District.

Ms. Al-Kabandi began her college studies at Somerset Community College and is currently a student at Eastern Kentucky University, with a double major in Psychology and Criminal Justice. She speaks Arabic. The one-year AmeriCorps position will provide her with invaluable experience in preparation for her career, as well as providing some financial help to pay for school.

DV Awareness Month

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So how are we going to change the world? We will and we can starting with education, prevention, services, and intervention. Domestic violence affects our economy through job losses, lost wages, unemployment, health coverage losses, production losses, disability, loss of education, children removed from the home, foster care costs to the state, incarceration, legal costs, drug and alcohol dependence, divorce, and much more.

It is a spiral that costs our communities, state and country millions of taxpayer dollars. The toll that it takes on our society is staggering. So what are we as a state willing to do? Are we willing to put money up front to support our programs who provide families a "safety net" and wrap around services? Or will we wait until it's too late?

The Kentucky Domestic Violence Association in conjunction with the Kentucky Association of Sexual Assault Programs and their community partners will be rolling out a program in the next year that is going to address this issue head on. It is called Green Dot and it is coming to a community near you. When you see it, get on board. It is our state taking a stand and saying, "Yes we can end domestic violence in Kentucky." I am asking each of you to pledge zero tolerance to domestic violence in your community. Yes, we can!

a cluster of concern

(continued from page 1)

gies would effectively reduce the risk of domestic violence related homicide? What collaborations would trigger this reduction? What tools would social service and law enforcement agencies need to prevent further acts of homicide? Questions we have yet to answer adequately.

A recent report from a National Institute of Justice Panel explored the national familicide phenomenon, those cases where entire families are murdered and the perpetrator commits suicide.² According to the panel, the biggest risk factor involved in a potential familicide is a prior history of domestic violence.

Each day is deadly for women in abusive relationships. Children, in-laws, current partners have also been victims to these crimes. Kentucky women have died of strangulation, decapitation, blunt force trauma, gunshot wounds, stab wounds, being run over by a car and run over by a boat. They have left behind babies, children, teenagers, mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, friends. Let us not forget them as we continue to speak their names, reach out to their families and work together to challenge the systems that need to change in order to better protect battered women.

¹ Campbell, Jacqueline, Journal of Public Health, National Study. Johns Hopkins School of Nursing, 2003.

² Hernandez, Esteban, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, National Institute of Justice Panel Explores Familicide Phenomenon, July 27, 2009.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month Statewide events

This is not a comprehensive list. If you do not see any events in your area listed below, please contact your local domestic violence program for a schedule of events in your community.



Bluegrass Domestic Violence Program Lexington, Kentucky

For more info on these events please call 1-800-544-2022 or visit www.beyondtheviolence.org

Choose Chili's for the month of October. Every time you eat at Chili's (Richmond Rd or Nicholasville Rd location) and turn in the BDVP voucher, our program receives 10% of the sale.

I-VAWA Umbrella Walk – On Sunday, October 11th 2009, volunteers will walk with their umbrellas in downtown Lexington passing out literature and inviting others to sign a letter in support of the International Violence Against Women Act. Our goal is to help get the bill passed. *(This bill was created to significantly increase US commitment to help eliminate violence against women and girls globally by integrating anti-violence work across US foreign assistance programs.)*

Macy's Shop for a Cause - On Saturday, October 17th, Macy's stores nationwide will host a Shop For A Cause charity shopping day. Donations will benefit BDVP and other local nonprofits. Customers who make a \$5 donation will receive an all-day savings pass for select merchandise in-store and online.

LoveCanBite Teen Dating Violence Contest

BDVP is hosting its Second Annual LoveCanBite Contest. Middle school students are asked to submit posters to educate their peers on teen dating violence and high school students are asked to submit public service announcements to be used in October for DV Awareness Month. In addition to accepting entries for the LoveCanBite Contest, BDVP also provides prevention education on teen relationship abuse.

LUNAFEST™ Lexington 2009, hosted by BDVP.

LUNAFEST began in 2000 by LUNA, the makers of the nutrition bar, to promote women filmmakers and raise awareness for women's issues. It is a national traveling festival of short films by, for, and about women. The event will take place Thursday, November 12th at Talon Winery.



Safe Harbor Ashland, Kentucky

For more info on this event please call 606-329-9304

Candlelight Vigil will take place on October 12 at 6 pm at the fountain area of Central Park in Ashland. The evening will include a keynote speaker, white ribbon awards, community booths, complimentary concessions, entertainment and activities. All are invited to attend.



Center for Women & Families Louisville, Kentucky

For more info on these and many other events please call 502-581-7200 or visit www.thecenteronline.org

Garage Gala at R & R Limousine on October 17 from 7 pm-12 am. Join R & R Limo for the second annual Garage Gala to benefit The Center. Visit www.rrgala.com or call 502-458-1862 for event details or to purchase tickets.

Macy's Shop for a Cause Day - all day on October 17. Purchase a \$5 shopping pass from The Center for Women and Families, and you'll receive exclusive savings and special offers all day October 17 at any Macy's store! The Center will get the proceeds from every pass sold. Call 502-581-7253 or email charity.stark@cwfempower.org to purchase your pass.

Women's Health Fairs: The Center will be hosting health fairs targeted at women. Healthcare providers from across the community will be in attendance to offer free services, information and screening, including the mobile mammography bus. The fairs will be held on October 17 at Central High School (1130 W Chestnut Street) and October 20 at The Center's West Louisville Campus (4303 W Broadway).

5K Run: The Shelby County Women's Club will be hosting a 5K run fundraiser to benefit The Center for Women and Families on October 24 at 8:00am.



Sandy Valley Abuse Center Prestonsburg, Kentucky

For more info on these events please call 606-285-9079

Candlelight Vigil will be held on October 8 at 6 pm during the Jenny Wiley Festival in downtown Prestonsburg. Please take a moment to pause during the festivities and help us remember victims of domestic violence.

DV Awareness Walk will be on October 27 at the Big Sandy Community & Technical College in Prestonsburg. Please join us for a non-competitive walk to raise awareness of domestic violence. Come by and walk a lap for victims and survivors anytime between 7 am - 7 pm.

New staff at KDVA

While we are always sad to see employees go on to other opportunities, we are excited to welcome new faces to our team. Here are the newest faces at KDVA.

John Kendall is our new Controller and has been with KDVA since the beginning of September. John has a degree in Accounting from Cal State Fullerton in California where he lived before coming to Kentucky 5 years ago. He has been an accountant for 16 years. He and his wife have been married for 30 years and he's excited about becoming a first-time grandfather in February. In his spare time, John enjoys being an Abraham Lincoln portrayer, which he has done both in California and Kentucky. We're pleased to have his experience on our team.

Christine Brasile is our newest AmeriCorps VISTA and comes to us as a second-year participant in the program. She began at KDVA in mid-August. She is originally from the suburbs of Atlanta, Georgia and has two degrees from Georgia College & State University: a BS in Psychology and an MA in Public Administration with a concentration in Nonprofit Management. She will be working as part of the Economic Justice team to maintain and organize the KDVA Clearinghouse and supervise a mobile free-tax preparation site. Christine enjoys traveling, dancing, and spending time with her friends and family. She is a great addition to KDVA.

David Hudson is our new Financial Monitor, who joined us in May. David is a graduate of Eastern Kentucky University with degrees in Political Science and Accounting. He has worked in the Accounting field for four years. In his free time, David enjoys reading and practicing martial arts. We welcome David to KDVA.



John Kendall, Christine Brasile, and David Hudson

Looking for victims of payday lending

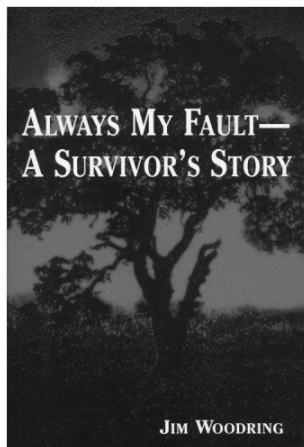
KDVA is a member of the Kentucky Coalition for Responsible Lending (KCRL), which is pushing for a cap on the interest rates charged by payday lenders. We need stories from individuals who have used payday lenders, especially people who have been caught in the payday lending trap. In addition, we would like to hear from people who are former employees of the payday lending industry. If you or someone you know would be willing to help by sharing a story, please contact the KCRL. You can call or email Lisa at 502-209-5382 or lgabbard@kdva.org. You can also call Candace at 1-800-456-3452.

OVW report available

The National Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence consulted with Dr. Andy Klein with Advocates for Human Potential and the National Bulletin on Domestic Violence Prevention to carry out a National Institute of Justice funded evaluation of OVW's Faith-Based and Community Organizations grant program during 2005-2007. Go to (http://www.ncdsv.org/publications_vawagrant.html) for a look at the full report.

Clearinghouse update

compiled by Lisa Gabbard, Clearinghouse Coordinator



Always My Fault— A Survivor's Story by Jim Woodring

Jim Woodring has written a story based on true events with a Kentucky connection. The book begins in Sandy Flats in Whitley County and follows Natalie as she's taken in by a smooth con man, becoming his eleventh wife. When she begins to ask questions of her husband, he sees her behavior as a

challenge to his control, and Natalie begins a fifteen-year odyssey of violence and cruelty. This book serves as a cautionary tale to women about what can happen when we are so blinded by our need to be loved that we are unable to listen – to friends, to family, to legal advisors, but most especially the vulnerable and wise inner self.

Resistance Behind Bars: The Struggles of Incarcerated Women by Victoria Law

In 1974, women imprisoned at New York's maximum-security prison at Bedford Hills staged what is known as the August Rebellion. Protesting the brutal beating of a fellow prisoner, the women fought off guards, holding seven hostage and taking over sections of the prison. As it examines daily struggles against appalling prison conditions and injustices, Resistance Behind Bars documents both collective organizing and individual resistance among women incarcerated in the U.S. The book also seeks to spark further discussion and research into the lives of incarcerated women and galvanize much-needed outside support for their struggles.

The KDVA Clearinghouse has eight copies of this book available for check-out. This book would be useful as a book study or other group reading.



**Save the
date!**

11th Ending Sexual Assault & Domestic Violence Conference

November 30-December 3, 2009

**Marriott Griffin Gate Resort
Lexington, Kentucky**

November 30th-December 3: Green Dot Institute 8:30 am - 5 pm

November 30-December 1: Responding to Abuse Against Individuals
with Disabilities Summit

December 1st: Self-Care Workshops for KDVA/KASAP Program Staff 9 am - Noon

December 1st: Main Conference Kickoff Noon - 5 pm

December 2nd: Main Conference 9 am - 5 pm

December 3rd: Main Conference 9 am - 2 pm

Plenary Speakers:

Sue Jones

Nicky Finney

Beth Ritchie

Sergeant Byron Fassett

Michelle Eppel

Christy Burch

**For more information or to get a copy of the conference brochure
visit our website at www.kdva.org or call us at 502-209-5382**

This annual conference is held to actively promote peace in all relationships. Workshops have been designed to provide professionals in the fields of mental health, medicine and nursing, law, criminal justice, education, prevention, research, victim advocacy, social services and allied fields with in-depth information by leading presenters in their fields.



Kentucky Domestic Violence Association
P.O. Box 356
Frankfort, KY 40602

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Committed to Peace in Kentucky Homes

KDVA Member Programs

Barren River Area Safe Space

Lee Alcott in Bowling Green
1-800-928-1183

Family Life Abuse Center

Peggy Hancock in Mount Vernon
1-800-755-5348

Sanctuary, Inc

Helen Kinton in Hopkinsville
1-800-766-0000

Bethany House Abuse Shelter

Robert Brown in Somerset
1-800-755-2017

LKLP Safe House

Lois Valentine in Hazard
1-800-928-3131

Sandy Valley Abuse Center

Connie Little in Prestonsburg
1-800-649-6605

Bluegrass Domestic Violence Program

Darlene Thomas in Lexington
1-800-544-2022

Merryman House

Vonnie Adams in Paducah
1-800-585-2686

SpringHaven, inc

Lisa Holmes in Elizabethtown
1-800-767-5838

The Center for Women and Families

Denise Troutman in Louisville
1-877-803-7577

Owensboro Area Shelter (OASIS)

Brenda Jones in Owensboro
1-800-882-2873

Women's Crisis Center

Dolores Coffman in Covington
1-800-928-3335

DOVES of Gateway
Patricia Collinsworth in Morehead
1-800-221-4361

Safe Harbor/FIVCO

Ann Perkins in Ashland
1-800-926-2150

Women's Crisis Center

Shari Stafford in Maysville
1-800-928-6708

**Names listed are Directors of the program*