



KDVA UPDATE

Newsletter of the Kentucky Domestic Violence Association • Spring 2009

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KDVA UPDATE Spring 2009

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The Kentucky Domestic Violence Association is a coalition of Kentucky's fifteen domestic violence programs (shelters). A primary mission of KDVA is to provide a strong, statewide voice on behalf of survivors and their children. In addition to advocating for state and federal legislative initiatives to increase protection for domestic violence victims and their dependents, KDVA works with immigrant battered women and women incarcerated for crimes related to their victimization.

KDVA services include: certifying domestic violence program staff; coordinating, in conjunction with other state organizations, an annual Violence Against Women conference; maintaining a statewide clearinghouse on domestic violence-related issues; administering state and federal domestic violence funds; offering training on various domestic violence issues through the KDVA Training Institute; organizing an economic justice program to help survivors reach self-sufficiency; and promoting public awareness.

President's report

by Ann Perkins, President of the Board of Directors

As the incoming President of KDVA I would like to take this opportunity to say that I look forward to working with all of our partners across the state to build, strengthen, and look at ways that may be "outside the box" to help prevent and, eventually, eradicate domestic violence in Kentucky.

Being the optimist that I am, and loving a challenge, I will say that never in my lifetime did I believe that I would see our state abandon tobacco for any reason. It was our "cash crop." It was our traditional livelihood as families and farmers across the state. But as we all know, tobacco is a killer, and that it wreaks havoc on our health. We know that domestic violence has the same result.

We know that one in four women suffers from its effects. We know that because of the cycle of violence, our children who are victims will grow up to become perpetrators or future victims. Some of the ways that our programs can address this issue is to develop holistic programs that help families move on. Several of our programs serve to accomplish such goals. Some have Transitional Housing that allows families up to two years to move into Permanent Housing. Some of us are moving toward providing Permanent Supportive Housing. One of the most innovative programs we offer is an Individual Development Account (IDA) program. For every dollar saved (up to \$2,000.00), an additional two dollars is contributed through a combination of federal and private money. This \$6,000.00 can be used to buy a home, attend school or start a business.



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Julie Neace is saving for her own home with help from the Allstate Foundation

The Bluegrass Domestic Violence Program's Economic Empowerment Project helps a survivor become self-sufficient by Lisa Gabbard, Clearinghouse Coordinator & IDA Specialist



Allstate Foundation

Things are looking up for Julie Neace. She left an abusive marriage in 2006, her son is doing well in school, and she is making plans to return to college. Julie and her son, who has Asperger's Syndrome, live in an apartment in Wilmore. With assistance from the Bluegrass Domestic Violence Program (BDVP) and the Allstate Foundation, she is saving for her own home.

Julie says the Bluegrass Domestic Violence Program helped her turn her life around. In particular, Julie credits the shelter's Economic Empowerment Project, which is made

continued on page 6....

From the desk of the Executive Director by Sherry Currens

It is impossible to avoid news of the recession. Every time you open a newspaper, watch television, or listen to the radio, you are greeted with disturbing financial news and growing unemployment numbers. All of us are feeling the impact of the global financial crisis, and for many families, that impact has become personal. Kentucky's fifteen regional domestic violence programs (shelters) are finding that escalating unemployment and foreclosure rates are adding an extra strain to relationships that already may be volatile. Both our experience and the research are telling us that the recession is having a significant impact on both the occurrence and severity of domestic violence in the Commonwealth.

Experience

Our experience is that in the first six months of fiscal year 2009 (July through December 2008), Kentucky programs experienced an eight percent increase in the number of residents sheltered and an overwhelming forty percent increase in resident days – more victims are being forced to stay in shelter longer. In fiscal year 2008, Kentucky domestic violence programs were unable to shelter almost 2,400 victims and their children. In the first six months of 2009, that number is already at 1,764. If we continue turning away victims and their children at this rate, it will be a forty-seven percent increase over the previous year.

This overcrowding is being caused partially by the difficulty that victims who have sought shelter are having finding jobs and housing so that they can move out of shelter and

start new lives. At the same time, programs are concerned that women who have made the decision to leave a violent relationship may be staying put in their own homes – worried that leaving their abusers in the current recession will mean certain homelessness.

Research

According to the research, one of the leading risk factors for violence is whether the batterer is jobless. A 2003 study led by Jacquelyn Campbell at the Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing found that unemployment is the single strongest predictor in cases where men murder their wives. An abuser's lack of a job increased the risk of femicide fourfold, Campbell's team reported in the American Journal of Public Health.

The Challenge

Unfortunately, as demand is increasing, overall funding for domestic violence programs is decreasing — leaving shelters unable to assist all of the victims seeking help. Already overextended programs are faced with stagnant state funding, loss of federal funds, and decreased donations. The irony is that at the very time we have the greatest need, our support systems are growing weaker. If the Commonwealth is to successfully protect these vulnerable citizens, it must take action to ensure that Kentucky's domestic violence programs have the necessary resources.

Save the DATE!

11th Annual Ending Sexual Assault & Domestic Violence Conference December 1-3, 2009

Marriott Griffin Gate Resort
Lexington, Kentucky

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.

For more info go to www.kdva.org or call 502-209-KDVA



Call for testimonials

KDVA is a member of the Kentucky Coalition for Responsible Lending (KCRL). One mission of KCRL is to educate the public about the dangers of predatory payday lenders. Toward that end, we are looking for stories about people who have been victimized by these lenders. If you know someone who would be willing to publicly share his or her story, possibly telling the story to media or the general assembly, please contact Beth Workman or Mary O'Doherty at KDVA by calling 502-209-KDVA.

KDVA Incarcerated Women's Advocacy Project

by LeTonia A. Jones, MSW, Advocacy Programs Administrator

The Kentucky Domestic Violence Association and its member programs have been advocating on behalf of and providing services to battered women who have been charged with crimes for almost 20 years. In 2007, Governor Ernie Fletcher granted relief to 19 victims of domestic violence who were either serving time or had served time for defending their lives against their abusive partners. Of these 19 women, 6 were released from prison, one of whom received a full pardon, and 13 others were granted pardons after having already been granted parole under Governor Brereton Jones in 1995. KDVA, the Department of Public Advocacy, and concerned citizens had been advocating on behalf of all of these women since the Jones administration, through the Patton administration, and finally through the Fletcher administration. Although there has been some success for some of the battered women incarcerated in Kentucky's penal system, KDVA understands that there are many more victims who need and deserve support.

In September of 2008, KDVA was one of 5 states to be awarded a federal grant from the Department of Health and Human Services. The grant is entitled "Open Doors", and its purpose is to support efforts of domestic violence coalitions to increase services to underserved

populations. Based on its previous work with battered women charged with crimes and experience with the KDVA Clemency Project, KDVA decided to pursue these funds in order to deeply explore and gain a better understanding of the relationship between violence against women and the subsequent incarceration of women and girls. Studies indicate that 90% of the women behind bars have a history of sexual and/or intimate partner victimization. However, very few of these women are receiving services to aid them in dealing with the aftermath of their victimization, their subsequent incarceration, or their release from jail or prison. Based on this need, the "Open Doors" grant has allowed KDVA to create the Incarcerated Battered Women's Advocacy Project.

KDVA has partnered with several entities, including the National Clearinghouse for the Defense of Battered Women and the University of Kentucky Research Center on Violence Against Women to direct the work of the project. In November 2008, KDVA convened a statewide multi-disciplinary group of stakeholders, including community members and formerly incarcerated women, in a symposium focusing on the issue of the incarceration of victims of domestic violence. Following the symposium,

*"Together we can
end violence against
women in all
of its forms."
~LeTonia*

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Regional advocate trainings a huge success

by Sara Clayton, Training Institute Administrator

Each year, KDVA conducts a training program to certify all KDVA program advocates who provide direct service to victims of domestic violence and their children. As part of that training, Lisa Holmes, the Executive Director at SpringHaven, inc., conducts the portion on support groups. This year, Lisa had the idea to extend this training into a half-day workshop for advocates to further enhance their skills. Lisa made herself available for four skill-building workshops to be held in different areas across Kentucky. So far, Almost Everything You Need to Know About Support Groups, developed and implemented by Ms. Holmes, has taken place at domestic violence programs in Ashland, Hopkinsville and Elizabethtown; the fourth is scheduled for the end of June in Louisville. Over 30 advocates have received this training and the feedback has been astounding:

"Things I learned today will enhance the groups I'm already doing. I feel more confident as a facilitator."

"Lisa did an excellent job, made it interesting, fun and a learning experience."

"The amount of new and valuable information I received is too excessive to mention..."

Based on the success of this workshop, KDVA plans to conduct more skill-building workshops regionally for advocates in the future.

KDVA tax preparation sites served 8,472 families

Families saved \$2 million in filing fees; nearly one third claimed EITC

by Mary O'Doherty, Economic Justice Project Director

Fifty-two free tax preparation sites operated by the Kentucky Asset Success Initiative (KASI) helped 8,472 families file taxes this year, and nearly one third of them claimed the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). The sites returned nearly \$8 million in tax refunds to their communities.

Families who used the sites saved at least \$200 in tax preparation and refund-anticipation loan fees because they didn't go to commercial tax preparers.



Harmony Little, Project Manager of CKEEP, presents an award for outstanding service to Mary O'Doherty and KDVA.

KASI is an asset-building project that provides free tax preparation services to low- to moderate-income families. KDVA is the fiscal agent of KASI.

KASI is comprised of four regional coalitions, and KDVA member programs play a role in all of them.

- Barren River Asset Building Coalition. BRASS runs the project.
- Green River Asset Building Coalition. OASIS runs a free tax preparation site on its campus and provides asset-building services for the project.
- Central Kentucky Economic Empowerment Project (CKEEP). Beginning this year, Bluegrass Domestic Violence Program will co-sponsor the project with LexLinc.
- Eastern Kentucky Asset Building Collaborative. LKLP, the umbrella organization for LKLP Safe House, runs two sites.

Under the CKEEP umbrella, KDVA's Immigration Project Coordinator Isela Arras managed a site at the Cardinal Valley Library which filed taxes for undocumented workers. KDVA's Office Manager Lee Zuhars managed a mobile site that served families in seven central Kentucky counties

including Franklin County where the KDVA office is located. Beth Workman and Lisa Gabbard served as volunteer tax preparers.

The primary goal of the KASI free tax preparation sites is to help more eligible working families apply for the federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). The IRS estimates that as many as 20 percent of Kentucky families who qualify for the EITC do not claim it. More than 2,405 of the families served by the sites claimed more than \$3.2 million through the EITC.

The Earned Income Tax Credit is the federal government's largest program benefiting working families. Research has shown that the EITC has a significant impact on many low- to moderate-income families because it reduces poverty, encourages employment, supplements low wages, and helps families build assets and purchasing power.

The sites are staffed by volunteers who are trained and certified by the IRS to complete all but the most complicated tax returns.

Families who use KASI free tax preparation sites won't be offered "refund anticipation loans" (RALs). Many low-income filers are tempted by these high-interest loans because they get their refunds on the same day they file their taxes. However, the annualized interest rate of RALs generally exceeds 200 percent, providing a very poor value for taxpayers' refund dollars. Families often choose RALs because the payment is deducted from the amount of the refund and seems reasonable to those who need their tax refunds quickly.



Isela Arras, Tax Prep Site Manager at the Cardinal Valley Library, was one of the recipients of the 2009 Silver Pig Award given to Site Managers who go above and beyond.



Supporter spotlight

In 2008, KDVA diversified its funding base for its economic empowerment program through grants from corporate and private foundations seeking to assist domestic violence survivors and low-income families with financial self-sufficiency.

Three “old friends” renewed their support:

- **Allstate Foundation**, part of national insurance company Allstate Insurance, has a mission to support domestic violence work.
- **Kentucky Housing Corporation** pledged \$300,000 for KDVA’s third IDA grant
- **Fifth Third Bank** is a regional bank with locations throughout Kentucky.

Due to KASI’s demonstrated success in serving more than 8,000 families with free tax preparation, financial education, credit counseling and IDA savings accounts, foundations interested in serving low-income families and furthering financial literacy recognized the importance of supporting KASI.

We welcomed these new partners:

- **BB&T Bank** serves communities across Kentucky and 10 other Southeastern states.
- **Citi Foundation** is the giving arm of Citi, a financial services company that includes Citibank, Smith Barney and other financial services.
- **Gannett Foundation** is part of the Gannett Corporation which operates the Courier-Journal in Louisville, Kentucky.
- **Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels** funds good works throughout Kentucky with funds contributed by Colonels living in every state and nearly three dozen countries.
- **John S. & James L. Knight Foundation** is a national foundation with an office in Lexington, Kentucky that seeks opportunities to transform communities.
- **JP Morgan Chase Foundation** is a global financial services company with banking branches throughout Kentucky.
- **Old National Bancorp** is a regional banking company headquartered in Evansville, Indiana that serves Indiana, western Kentucky and Louisville.
- **State Farm Insurance** is the largest auto and home insurer in Kentucky, and also offers life, health and commercial insurance. Their grant was given through the State Farm Company Grants Program.
- **Steele-Reese Foundation** is a private family foundation with connections in eastern Kentucky, Idaho and Montana.

- **US Bank** has locations throughout Kentucky. Its Bowling Green region supports BRASS and the Barren River Asset Building Coalition. The Lexington region supports the Central Kentucky Economic Empowerment Program and the Eastern Kentucky Asset Building Coalition.
- **Westfield Insurance Foundation** is part of Westfield Insurance that provides insurance through independent agents and is one of the country’s top ten providers of farm insurance.

KDVA’s Economic Empowerment Program has earned national recognition this year, but we would not be in the spotlight without funding from all these financial supporters. So we share the applause with these foundations that helped to make our success possible.

Thanks to our Partners

Allstate Foundation
 BB&T
 Citi Foundation
 Fifth Third Bank
 Gannett Foundation
 Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels
 John S. & James L. Knight Foundation
 JP Morgan Chase Foundation
 Kentucky Housing Corporation
 Old National Bancorp
 State Farm Insurance
 Steele-Reese Foundation
 US Bank – Bowling Green
 US Bank - Lexington
 Westfield Insurance Foundation

Save these DATES!

Safe Harbor Ashland, Kentucky

2nd Annual Lobster Fest August 15, 2009

Mark your calendars and join us for our 2nd Annual Lobster Fest fundraiser on August 15th at 6 pm at the Bellefonte Country Club in Ashland, Kentucky. Come feast on lobster, bid on unique auction items and dance under the stars! For more information please call 606-329-9304.

Sandy Valley Abuse Center Prestonsburg, Kentucky

25th Anniversary Celebration September 25, 2009

Join us as the Sandy Valley Abuse Center celebrates its 25 year anniversary! We will have a reception on September 25th at the shelter in Prestonsburg. For more information please call 606-285-9079.

Julie Neace is saving...

(continued from page 1)

possible by the Allstate Foundation. Last year Julie enrolled in an Individual Development Account (IDA) program which matched her savings 2:1.

Most recently, Julie has taken advantage of the Allstate Micro Loan Program at BDVP. The program was created to give domestic violence victims an alternative to high-interest payday lenders. Julie borrowed \$400 and is repaying the loan over 12 months, interest free. Her payments will be reported to the major credit bureaus and will help Julie build a credit history.

Julie gives much of the credit for her success to Kathy Lane Barber, a victim's advocate and housing specialist at BDVP. In addition to teaching financial education classes, Kathy meets regularly with Julie to help her manage her finances and give her the support she needs to stay focused on her goals.

Thanks to the Allstate Foundation, survivors like Julie are getting the help they need to become financially self-sufficient.

President's report

(continued from page 1)

We have come a long way in the 25 years that most of Kentucky's domestic violence shelters have been in business. We have created a holistic program for women and families in the state of Kentucky. The economic impact of domestic violence has been overwhelming. In addition to the obvious costs to our healthcare system, our courts, jails, and prisons, it impacts the drop-out rate in our school, the number of children removed and placed into foster care, the health and welfare of our workforce and absenteeism on the job. It impacts a family's ability to live in a home with a stable environment. And the growing use of drugs and alcohol as coping mechanisms for many of our families is becoming more of a factor each year.

Domestic violence costs our state millions of dollars each year, money that could be better spent up front by empowering women and children to leave abusive relationships and become successfully independent. Housing, employment, education and a support system—in most cases, these are attainable goals.

I challenge each of you to step up, call your legislators, and help me help them understand that Kentucky's 15 regional programs hold the key to eradicating domestic violence in our state. If we can reduce the sale and use of tobacco, we can reduce the incidents of domestic violence.

Incarcerated Women...

(continued from page 3)

a steering committee and sub-committees were formed. These committees have been meeting since January 2009 in efforts to address the issue in a comprehensive manner. The sub-committees are looking at providing services to women who are at risk of incarceration, women who are currently incarcerated, and women who were formerly incarcerated. In May of 2009, the research sub-committee was approved to conduct a research study that will focus on the issue of the incarceration of battered women in Kentucky's jails and prisons.

KDVA hopes to use the information gathered to better serve all victims of domestic violence by continuing to better understand the different walks of life each individuals take while trying to cope with or end the violence they sustain. KDVA also hopes to be able to better inform stakeholders and the community at-large on the many ways that domestic violence impacts victims as well as society as a whole.

If you would like more information or would like to become involved in the KDVA Incarcerated Battered Women's Advocacy Project, please contact LeTonia Jones at 502-209-KDVA or by e-mail at ljones@kdva.org. Together we can end violence against women in all of its forms.

KDVA Training Institute

Upcoming trainings

Considerations for Victims of Domestic Violence and Their Children Tuesday, October 20, 2009, 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM EST

This training will promote a culturally competent system of care and will focus on the dynamics of domestic violence. It will also include: the effects of domestic violence on adults and children who witness, lethality and risk assessments, resources and referrals, reporting requirements, legal services for protection and strategies for providing language accessible services. Registration fee is \$35 and includes materials and continental breakfast. Lunch is on your own.



Advocacy for Battered Women Who Have Been Charged With Crimes Thursday, July 9, 2009, 1:00 PM - 4:30 PM EST

This workshop will explore issues related to battered women who have been charged with crimes. We will provide tools and strategies to advocate on behalf of and support women whose victimization may lead to incarceration. Registration fee is \$20 and includes materials and afternoon refreshments.



It's All Interrelated: Violence Against Women as a Form of Oppression Thursday, November 12, 2009, 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM EST

Join us for an interactive workshop that will focus on diversity and self-awareness as it explores oppression through experiential learning. This workshop will specifically address the link between oppression and violence against women. Registration fee is \$35 and includes materials and continental breakfast. Lunch is on your own.

All workshops will be held at the KDVA Training Center, 111 Darby Shire Circle, Frankfort, KY 40601. Please register two weeks prior to the date of the workshop you wish to attend. Social Work CEU approval is pending for each workshop. Please contact Sara Clayton with any questions by calling (502) 209-KDVA or email her at sclayton@kdva.org.

To register for any of the above workshops, please complete the registration form below.



Please sign me up for:

- Considerations for Victims of Domestic Violence and Their Children, Tuesday, October 20, 2009 @ \$35 each
- Advocacy for Battered Women Who Have Been Charged With Crimes, Thursday, July 9, 2009 @ \$20 each
- It's All Interrelated: Violence Against Women as a Form of Oppression, Thursday, November 12, 2009 @ \$35 each

Name _____

Title _____

Organization _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

Email _____

How to register:
Mail or fax your completed registration form and payment to:
P O Box 356
Frankfort, KY 40602
or Fax: 502-226-5382

For more information:
Call 502-209-KDVA

Program news and updates

Barren River Area Safe Space

Bowling Green, Kentucky

The shelter goes green

The Barren River Area Safe Space, Inc. is engaged in efforts to become a more sustainable and environmentally friendly organization. For over nine years, the program has been involved in socially responsible recycling efforts through the Cell Phones for Safety program. With the help of the community, BRASS has collected thousands of used cell phones. The collected phones are shipped to a recycler, Shelter Alliance, and the agency is reimbursed based on the value of each phone. This program has allowed the shelter to engage in recycling efforts but to also generate emergency funds for the needs of shelter residents.



In an on-going effort to go "green".

A VISTA Volunteer has designed a recycling program within the shelter and among employees. The purpose of the program is to teach shelter residents and agency staff the value of recycling as a socially conscious choice, as well as to help the shelter become more sustainable. Nineteen out of 20 employees completed a survey indicating that they would participate in the new recycling effort. After being provided with information obtained from a recent energy audit conducted by the local utility company, it was decided that the agency would implement a recycling program that included aluminum cans, plastic and paper. Each program would be responsible for encouraging all staff to participate. Shelter residents were excited about their involvement and jumped on board immediately. BRASS residents were also provided with information that they will be able to use when they secure housing. Contact was made with a local recycling company, Southern Recycling, and arrangements were made for a weekly pick-up.

In addition to recycling, other efforts are in process to create a more environmentally friendly shelter and workplace. Regular light bulbs have been replaced with more energy efficient bulbs. Employees have pledged to turn off all lights when a workspace is not in use, and to unplug all equipment at the end of each day. Home Depot is redoing the children's play yard to include rubber mulch recycled from waste tires. The recent energy audit also recommended improved heating and cooling units that are more energy efficient. Efforts continue to locate funds to cover the cost of such a replacement.

The Center for Women and Families

Louisville, Kentucky

Annual Celebration a Beautiful Success

About 650 people gathered on February 26th at the Louisville Marriott Downtown to honor the 2009 Women of Distinction during The Center for Women and Families' 22nd Anniversary Celebration of Service & Survival. The evening celebrated the contributions of five remarkable women in our community while raising awareness and funds to support The Center's mission to end domestic violence, sexual violence and economic hardship. The event would not have been possible but for the generous support of countless sponsors, volunteers, auction donors and program participants.

Over 3,000 Wear Jeans on Denim Day

March 31 marked the 2nd Annual Denim Day in Kentuckiana. Last year more than 1,000 people participated in our region's inaugural Denim Day, and this year more than 3,000 took part in the Sexual Assault Awareness Month activity.

Denim Day began in 1998 when an Italian Supreme Court overturned a rape conviction citing that the victim's tight jeans could not have been removed without her help. This, they ruled, meant she gave consent. People from all over the world were outraged by the decision, and within a matter of hours, women in the Italian Parliament launched a protest by wearing jeans to work.

Visit www.thecenteronline.org/denimday09.php to see more photos and a complete list of everyone who participated in this year's Kentuckiana Denim Day effort.

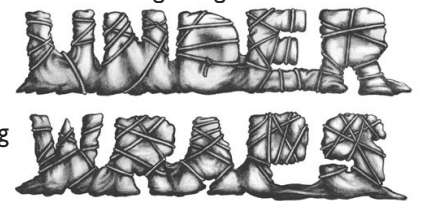
UNDER WRAPS: An Awareness Project

On April 27, The Center for Women and Families launched a week-long awareness project to mark the beginning of National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW). The project, called "Under Wraps," is one of only 59 community awareness projects in the nation receiving federal funding under the auspices of the National Association of VOCA Assistance Administrators. It uses art activism as a way to celebrate the landmark Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) and bring attention to crime victims' rights in our region.

In the visual spirit of Christo and Jeanne Claude, artists internationally famous for wrapping large buildings and monuments, The Center for Women and Families joined forces with local artists, businesses and organizations to wrap edifices, fences and other objects throughout the community with nylon fabric and rope. Each wrapped object was marked with labels or signage directing viewers to a special website to learn more about VOCA, victims' rights and the national week of awareness.

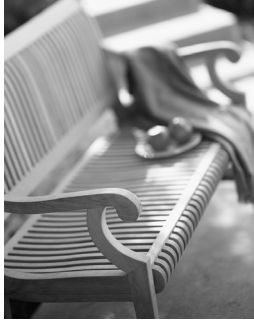
Coffee shops, art centers, neighborhood centers, social service agencies and universities hosted the wrappings. The wrapped objects at these sites built awareness about crime victims' rights and celebrated the 25th Anniversary of VOCA. Simultaneously, they symbolized how crime victims, especially those victims of domestic or sexual violence, too often feel alone in their victimization and hide it from family and the community for fear of disbelief or judgment.

Although the Under Wraps project was taken down at the conclusion of NCVRW, the website www.whythiswrapped.com will remain posted through June 30, 2009.



More program news and updates

Bethany House Somerset, Kentucky



In honor of Sheila Shepherd

Sheila Shepherd was Bethany House's Administrative Assistant for the past ten years. In February of this year, Sheila lost a long battle with cancer. Sheila left behind a husband, a teenage son, both parents and a host of friends who mourn her passing. To honor Sheila and the years of her life that she dedicated to the Bethany House, a memorial service was held on May 22. During the service, a bench was added to

the front garden area and a weeping cherry tree was planted in her honor. We will miss Sheila.

Shelter is more like a home

This spring the Bethany House is making the shelter more like a home. New laminate flooring has been installed throughout the shelter, replacing carpet and vinyl flooring that was very worn. With the help of some volunteers, the shelter is also getting a fresh coat of paint. Janie Hail, a local interior designer, selected the new colors and the shelter is taking on a much brighter look, contributing to the more homelike atmosphere. The playground has also been refurbished with the help of volunteers from the Pulaski County Commonwealth Attorney's Office. We thank everyone who is helping us to update our facility.

Sandy Valley Abuse Center Prestonsburg, Kentucky

Shelter gets toddler area

The Sandy Valley Abuse Center is happy to announce that they are currently transforming a small sitting room into a toddler area. The room has been painted and a beautiful ocean scene rug is in place. Coming soon are new baby gates, cabinetry, dress-up center, reading corner, high chairs and age appropriate games and activities. This new room will be a wonderful addition to the environment and atmosphere of the shelter.

Safe Harbor Ashland, Kentucky

Harbor Hill opening

On June 4th Safe Harbor hosted an open house for their new facility Harbor Hill Apartments. Harbor Hill was renovated and rehabilitated from the former Ashland Tuberculosis Hospital which had been an integral part of the state's crusade against TB. Former hospital rooms were carefully and expertly transformed into beautiful apartments with generous living areas. During the open house, participants were given a tour of the facility, lunch was provided, and there was a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Ann Perkins appointed to advisory board

Ann Perkins, Executive Director of Safe Harbor in Ashland, Kentucky, has been appointed to the Advisory Board of the Ashland Community and Technical College by Governor Steve Beshear.

Women's Crisis Center Northern Kentucky

Regional Services Center opening

Women's Crisis Center (WCC) recently opened its new Regional Services Center in Hebron, which replaces its Florence office. The Regional Services Center provides a warm, welcoming and safe environment for people seeking domestic violence, rape and sexual assault counseling services. The office will house WCC's rural services program serving Boone, Carroll, Gallatin, Grant, Owen and Pendleton counties. This program provides vital crisis intervention, individual (short-term and long-term clinical) and group counseling, medical and court advocacy services, information and referrals. The Regional Services Center will also house the departments of prevention education, volunteer services and administration. The prevention education department has received national recognition for its age-appropriate programs for pre-school aged children through college. The volunteer services program provides a 40-hour training program three times per year and administers a network of over 150 dedicated volunteers. Moving the administrative offices from the Covington to the Regional Services Center has provided much-needed additional space for counselors in the Covington office. The new office is located in a rapidly growing area of the county that is central to WCC's overall service area, providing easy access for clients, volunteers and staff. The Regional Services Center is located at 3580 Hargrave Dr., Hebron, KY 41048.



WCC's new Regional Services Center in Hebron, Kentucky

New outreach office opening

Women's Crisis Center has been awarded a federal grant through the Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women for its Rural Advocacy Outreach Project. The grant will be utilized in Fleming, Lewis, Mason, and Robertson counties in the Buffalo Trace Area Development District. The grant has provided three new outreach workers, one of whom is stationed within the Mason County Sheriff's office. This Advocate is networking with and providing training for local law enforcement. She works with law enforcement to provide



WCC's new Outreach Office in Lewis County

comprehensive services to domestic violence and sexual assault survivors. The grant has also allowed WCC to open an outreach office in Lewis County. The Lewis County Advocate provides an array of services including support groups, training and community outreach.

Americorps/VISTA Program update

by Lisa Gabbard, Clearinghouse Coordinator & IDA Specialist



The AmeriCorps VISTA program continues to thrive through KDVA, some shelter programs and outreach partners. By June 1, there will be fourteen VISTAs working at ten sites:

Chaka Barron, Merryman House, helps to facilitate the Merryman House Benefit Golf Scramble, which raised over \$4,600 in two years.

Kris Bondarenko, Bluegrass Domestic Violence Program (BDVP), coordinates the marketing for the program, recruits volunteers to help distribute flyers and brochures, and works closely with several community partners.

Christine Brasile, Barren River Area Safe Space (BRASS), helped boost the numbers of the Barren River Asset Building Coalition by doing extensive Earned Income Tax Credit outreach.

Juli Clark, Owensboro Area Shelter & Information Services (OASIS), put together the curriculum on job readiness and preparation, including resume building and interviewing skills.

Julie Curtis, BRASS, was a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) free tax preparation site manager and filed over 900 tax returns for low-to-moderate income taxpayers.

Lisa Gabbard, KDVA, helped obtain an Allstate Foundation Your Choice Charity grant for \$15,000. She also did some media outreach, obtaining stories about an IDA/Allstate Micro Loan participant in the Jessamine Journal and the Lexington Herald-Leader, and secured an appearance on a Lexington morning news show for Mary O'Doherty and Darlene Thomas, where they spoke about domestic violence resources.

Carie Kizziar, Safe Harbor, has a very loyal base of returning volunteers, including 30 baby-boomers. She also assisted in rais-

ing an additional \$60,000 for Safe Harbor with their Lobster Fest fundraiser event.

Sheri Streeter, currently at DOVES, works extensively on grant-writing and has filed over 30 grants so far during her tenure. **Sherry Schaeffer**, Safe Harbor, has built the up the capacity of the IDA Program there by more than 65%.

Two outreach partnerships also participate in the VISTA program:

Family Scholar House hosts **Devon Davis**. She assisted with a Sushi in the City event, which raised over \$21,000 for FSH. She helped with auction items and payment.

The Homeless and Housing Coalition of Kentucky is where **Sophia Jannace** works. There she has created a HHCK membership handbook and has increased capacity by \$5000 through additional membership dues.

In addition, KDVA looks forward to working with **Brenda Keathley**, Safe Harbor, and **Dani Yannelli**, Central Kentucky Economic Empowerment Project (CKEEP), as they begin their journeys with the VISTA program.

Lead VISTA **Beth Workman**, at KDVA, currently oversees 142 Individual Development Accounts (IDA), has recruited 12 VISTAs, and facilitated numerous trainings, including VISTA training, Allstate Curriculum training, and four IDA and one Credit-Building training.

During the three quarter reporting period (7/1/08 – 3/31/09), several VISTAs worked as volunteer tax preparers. The KDVA mobile tax preparation site recruited seven volunteers. Among them, they distributed over 13,000 flyers regarding the free mobile tax prep site, filed 221 returns for taxpayers, and helped those filers receive \$44,200 in Earned Income Tax Credit. One VISTA was a tax site supervisor. Assets earned by VISTAs include \$96,575 in in-kind donations and \$520,890 in money raised for programs.

Arts and activism meet once more

by LeTonia Jones, MSW, Advocacy Programs Administrator

The Kentucky Domestic Violence Association believes in the power of the arts as a mechanism to help end violence against women and girls. Once again, KDVA has put that belief into action by partnering with the Lexington Art League, the Bluegrass Domestic Violence Program, the Bluegrass Rape Crisis Center, and the Kentucky United Methodist Home for Children and Youth on a program called Witness.

Witness is a pilot project that seeks to build relationships that support an end to violence against women and girls while using visual art to educate the community about the issue and move us all toward social change and an end to this violence. Witness is the collaboration of visual artists and women who have experienced sexual or intimate partner violence. It will provide the space for women who have experienced violence to tell their stories to the artists with

whom they are paired. The artist will serve as a “witness” to her story and together they will collaborate on a piece that will convey the story she has told. Upon completion of the pieces, a public exhibition will be held in Lexington, Kentucky in November 2009 as an opportunity for the community at-large to “witness” this powerful collaboration. The program will begin in September 2009.

If you are an adult female who has experienced sexual or intimate partner violence and would like the opportunity to participate in this pilot project, please contact Julia Curiel at the Lexington Art League at 859-254-0614. Space is limited and unfortunately, not all who inquire will

be able to participate in the pilot.

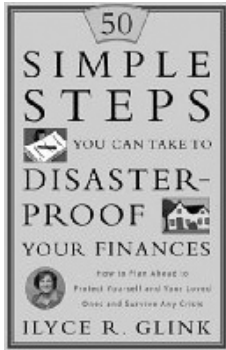
Remember that together we can end violence against women and girls.



Clearinghouse update

Compiled by Sara Clayton, Training Institute Administrator

Resources for economic success



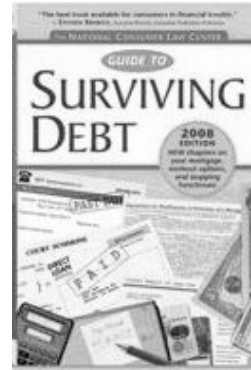
50 Simple Steps You Can Take To Disaster-Proof Your Finances by Ilyce R. Glink

The best time to plan for trouble—the death of a spouse, the collapse of a business, the loss of your home—is before you're overwhelmed by it. This is especially important if you have a family or a small business or are beginning to save for your retirement. But what should you do first? In "50 Simple

Steps You Can Take to Disaster-Proof Your Finances", money and real estate expert Ilyce Glink walks you step by step through the things you need to do to protect your family and your money so you can survive any crisis. Topics include:

- Getting organized: What do you have and where is it?
- Banking/credit: Credit, accounts, & emergency cash you need
- Travel: Traveling safer—and for less money
- Insurance/health: How to buy the important policies & save
- Investments: Diversifying to help you weather the tough times
- Family matters: Planning for your children's & parents' futures
- Estate matters: Wills, living wills, and more
- After the disaster: Finding the emergency aid you need

In her friendly and easy-to-understand style, Ilyce Glink shows you how to avoid the ten most common mistakes people make in planning for their future, helps you add up the numbers with simple worksheets, and guides you to the leading websites for more information. With this indispensable guide, you'll know you've done the best you can do for yourself and your loved ones.



Guide to Surviving Debt by The National Consumer Law Center, principal authors Deanne Loonin and John Rao

"Guide to Surviving Debt" explains the rights of consumer borrowers with advice that levels the playing field. This new edition contains strategies on:

- Dealing with debt collectors
- Saving your home or car
- Which debts to pay first and common mistakes consumers make that can actually get them into even more trouble
- Managing credit card debt
- Stopping eviction, lockouts, and utility shut-offs
- When you should/should not worry about your credit rating
- When to refinance
- Student loan consolidation options
- How to find effective credit counseling agencies
- Alternatives to filing bankruptcy and more
- And includes a detailed index, and list of helpful websites

This handbook draws on the expertise of 16 present and former NCLC attorneys specializing in different areas of consumer law. Two of these attorneys, Deanne Loonin and John Rao, were the principal authors of this edition.

KDVA and programs receive media coverage

by Lisa Gabbard, Clearinghouse Coordinator & IDA Specialist

Since the beginning of 2009, KDVA has taken advantage of opportunities for exposure for its programs and services, using both earned and paid media. One of the news services for which KDVA pays is the Public News Service (PNS). The PNS is supported by more than 450 non-profit organizations and other contributing members. PNS provides stories primarily to radio stations, but also posts the stories on their website, and is even moving into the television arena. Radio is considered an excellent medium because the average person listens for three hours a day. The PNS produces timely news stories, ready to be plugged into a station's newsbreak. In January, KDVA provided PNS with a news release about the results of a domestic violence census in Kentucky. PNS provided a story on the census, which ran on 32 stations, with an

estimated audience of almost 200,000 listeners. The story was also available on the PNS website. In April, another story was aired about payday lending alternatives offered through KDVA programs in the form of a Micro Loan Program, made possible by the Allstate Foundation. Again, the story was also available on the news service's website. PNS is a good alternative to conventional media. Consolidation of media has resulted in fewer journalists trying to do more and more work, requiring reporters to rely on material that is provided to them. PNS is very effective at providing news that journalists use regularly, and this is done with little work on the part of member organizations. KDVA will continue the relationship with PNS in the future to ensure that as many people as possible are made aware of what our programs and partners do for Kentuckians.

KDVA Member Programs

Barren River Area Safe Space

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

Family Life Abuse Center

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

Sanctuary, Inc

in Hopkinsville
Helen Kinton
1-800-766-0000

Bethany House Abuse Shelter, Inc

in Somerset
Robert Brown
1-800-755-2017

LKLP Safe House

in Hazard
Lois Valentine
1-800-928-3131

Sandy Valley Abuse Center

in Prestonsburg
Connie Little
1-800-649-6605

Bluegrass Domestic Violence Program

in Lexington
Darlene Thomas
1-800-544-2022

Merryman House

in Paducah
Vonnie Adams
1-800-585-2686

SpringHaven, inc

in Elizabethtown
Lisa Holmes
1-800-767-5838

The Center for Women and Families

in Louisville
Denise Troutman
1-877-803-7577

Owensboro Area Shelter (OASIS)

in Owensboro
Brenda Jones
1-800-882-2873

Women's Crisis Center

in Covington
Kimberely Adams
1-800-928-3335

DOVES of Gateway

in Morehead
Patricia Collinsworth
1-800-221-4361

Safe Harbor/FIVCO

in Ashland
Ann Perkins
1-800-926-2150

Women's Crisis Center

in Maysville
Kimberely Adams
1-800-928-6708



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

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