



KDVA UPDATE

Newsletter of the Kentucky Domestic Violence Association - Winter/Spring 2007

Until the Violence Stops: KY Make Kentucky the Safest State on Earth for Women and Girls

by LeTonia A. Jones, MSW
KDVA Training Coordinator

Eve Ensler is at it again and this time, the Kentucky Domestic Violence Association and its member programs are among the first on board! Many know Eve Ensler as the Obie-Award winning playwright for her work, *The Vagina Monologues*, as well as her tireless efforts to end violence against women and girls around the world. Well, Eve's work has not stopped there and as a matter of fact, it will be extended all across the state of Kentucky.

V-DAY has chosen Kentucky as one of only two places and the only state in the world to pilot this historic festival in the summer of 2007

One might ask the question, where does Kentucky fit in to all of this? The answer is V-DAY has chosen Kentucky as one of only two places and the only state in the world to pilot this historic festival in the summer of 2007. The Northeastern region of Ohio is the other festival site for June 2007. Paris, France, Denver, CO, and Providence, RI are among the cities planning festivals in the summer of 2008. Kentucky has the opportunity to take the lead in spreading the very important message that violence against women and girls

(continued on page 8...)

In June of 2006, V-DAY organized the first women's festival in the world that focused solely on the message that ending violence against women and girls is possible. The festival was called "Until the Violence Stops: NYC". The mantra was "Make New York City the safest city on earth for women and girls." For two weeks, NYC touted itself as the safest city in the world for women and girls. The theme and mantra were plastered across the 5 boroughs of New York. There were shows in Manhattan, discussion panels in Brooklyn, "The Vagina Monologues" performed at Riker's Island, a film festival in Midtown, a 5 K run through Prospect Park, a press conference with Mayor Bloomberg, and the participation of celebrities, survivors, world renowned authors, actors/actresses, directors, and the citizens of New York City. V-DAY took over the streets with great force and made the issue of violence against women and girls the focal point of the largest city in the US.

The Rockefeller Foundation funded a report of the results of the festival in New York. The report revealed that by the end of the two-week festival, 1.1 million dollars was raised; 8 million people had been exposed to the message that ending violence against women and girls is possible through bill boards, subway signs, flyers, and media events; four shows sold out to 4250 people; Prospect Park welcomed 2000 runners who demanded an end to the violence; and most importantly, "82% of festival attendees reported that attending the event made them want to take action to reduce violence against women and girls". This is social change at its finest!

Legislative Update:

Representative Joni L. Jenkins has introduced legislation to expand Kentucky's protective order statute.

By Sherry Currens
KDVA Executive Director

House Bill 396 would allow persons who are dating, or have dated, but who have never lived together, and do not have a child in common, to petition for protective orders. The bill would also expand the warrantless arrest statute to cover persons in a dating relationship. KDVA is supporting this much-needed legislation that has already been passed by 40 states and the District of Columbia.

Young women are at an ever-increasing risk for relationship violence. This segment of our population is experiencing a faster growing rate of relationship violence than any other. Thirty-two percent of college students report dating violence by a previous partner and twenty-one percent report violence by a current partner. Sixty percent of acquaintance rapes on college campuses occur in casual or dating relationships

Senate Bill 121, sponsored by Senator Julie Denton, creates a crime victim address protection program within the Department of

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President's Report

Lisa Holmes, KDVA President



Lisa Holmes
KDVA Board President

During the holidays I participated in a lively discussion about resolutions for the new year. This quote by Abraham Lincoln came to mind. "To sin by silence when they should protest makes cowards of men (and, of course women). Amidst the choruses of commitments to lose those last 10 pounds and the cries for carving out "me time", I found myself disinterested in my own need to lose 10 pounds or my desire for "me time". Instead I focused my attention on "the work" as we advocates love to refer to our vocation, our calling, our jobs. Have I been vocal enough about issues that really matter? If not, why? A large part of my responsibility as President of KDVA is to be a spokesperson for our programs. That means several times a year, I participate in press conferences, address the Legislature, or speak to the media. I think some would agree, that I try to be judicious with my comments, but am not always successful. Assertive is how our Executive Director, Sherry Currens has described me. Ask my colleague Helen Kenton and she will most likely use a pejorative word

"My commitment and resolution this year, is to find the most appropriate method to communicate my message. And, to further, be persistent in delivering that message to every person who is willing to listen."

to describe this same attribute. However, more disconcerting than that, is the fact that I have, in the past not spoken up when I disagreed with someone for fear of causing strife, or when it might not be politically correct.

Is this an excuse for silence? Absolutely not. Violence perpetrated against our most vulnerable citizens (women and children), in our communities continues to be a tremendous problem. My commitment and resolution this year, is to find the most appropriate method to communicate my message. And, to further, be persistent in delivering that message to every person who is willing to listen. Together we have a strong voice. Let our message ring in every courthouse, in every civic meeting and most importantly in the capitol of this Commonwealth. We are not cowards. We will be heard.



Legislative Update (continued from pg. 1)

State. This statute would allow victims of domestic violence and abuse, stalking, and felony sexual offenses to use an address provided by the Secretary of State in lieu of the person's actual physical address for the purpose of receiving mail and to allow crime victims to access government services based upon their actual address but utilizing the program's address on government records and documents, including the right to vote.

KDVA is also supporting Senator Boswell's trafficking legislation (HB 43) which would criminalize human trafficking, identify traf-

ficking victims and provide services to help them rebuild their lives; Representative Cherry's anti-bullying legislation (HB 64) defining harassment, intimidation or bullying and requiring school districts to develop plans, policies, and procedures to deal with students who are engaging in disruptive and disorderly behavior, including harassment, intimidation, or bullying of another student; and Representative Gray's minimum wage legislation (HB 17) that would increase the state's minimum hourly wage.

KDVA UPDATE - Winter/Spring 2007

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KDVA Update is published by the Kentucky Domestic Violence Association. The 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 victims and their dependent children.

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

BRASS joins tax-preparation project KASI expands its reach into two more western Kentucky counties

By Mary O'Doherty
KASI Project Director

Barren River Area Safe Space Inc. (BRASS) is offering free tax-preparation services to the public in Warren and Barren counties this year, expanding the reach of the Kentucky Asset Success Initiative (KASI) into two more western Kentucky counties.

BRASS organized the Barren River Asset-Building Coalition, an alliance of 18 community partners that is operating four sites in Bowling Green and one in Glasgow. One site is at the shelter although it is serving only clients and former clients. The BRASS outreach office in Barren County, called BRANCHES, will serve the public.

"This gives us the opportunity to help more low-to-moderate income families gain self-sufficiency," said BRASS Executive Director Lee Alcott. "The community response was amazing, and United Way of Southern Kentucky really took the lead in helping us recruit volunteers."

Last year KASI helped more than 3,300 families in 25 counties in eastern, southeastern and western Kentucky file their taxes, returning \$3.8 million to their communities. More than a third of the families claimed the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).

KASI is an asset-building project that aims to spread the word about the EITC. Many advocates for the poor consider the EITC the country's largest and most effective anti-poverty program. The tax credit puts more money in the pockets of low-income people each year than TANF, the federal anti-poverty program, but an estimated 10 to 15 percent of eligible families in Kentucky don't claim it.

In Bowling Green and Glasgow the coalition will use the 2007 tax season to recruit four classes of individuals who will receive intense financial education. The goal is that at least 15 individuals will sign up for an Individual Development Account (IDA). IDAs are matched, restricted savings accounts. For every dollar a participant puts in her account, KDVA will give her two dollars.

The site supervisors will work closely with the Mayor's Dollar-wise Campaign in Bowling Green to provide the most accurate and timely information on financial education classes throughout the community. The coalition also will provide incentives to current IDA participants and transitional housing residents to distribute information about the free tax preparation sites and the EITC.

The KASI sites helped families save an estimated \$440,000 in tax-preparation fees and loans. Tax-preparers typically charge about \$100 to file tax forms with additional charges for extra forms.

Equally important, the sites help keep families from being tempted by high-interest refund anticipation loans pushed by paid tax-preparers. Typically, tax filers pay a \$108 fee for same-day refunds. The fee reduces the average refund amount by 10 percent, which amounts to an annualized interest rate of more than 200 percent. IRS data show a third of tax filers who claim the EITC typically obtain refund-anticipation loans.

KASI also includes the Owensboro-Daviess County Asset-Building Coalition, Hazard-Perry County Community Ministries and the Lake Cumberland Asset-Building Coalition. KDVA is the fiscal agent of KASI.

KASI is one of more than 40 projects funded through the Annie E. Casey Foundation's National Tax Assistance for Working Families Campaign. The Center for Women and Families is involved with the Louisville Asset-Building Coalition, which has been supported by the Casey foundation since 2002.

Who Qualifies?

The Earned Income Tax Credit can boost the returns of low-income filers by as much as \$4,536. Taxpayers with two or more children who earn as much as \$36,348 qualify for \$4,536. A taxpayer who earns \$32,001 and has one child qualifies for up to \$2,747, while a taxpayer 25 years old or older with no children must earn no more than \$12,120 to qualify for a credit up to \$412.

IDA Update: 14 participants have made purchases

Fourteen IDA participants have made purchases with money saved in their Individual Development Accounts. Seven of them purchased homes and seven used their IDAs to pay for college tuition, books and other education-related expenses.

IDAs are matched, directed savings accounts. Account-holders savings are matched on a 2-1 basis. The goal of the program is to help income-eligible participants buy a first home, go to school or start a small business.

Participants are required to complete financial education classes and participate in on-going case management provided by staff at the domestic violence programs.

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| 4 | Sanctuary |
| 4 | Women's Crisis Center in Northern Kentucky |
| 2 | OASIS |
| 2 | Bethany House |
| 1 | Bluegrass |
| 1 | KDVA |

Participants also are enrolled through Merryman House, BRASS, Safe Harbor, and Family Life Abuse Center. The Center for Women and Families has had its own IDA program since 1999.

So far, 114 participants are enrolled. KDVA received a second IDA grant last year, so many more slots are available. Call Jessica Hancock at KDVA or send her an email at jhancock@kdva.org for details and eligibility guidelines.

KDVA received funding for the program through Kentucky Housing Corp., Fifth Third Bank, National City Bank of Kentucky and First Citizens Bank of Elizabethtown.

KDVA Program News & Updates:

Big Sandy Family Abuse Center - Prestonsburg

- Next sessions of Domestic Violence classes at Otter Creek Correctional Facility will begin January 18th, and will consist of 6 week sessions with 20 women enrolled in the first session.
- Cindy Crase received her Bachelor's Degree from ECU in Sociology in December. Cindy is the program Coordinator at BSFAC.
- BSFAC has a new Resident Assistant, Amanda Salyer.
- **[SAVE THE DATE]** BSFAC will be holding a fundraiser March 30 and 31 at the Allen Baptist Church involving "monologues" and music. Details will be forthcoming.
- Caseworker Deborah Slone has completed parenting class training "STEP" and will be facilitating parenting classes for Magoffin and Floyd Counties DPP clients as well as shelter participants.
- BSFAC received a grant from an individual for children's services. We have carpeted our basement, painted with a Spongebob theme, added new cabinets and countertops for a homework and art center, and added a video game area.

Center for Women and Families - Louisville

20th Anniversary Celebration of Service & Survival Honoring the 2007 Women of Distinction

February 28, 2007
5:00 PM Silent Auction Reception
6:30 PM Dinner & Awards
Galt House East Grand Ballroom
Louisville, Kentucky

Please make plans to attend The Center for Women and Families 20th Anniversary Celebration of Service and Survival. This year's event will honor six Women of Distinction who have made an enduring mark on The Center's mission to eliminate domestic violence, sexual violence and economic hardship: **Martha Layne Collins - Cheryl Hillenburg - Pam Johnson - Jessica Loving - Charlotte Tharp - Marsha Weinstein**

The Center pays tribute to these legacy women as a way to raise funds to support women and families experiencing crisis, healing and transition at The Center for Women and Families. Call 502-581-7212 or visit www.thecenteronline.org for sponsorship and attendance information.

Merryman House

Our Vagina Monologues presentation is set for Saturday February 24 at 7:00 p.m. at the Luther F. Carson Four Rivers Performing Arts Center in Paducah, Kentucky. For tickets call 270-450-4444 or online at www.thecarsoncenter.org.

OASIS, Inc.

Under the supervision of Diana Rumage, OASIS Children's Program Coordinator, OASIS has designed and implemented several new programs for adolescent girls. A weekly Young Woman's Group meets to discuss dating safety, healthy boundaries and positive assertiveness. Referrals to the group are made by school personnel, court designated workers and parents. A similar program is held weekly at the Mary Kendall Home where young women in the state's custody reside until their personal issues are resolved and they can return home.



Diana Rumage, OASIS, Inc.

An eight week rotating group meets at Beacon High School, the alternative learning center for county high school students. These three groups fill a gap where services to address teenage violence and other issues were not available.

Additionally, Diana has networked with the school system in Daviess County and is conducting all day workshops at the high schools.

The OASIS program staff continue to look for ways to reach young adults. We believe this is one of the best ways to address the violence in our community.

Safe Harbor, Inc

Safe Harbor received a \$20,000 grant from the Mary Kay Foundation. We are going to buy a vehicle with our grant.

More News and Updates

Ride to Safety Will Protect Abused Women Center for Women and Families, Louisville

Beginning Jan. 1, 2007, in Louisville, KY, all TARC buses provide a Ride to Safety for victims of domestic violence. Working in partnership with The Center for Women and Families, TARC will give women and families who don't have access to a car a safe haven and free transportation to The Center for Women and Families.

Modeled after the YMCA's Safe Place program, drivers will notify TARC authorities of their passenger's situation and ensure she is safely transported to The Center's nearest location. Children who may be with adults fleeing domestic violence will also be transported.

"This is one more innovative service our community can offer in response to the needs of women and children who are abused,"

said Mayor Jerry Abramson. "I commend TARC and The Center for Women and Families for creating a partnership and thinking of new ways to respond to a critical need."

On Tuesday, Dec. 26, there was a press conference to unveil the decal that appears on the buses signaling a safe haven. The center is located at 927 South 2nd Street. Mayor Abramson was joined by TARC Executive Director Barry Barker and The Center for Women and Families Executive Director Denise Vazquez Troutman at the press conference.

Officials of the agencies explained how the program works and why it is an important step in improving the options available for victims of domestic violence.

Marilyn Blevins Retirement Safe Harbor, Ashland

In July of 2005, Marilyn Blevins started her career at Safe Harbor as a part-time employee. After two weeks of filling in for sick staff, Marilyn moved to 3rd shift, weekend caseworker. In 1998, when current director, Ann Perkins, was hired, Marilyn became the shelter's Director of Operations where she has remained since. After 12 years of dedicated service, Marilyn will be retiring at the end of February. When asked about her top three favorite shelter moments, Marilyn stated, "Number one is seeing our resident's eyes when they get into their new housing and can move out. Second is our annual Christmas party, and third is our Adopt-A-Room Program."

Marilyn links Safe Harbor's continued success to the growth of the court watch program. "We are getting to more people...we are not trying to hide." She also recognizes that the "community support is also a great contribution." Her future hope for the shelter is that "we can get the TB Hospital open as apartments so we can help residents longer."

Ann Perkins states that, "There are a few people in each of our lives that make a huge impact. Marilyn is one of those people for me.

There was never a task that I asked that Marilyn didn't accomplish. She is the most outstanding employee that I have ever worked with. She always had the shelter's best interest and that of the client at heart". She will be hard to replace as an employee and an her absence will leave a hole that is going to be huge to fill'..



Ann Perkins, Marilyn Blevins

Marilyn will continue to support Safe Harbor with her time even in retirement. She and Stacy Terry, a practicum student, have adopted a room in the shelter to decorate. Marilyn and her husband Glen hope to begin traveling in May. All the staff of Safe Harbor wants to thank Marilyn for the passion and dedication she has given to victims of domestic violence.

First-Ever Immigrants' and Refugee Rights Lobby Day by Maria E. Ramirez and Isela Arras

Come to Frankfort on Wednesday February 21, 2007 and be a part of Kentucky's first-ever Immigrant and Refugee Rights Advocacy Day! **This is a unique opportunity immigrant, refugee, advocates, concerned individuals to speak to legislators about immigrant and refugee rights. Don't be deterred** if you have never approached your legislator about an issue you care about. Many participants will be in the same position so you won't be alone. We will be offering brief trainings throughout the morning for first-timers as well as for those who might need a refresher. Small groups of participants will advocate collectively on legislation of importance to immigrant and refugee communities.

Organizers hope that participants will represent all areas of Kentucky. Although registration is not required, to participate in this historic event, or have any questions, contact Maria Ramirez at (502) 581-9746 or send an email to maria@aclu-ky.org.

Visit www.kdva.org to download the announcement. See you at the Capitol!

KDVA 25th Anniversary Wrapup by Sherry Currens

On November 29, 2006, the Kentucky Domestic Violence Association celebrated its 25th Anniversary with an art auction and dinner gala in Lexington. Eve Ensler, playwright, author, activist and creator of V-Day, presented the keynote address, lauding KDVA for its history of advocacy and officially announcing Kentucky as one of two sites for the 2007 "Until the Violence Stops" festival. Two hundred and eighty attendees gathered to honor KDVA's founders, presidents and long-time advocate, Pam Johnson.

Founding mothers honored at the celebration were: Chris Kubale, a retired therapist from Danville; Kathy Autrey, a former Cabinet for Health and Family Services social worker; Merle Van Houten, the former director of The Center for Women and Families' Domestic Violence Program; and Travis Fritsch, the former director of the YWCA

Spouse Abuse Center in Lexington and KDVA's first President. Founders unable to attend included Janie Beverly and Edwina Walker, former Executive Director of the Women's Crisis Center.

Also receiving awards were KDVA's current and past presidents: Travis Fritsch, Edwina Walker, Phyllis J. Alexander, Helen Kinton, Marlice Pillow, Becky Hagan, Lee Alcott, and Lisa Holmes. Sherry Currens was recognized for her almost twenty years as KDVA's Executive Director and KDVA Western Vice President, Helen Kinton, recognized domestic violence program advocates for their untiring work on behalf of victims.

Darlene Thomas, Executive Director of the Bluegrass Domestic Violence Program, presented Pam Johnson with the Kentucky Domestic Violence Association's Visions of Peace award for her over twenty-eight years of service to victims at The Center for Women and Families in Louisville.

KDVA's Artists for Peace Art Auction a Big Success by Angela Yannelli

The first annual art auction co-sponsored by KDVA and Artists for Peace was held as part of KDVA's 25th Anniversary Celebration that occurred November 28, 2007 at the Griffin Gate Marriott Ballrooms.

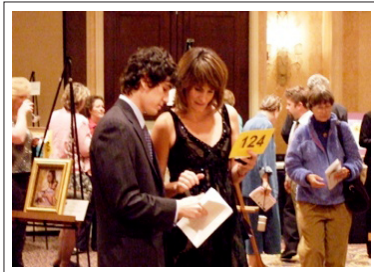
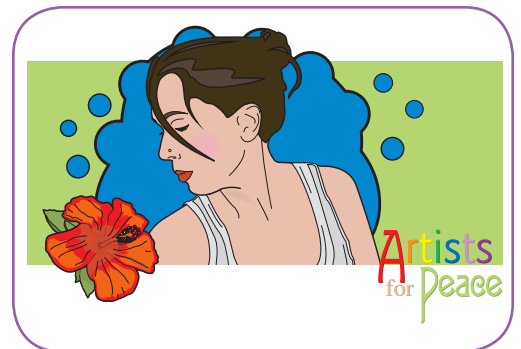
The auction brought together activists, advocates and artists who desire to bring peace to Kentucky homes through the expression of creativity, originality, imagination and vision. Artists from across the state of Kentucky as well as from Florida submitted works of art in all categories. There were oil, acrylic and mixed media paintings, quilting, textiles, paper cuttings, prints, stained glass, jewelry, sculptures, pottery, stepping stones and digital photography - something for everyone.

The event started with an art preview and reception sponsored in part by 5/3 Bank. Guests enjoyed delicious appetizers and beverages of choice while viewing the works of art beautifully arranged by Brenda Jones, Executive Director of OASIS in Owensboro and Lee Alcott, Executive Director of BRASS in Bowling Green. Both Brenda and Lee served as Art Committee Co-Chairs and provided their expertise as artisans throughout this process.

The auction's centerpiece this year was a 2 1/2 x 3 1/2 foot print on canvas entitled "Girl and Flower" by Lexington artist Jesse Yannelli. This print was used on the Call for Entries postcard and in other advertisings to promote the first Annual Artists for Peace Art Auction. The artwork now hangs in the reception area of KDVA's office building in Frankfort, KY.

Another piece that brought special meaning to the auction was "Elmwood Treasures" by Paducah artist Deb Lyons. Her acrylic and mixed media painting was nearly 5' x 4' and was valued at over \$2,000. Ms. Lyons created this piece as a testament to the domestic abuse she experienced in a past relationship. She offered this piece to the auction because she said it was time to let (the hurt) go.

"We are already planning next year's art auction," said Angela Yannelli, KDVA's Associate Director and auction coordinator. "The community awareness and local artists' support that were generated from this event were instrumental to laying the groundwork for future collaborations. We are hoping to engage this year's Artists for Peace as well as new artist recruits in upcoming activities such as the Festival in August entitled "Until the Violence Stops: KY" and Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October."



Kentuckians Demand Justice for Incarcerated Victims of Domestic Violence

by LeTonia A. Jones

On the rainy afternoon of October 27, 2006, concerned citizens of the Commonwealth of Kentucky filled the Capitol Rotunda in Frankfort. Citizens demanded that Governor Ernie Fletcher pick up where Governor Breton Jones left off on the behalf of battered women in Kentucky. In 1996, Governor Jones granted clemency to 13 women, now known as The Sisters in Pain; all of whom were serving time as a result of defending their lives against their abusers. This group of women was released with the hopes that under another administration, they would be given full pardons and be able to pick up their lives and start anew. It was also a hope that no other victims would be imprisoned under the same circumstances. Unfortunately, as history has revealed, that was not to be the case. In 2000, Governor Paul Patton was given another group of incarcerated victims of domestic violence who had also defended their lives and the lives of their children. It was again the hope that this group of women would receive pardons and be released. To the dismay of many, this too was not to be. Many of the women are still behind bars and still longing for justice.

Statistics report that 90% of women serving time have been victims of sexual abuse, rape, and/or domestic violence and stalking. A large proportion of women are incarcerated as a direct result of the violence they have sustained. Some have been imprisoned for killing their abusers; some for being forced into prostitution or drug trafficking by their abusers and others for fraudulent activity as imposed on them by their abusers. Regardless the situation, it is evident that without the occurrence of violence in many of these women's lives, their stories may read completely differently. One may also deduce that if 1 in 3 women are victims of male violence against women, than many more women are also at risk for incarceration because of their victimization.

The Kentucky Domestic Violence Association and many other concerned citizens of Kentucky spoke out about this injustice as a part of Domestic Violence Awareness in October 2006. Representative Kathy Stein of Lexington facilitated an hour of stories from the voices of the Sisters in Pain. There were also domestic violence advocates and attorneys from the Department for Public Advocacy who over and over made the case that it is unjust to imprison victims of violence who were in fact defending their own lives against men who would never stop tormenting them and/or their children.

Currently, KDVA and other concerned citizens are still working to free Kentucky's battered women. There are many ways you can be involved in supporting our efforts, such as writing Governor Fletcher, writing letters to the Editor, and/or writing your legislators. We also accept monetary donations to support women with their basic needs as they are incarcerated.

If you would like more information on how you can become involved or more information on this important issue, please contact LeTonia Jones at ljones@kdva.org or Sara Clayton at sclayton@kdva.org.

KDVA 25th Anniversary Celebration in pictures...



Until the Violence Stops: Kentucky

**Aug. 18 through
Sept. 1, 2007**

**Consider.
Contemplate.
CONTRIBUTE!**

Calling EVERYONE! Please consider contributing your time, money, skills and/or talent to a festival of theater, art, action and community.

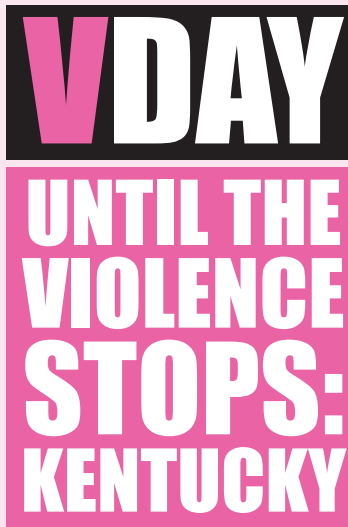
Lexington Festival Planning Meeting Dates:

Wednesday, April 18, 2007, 6:30 PM

Wednesday, July 25, 2007, 6:30 PM

Both meetings are on the 1st floor of the Fayette County Circuit Court Building, Lexington, KY

Call LeTonia Jones or Sara Clayton at (502) 209-5382 if you are interested in organizing festival events in your city!



**A Two-Week Festival
to Make Kentucky the
Safest Place On Earth
for Women and Girls**

Proposed Events

- Cycling Event
- Night Parade
- Theater
- Art Show
- Writing Collective Luncheon
- Fashion Show
- Gypsy Slam
- Golf Tournament
- Film Festival
- Tree Planting Ceremony
- Drumming Circles
- Panels
- V-Day Latina
- Clothesline Project
- Finale Blow-Out Party

Festival (continued from pg. 1)

can end. With the effort and commitment of the citizens Kentucky, it will be the safest state on earth for women and girls!

On November 28, 2006, Eve Ensler came to Kentucky to kick off festival fundraising and organizing in the Bluegrass. She was able to speak with organizers and share her vision for the festival and her belief that Kentucky was the perfect place for the world to use as a model. She applauded all of the firsts that have occurred in the history of KDVA and KASAP and thought it appropriate that we also be the first to extend her vision.

"Until the Violence Stops: KY" will be filled with events across the state. Groups across Kentucky are coming together to plan events to add to the statewide calendar. The bulk of the festival events will occur in Lexington, KY. Organizers are planning a parade to celebrate female leaders from across the state. There are plans for a film festival that will feature shorts created by Kentucky teens as they show how violence against women has impacted their lives. There are opportunities for writing collectives from state high school and college students. There will be poetry events, discussion pan-

els, and men's events. Kentucky will also reproduce 3 three of the plays that were performed during the New York festival. Casts will be local talent as well as celebrities from our beautiful state. It is the hope of V-DAY and KDVA that this festival will make a positive difference in the lives of women and girls across Kentucky.

If you are interested in planning an event in your area and would like more information please contact LeTonia Jones at ljones@kdva.org, Sara Clayton at sclayton@kdva.org, or Isela Arras at iarras@kdva.org or by phone at 502-209-5382. If you would like to contribute financially to support the festival, please contact Angela Yannelli at ayannelli@kdva.org or mail your donations to KDVA, P.O. Box 356, Frankfort, KY 40602. You can also check out updates and information on the festival at www.kdva.org. For more information about V-DAY, please visit www.vday.org.

**Please join KDVA and V-DAY in making Kentucky the
safest state on earth for women and girls!
Until the Violence Stops: KY 2007!**

Clearinghouse Update

Necessary Targets

By, Eve Ensler
ISBN: 0375756035

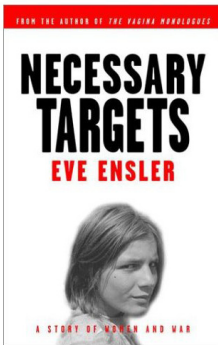
Necessary Targets is one of the plays featured in the UTVS festival that will be performed in Lexington (visit www.utvsky.org for more information)

In her first new work since The Vagina Monologues, her Obie Award-winning smash hit, Eve Ensler tells the story of two American women, a Park Avenue psychiatrist and a human rights worker, who go to Bosnia to help women confront their memories of war and emerge deeply changed themselves. Necessary Targets is a groundbreaking play about women and war—about the violence of dark memories and the enduring resilience of the human spirit.

Melissa, an ambitious young writer, and J.S., a successful but unsatisfied middle-aged psychiatrist, have nothing in common beyond the methods they have been taught to distance themselves from other people. As J.S. begins to feel compassion for the women whose tragedies she has been sent to expose, she turns on Melissa, who finds safety in

control. In an unexpected moment of revelation, J.S. and the women she is supposedly treating find a common ground, a place to be taught and a place to learn.

Necessary Targets has been staged in New York by Meryl Streep, Anjelica Huston, and Calista Flockhart, and performed in Sarajevo with Glenn Close and Marisa Tomei.



Las hijas de Juan: Daughters Betrayed
By, Josie Mendez-Negrete
ISBN: 0822338963

This book discusses the immigrant experience within a context of violence against women

“Las Hijas De Juan” shatters the silence, bearing witness to experiences of incest within a working-class Mexican American family. Both

a feminist memoir and a hopeful meditation on healing, it is Josie Mendez-Negrete’s story of how she and her siblings and mother survived years of violence and sexual abuse at the hands of her father. Mendez-Negrete was born in Mexico, in the state of Zacatecas. She recalls a joyous childhood growing up in the midst of Tabasco, a vibrant town filled with extended family. Her

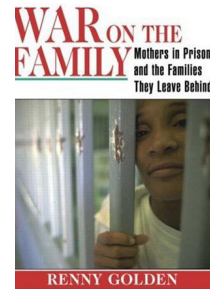


father, though, had dreams of acquiring wealth in el norte. He worked sun-up to sun-down in the fields of south Texas. Returning home to Mexico, his pockets full of dollars, he spent evenings drinking and womanizing. When Mendez-Negrete was eleven, her father moved the family to the United States, where they finally settled in California’s Santa Clara Valley. There her father began molesting his daughters, viciously beating them and their mother. Within the impoverished immigrant family, the abuse continued for years, until a neighbour brought it to the attention of child welfare authorities. Mendez-Negrete’s father was tried, convicted, and imprisoned. “Las Hijas De Juan” is told chronologically, from the time Mendez-Negrete was a child until she was a young adult trying, along with the rest of her family, to come to terms with her father’s brutal legacy. It is a harrowing story of abuse and shame compounded by cultural and linguistic isolation and a system of patriarchy that devalues the experiences of women and girls. At the same time, “Las Hijas De Juan” is an inspiring tale, filled with strong women and hard-won solace found in traditional Mexican cooking, songs, and storytelling.

War on the Family: Mothers in Prison and the Families They Leave Behind

By, Renny Golden
ISBN: 0415946719

This book focuses on African-American women and the prison system



When most people think of prisoners, they think of men. Yet women are the fastest growing prison population in America. Perhaps more surprising, some 75 per cent of women behind bars are mothers. Each year these mothers leave behind 350,000 children under the age of 18. More than half of

mothers in state prisons never see their children during their incarceration. In “War on the Family”, noted social rights activist Renny Golden shows that as a direct result of President Ronald Reagan’s administration’s War On Drugs campaign, the rates of women in prison have skyrocketed, leading to the unintended destruction of the family. Through her interviews inside prisons across the US, Golden identifies the risks and needs of these imprisoned mothers and their children, the obstacles communities face in successfully helping these families, and the implications current judicial policies - like mandatory sentencing and lack of drug treatment programs - pose for women, children, families, and the communities in which we live.

Books are available for checkout at KDVA’s Clearinghouse as well as through your local independent bookseller.

Music & Spoken Word:



The We That Sets Us Free: Building a World Without Prisons (CD)

...combines music, spoken word, and interviews with women in prison and activists on the outside about building a safe, compassionate world without prisons. This CD is part of a national campaign - **Building a World Without Prisons** - bringing the voices of women in prison to public discourse, exposing human rights abuses in prison, and challenging the prison

industrial process. It was produced by **Justice Now**, a human rights organization that works with women in prison and local communities to **build a safe, compassionate world without prisons**. Justice Now works to end all forms of violence against women and stop imprisonment by: providing direct legal services to women in prison; partnering with women in prison to develop community-based public

education, media and policy campaigns; producing human rights reports on prison abuses documented by women inside; training the next generation of activists and lawyers committed to working for social justice; and more.

For additional information, visit www.jnow.org or call (510) 839-7654.

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