



Fall 2007  
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# The DVIP Advocate

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## From the Director

Dear Reader – It seems like it was just the other day that I was greeting you in the first issue of the DVIP Advocate and thanking you for your continued support of our mission. But, it's been more than a year, and a very busy time for the staff and volunteers at the DVIP. We've had our most successful Souper Bowl fundraising event ever, we've fought hard to advance domestic violence prevention issues in the Iowa Assembly, and, most importantly, we've continued to support victims of domestic violence in our community with direct services and advocacy.



Thanks to all for your continued support. We hope that you find this issue of the DVIP Advocate informative, as we bring you up-to-date on important accomplishments from recent months and alert you to upcoming events.

As always, we want you to suggest topics of interest to you for future issues. You can also sign up to have **The DVIP Advocate** sent to your e-mail address. Just click the following link, fill out the requested information, and click "send." Please also send us an e-mail telling us what you think of the newsletter and how it might serve you better!

[http://www.dvpiowa.org/Register\\_for\\_information.htm](http://www.dvpiowa.org/Register_for_information.htm)

## 20 Year Anniversary Marked for Key DVIP Staff Member Marlene Clowers

### Note From The Executive Director, Kristie Fortmann-Doser

Marlene Clowers shared the following thoughts at DVIP's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2005. I am proud to announce that Marlene has reached her 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary - as first a volunteer, then staff member - this year. Marlene has been an important part of DVIP's history and growth. She exemplifies our mission of empowerment and sharing our knowledge and strength with each other. We are proud to honor her commitment to victims of domestic violence, her personal courage, and the profound impact she's had in the lives of women and children.

*I remember when I was a young mother with two beautiful daughters living in a small community. My mate had already been physically abusive. The isolation had begun. I spent my days cleaning the house and trying harder and harder to please my man. As his drinking increased, I became more and more depressed. My biggest joy was taking my girls to the park and hearing their laughter as they played.*

*I began to call the Crisis Center, and they gave me the phone number of the Domestic Violence*

*Project. Pat Meyer and the volunteers gave much needed information and support.*

*One hot summer day in 1982, I traveled to Iowa City, met a volunteer at the local restaurant and went to the shelter to stay. I remember Pat's office had an old wooden desk and boards & bricks for a book shelf back then. In the hallway was a mattress. I was told I had the only room with a complete bed. I returned home, but was beginning to see the cycle of abuse.*

**(cont. on page 6)**

## 2007 DVIP Souper Bowl Biggest Yet!

***This year's DVIP Souper Bowl took place on February 1 at the Quality Inn and Suites in Iowa City. This is DVIP's annual flagship community fundraising event, and this year the community really came through! Once the last bowl of soup was served, we had raised an incredible \$9,000 to benefit the DVIP and the citizens we support.***

***So many thanks are in order – to everyone who purchased tickets, to the businesses in our community who donated goods and services for the event, to all of our volunteers, to the Quality Inn and Suites for their hospitality for the third straight year. We could not have done it without all of you!***

### ***Save the Date!***

The 2008 DVIP Souper Bowl is just around the corner! Mark your calendars for ***January 31, 2008, 5:30-7:30***, At the Quality Inn, Highlander Convention Center.

If you are looking for another way to support this great event, consider getting a group of friends together to decorate bowls at Fired Up! Iowa City. For more information about hosting a group, call Kristie at 351-1042 ext. 112.



## DVIP: Quick Facts 2007

- 1792 women, children and men received support services from the Domestic Violence Intervention Program.
  - The Domestic Violence Intervention Program provided safe shelter to 475 women and children between 7/1/06-6/30/07. In all, they stayed for 10,010 nights of safety. The average length of stay was 15 nights.
  - 209 women and children called for safe shelter and we could not serve them because we were full or lacked resources. While we provided other DVIP services, *we were forced to turn them away from our shelter and assist them in finding alternative safe resources.*
  - Volunteers provided 4700 hours of support to victims of domestic violence at DVIP.
  - The Domestic Violence Intervention Program received more than 17,457 crisis related calls on our 24 hour hotline last year.
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**IOWA STATISTICS**

According to the Iowa Attorney General's Office, Crime Victim Assistance Division:

- Between January 1995 and April 2007, at least 108 Iowa women, 16 men and 36 bystanders were murdered by a husband, wife, boyfriend, girlfriend or intimate partner. During this time, 20 children were killed in related homicides.
- During that same time period, in Iowa, 168 sons and daughters survived the murder of their mother, 115 of the surviving children were minors, and 52 children were present at the scene of the murder.

- Domestic homicides are at their highest rate in fifteen years.
- In fiscal year 2002, 2,262 women and 2,484 children sought refuge in Iowa's domestic violence shelters. 16 male victims also received shelter.
- A study of low-income housed and homeless mothers found that 91.6% of the homeless women and 81.8% of low-income women housed mothers reported physical or sexual assaults at some point in their life. *Housing and Battered Women: case study of domestic violence in Iowa, National Resource Center on Domestic Violence.*
- The Iowa Judicial Department reports that domestic abuse civil filings rose from 188 in 1990 to 6,332 in 2003.

- Although many adults believe that they have protected their children from exposure to domestic violence, 80 to 90% of children in those homes can give detailed descriptions of the violence experienced in their families. Doyne, S., Bowermaster, J., & Meloy, R. (1999). Custody disputes involving domestic violence: Making children's needs a priority. *Juvenile & Family Court Journal*, 50, (2).
- In 2002, the Iowa Department of Public Safety states that there were 7,607 incidents of domestic abuse reported to law enforcement.
- Between 20,000 and 44,000 Iowa women suffer abuse in their homes each year.

**DVIP Partnerships:  
Iowa City Shelter House**

**The mission: To provide shelter, basic, and transitional resources, while encouraging self-sufficiency, to any person in our community who is homeless.**

These words embody the vision of the Shelter House, Johnson County, Iowa's only general use homeless shelter, providing transitional shelter to men, women, and children, the disabled, and the elderly.

Each issue of the DVIP Advocate has spotlighted organizations we partner with to do our work. This issue, we want to acquaint you with

Shelter House and the work that we do together. Domestic violence is one of the main causes of homelessness in our area, often affecting the battered partner and children in the displaced household.

Shelter House provides a critical service in our community in providing housing for the homeless and referring people who are homeless as a result of domestic violence to DVIP for services.

In 2005, Shelter House served 1,575 people, or about 1% of the Johnson County population. About 40% of those served are women and children. In addition to providing transitional shelter, Shelter House



**Shelter House**  
Community Shelter & Transition Services

delivers in-house counseling and case management services that include life skills training, educational assistance, and child care services. A critical role of Shelter House is to make referrals to other community agencies, like DVIP, depending on client need.

**We are so grateful for the role that Shelter House plays in our community. They are critical partners in the DVIP mission of ending domestic violence through support, advocacy, shelter, and education.**

To learn more, visit Shelter House online at:  
<http://www.shelterhouseiowa.org/index.html>



**At DVIP we partner with the local animal shelters and the Human Society of the United States in viewing pets and livestock in abusive environments as an important part of the family. Too often the abused partner will not seek shelter because she is afraid to leave her pet behind. That is why we find them suitable shelter outside of our facility. We want no one to delay entering the shelter because of concerns about their pets' safety.**

**The Abuse of Animals and Domestic Violence**

The mistreatment of animals, usually pets but also livestock, often occurs in homes where there is domestic violence. Animal abuse is one of the "stages of cruelty" in which childhood cruelty to animals progresses to domestic assault. We also know that animals have been abused by perpetrators to frighten their partners, as a threat of potential personal attack, and as a form of retaliation or punishment. It goes without saying that children are often witness to such displays of cruelty.

Children who witness not only the battering of their parent but also the abuse of their beloved pets are subject to compounded trauma and psychological abuse. Of course, children in such situations are at heightened risk for being abused themselves.

Witnessing parent and pet abuse compromises children's psychological adjustment and increases their propensity for violence.

Last issue we highlighted our partnership with the Johnson County Animal Shelter. This issue, we provide the following information and links from the Human Society of the United States:

**Why do batterers threaten, abuse, or kill animals?**

- To demonstrate and confirm power and control over the family.
- To isolate the victim and children.
- To eliminate competition for attention.
- To force the family to

keep violence a secret.

- To teach submission.
- To retaliate for acts of independence and self-determination.
- To perpetuate the context of terror.
- To prevent the victim from leaving or coerce her/him to return.
- To punish the victim for leaving.
- To degrade the victim through involvement in the abuse.

**Why should we recognize animal abuse as a form of battering?**

- Animal abuse exposes the deliberateness of battering rather than loss of control.
- Animal abuse and child abuse are closely related.

*(cont. on p.6)*

**United Way Unified Campaign**



The DVIP is one of 30 partner agencies, who benefit from the strength of collaborative fundraising of the United Way of Johnson County Unified Campaign. United Way of Johnson County is a local, non-profit organization that brings people, health and human service agencies,

government entities, and community groups together to help our friends, family members, and neighbors who are in need.

United Way of Johnson County researches community needs and works with local government entities, human service organizations, community leaders, donors and service organizations to

address pressing community needs. United Way makes sure donations are spent wisely, through our volunteer-driven fund distribution process.

We build a strong community for families, friends, neighbors, men, women, seniors, children, teenagers, and people with disabilities by directing donations to services that help people when they need it.

The United Way Unified Campaign kicked off on September 6, 2007, at the Coralville Marriott Hotel and Conference Center. Newly appointed University of Iowa President, Sally Mason, was the featured presenter for the event. Every year the Unified Campaign provides support and resources through their partner agencies, touching the lives of 1 in 3 Johnson County residents.



## *DVIP Kid's Page!*

### **Bright Spaces Provides for Domestic Violence Victims**

Bright Spaces, a subsidiary of Bright Horizons Foundation, recently made a \$5000.00 gift to DVIP of new furniture, storage, and games for our youth play room. In addition, volunteers of their organization cleaned, painted and redecorated the youth play room. Here is the end result!



#### ***Here is some information from the Bright Horizons Foundation website:***

##### **PROGRAMS: Bright Spaces**

Imagine a place filled with toys and games. A place with warm nooks for reading, snuggling, and learning. With costumes that transform you into a fairy princess or an astronaut. A place where friends are made and lives are changed.

##### **Our Mission**

Helping homeless children grow and develop by giving them the chance to play.

##### **We Provide**

Safe, educational, stimulating playrooms for homeless children  
 Approximately 300 square feet  
 Areas and activities for various ages and interests

##### **Funding**

Usually an amount of \$10,000-\$15,000 depending on the size of room and age ranges served is provided by a Bright Space sponsor.  
 Equipment and toys  
 Design & planning  
 Fundraising assistance  
 Financial administration  
 Technical assistance

A ribbon cutting ceremony was held on October 18, 2007 to celebrate the contribution and completion of the youth play area. Moms and kids are already enjoying the space. "It is a good space to use when you want to come up with fun ideas. I feel creative there" stated Emily Norveisas, a DVIP Youth Advocate.

"Having parent group in this room reminds of what my children and I can have together...nice space, nice things and a place where we can be safe". – *Mother of four*



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We're on the Web!

See us at:

<http://www.dvipiowa.org/index.html>

### Upcoming Events!

It's a great time to think about the **winter holidays**! DVIP invites you to host a party to benefit victims of domestic violence. Try something new at your office party this year or invite your family and friends to share their good fortune with others. A staff member from DVIP will be available to meet with your friends and colleagues to share the importance of their gift. If interested, contact Kristie at 351-1042 ext. 112 for a party packet with all the information you will need to get started!

**DVIP Family Holiday Event**  
**Sunday, December 9, 11-3pm,**  
**at North Ridge Pavilion in Coralville.** This is a great family event in support of DVIP. Our main activity will be cookie decorating for the holidays. Kids will really enjoy this! We will also have gift items for sale. We hope you will drop off items for our holiday gift drive to benefit families that use our services. We are specifically focusing on our teen clients this year.

### DVIP Souper Bowl

The DVIP Souper Bowl is just around the corner! Mark your calendars for January 31, 2008, 5:30-7:30, At the Quality Inn, Highlander Convention Center. If you are looking for another way to support this great event, consider getting a group of friends together to decorate bowls at Fired Up! Iowa City. For more information about hosting a group, call Kristie at 351-1042 ext. 112.

## Animal Abuse and Domestic Violence (cont. from p. 4)

Animal abuse is often a tool used by batterers to emotionally control or coerce victims.

- Threatening, injuring, or killing animals can indicate the potential for increased violence.
- Victims may postpone leaving out of fear for their pets' safety.
- Identifying animal abusers can help identify other victims of violence within the family.

### What can victims of domestic violence do to protect their pets?

- Develop an emergency plan for sheltering the pets, themselves, and their children (Review a copy of the First Strike® planning guide, *Making the Connection: Protecting Your Pet From Domestic Violence*.)
- Establish ownership of the pets (obtain license, proof of vaccinations or veterinary receipts in victim's name to help prove they own the pets).
- Prepare the pets for departure (collect vaccination and medical records, collar and identification, medication, bowls, bedding, etc.).

**For more, link to the Humane Society's fact sheet on [Domestic Violence and Animal Abuse](#)**

## Donate to the DVIP!

**To view our "wish list" and learn how to donate, follow this link:**

<http://www.dvipiowa.org/wishlist.htm>

**Be sure to check out our "Pay Pal" feature on the DVIP Homepage for the easiest way to donate!**

## 20 Year DVIP Anniversary for Marlene Clowers

*(cont. from p.1)*

I remember when ... I returned to the shelter late one night in 1983 after a very frightening encounter with my mate. Pat completed my intake and proceeded to take us to the kitchen where the aroma of chocolate chip cookies could be found. Pat had made dozens of cookies and laid them across the old washer and dryer. Pat, your support and your chocolate chip cookies will never be forgotten!!

I decided I no longer wanted to be a victim. I wanted to make a difference in someone else's life. I became a volunteer at DVIP in July 1987, answering the crisis line. I also went back to school. I began subbing at DVIP as a shelter advocate.

I am proud to say I was there when the new shelter opened its doors in December 1993, under the supervision of Cris Kinkead. I worked one of the first overnights. I was hired on permanently in February of 1994. As we go into the next 25 years, I want us all to remember that...

**DVIP is a Foundation of Safety for a Future of Promise!**