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The DVIP Advocate

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From the Director

Dear Reader - Welcome to the new DVIP online newsletter! We are excited about the opportunity to inform you of our services and work in the community. This will be a quarterly forum for news from the DVIP, upcoming events, and articles on domestic violence issues. This issue will remain online and as a link from our website until we publish our next edition in October 2006. It also will be available in hardcopy at our office and as a handout at our Speaker's Bureau events (see the



"Upcoming Events Calendar" on page 6). 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.dvipiowa.org/Register%20for%20information.htm>

Thanks again for coming and we hope you learn from the information that you will find here!

DVIP Souper Bowl Scores Big Win!

February 2 - Groundhog Day - often one of the coldest days of the year. What a great time to shake the winter chill, emerge from your winter "burrow," and share the company of 500 like-minded good souls supporting one of the most important causes and services in town.

Of course, we could only be talking about the annual DVIP Souper Bowl, our very successful annual fundraiser.

This year broke all records. More than 50 businesses

and individuals donated thousands of dollars worth of goods to feed more than 500. The contributions of these well-fed "souper" eaters raised \$9,300.00 for the DVIP - our biggest Souper Bowl ever!

There are so many to thank for the success of this year's event, including of course the 36 restaurants who donated food and every individual who bought a ticket to join us for the feast.

Extra special thanks go to the Quality Inn for hosting the event so well and to

Fired Up Iowa City for assisting local artists and DVIP friends in donating more than 60 beautiful, hand-painted ceramic soup bowls.

Fired Up really stepped up to the plate – or should we say "bowl" – for us once again donating time, money, and services. See page 5 for information on how an outing to Fired Up! will support DVIP.

Hats off to all who took part! It is so gratifying to live in a community that cares so much!



“I think of all the hard work people are doing on my behalf to provide a lifelong positive change, something I probably couldn’t have done without their dedication and commitment to a cause.”

DVIP Mission - Client Perspective

The DVIP Mission: The Domestic Violence Intervention Program is founded on the belief that everyone has the right to live free of fear and harm. Our mission is to end domestic violence through support, advocacy, shelter, and education.

Mission Statements are designed to tell in a few words what an

organization is all about. In this and future editions of the Advocate, we want to take some time to explore further the DVIP Mission, to tell some of the stories behind the Statement. This month’s focus is on support to clients. When you read that word "support" in our

statement, it can seem abstract until you envision just what the word means to each and every person who comes through the DVIP door seeking help.

What follow are the words of just one who sought support here. We thank her for sharing her story.

A CLIENT’S STORY - LETTER TO THE STAFF, BOARD AND SUPPORTERS OF DVIP

July will mark another Independence Day celebration for America. For me, it marks 30 years since my then boyfriend kicked in my teeth while he was wearing steel-toed boots. Despite that occurrence, after countless “I’m sorry’s” and “It’ll never happen agains”, we remained together for numerous stitches, black eyes, and broken bones spanning the next 18 years that included two kids.

I have been out of that relationship for 12 years now, and in fact just celebrated my 10th anniversary recently with my husband. It has been the best 10 plus years of my life and we plan on many more to come.

About three years ago, I applied to the “Give Back A Smile” (GBAS) program through the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV). GBAS is a program offering cosmetic dentistry repair to

injuries suffered in the smile zone as a result of domestic violence. Although my family and friends have always been able to look beyond my dental injury, for me, every mirror and every photograph have been a constant reminder.

A few months ago I received a letter from NCADV letting me know a dentist in the near area had accepted my case. I was excited and scared all at once, anticipating the journey ahead. I discussed the program with my family, all of whom gave their full support. My husband pointed out how it would finally provide me with some closure, something I hadn’t really thought about. I scheduled my first appointment and have traveled to four appointments so far. After a few more trips this month and again in January, I’ll finally have my new smile.

This past couple weeks have been a bit emotional, something I hadn’t anticipated. I guess it is a bit of remembering the past, thinking about the future, and looking towards some

closure. But on top of all that, I think there is something more. It is the idea of all the hard work people are doing on my behalf to provide a lifelong positive change, something I probably couldn’t have done without their dedication and commitment to a cause.

That point brings me to thinking about all of you and everything you do for the clients, staff and volunteers of DVIP. I may not be able to personally acknowledge anyone who has made this possible for me, but I can take a minute to acknowledge all of you in all you do to support victims of domestic violence.

I have received tremendous support from all of you as I work through this process of healing and closure. It won’t take 30 years for all your hard work to change the meaning of Independence Day for someone else, the way it has changed for me, but 30 years from now, all your hard work will still be making a difference. So to all of you, I just want to say, THANK YOU!

Immigration Issues and Domestic Violence

Most are familiar with the current debate on border security and the legal status of immigrants. However, not all know that the topic of immigration has threads into the domestic violence issue as well. It is important to understand current law and processes and to keep in mind that these may be subject to change as our country's immigration policy changes. Here is a high level view of how immigration law currently operates with respect to domestic violence. The information is drawn from a pamphlet provided to New York State Judges who hear cases involving immigrant victims of domestic abuse.

When immigrant women turn to state courts for protection against violent men in their lives—and most often men are the perpetrators of intimate violence and women their victims—they face difficulties unknown to women born in the United States. Some of these difficulties are practical. Immigrant women, like other abused women, may depend on their abusers for financial support, and breaking free of dependency is never easy. If a woman cannot speak English or has no legal right to work in the United States, she faces a far tougher battle.

Other difficulties are cultural. For immigrant women, challenging the authority of their husbands—or any man—may mean violating religious or ethnic taboos within the tight-knit, highly interdependent community in which they live. Immigrant women who go to court also may provoke censure from those who view the legal system as foreign, hostile to people of their ethnicity, or inappropriate as a means of settling disputes within their community.

Often overriding other considerations, is concern about immigration status and fear of deportation. The danger is real, and abusers know it. When an abuser is a lawful permanent resident or United States citizen, threatening to have a victim who is undocumented or has conditional status deported becomes the perfect means of maintaining the power and control that are the defining characteristics of domestic violence. Criminal proceedings, with their danger of deportation, are another kind of obstacle for abused immigrant women, who have reason to fear not only their own forced removal from the United States but that of their abuser.

Abused immigrant women without secure immigration status rightly worry that their husbands or the men who brought them to the United States with a promise of marriage will prevent them from securing lawful permanent residency—or, in common parlance, a green card. The most common path to lawful permanent residency in the United States—and thus to citizenship—is through family members. A citizen or a lawful permanent resident may file a petition for lawful permanent residency on behalf of a spouse.

Other paths to lawful permanent residency are rarely available. In practical terms, family sponsorship is the best—and often the only—option for most immigrants. But family sponsorship depends on the cooperation of a family member with legal immigrant status. When abused women seek protection from violence, their husbands may refuse to file the necessary documents or, if they have already filed, refuse to take the steps necessary to complete the process. If an immigrant woman divorces, she severs the familial relationship that ordinarily makes her eligible for family sponsorship, and she is left with even fewer options.

Battered immigrant women, however, may be able to use one of a number of special remedies created to assist them. Under current law, in general, U.S. citizens and Lawful Permanent Residents (LPRs) file an immigrant visa petition with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) on behalf of a spouse or child, so that these family members may emigrate

to or remain in the United States. USCIS Form I-130, Petition for Alien Relative is filed by the USC/LPR, the petitioner, on behalf of the family member who is the beneficiary. The petitioner controls when or if the petition is filed. Unfortunately, some U.S. citizens and LPRs misuse their control of this process to abuse their family members, or by threatening to report them to the USCIS. As a result, most battered immigrants are afraid to report the abuse to the police or other authorities.

Under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) passed by Congress in 1994, the spouses and children of United States citizens or lawful permanent residents (LPR) may self-petition to obtain lawful permanent residency. The immigration provisions of VAWA allow certain battered immigrants to file for immigration relief without the abuser's assistance or knowledge, in order to seek safety and independence from the abuser.

Victims of domestic violence should know that help is available to them through the National Domestic Violence Hotline on 1-800-799-7233 or 1-800-787-3224 [TDD] as well as through the DVIP Hotline on 800-373-1043. Please call for information about shelters, mental health care, legal advice and other types of assistance, including information about self-petitioning for immigration status.

To learn more about the current law, you may follow this link to the United States Citizen and Immigration Services website: <http://www.uscis.gov/graphics/howdoi/battered.htm>

Please write your U.S. Senators and your U.S. Representative and urge him to continue to support rights for battered immigrants.



Rural Outreach - Spotlight on Washington, Iowa

Did you know that the DVIP's work does not stop in the Iowa City area? A very important component of our mission is the outreach and services we provide to rural areas and small towns within a 40 mile radius of Iowa City.

In this and upcoming issues of the Advocate, we will highlight our work outside of Iowa City, focusing on a particular town or issue common to rural citizens. This issue, the spotlight is on Washington, Iowa.

Washington, about an

hour south of Iowa City is the seat of Washington County and a town of more than 7,000. Known for its beautiful town square, its wonderful library, rich farmland, and friendly citizens,

Washington is among the larger outlying towns served by the DVIP. Interestingly, Washington also has a significant Hispanic population, which is growing faster than the state average.

Within the last 10 years, DVIP has served more than 700 clients in Washington County and

performed countless Speakers' Bureau events in the local area. The Washington County Coalition Against Domestic Violence, in turn, is a supporter of DVIP, providing contributions to our budget for each of the last 12 fiscal years.

Mary Ann Pedde, Washington County's DVIP Advocate, has this to say about our work in that community: "Finding safety and support from an abusive partner is difficult and dangerous. Finding that support when

(cont. p. 6)



While there are many commonalities for women who are battered/abused, the rural factors add to and definitely shape the perception, awareness, and intervention in and of all forms of violence against rural women

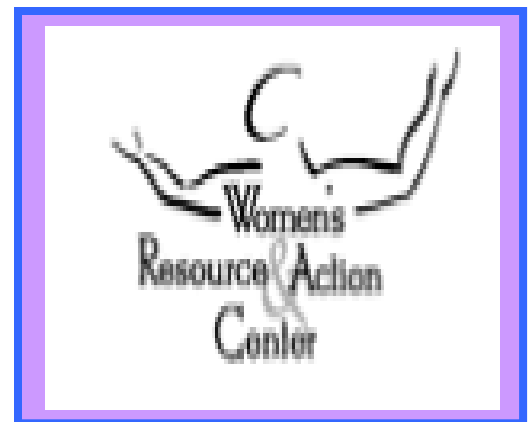
Local Partnerships - WRAC

DVIP works closely with a number of other local agencies that support our mission. One of these is the Women's Resource and Action Center, or the WRAC, a division of Student Services at the University of Iowa. For thirty years, the WRAC has served women at the

University and in the greater Iowa City area with services and support. The WRAC's mission states that it is a "diverse community dedicated to fostering women's individual empowerment and systemic solutions to all forms of oppression. The Center leads and

collaborates on projects that serve UI students, staff, faculty, and the greater community." By using a combination of useful direct service programs and powerful activism, the WRAC creates real social change.

(cont. p. 6)



Support the Souper Bowl at Fired Up!

Is your group looking for a community service project that is both recreational and charitable? The Domestic Violence Intervention Program needs your help making bowls for our annual fundraising event, the DVIP Souper Bowl.

Every year DVIP sponsors a dinner to support services for victims of domestic violence. Area restaurants, antique dealers, and artisans donate their best soup, breads, and bowls. Because last year's event was so successful, we are in need of hand painted bowls for the next Souper Bowl on February 1, 2007.

Pottery painting is a wonderful way for groups of all ages to have fun and build community while contributing to the success of the Domestic Violence Intervention Program's most important fundraiser.

Why is your support valuable? DVIP provides shelter services, counseling, legal advocacy,

youth programs, and hotline services for women and children struggling to escape violence. In the past year,

DVIP has assisted more than 14,000 callers to its hotline, and has housed more than 300 women and children. Your assistance in keeping these indispensable services in place makes a tremendous difference to those in need of the safety and support DVIP provides.

By participating in the Souper Bowl event, your group can actively contribute to the realization of DVIP's mission: to end domestic violence through support, advocacy, and education.

We hope you will take this opportunity to help us achieve this mission!

Hand painted bowls are the most popular at DVIP's Souper Bowl.

Get your group's creative side out to play at Fired Up Iowa City, Inc.!

Come in, choose your bowl and colors, then sit down and paint. You don't have to draw, because Fired Up has stamps, sponges, stencils and plenty of examples to inspire you. All glazes are food safe and DVIP is contacted to pick up the pottery when it is done.

Parties, with a minimum of 8 people, can be booked for private studio time, before or after hours.

Bring snacks, music, and drinks. Groups are 8-42 painters and must be scheduled a week in advance. A \$50.00 deposit is required.



"We need bowls!! Last year's event was so successful that we are already preparing for our next dinner, February 1, 2007."

Adults (per person):

2 hours for \$10.00
2 1/2 hours for \$12.00

3 hours for \$15.00
*Plus price of the bowl (between \$8-10)

Kid's Parties
1 1/2 hours \$15.00 per painter
*This includes the bowl.

For more information contact:

Domestic Violence Intervention Program
Kristie
319-351-1042 ext. 112
-or-
Fired Up Iowa City, Inc.
112 S. Linn St.
Iowa City
(319) 339-0679



Throw a Pottery Party!

Fired Up Iowa City, Inc. is Iowa's first contemporary ceramic studio. Take your group in for an evening of art and fun.

For a small donation (to purchase bowls and studio time), your group can make unique bowls to benefit victims of domestic violence.



PHONE: 319-351-1043

FAX: 319-466-4624

E-MAIL:
DVIP@avalon.net

We're on the Web!

See us at:

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

Upcoming Events!

August - Dogs Growl, Cats Prowl! Two years ago DVIP hosted a non event fundraiser - Cats Rule, Dogs Drool. Cat lovers sponsored staff pooches to go on a "walk" to support victims of domestic violence. 10% of the funds raised supported pets of victims, through vet care, medicine and kenneling. Many know that domestic violence can impact pets in the household. This time it's the dogs turn! Our dog loving friends are sending kitties on a catnip scavenger hunt. If you would like to support a great non-event event, just contact Kristie at 351-1042, ext. 112

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Events and activities will be posted on our website. In addition, DVIP, in collaboration with the Johnson County Coalition Against Domestic, movie media ads will be seen by more than 25,000 movie goers starting in October.

It's not too early 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, colleagues or officemates to share the importance of their gift. If you are interested in hosting a benefit party, contact Kristie at 351-1042 ext. 112 for a party packet with all the information you will need to get started!

Local Partnerships - WRAC

(cont. from p.4)

WRAC sponsors educational events throughout the year. You can learn more about their work by visiting:

<http://www.uiowa.edu/~wrac/>

The WRAC also teams with DVIP in support of the services that we provide. In March, WRAC volunteers worked with DVIP to create "Family Night" where moms and their kids to celebrate the idea of "family."

Folks from the WRAC visited DVIP for an evening of cookie baking. What a great example of two groups working together to put smiles on faces and to bring family members torn by violence closer together!

The WRAC volunteers were moved by the experience, as were we by their commitment to our cause and to the well being of individual kids and their moms.

This event is just one of the many examples of how we work together to further the larger cause of eliminating domestic violence and at the same time touch individual lives. --Thank you, WRAC!

Washington, Iowa

(cont. from page 4)

your community is small and tight knit, a place 'where everyone knows everyone,' magnifies the complexity of the situation. Any resource a victim/survivor turns to is likely to know her partner well. Confidentiality may be easily jeopardized.

The community of Washington is addressing the barriers battered women and children face. Community volunteers have supported a strong, proactive coalition to support victims by broadly sharing information about domestic violence, in general, and fundraising to ensure the availability of safe resources. In addition, DVIP continues to collaborate with other human resources in the area and advocate on behalf of victim needs. All of this creates an important partnership in working to end domestic violence."

We thank Mary Ann for her tireless and important work. While there are many commonalties for women who are abused, the rural factors add to and definitely shape the perception, awareness, and intervention in and of all forms of violence against rural women.

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!

GoodSearch: A new way to support DVIP

Yahoo has started a new program called GoodSearch. It is a search engine, and every time you use it one cent is donated to the non-profit of your choice. It is very easy to use (just like Google or Yahoo Search).

Go to www.goodsearch.com

Before making a search, find the box below "I'm supporting." Fill in the agency name you want to support (DVIP is already registered). Type in "Domestic Violence Intervention Program" and press enter. What should then appear in that box is Domestic Violence Intervention Program-DVIP (Iowa City, IA).

Please share this with your friends, family and colleagues. The more people using the GoodSearch engine, the more DVIP receives!!