

NEWS

Support and advocacy for those affected by domestic violence and abuse in the towns of Canaan, Cornwall, Kent, North Canaan, Salisbury and Sharon and nearby NY & MA.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

It is a time to mourn those who have lost their lives as a result of abuse, to celebrate those who survive and thrive and to connect with others who support the cause to end violence against women. Throughout the month, Women's Support Services will be sponsoring a series of awareness events and exhibits to focus attention on the issue of domestic violence and abuse.



Please join us at our

Annual Candlelight Vigil

October 4th at 6:00pm

in Cornwall Bridge at the
Junction of Routes 7 and 4

Parking will be available at: Baird's General Store, Cornwall Bridge Granite Co, Cornwall Bridge Post Office, Housatonic Sports Outfitters, Housatonic Valley Rug Shop, National Iron Bank, and National Society of Compliance Professionals.

WSS would like to thank these local business owners for their generosity and support!

Show your support for Domestic Violence Awareness Month and wear a purple ribbon!

You can pick one up at the WSS office or at one of the locations listed below:

Canaan: Canaan Apothecary
Canaan/Falls Village Town Hall
David M. Hunt Memorial Library
Troop B Barracks

Salisbury: Salisbury Pharmacy
Salisbury Town Hall
Scoville Memorial Library

Cornwall: Cornwall Bridge Post Office
Cornwall Public Library
Cornwall Town Hall

Sharon: Hotchkiss Library
Sharon Farm Market
Sharon Hospital
Sharon Pharmacy
Sharon Town Hall
The Black Goose Grill

Kent: Kent Memorial Library
Kent Pharmacy
Kent Town Hall

North Canaan: Douglas Library
North Canaan Town Hall

Thank you for your support!

CT Domestic Violence Fatality Review Committee

The preceding is an excerpt from the first News Brief released by the CT Domestic Violence Fatality Committee released in May 2011.



In 2001, Connecticut joined the growing number of states reviewing intimate partner fatalities to better understand and prevent future deaths. When domestic violence is not adequately addressed, it can intensify along a predictable pattern and at times tragically end in death. Fatality review has become a nationally recognized method for understanding why people who are subjected to domestic violence are killed.

To learn further, the Connecticut Domestic Violence Fatality Review Committee conducts multi-disciplinary, systemic examinations of violent intimate partner fatalities. After a critical examination of the circumstances leading up to these fatalities, it is the responsibility of the Committee to identify the gaps and develop a set of recommendations for systemic change.

It is important to note that the Committee is always mindful that we are taking a glimpse in a human life and death therefore, we are truly committed to treating each review with great respect. Respect for the privacy of the victims and their families is the reason that identifying details are removed from all reports and publications.

We strive to enhance safety for victims and increase accountability of batterers. The purpose is NOT to assign blame. The purpose is to create CHANGE.

You can read the full News Brief and the 2011 Domestic Violence Fatality Review Report at www.ctcadv.org!

Lori Rivenburgh, Executive Director of Women's Support Services, joined the review committee in the Fall 2010.

MISSION & OBJECTIVES

The Connecticut Domestic Violence Fatality Review Committee seeks to prevent future deaths by conducting multi-disciplinary, systemic examinations of violent intimate partner fatalities.

Our objectives are to:

- ◆ Enhance the safety of victims and accountability of batterers
- ◆ Identify systemic gaps and barriers to service
- ◆ Implement coordinated community responses
- ◆ Influence public policy for intervention and prevention

Find us on
Facebook

Keyword:
Women's Support
Services

Wish List

WSS continues to accept the following items for clients in need:

- ◆ Phone & Gas Cards
- ◆ Grocery Cards
- ◆ Gift Cards
- ◆ Old Cell Phones

Thank You!



WSS thanks all of you who made TRADE SECRETS 2011 such a success!

ELAINE LAROCHE, LIONROCK FARM; BUNNY WILLIAMS & JOHN ROSSELLI; LAURIE & DAVID HODGSON; KATHY & JAY METZ; LYNDEN & LEIGH MILLER; JUDY & PAT MURPHY who graciously opened their properties...

THE VOLUNTEERS whose generous spirit and hard work made it run smoothly...

THE COMMITTEES that planned and brought forth the event...

THE VENDORS for a superb display of rare plants and garden antiques...

THE WSS BOARD which supports this event in innumerable ways...

THE COMMUNITY for their support through donations and for tolerating the traffic!

Save the Date! TRADE SECRETS MAY 19 & 20, 2012



Calling All Cars

WSS continues to accept used, but usable, donated cars and pass them on to local individuals in need. Transportation is critical to being able to work and function independently in this rural part of the world. Donors are eligible for tax credit for the fair market value of their gift. If you have a reliable used car to donate, or would like more information about this program, please call the WSS office at (860) 364-1080.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Check out what's going on throughout the month of October and how you can get involved!

There are 16,800 homicides and 2.2 million (medically treated) injuries due to intimate partner violence annually, which costs \$37 billion.

October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. In the last fiscal year, July 2010 to June 2011, 54,178 victims of domestic violence received assistance from their local domestic violence program in Connecticut. In honor of victims and survivors of domestic violence, as well as the millions of children and women continually affected by domestic violence, Women's Support Services will be hosting several events throughout the month of October. Join us in supporting the cause.

- ◆ **October 3, 2011 ~ National Unity Day:** Wear your purple ribbon on National Unity Day to add your voice to end abuse!
- ◆ **October 4, 2011 ~ Candlelight Vigil:** Women's Support Services will be hosting the Annual Candlelight Vigil at the town green located at the Junction of Route 7 and Route 4 in Cornwall Bridge. The event will start at 6:00 pm and will include guest speakers, performances by local youth choirs and much more!
- ◆ **October 25, 2011 ~ Purple Tie Tuesday:** Wear any purple tie on the 25th to show your support of the movement to end violence against women!

Keep an eye out for other events taking place throughout the state of Connecticut!

Remember, don't just stand by...stand up!

Please take a moment to read an excerpt from the poem, *Remember My Name*, written by Kimberly A. Collins. This poem has been passed around since 1995 in hopes of raising awareness about domestic violence and to honor the lives lost as a result of violence. For the complete version of this poem, please visit: <http://dvam.vawnet.org/>

When you remember my walk upon this earth	Understand once I breathed
Look not into my steps with pity.	Walked Loved just like you.
When you taste the tears of my journey	If my death had to show what love isn't
Notice how they fill my foot prints	If my death had to show that love shouldn't hurt
Not my spirit For that remains with me.	If my death had to make sure
My story must be told Must remain in conscious memory	another woman told a friend instead of holding it in
So my daughters won't cry my tears	If my death reminds you how beautiful how worthy
Or follow my tortured legacy. You may say:	you really are
Maybe I should've loved him a little less	If my death reminds you to honor all you are daily
Maybe I should've loved me a little more,	Then remember my name Shout it from the center of your soul
Maybe I should've not believed he'd never hit me again.	Wake me in my grave
All those maybes will not bring me back – not right his wrong.	Let ME know
My life was not his to take. As your eyes glance my name	My LIVING was not in vain.

ADVOCATE'S

CORNER...



10 Ways Any MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT Can Make Ending Domestic Violence His or Her Business...

1. Respect girls and women in your school and in your family.
Don't make fun of or try to control girls!
2. When you are angry with your friend, sister, brother, or parent, don't try to hurt or humiliate them. Try to act in a non-violent, respectful way when solving conflicts in your friendships and family.
3. Ask and learn about domestic violence. Give a presentation in school. Develop a web banner. Use www.fvvpf.org/publiced/banners.html for ideas.
4. Call the police if you see or hear violence in progress.
5. Talk to your friends and classmates when they belittle girls, make jokes about violence, or ignore violence against girls and women.
6. Ask your teachers or principal to work with domestic violence programs to help make your school and surrounding community safe for girls and boys.
7. Write to music producers, movie companies, Internet businesses, video game producers, and TV stations to let them know that showing violence against girls and women is not OK. Use the site: www.fvvpf.org/celebrity/dvontv.html for help.
8. Make a contract with your classmates that abusive behavior and language is not OK and will not be tolerated in your school.
9. Form a group of friends and classmates who will work with domestic violence program staff, parents, teachers and school administrators to start a discussion about developing a school program or unit on dating and family violence.
10. **EXAMINE YOUR OWN LIFE** for violence and hurtful behaviors.
Try to live a **VIOLENCE-FREE** life!

OUR MISSION

The mission of Women's Support Services is to create a community free of domestic violence and abuse through intervention, prevention and education. We offer free, confidential, client-centered services focused on safety, support, advocacy and community outreach.

OUR PHILOSOPHY

We believe that domestic violence and abuse is a pervasive cultural problem. In our efforts to eliminate it, we believe we must:

- ◇ Increase public awareness and understanding of domestic violence and abuse
- ◇ Work toward social change that empowers women
- ◇ Engage all members of the community in our efforts to end violence in the home and in relationships

Women's Support Services 24-hour Hotline (860) 364-1900

All services are FREE and confidential. Collect calls accepted. We do NOT subscribe to Caller ID.

Support and Crisis Counseling

We are available to talk with you 24 hours a day, seven days a week on our hotline. We do not subscribe to caller ID. Individual counseling and support services are available Monday – Friday or by appointment.

Prevention Education

We provide programs to school groups, professional in-service trainings and community groups.

Emergency Short-term Shelter

We can provide immediate, short-term, safe shelter, as well as referrals to long-term shelter.

Support Group

A safe, confidential and non-judgmental support group meets each week to talk about issues of abuse, support, change and healthy relationships.

Court Advocacy

Our family Violence Victim Advocate works at Bantam Criminal Court to assist victims of family violence following an arrest and throughout the court process. We are also available to help someone obtain a restraining order, provide transportation and advocacy in Litchfield Civil Court.

Advocacy and Referral

We can help you find and use the social, legal and medical services that you need.

BOARD MEMBERS

Laura Werntz
President
Maria Horn
Vice President
Lana Morrison
Treasurer
Sara Joannides
Secretary

Elizabeth Allen
Linda Chase
Judith Crouch
Rita Delgado
Susan DeMelle
Mimi Estes
Pari Forood
Lisa Foster
Mimi Harney
Lynda Ott Jaeger
Marianne Ostendorf
Rev. Richard Taber
Stephanie Thomas

Lori A. Rivenburgh, MA
Executive Director



158 Gay Street
PO Box 341
Sharon, CT
06069-0341

Non-Profit
Postage
PAID
Permit #3
Sharon, CT

POSTAL PATRON