



**WOMEN'S
SUPPORT
SERVICES**

FALL 2010

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 remember those who have died as a result of abuse, to celebrate the strength of survivors and to raise public awareness about the issue of domestic violence and the devastating toll it takes on our families and communities. Throughout the month, Women's Support Services will be sponsoring a series of awareness events and exhibits to focus attention on the problem.

Break the Silence. Stop the Violence.



Please join us at our

**Annual
Candlelight Vigil**



October 5th ~ 6:00pm

at The White Hart in Salisbury

Show your support for Domestic Violence Awareness Month and wear a purple ribbon. You can pick yours up at the WSS office or at one of our local community supporters listed below:

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

Cornwall: Cornwall Town Hall
Cornwall Public Library

Kent: Kent Town Hall
Kent Memorial Library
Kent Pharmacy

North Canaan: North Canaan Town Hall
Douglas Library

Salisbury: Salisbury Town Hall
Salisbury Pharmacy
Scoville Memorial Library

Sharon: Sharon Town Hall
Hotchkiss Library
Sharon Pharmacy
Sharon Hospital
Twin Oaks Café

Thank you for your support!

Lobbying for Change

Governor Rell Signs Bill to Strengthen Protections and Response to Domestic Violence

Over the past year, Connecticut has allocated more than \$2 million in federal stimulus funds for a variety of domestic violence programs. The Domestic Violence Task Force and the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV) proposed a “Five Point Legislative Plan” which was supported by Governor Rell. This plan allowed for the following legislation to be passed:



Education Changes—Effective July 1, 2010

- ◇ Information about teen dating violence/domestic violence must be included in the list of topics that must be available at in-service training programs for its teachers, administrators, and pupil personnel.

Protection of, and Services for, Victims of domestic Violence—Effective July 1, 2010

- ◇ The Commissioners of Social Services and Public Health shall distribute Marriage License Surcharge funds to domestic violence and sexual assault programs no later than October 15th, annually.
- ◇ The Department of Public Health shall develop one public service announcement on the prevention of family and teen dating violence no later than June 30, 2012.
- ◇ Effective October 1, 2010: Any tenant who is a victim of family violence can terminate their rental agreement without penalty or liability for the remaining term of the rental agreement by giving thirty days’ written notice to their landlord if it is necessary to vacate due to fear for their or their children’s personal safety.

Employment Protection for Victims—Effective October 1, 2010

- ◇ Employers shall permit employees who are victims of domestic violence to take paid or unpaid leave, limited to no more than 12 days, to:
 1. seek medical, psychological or counseling services,
 2. to obtain services from a victim services organization ,
 3. to relocate due to family violence, or
 4. to participate in any civil or criminal proceeding related to their family violence case.
- ◇ Legislation also ensures that an employer shall not deprive an employee of employment, shall not penalize, threaten, or coerce an employee for attending or participating in a civil court case where the employee is a victim of family violence.

Criminal Justice Changes—Effective October 1, 2010

- ◇ A pilot program in which high-risk offenders are electronically monitored will take place in Bridgeport, Danielson and Hartford. \$140,000 of stimulus funds were allocated for this pilot program to purchase the monitoring service and equipment for a minimum of 21 high-risk offenders.
- ◇ Legislation expands the information and disclosure requirements for family intervention units, courts and the Department of Children and Families.
- ◇ Protective orders will now be sent to law enforcement agencies where the victim lives, where the victim works, and where the defendant works.
- ◇ The Chief Court Administrator is now allowed to establish domestic violence dockets in three geographical areas. New dockets must be established by June 30, 2011.
- ◇ The persistent offender law for crimes involving assault, trespass, threatening, harassment and violation of restraining/protective order has been expanded. This allows courts to consider the convictions for essentially the same crimes in other states.

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.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

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

Every day in the United States, an average of 3 women are killed by a current or former intimate partner.

October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. In one year alone, 55,000 victims of domestic violence in CT received some type of assistance from their local domestic violence program. 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 1, 2010 — Walk In Our Footsteps:** Women's Support Services, along with the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence and its member programs will be hosting Walk In Our Footsteps. This event will be held at the New Haven Green from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. (Rain date: October 8, 2010). Walk In Our Footsteps is dedicated to raising awareness about the children that are affected by domestic violence each year. Last year, Connecticut alone sheltered 885 children.
- ◇ **October 4, 2010— National Unity Day:** Wear your purple ribbon on National Unity Day to add your voice to end abuse!
- ◇ **October 5, 2010— Candlelight Vigil:** Women's Support Services will be hosting the Annual Candlelight Vigil at the White Hart Inn in Salisbury. The event will start at 6:00 pm and will include several guest speakers, performances by Hotchkiss School's choir Calliope, and much more!
- ◇ **October 26, 2010 — Purple Tie Tuesday:** Wear any purple tie, or your Domestic Violence Awareness tie and wear it on the 26th to support the cause!

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

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

WISH LIST

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

- ◆ Phone & Gas Cards
- ◆ Grocery Cards
- ◆ Gift Cards
- ◆ Old Cell Phones
- ◆ Reliable Used Cars
- ◆ Gently Used Clothing



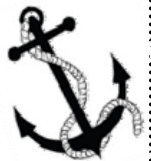
Search keyword:
**Women's
Support Services**

or
Check us out on the
web at
www.wssdv.org

Advocate's Corner

Women's Support Services would like to remind you of the support group services offered ...

Anchor in the Storm: An educational support group that is open to family and friends of domestic abuse victims to educate them about domestic violence, reasons victims stay and what family and friends can do to help.



WSS would like to thank the volunteers, committee members, vendors, WSS board members and the community that helped to make Trade Secrets 2010 a success!

A special note of thanks goes to Elaine LaRoche and LionRock Farm, Bunny Williams and John Roselli, Joan Larned, Robert Couturier and Jeffrey Morgan, and Buddy and Monika Nixon for allowing use of their properties for the event.



HEART Group: Support group for battered and formerly battered women. The HEART Program follows a 12 step model developed by formerly battered women out of Tyler, TX.

For more information about these groups please call
(860) 364-1900.

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.

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