



# Working to End Domestic Violence

## THE ABUSED WOMEN'S ADVOCACY PROJECT

### CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE:

- JANE MORRISON
- LANA WHITTEMORE
- VICTORIA WILLIAMS
- REBECCA LAROVERA
- JAMIE BOSSE
- DIANE GALLAGHER

### NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR; WE WELCOME JANE MORRISON



JANE MORRISON BEGAN HER POSITION WITH AWAP NOVEMBER 11TH 2009

Welcome to our first issue of our redesigned newsletter. We want to keep you informed of the fantastic things that are happening at AWAP!

I have been the Executive Director of AWAP for two months, and I have been amazed and awed by the vital services that we provide. Twenty-four hours a day,

365 days a year, we are available via our helpline to assist individuals who need support, advocacy, and connections to deal with the horrific situation that they are in. We also offer safety, security, and a beautiful place to turn for immediate shelter for someone fleeing a violent situation. In addition, our court advocacy supports the individual as she or he goes through the court process.

As an agency, our ultimate goal is to end domestic violence. Our education staff work throughout our three- county catchment area to facilitate discussion about domestic violence. Whether it is working with teens in the schools or educating health workers, AWAP staff strive

to bring awareness to the issue of domestic violence and, through education, turn the tide of abuse.

Another exciting project we offer is a 48-week batterer's intervention program. This course is designed to change attitudes as well as behaviors. This year, 103 men took advantage of this course.

I am excited to be at AWAP and to lead this fine agency into the future. We relish our connection to the communities, our collaboration with many agencies, and our involvement in bettering the lives of those affected by domestic violence.

BRANDY SWEET, HER DAUGHTER AND FARMINGTON STAFF RECEIVING TOYS



One year after the death of her son Matteo Hansen, Brandy Sweet delivered bags of toys to the Abused Women's Advocacy Project in Farmington. On November 29<sup>th</sup> 2008 Brandy's 17-month-old son was murdered in an act of domestic violence by David Cook, Brandy's then boyfriend. In honor of her son's memory, and in an effort to heal, Brandy collaborated with Mt. Blue High School and Foster Regional

Applied Technology Center students to gather toys to donate to the children living in emergency shelter purpose of was to and used children of have been domestic violence. The drive took place over the period of a week and a half, generated exclusively by word of mouth.



AWAP's shelter. The the toy drive gather new toys for all ages who displaced by

Though small in nature, the drive received many generous gifts for the children of AWAP's shelter. Many of the toys donated were balls, as those were Matteo's favorite toy. Brandy plans to continue the toy drive every year in memory of her son. A special thank you goes out to Brandy and all the generous donors who helped to make Christmas merry for the children of AWAP's shelter.

### MATTEO'S TOYS HONORING THE MEMORY

## AWAP GIVING BACK THE INSPIRATIONAL KORA TREE

AWAP participated in the 4<sup>th</sup> annual FEZtival of Trees put on by the Lewiston Kora Shriner's. This is the second year in a row that we have donated a fully decorated tree to be auctioned off to raise funds for Shriner children's hospitals across the country. AWAP's theme this year was "Inspiration"; the tree boasted hearts, ribbons, and handmade garland. The garland spelled out words such as hope, love, family, empower, faith,

believe, and wish. All of the decorations were made by staff and volunteers. We would like to send out a special thank you to Robyn Lawrence and Christie Moreno for dedicating extra volunteer time to this project.

The winner of this year's AWAP tree was Jo-Jean Keller.

2009 AWAP Crafted  
FEZtival Tree



## FEED A FAMILY ~ ADOPT A FAMILY 2009

AWAP ushered in the 2009 holiday season with its Thanksgiving and Christmas programs Feed-A-Family and Adopt-A-Family. Both are among the longest-running programs AWAP offers.

Feed-A-Family distributes food donations from businesses, organizations, and individual community members to families throughout our service area. This year we received food

from 11 donors, allowing us to feed 37 families. Each basket of food contained a turkey and traditional Thanksgiving fare, as well as other staples.

Adopt-A-Family was equally successful this year, matching 43 donors to 52 individual families. These donations ensured that families throughout our service area woke up to gifts under the tree on Christmas morning.

AWAP would like to thank all of the donors who helped make both projects a success. Special thanks go to our Administrative Assistant Claire Pettingill-Austin for coordinating both programs, a project that begins in September. Thanks also go out to the Community Response and Outreach Teams for collecting and distributing the donations from our administrative office in

Lewiston.

To get involved with either of these programs, contact Claire via email at [cpettingil-laustin@awap.org](mailto:cpettingil-laustin@awap.org) or by phone, 795-6744 ext. 10.

## RECOGNIZING THOSE AT THE HEART OF MAKING A DIFFERENCE



Jeanne and Don Doyon with their generous gifts.

Jeanne and Don Doyon are the Coupon Couple. They have found a great way to be resourceful and provide the people we serve at shelter with much needed products. Every week Jeanne clips coupons and Don takes her to stores to redeem them. With these coupons and money out of their own pocket, they donate everything from shoes to food to paper

goods. Jeanne has now been dubbed the shelter's Coupon Lady.

This Christmas Jeanne and Don wanted to know what more they could do for the upcoming holiday season. They received empty Christmas stockings and returned them filled for each child in the shelter. This brightened Christmas day for each one of those children and instilled hope

in their mothers that soon things will get better. It is special people like the coupon couple who's generosity makes such a big difference for people struggling in our community. Thank you Jeanne and Don for everything you do to help support our mission.

## AWAP'S ANNUAL SPRING WALK

AWAP will be holding its second -annual Spring Walk Against Violence on Saturday, May 8th. The walk will begin at Simard-Payne Police Memorial Park in Lewiston and continue along the River Walk in Auburn. The purpose of the Spring Walk is to raise awareness about the issue of domestic violence and help raise money that will provide services to people needing assistance in unsafe situations.

Participants raise money by collecting pledges and walking

laps in the park. You may register for the Spring Walk as an individual or as team. We encourage you to bring friends, family, co-workers, children, and well-behaved dogs on leashes. Early registration and pledge forms will be available in March and can be downloaded from the AWAP website at [www.awap.org](http://www.awap.org).

Please come out to this special event to help show your commitment for the right of every person to feel safe and to live free from violence.

If you have questions about the Spring Walk or want to become a sponsor or community partner, please contact Lana Whittemore at 795-6744 ext. 14, or [lwhittemore@awap.org](mailto:lwhittemore@awap.org).

**DO YOU BELONG TO A GROUP OR ORGANIZATION SUCH AS A CHURCH, CLASS, CLUB OR A WORKPLACE WHO YOU FEEL WOULD BENEFIT FROM A PRESENTATION ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND HOW IT AFFECTS OUR COMMUNITY? CONTACT US 207-795-6744 OR AWAP.ORG**

## NEW RUMFORD OFFICE

AWAP would like to announce that their Northern Oxford County Outreach Office in Rumford has recently relocated. We are excited about the new space, which is larger than our previous location and has additional room for a support group meeting area and activities.

Diane Gallagher, Oxford

County Community Educator, and Tami, Outreach advocate for Northern Oxford County, both work from this office. Tami is excited to offer a support group utilizing the potential of this new office.

For more information or directions please contact Tami at 207-369-0750, or Diane at 207-364-9908

to schedule education in your area.



## TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION WEEK

The Governor will deliver a proclamation declaring Feb. 1-6 Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week. Voices Committed to Change's theme for this year's TDVAPW is WAIT! WHAT?!: Encouraging everyone to stop and think about the facts, stereotypes, media, and what they want in a relationship. Check out what they're up to!

### **Awareness efforts from Voices Committed to Change:**

- Poster campaigns featuring the 1 in 3 statistic. 1 in 3 high school students will experience dating abuse.
- Student PSA on teen dating violence.
- At Mt. Valley High School, Wear Purple Day homeroom competitions

- Facebook WAIT! What?! status campaign.
- At Edward Little High School, morning announcements will offer a healthy date idea for each day of TDVAPW.

**RIVER VALLEY VCC MEMBERS PREPARE THEIR CAMPAIGNS**





## THE ABUSED WOMEN'S ADVOCACY PROJECT APPOINTS NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Katie Marble and Martha Deschaines, Co-Presidents of Abused Women's Advocacy Project announce the appointment of Jane Morrison of Auburn as Executive Director. Ms. Morrison has over 25 years in human service management, 20 of which as Executive Director. She was Executive Director of Ingraham, a crisis agency in Portland for 18 years and was most recently Executive Director of Schooner Estates in Auburn.

Marble said, "AWAP is a vital agency in the community and having Jane at the helm will ensure that our services and agency collaboration are at the highest level."

The Mission of the Abused Women's Advocacy Project is to support and empower those affected by Domestic Violence and engage the community in creating social change in Androscoggin, Oxford and Franklin Counties.



JANE AND HER HUSBAND CHIP  
ENJOYING THE COMMUNITY  
INTRODUCTORY RECEPTION

## THE ABUSED WOMEN'S ADVOCACY PROJECT FISCAL YEAR 2008-2009 STATISTICS

- AWAP provided services to approximately **1,800** individuals
- We received **2,952** calls to our 24-hour free and confidential helpline
- Shelter services provided **3,401** bed nights for women and children
- We provided **2,125** hours of empowerment through support groups
- Educators provided trainings on domestic violence for **2,393** participants
- **103** men were enrolled in our batterers intervention program

Questions or comments about this newsletter?  
Contact Lana Whittemore at 207.795.6744 x14 or  
lwhittemore@awap.org



INTERESTED IN BECOMING A VOLUNTEER? OUR AGENCY IS ALWAYS SEEKING CARING PEOPLE TO HELP FULFILL OUR MISSION. THERE ARE MANY OPTIONS FROM EVENT VOLUNTEERING TO RECEIVING CALLS ON OUR 24-HOUR HELPLINE, WE NEED HELP 24 HOURS A DAY AND CAN WORK TO ACCOMMODATE SCHEDULES. THIS IS GREAT EXPERIENCE FOR SOMEONE INTERESTED IN ENTERING THE HUMAN SERVICES FIELD. ARE YOU A COLLEGE STUDENT? ASK ABOUT HOW TO APPLY FOR AN INTERNSHIP. CONTACT LANA WHITTEMORE VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR AT 795-6744 x 14 OR EMAIL AT LWHITTMORE@AWAP.ORG



## OUR MISSION:

The mission of The Abused Women's Advocacy Project is to support and empower those affected by domestic violence and engage the community in creating social change in Androscoggin, Oxford and Franklin counties.

WANT TO RECEIVE OUR NEWSLETTER ELECTRONICALLY? PLEASE SEND AN EMAIL TO LWHITTMORE@AWAP.ORG REQUESTING TO BE ON THE MAILING LIST. PLEASE INCLUDE NAME AND ANY EMAIL ADDRESSES YOU PREFER.



I would like to make a contribution to the Abused Women's Advocacy Project.

I am interested in volunteering with AWAP. Please contact me.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to: AWAP

Please mail to: P.O. Box 713, Auburn, Maine 04212.

## OUR SERVICES:

24 Hour HELPLine 1.800.559.2927  
Domestic Violence Shelter  
Transitional Services  
Individual and Court Advocacy  
Support Groups  
Community Education  
Dating Violence Prevention  
Youth Services  
Advocacy with Child Protective Services  
Batterers Intervention Programs  
Volunteer Programming



THE ABUSED WOMEN'S ADVOCACY PROJECT



*Working to End Domestic Violence*



Pearl Residential Facility dba  
Abused Women's Advocacy Project  
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Auburn, ME 04212-0713

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