



A WOMAN'S WRITE

NEWSLETTER FOR BETWEEN FRIENDS

Winter 2009: Volume 11, Issue 1



Building a Community Without Domestic Violence

Between Friends' Court Advocates:

Colin Stroud and Elsa Resendiz (left to right) Between Friends' Court Advocates help domestic violence survivors understand their legal rights and secure civil Orders of Protection at the Rolling Meadows Courthouse. Colleen Norton, Senior Court Advocate, (not pictured) provides civil and criminal advocacy services at the Chicago Courthouse.

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Restoring Hope Through Legal Assistance

Jamie and Adam came to Between Friends concerned about their 16 year old daughter, Marissa. Marissa was pregnant and had been dating a 17 year old boy that goes to her high school for a few months. There were a number of times that Jamie and Adam came home to find bruises on their daughter. Marissa had tried breaking up with her boyfriend a number of times, but he would repeatedly go to her house and harass her until they got back together. Then one day, Marissa's boyfriend attacked her on the bus. He was sent to the principal's office where he threatened her and said that she would never have his baby. The school then called the police, the boyfriend was arrested, and he spent the night in jail.

After the bus incident, Marissa was afraid to go to school. Jamie had called the school social worker to work out an arrangement to change buses or even schools, but the social worker did not call her back. When she came to Between Friends, our Court Advocate worked with Jamie and Marissa to secure a two-year Order of Protection, and the judge required that Marissa be transferred to another school. Now, her boyfriend will be arrested again if he comes near Marissa or her school any time in the next two years. Jamie and her daughter were both extremely relieved that Marissa could now attend school safely.

The story of Marissa's abuse is deeply troubling and unfortunately all too common.

Associate Judge Samuel Betar of the Rolling Meadows Courthouse explains, "We see a lot of sad situations. We are seeing 1-2 cases each month of high school girls who are coming to the courthouse to ask for Orders of Protection against their boyfriends. We are also seeing more elderly parents who are seeking Orders of Protection against their children. This is difficult emotionally for a parent to make public the problems they are having with a child."

The elderly, teens, and other domestic violence victims seek legal protection from their abusers by filing for an Order of Protection (OP). An OP is one of the legal remedies to help keep the abuser away from the victim and/or their children, grant the victim possession of their house so that she or he doesn't have to move into a shelter, require the abuser to pay child support, or insist that the abuser receive counseling, among other things.

According to The Mayor's Office on Domestic Violence, of the 18,578 calls to the City of Chicago Domestic Violence Help Line in fiscal year 2007, the most requested service by callers in crisis, with the exception of shelter, is legal assistance.

Judge Daniel Sullivan who has worked as a Domestic Relations Judge for 16 years explains, "Certain days are overwhelming with the number of people needing assistance. Judge Betar and I often discuss how thankful we are that the court advocates are

Continued on page 2.



Volunteers from Real Estate Finance Forum rolled up their sleeves and helped Between Friends spruce up the grounds of our office. Thanks to the work of these thoughtful ladies, our landscaping is beautiful and we even have a picnic table! Read more on page 3.



Angela Shuey, Friends' Counseling Intern, helps us set up for our Light Up the Lakefront. The candles serve as a memorial to those who have lost their lives due to domestic violence. Read more about Domestic Violence Awareness Month on page 3.

The Executive Director's Corner

Dear Friends,

Our past six months have been busy ones!

Between Friends began offering services in 1991 through our 24-hour toll free **Crisis Line**. In recent years the majority of callers began seeking support and resources during regular business hours through our business lines. An agency task force was charged with examining this issue and making recommendations. Over the summer, we restructured this service by partnering with the **Chicago Metropolitan Battered Women's Network**. During the overnight hours and on week-ends, our line is now transferred to their statewide Domestic Violence Helpline. This effective collaboration has allowed us to reallocate our staff and volunteer resources to assist victims and their families in other important ways.

Our **Women and Children's Program** held a retreat this summer to review our service delivery model. In particular, we wanted to streamline our intake process and assess our group services to make it easier for women to get help and avoid a waiting list. We

are offering a number of groups for women and children on healthy relationships, self-care, parenting, and financial literacy which helps women understand financial abuse, develop a budget, and secure better credit. This year we will also offer Parent-Child Psychotherapy to help prevent trauma from being transmitted from parents to their children ages 0 to 5.

Last year, our **Relationship Education: A Choice for Hope (REACH) Program** worked with over 5,600 youth and 250 adults. During that year, we conducted a number of focus groups to look at trends in youth violence and seek input for future curriculum development. Our violence prevention experts, including Dr. Paul Schewe of UIC, made a number of recommendations: increase the scope and depth of sessions on healthy relationships, spend more time with youth through longer term programming, and increase youth involvement in program implementation.

We also met with over 233 youth and asked them what they needed in order to develop healthy relationships and avoid abusive ones. They said they wanted more information about how to choose a dating partner, respond

to abusive behavior, and break up with a partner. As a result, we have expanded our Discussing Relationships in Early Adolescence Makes Sense (DREAMS) curricula to include three new sessions to address these issues. We are now in 7th and 8th grade classrooms for nine weeks instead of six, making a more significant impact on these students and their teachers who often incorporate themes from our curricula.

The staff continues to do an amazing job of developing programs to address the priorities of those who seek our services. This is in spite of the 29% cut in Victim's of Crime Act funds and the hold put on 3% of our funds coming from the Illinois Department of Human Services. **Due to this lack of funding, 37% fewer individuals will be able to receive our intervention and prevention services this year.** With that said, I am encouraged by the possibilities that come with new government leadership and look forward to a better future for our families!!

Kathleen A. Doherty
Executive Director

Restoring Hope Through Legal Assistance cont.

here." Despite the tremendous need for legal services for domestic violence victims, limited funding causes many to face hearings seeking an OP alone. In fact, Between Friends has to turn away an average of 27 individuals each month because we do not have enough advocates to work with all of the victims who come to seek our help. Furthermore, Between Friends is the only agency that provides civil legal advocacy at the Rolling Meadows courthouse.

For over 600 individuals a year, Between Friends' Court Advocacy Program provides bilingual Spanish/English legal assistance in Cook County District One (Chicago) and District Three (Rolling Meadows) Courthouses. Our court advocates help victims understand

their legal rights, secure OP's, do safety planning, feel less intimidated, and support them in the court room. According to Colleen Norton, Between Friends' Senior Court Advocate, "For many clients we see, coming to the courthouse is their first step in getting out of an abusive relationship. The majority of our clients have decided they want to leave their relationship before they come to see us."

Friends also facilitates free legal clinics twice per month, which connect domestic violence victims to volunteer attorneys in private one-on-one consultations. These attorneys assist victims with issues such as: divorce, custody, visitation, and child support. "People are often feeling hopeless and overwhelmed by

the legal process. I think by giving them legal direction, we can help them feel empowered, less afraid, and even regain hope," says Attorney Larry Manassa, who volunteers at Between Friends' legal clinics.

You can help make a difference in the lives of survivors like Marissa. Write a letter to request that the governor restore funding for domestic violence services to Illinois' state budget. Volunteer your time as a pro-bono attorney or assist in the courtroom with our advocates. To make a donation to help us continue to serve domestic violence victims, contact Amanda Espitia at 773-274-5232 x 16.

Between Friends is a nonprofit agency dedicated to breaking the cycle of domestic violence and abuse by providing education, support, counseling, and advocacy services. **Between Friends** works with individuals, families, and communities to create awareness about domestic violence and abuse and to reduce its prevalence and impact.

2008-2009 Board of Directors: Frank Kern, **President;** Bruce Behrens, **Vice President;** Juanita Temple, **Treasurer;** Terry Rose Saunders, **Secretary;** Andrea France; Diane Jakubik, and Carol Meynen, MD; and Margaret Waugh.

Staff: Quintina Brown, **Prevention and Education Manager;** Sonya Crabtree-Nelson, **Clinical Supervisor;** Kathleen Doherty, **Executive Director;** Amanda Espitia, **Director of Development;** Brittany Futterman, **Grant Writer;** Jennifer Lara, **Children's Counselor;** Colleen Norton, **Senior Court Advocate;** Ann Friesema, **Counselor;** Yolanda Owens, **Senior Prevention & Education Specialist;** Elsa Resendiz, **Court Advocate;** Yesenia Romo, **Director of Programs;** Karen Seck, **Prevention & Education Specialist;** Colin Stroud, **Court Advocate;** and Carrie Villa, **Director of Finance and Administration.**

Interns: Maryam Bozai, Arpita Ghosh, Hilda Hernandez, Unique Jordan, Kristin Ryan, and Angela Shuey.

Newsletter: Brittany Futterman, Editor. Production courtesy of Jennifer Wood. Printing courtesy of Allstate Print and Communication Center.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

October marked the 21st anniversary of Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM). The first observation of DVAM in 1987 evolved from a Day of Unity which was intended to connect advocates all across the country who worked tirelessly to end domestic violence. Eventually that day grew into a full week where the purpose was to hold a range of activities at the local, state, and national levels in recognition of the issue. Now an entire month is dedicated to bringing domestic violence to the forefront.



Staff members, Yesenia Romo and Elsa Resendiz, show Attorney General Lisa Madigan the chair we decorated to commemorate Cindy Bischoff who lost her life due to domestic violence. They are gathered at the Thompson Center rally to kick off Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Throughout the years, DVAM has expanded. It has grown to celebrate the strength of women who have survived domestic violence as well as honor those women who died at the hands of their abusers. We also take this time to remind ourselves of the work that remains to be done to prevent women from facing abuse.

As many of you know, Between Friends kicks off DVAM each year through our event called **"Light up the Lakefront"** on October 1st. At Oak Street Beach, volunteers and staff light 3,000 candles to honor the thousands of women who have been killed by their abusive partners. It is a moving and reverent event.

Prior to the luminaria this year, we held a reception at the home of Board Member, Terry Rose Saunders, overlooking Oak Street Beach. The beautiful view of the beach was enhanced by Ruth G, a domestic violence survivor, who shared her story of courage and strength with the guests. This year we were excited that **Marion Brooks** and **LeeAnn Trotter** from NBC 5 and **Majority Leader Barbara Flynn Currie** from the State House of Representatives were among the guests who attended.

Friends also collaborated with **Fourth Presbyterian Church's Terry Stumpf**, Director of the Center of Whole Health, and the **Women@Fourth Connect** to raise awareness of domestic violence through tying purple ribbons outside the church on Michigan Avenue. Passersby on this prominent street stop to admire the ribbons and read about their significance from the plaque the church places in front of the trees. Additionally, Friends participated in a Vespers service held on October 19th to honor domestic violence victims and also provided information for the October advocacy table at Fourth Presbyterian to help educate church members about domestic abuse.



Counseling Interns, Arpita Ghosh and Unique Jordan (left to right). For the third year, Between Friends has tied purple ribbons to the trees outside of Fourth Presbyterian Church on Michigan Avenue to raise awareness about domestic violence.

Taste for Art

Over 50 guests recently enjoyed a sophisticated and extravagant evening with Between Friends called "Taste for Art". Stunning and imaginative artwork adorned the exposed brick walls of the Big City Swing studio while guests tasted wines from around the world. **Erik Sosa** was our featured artist while various artists from the **Lemon Street Gallery** also displayed their unique paintings. To compliment the wine and art show, guests enjoyed a delicious spread of cheeses and chocolates. We were excited to expand our circle of friends and see many new faces! Proceeds from this night will help support Between Friends' critical programs and services and help build a community without domestic violence.



Board alum Valerie Thiel and Ronald Kint enjoy the fine wine and cheese as they admire paintings at Taste for Art on November 14th.

Friends would like to thank the following individuals and corporations for their support of a Taste for Art: Erik Sosa, Franco Tarsitano, and Lemon Street Galleries for contributing artwork; Big City Swing for hosting the event; Joe Kafka of Kafka Wine for providing his wine and expertise; Erin Beckman for designing the invitation; Costco and Trader Joe's for donating the food; Fourth Presbyterian Church for use of their tables; and all of the volunteers who helped make the event run smoothly.

Volunteers Help Revive our Facility!

On a beautiful day in September, **Chicago Cares** graciously coordinated a "day of service" with volunteers from the **Real Estate Finance Forum**. For three hours, volunteers worked diligently to improve the landscaping at Between Friends. They weeded, planted hostas and tiger lilies, and reinforced our landscaping retaining wall. They also painted parking spaces in our lot, and much to the excitement of staff, they built a picnic table so staff and clients can go outside to

eat lunch or work.

We are grateful for the Real Estate Finance Forum who not only provided the volunteers but also donated all of the materials for the improvements. We also want to thank Chicago Cares for coordinating this project and recruiting these amazing volunteers. And finally, a special thank you goes out to our own Board Member Carol Meynen, who used her gardening expertise to create the landscaping plan used that day.

SAVE THE DATE...

...for an event at Orso's
on August 27th to
benefit Between Friends.

Sponsored by Reach Out.

Donors List: July to November 2008*



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**Our apologies, if you were inadvertently omitted from this list. Please call us at 773-274-5232 x 16.*

Challenge Grant

Thanks to the generosity of many of you, we raised \$100,000 in matching funds this year.

Drinks Through the Decades

Hats off to the **Young Professionals Group** (YPG) who coordinated a unique and successful event with the **Mid-America Club** in June! Located on the 80th floor of the Aon Center and overlooking beautiful Lake Michigan, the Mid-America Club is a private club, but they opened their doors to us and hosted an event called "Drinks Through the Decades." The event offered drinks and food representing most decades since 1920 and raised an impressive \$1,386!

Extensive research and creativity went into preparing the evening's menu. The chef at the Mid-America Club cooked everything from Waldorf Salad, potato vichyssoise, chocolate peanut butter cups, and mint juleps for the 1920s to steak frites, tuna tartar on wonton crisp, and Cosmopolitans for 2000. Other favorites included burger sliders (1950s), pineapple sushi and long island ice teas (1970s), caramel popcorn (1980s), and beef and cheddar sandwiches (1990s).

Thank you to YPG for planning such a successful and fun event! And a special thank you goes to **Tiffany Brown** and **Lindsey Gift** at the Mid-America Club for working with the YPG to create such a memorable event.

YPG is a volunteer network of young men and women dedicated to supporting Between Friends in breaking the cycle of domestic vio-

lence and abuse. Through their networking and social events, YPG helps increase domestic violence awareness, educates the community, and raises funds for Between Friends. YPG members develop skills in marketing, event planning, and fundraising and gain junior board experience.

If you would like to become a member of YPG, please contact: ypgbetweenfriends@hotmail.com.



YPG's Publicity Chair, Kourtney Slack (on the right), enjoys herself at Drinks Through the Decades with fellow young professionals Alison Clarke, President; Alison Ferrari, Membership Chair; and Dave Rio (right to left).

Bellydance Underground

We are always excited when you choose Between Friends as the beneficiary of your fundraising initiatives, and we were thrilled when **Bellydance Underground** approached us! Bellydance Underground is a grassroots organization that promotes expression and artistry through dance.

Last August they coordinated a bellydancing performance featuring various groups across the Chicagoland area at the Happy Dog Gallery in Wicker Park. Some groups danced while balancing swords on their heads while others highlighted major social issues such as war and human rights violations. They also hosted a "bellydance dance off" for the men in the crowd! What a sight to see!

This unique and interesting event raised \$2,231 for Between Friends! A heartfelt thank you goes to **Rocio Werner**, **Erin Beckman**, and **Rita Pensa** for putting on this special event. We would also like to thank **Adams Street Partners** for matching the money raised that night.

Save the date for Bellydance Underground's next event on August 22, 2009!

Leadership Breakfast

On August 12, Between Friends held a Leadership Breakfast for our Advisory Council, board members, major donors, and guests. The Leadership Breakfast is an annual briefing on national, state, and local domestic violence trends as well as a review of the agency's progress and goals. We were very excited to have **State's Attorney Richard Devine** speak to the audience about the accomplishments of his office on behalf of victims of domestic violence. **Leslie Combs, District Director for Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky**, also joined us to share initiatives on the national level.

A big thank you to Beth McCormack and Kamerlink, Stark, McCormack, & Powers, LLC for sponsoring this year's Leadership Breakfast at the Sidebar Grille.



WISH LIST

- Gift certificates (grocery stores, department stores, movie rental stores, toy stores, restaurants, gas stations, and movie theaters)
- CTA and Metra passes: monthly, weekly, or daily
- Dry and canned food items
- Reusable grocery bags
- Coffee and tea
- Diapers
- Disposable cups and plates
- Construction paper
- Pens
- Jumbo crayons
- Toys (Etch-a-Sketch, board games, building games, trucks and cars, washable markers, Mad Libs, legos, Playdoh, action figures, and a train set)
- Toys for children under 4 years old
- Games for teens
- Dolls, doll clothes, and puppets
- Toy musical instruments
- Small and medium storage containers
- Meeting space
- Photographer
- Repave our parking lot
- Video Converter (to convert VHS tapes to DVD)
- DVD Writer (to write DVD after it is converted)
- 100 pack DVD-R
- Fax machine
- New winter scarves, hats, and gloves for women and children
- Informational books on domestic violence
- Journals/pocket calendars
- Water glasses
- Wine glasses

To make a donation or for more information, please call our Director of Development at 773-274-5232 x 16.

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WEBSITE LAUNCH

Between Friends has a new website thanks to the generosity of the Boeing Employee Community Fund! Our new website provides more information for victims of domestic violence, as well as more ways for you to get involved. In addition, you will now be able to donate and buy event tickets online.

Check out www.BetweenFriendsChicago.org.



COOKBOOKS FOR SALE

Tired of eating the same meals day after day? Spice up your week! Buy a cookbook!

The first Between Friends mouthwatering cookbook is hot off the press! Recipes include family favorites, kid-friendly recipes, and even entries from famous local restaurants.

Only \$20

Purchase a cookbook online at www.betweenfriendschicago.org or contact Amanda at 773-274-5232, ext. 16 or aespitia@betweenfriendschicago.org.



