



BEHIND THE SCENES

PROJECT AGAINST VIOLENT ENCOUNTERS

Bennington County Domestic And Sexual Violence Services

OCTOBER 2008 — Nancy Feinberg, Editor



MEET PAVE'S NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR—LINDA CAMPBELL

We are pleased to announce that Linda Campbell has accepted the position of Executive Director of PAVE.

Linda has been with the organization for over twelve years, the last three as the Assistant Director.

Greetings,

I am excited about the opportunity to lead this dynamic agency, and I look forward to the challenges this new role will present. I am committed to maintaining PAVE's presence and strength in the community, and want to foster its growth, giving special attention to children's advocacy and education. I will continue to provide direct service to clients, as this is my first passion.

Currently I am hiring a part-time, on-site financial manager. In addition, I am happy to report that we have received a continuation of the Federal Rural Enforcement grant. This will allow us to hire a full-time advocate to be housed at the Bennington Police Department, and to maintain the advocate position at Probation and Parole.

As always, my sights are set on a community without domestic or sexual violence. With dedicated staff and Board members, and the wonderful support of individuals in the community, we can and will achieve a safer and healthier community.

With thanks and appreciation,
Linda Campbell □

A PICTURE OF POVERTY

Linda Campbell, Executive Director

Poverty is a national and a local problem. Have you ever thought what it would be like to live in poverty? 80% of PAVE's clients live well below the poverty level. Poverty makes it more difficult to escape homelessness, domestic violence, sexual violence, and criminal involvement. It accounts for increased teen pregnancies, and children growing up in poverty have a lower rate of

school achievement.

Women living in poverty often rely on others to meet their basic needs such as housing, transportation, food and childcare. Often mothers are forced to live in housing that may not be safe and/or clean because it is what they can afford. Scared of being homeless they adapt.

Having to go from independent living to being dependant on others is humiliating and scary. For many mothers the fear of losing their children if they become and/or remain homeless forces them to make choices that they would not otherwise make. Poverty increases the chances that a single mother will raise her children in an environment that exposes her children to drugs, violence, and crime.

Imagine you are a single mother with children and you have just lost your job. You have no savings, and the rent is due next week. Your phone was shut off last month because your kids needed money for the school project. Your car broke down last week, and you haven't had the money to fix it, so it sits in the garage. Basically, for the past six months you have been living paycheck to paycheck. You have no family to rely on. The one option you have is to move in with a co-worker, even though you know they throw parties with alcohol at least every weekend. To make matters worse, it's located in a part of town where police frequent on a regular basis.

Many say that getting a job is the solution. For single moms living in poverty, seeking employment is not always a viable option. In numerous cases single mothers are the only caregivers for their children because they have no one else. Add to that a child who is chronically ill. Can you imagine having to leave your sick child with a stranger? However, for some mothers this is the only option they see in order to meet the needs of their children.

Is it hard to imagine that this scenario could happen to you or someone you know? With today's failing economy and an unfortunate change in circumstances—a lost job, a divorce, no child support, no family that can help—it could happen to any of us. Looking at the problem through a sharply focused lens, poverty is hard to ignore. □

24-hour Hotline: (802) 442-2111

P.O. Box 227, Bennington, VT 05201
Office: (802) 442-2370 — FAX: (802) 442-6162
Email: pave@pavebennington.com



WHEN ONE DOOR CLOSSES...

Christine Williams, Family Time
Program Director

When I first heard that *Family Time* had to move I was extremely apprehensive. I had so many thoughts, I tried to stuff them away. Inevitably, they popped up here and popped up there, especially as the date grew closer.

Where would we go? ~ We're so established here. We have so many things here. ~ The children are so "at home" here. With all of the instability in their lives they know what to expect here. Now here "we" are adding to that inconsistency that has so often been a part of their lives. ~ They know their artwork will still be displayed when they come for their next visit. ~ They know where their favorite toy and books are. ~ They know which is their favorite room and where they will spend their time. ~ How would they adjust? ~ How would Family Time staff adjust?

Several weeks have passed, and we are now in our new visitation center at 601 Main Street, in Bennington, upstairs, in The First Baptist Church. I suppose it won't be too surprising to hear that the children appear to have adjusted just fine. There are bulletin boards for the children to display their art, schoolwork, and projects. They seem to be having a lot of fun in the new environment exploring and reinventing "their" space. I'm quite sure they will discover a new favorite room, or maybe they will like to switch rooms every other visit. Who knows?

I've heard before that "when one door closes, another opens." This proves to be true both *literally* and *figuratively*. Sometimes change can be positive, and so it is with this move. We have been so warmly

welcomed by those at the First Baptist Church, including the Reverend Jerrod Hugenot, Building Coordinator Cindy Watson, Office Administrator Donna Sprague, Sexton John Harwood, and the congregants we meet in the hallways. They have been so accommodating. As an example, I mentioned that we were used to closet space at our previous place and Cindy was immediately on the phone checking to see if we could use a closet. We can!

We have a beautiful new space that has a great layout. Sunlight shines in the windows. We have chalkboards in each room so children can "play school." We have separate visiting rooms, each with its own entrance. We don't have to walk through one room to get to the other as we did in our previous place. The administrative office is completely separate from the visiting rooms, away from any visitors, for increased security and confidentiality. We can take phone calls, meet with a parent, or complete an intake in complete privacy. The flow of the rooms allows us to increase our flexibility to schedule intakes, take or make phone calls, and increase times for visits.

There is a lift that will soon be approved for use that will allow handicapped accessibility to the bathrooms, visiting rooms and office. The layout of the office and the visiting rooms seems to provide for a more professional business atmosphere on the one hand without losing the appeal of the child-centered visiting areas.

We still need to work out a few quirks, mostly environmental. Nevertheless, it doesn't take much of an effort to see all the positive aspects of our new space, now that the move is behind us. We feel very fortunate to have such wonderful surroundings and this new-found relationship with the folks at The First Baptist Church. They have chosen to serve our community by providing space for a fellow non-profit. Again, thank you to all at the First Baptist Church. □

SIMPLE AND FUN PROJECTS FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY⁽¹⁾

Tara Parks. *Family Time* Assistant

With the fall season soon coming to an end, the cold weather already setting in, and the holidays quickly approaching, most of us are dreading the upcoming months. However this time of year doesn't have to be full of stressors. Take some time out to do some of the fun things this season has to offer.

Autumn / Harvest Projects

- **Apple Head Dolls:** Start by peeling an entire apple. Carve out holes for eyes and make a notched nose. Next immerse the apple in lemon juice for at least five minutes. Then cover the apple in salt and allow to sit in a window for two to four weeks, or until apple has completely shriveled up. Complete the doll by decorating a toilet paper roll and adding hair and other details to the apple.
- **Leaf Rubbings:** Learn about different trees and the

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look of their leaves by rubbing leaves under paper. Just pick out a variety of leaves from your yard. Then peel the paper off of whatever colored crayons you'd like to use. Place one of your leaves under a piece of thin paper, hold the crayon on its side and rub back and forth until the shape and design of the leaf appears.

- **Nature Frame:** Start by cutting a frame from cardboard, cut the center a little smaller than the picture you want to frame. Next collect small leaves, stones and sticks to glue on. Dress the frame up by making a larger frame of just sticks, punch holes into the corners of the cardboard frame. Next tie the frames together at the corners.
- **Hand and Foot Turkey:** First trace around your child's feet and cut the tracings out. Next trace several copies of your child's hands and cut these tracings out. Place the two footprints together to make the turkey's body. Next make a face on the turkey. After add the handprint "feathers" to the back of the turkey to complete the project.
- **Luminary Candle Holder:** Collect small leaves and other foliage from outside. Be sure there's still some life in the leaves (they shouldn't be too dry or crumbly). Next lay the leaves in a single layer and place a large book on top to flatten them. Leave for an hour or two. Spread a layer of white craft glue on the outside of the votive holder. Stick the leaves to the glue and press into place. Let dry. Mix equal parts of water and white craft glue to create a decoupage paste. Then tear tissue paper into squares about one to two inches in size. Use a paintbrush to glue the tissue paper over the leaves using the decoupage mixture. Overlap the tissue paper and make sure all of the glass is covered. Carry over the lip of the votive holder as well and be sure that the tissue paper is decoupage against the inside of the glass. Allow to dry overnight. Place a tea light candle inside each votive holder.

Winter Projects

- **Snow Slushies:** Pack a cup full of fresh clean snow and top off with a little bit of Kool-Aid or fruit punch for a tasty winter treat.
- **Pine Cone Bird Feeders:** Gather a bunch of pine cones, spread peanut butter onto each of them. Push the peanut butter into the cracks as much as possible. Next roll the peanut butter covered cone through birdseed. Lastly tie a little loop of string around the ends of the cones and find a nice place to hang them in your yard.

- **Make your own Stocking:** Use mismatched colorful socks to create a fashionable stocking. Each year, you can sew a piece onto the top of the sock. The stocking can grow along with your child.
- **Make a Wreath:** Start by cutting out the center of a paper plate. Next cover the outside with your chosen material. This can be cotton balls, popcorn, evergreen, pinecones, or whatever you would like. Next add a ribbon to the top for hanging.
- **Make a Snow Globe:** Wash and dry your jar completely, including the lid. Attach figurine to inside of jar lid using florist clay. If you are using a small object, it's a good idea to build up the clay so the object will appear taller. To preview, simply place empty jar over the top of your figurine to see if you have the desired height. Attach any optional items with the clay (greenery, berries, a pretty shell).
Important: Use your imagination, but make sure whatever you use is waterproof and won't dissolve. Fill jar with water to within ½ inch (1 cm) of top. Use cold water (warm water tends to cloud). Sprinkle ½ teaspoon of glitter, or "snow" into water. This measurement is based on a medium to large baby food jar. Adjust glitter amount according to your size jar. Using hot glue gun, line inside of lid with glue. Insert figurine in water and screw on lid. Apply a layer of hot glue around the rim of the lid to seal shut. Let stand and dry overnight—lid side up. Decorating the lid rim is optional, and there are several ways to do it. Attach decorative ribbon with glue, use plastic holly berries for a holiday feel, or use colored felt. Glue on buttons, use stickers, or personalize your globe by writing your name in glue and sprinkling with glitter. You may also paint the lid rather than use ribbon or other embellishments. The possibilities are endless. So have fun!

Additional Activities for Autumn and Winter

- Carve or paint pumpkins
- Walk through a corn maze
- Go apple picking
- Go to a haunted house
- Jump into leaf piles
- Build a scarecrow
- Make your own ornaments
- Make your own events calendar
- Make your own cards and gift tags
- Build a snow fort
- Tie-die snow with food coloring
- Make paper snowflakes

(1) Projects are either original or excerpted from the Internet. □

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IS MORE THAN A “PRIVATE” MATTER

Nancy Feinberg, Volunteer Coordinator

In 1999, Jessica Lenahan (formerly Gonzalez) begged the Castle Rock, Colorado Police Department to enforce a restraining order against her ex-husband who kidnapped their three children. For more than ten hours, she tried to get unresponsive police officers to locate her children; she spoke with the police nine times but they told her there was nothing they could do. In the early morning hours the following day, Jessica’s ex-husband arrived at the police station and began shooting (with a semi-automatic machine gun purchased earlier that evening). The police answered fire, shot, and killed him. The police discovered the bodies of Jessica’s three girls in his pickup truck, but Jessica did not learn of the girls’ deaths until four hours after their discovery. Furthermore, Castle Rock refused her requests for information and answers to questions surrounding the investigations of the girls’ deaths.

In 2005, the United States Supreme Court found that the Castle Rock Police Department’s failure to enforce a domestic violence restraining order did not violate Jessica’s civil rights. The Justices argued that no constitutional entitlement existed that would guarantee mandatory arrest. Moreover, the U.S. Supreme Court held that police officers cannot be sued for refusing to enforce an order. (Kline)

Advocates nationwide worried that orders of protection would be meaningless to victims of abuse. We were concerned that the ruling would send a message to offenders to go ahead and violate your orders; you will not be arrested. And to the police, you won’t be held accountable for lack of due diligence.

Jessica’s story highlights the concerns victims share. Domestic violence is more than a “private” matter between intimate partners. It is a violation of a woman’s civil and human rights. Not only a victim of domestic violence, Jessica suffered at the hands of her trusted government that failed to protect her and her children.

Jessica felt let down by the legal system. In her own words, she speculated as to why the police treated her so inhumanely, “So why did the police ignore my calls for help? Was it because I was a woman? A victim of domestic violence? A Latina? Because the police were just plain lazy? I continue to seek answers to these questions.” (*Statement of Jessica Lenahan for Inter-American Commission on Human Rights* March 2, 2007)

In 2005, Jessica’s legal team filed a petition with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) to investigate human rights violations and to hold the U.S. government responsible “not only in Jessica’s case, but

more broadly as well.” The IACHR found the petition “admissible” and granted a hearing. “Jessica Lenahan become the first individual U.S. victim of domestic violence to bring a case before any international human rights body.” (Gardella, *Women’senews*)

Almost ten years after the torturous ordeal in Castle Rock, Jessica Lenahan’s case is nearing a conclusion. As I write this (October 22, 2008), the IACHR is holding a public hearing in Washington, D.C., on the merits of this case. Representatives for each side will have twenty minutes to present their arguments. Jessica’s side will argue that the United States violated her human rights under the *American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man*. They are defending her rights to life, to be free from inhumane treatment, to equality/freedom from discrimination, to truth, to family life and protection, to special protection for mothers and children, to resort to the courts, to due process of law and an adequate and effective remedy. (Bettinger-Lopez, *Final Observations Regarding the Merits*)

In the past, the United States which is a member of the Organization of American States (OAS)—the IACHR is one branch of the OAS—has not felt bound by the findings, remedies, or recommendations of the IACHR. Nevertheless, we hope for some positive outcome. Although they may not admit any wrongdoing or pay anything to Jessica for her pain and suffering, the U.S. could take seriously recommendations proposed by the Commission. Jessica’s attorneys would like to see additional training for police, better oversight of police procedures, presumption of risk of danger of the defendant in an order of protection. (OAS Webcast) We hope public opinion is overwhelmingly in support of Jessica. Strong opinion and advocacy can sometimes be a catalyst to help change institutional norms and attitudes. I don’t think we have seen the last of this landmark case.

Addendum: From the October 22 Hearing:

- The government presented a different set of “facts” from those presented by Jessica and her attorneys.
- The government reported that Jessica chose not to file legal claims for violations of racial and gender discrimination.
- The government argued that this was an unforeseeable crime committed by a private person and therefore the U.S. was not responsible for committing a human rights violation under international law. Jessica’s lawyers said the fact that there was a restraining order implied there was risk of danger, therefore foreseeable, and that the police should have acted with due diligence.

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A PRESENCE IN THE COMMUNITY

Sandy Kelly, PAVE Advocate, Department of Corrections

I was in a conversation with some friends who asked me, “What impact would our community or victims feel if PAVE weren’t out there? You know, Sandy, we mean out there at the Police Department or at Probation and Parole.” I thought about the big picture, about the scope of the problem and the effect I have as an advocate. Daily, I touch people’s lives in the community.

Everyday, I have the opportunity to cross paths with others who work in our community—the police, probation officers, court personnel, attorneys, program facilitators, and state social service workers. The fact that I have a presence outside the confines of the PAVE office gives community members direct access to me—to stop me for an answer to a simple question or to sit down and brainstorm the safety and concerns surrounding a client with whom they are currently working. In addition, it gives clients themselves the opportunity to seek out our services in a familiar environment or at a secure and safe place—the police station—when they are in a crisis situation. I am available to offer help, support and understanding at these very critical and difficult times.

So how would we be missed? One way to answer this question is to look at my workday today—which turns out to be a typical day in my work life.

- I am walking into work at Probation and Parole (P&P). Two probation officers (PO) are on their way to court. One calls out to me, “I have to see you later.” Indeed later on we hook up. This PO has a client who cares for an elderly person, and she believes abuse is happening. I speak to her about a protection order for a vulnerable adult. I give the PO the phone number and contact for Adult Protective Services and another number to an agency for at-home senior care. A follow up is done with the State Police and the elderly woman’s immediate family is notified of the suspected allegations. Because of the PO’s attentiveness and her willingness to collaborate with PAVE a more thorough outcome was reached. By the way this woman is 98 years of age.
- I am at the copier at P&P. An officer comes up and asks if she can brainstorm with me about a client. We speak. I offer a time for her client to see me later on

that day. The client and I meet. We talk—through many tears—of safety plans, both for relapse and for her physical safety. We get sidetracked a bit. She and I start talking about work and what her concerns are about finding a job. We begin talking about first impressions, interviews, and in the end we work together on a resume. The self-work that the client did this day was incredible.

- A father calls me. He has grave concerns that his daughter will have to testify that her boyfriend violated his Abuse Prevention Order (he has great fear for his daughter’s safety). His daughter’s boyfriend has been arrested for a violation of an APO. I speak with the abuser’s PO who assures me that it will not be necessary for the daughter to testify. The probationer admitted everything directly to his PO. Information is relayed back to Dad and all can relax a bit.
- I am in the police station and an officer comes up to me to speak about a client. He fills me in on the progress of the case. The client told him of her involvement with PAVE in the past and how she would like to be reconnected with us again. The officer gives me her number; he contacts her to inform her that I will be calling. For many reasons clients go in and out of being involved with PAVE. They feel guilty for not leaving the offender; they fear judgment; and/or they fear for their own safety. I contact the client. She is not ready to leave the abusive relationship yet. We safety plan a great deal. She has extended family in the area that can help her. We again speak of her options—with PAVE, with the court, and with the police. Now, she has more information than before to help her make plans for the future.

As a PAVE advocate, I have the victims’ concerns, safety and voice in my mind all the time. I am out in the community doing what our clients have asked of us, not what I feel would be in their best interest. I help our clients connect with services and understand them. Together we navigate the various services available to them. Without PAVE’s compassionate, non-judgmental support, women and children might continue to feel that what is happening to them is “just the way it is.” We continue to let them know: “It doesn’t have to be this way. It can be better.” □

“PRIVATE” MATTER (Continued from page 4)

Resources:

American Declaration Of The Rights And Duties Of Man. From http://www.hrcr.org/docs/OAS_Declaration/oasrights2.html.

Bettinger-Lopez, Caroline, Steven Macpherson Watt, Araceli Martinez-Olguin, Petitioners. *Final Observations Regarding The Merits Of The Case Before The Inter-American Commission On Human Rights, Jessica Gonzales, in her individual capacity and on behalf of her deceased daughters, Kathryn, Rebecca, and Leslie Gonzales vs. The United States of America Case No.*

12.626. March 24, 2008.

Gardella, Adriana. *Domestic Violence Case Makes International Claim*. Women’sNews. March 1, 2007.

Hearing Before The Inter-American Commission On Human Rights, Organization Of American States *Jessica Ruth Gonzales vs. The United States of America, Petition No. P-1490-05. Friday, March 2, 2007.*

Kline, Michelle. *Gonzales Ruling Endangers Women and Children*. National Organization of Women, Fall 2005.

OAS Webcast, October 22, 2008. □

SPREAD THE WARMTH

Debby Stanlewicz, Transitional Housing Advocate

“Mom, are we going to be able to have a turkey at Thanksgiving? “Does Santa know where we are and is he going to be able to find us?”

“Mommy, I am really cold. My clothes don’t fit anymore.” Mom looks around and is thinking *I just put a roof over our heads, how in the world am I going to buy new clothes and holiday things for my kids? They have already had it rough moving away from everything they have known, a new place to live, new school, new friends. They deserve a nice holiday and to be warm.*

These are questions children in our community are asking their mothers. PAVE has helped to put a roof over their heads, but it is the day-to-day things that are important to the children. They were in a situation that was beyond their control and very scary. They are trying to be brave, but they may have had to leave their things behind. They didn’t have time to get winter things together. They were lucky to get out of the house with a couple of things. They don’t understand what they did wrong to have to change everything they have known.

We need to help the children in our communities to feel safe, warm and loved. It is the little things that accomplish these emotions. There are several programs out there to help, but these programs need volunteers. Volunteering of our time, gifts, compassion and a smile goes a long way. Currently programs such as *Warm the Children* provide new winter clothing for children and offer assistance to keep children warm. They need donations to pay for the clothing as well as people to help do the shopping. These shoppers meet with the families and shop at JCPenney for new warm clothing. If interested, you can contact the American Red Cross office at 802-442-9458.

Another program helps during the Thanksgiving Season. In collaboration, Sacred Heart-St. Francis Church and the Bennington-Rutland Opportunity Council (BROC) give families turkey baskets. Families may sign up through BROC prior to Thanksgiving, starting October 15 and through November 14. Both Sacred Heart and BROC accept donations of food supplies not only for the holiday but also throughout the year. BROC’s number is 802-447-7515.

Spirit of Sharing is a wonderful program offered by the Department for Children and Families, Economic Service Division, to help with food and presents at

Christmas. They offer gifts to children 12 and under in the towns of Bennington, North Bennington, Shaftsbury, Woodford and Pownal. This program accepts needed donations and is looking for volunteers to distribute food and presents. For more information, call Economic Services Division at 802-442-8541.

These are just three programs that are currently available to assist needy families and individuals. They all have deadlines and eligibility criteria. All are in need of donations and volunteers. *Warm the Children* provides for children between the ages of 4-14. There are children both younger and older who still need warm clothing and boots. Applications will be available to be filled out or picked up beginning Tuesday, October 21 through November 4, between 9:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at the American Red Cross, 240 North Street, Bennington.

All children need to feel special. Maybe this year you can reach out in a new way—by either donating your time or holding a hand. Maybe you know of a family or friend that could use some extra support. You can offer to have them over for dinner. Give an extra smile. Make a child feel safe and secure again. Isn’t that a lovely gift? Don’t we all deserve to feel that way? Think outside of the box of how you can do one thing to make a difference. Think about how you would feel if you had to leave all of your things behind and what it would take to make **you** feel better?

This article was featured in last year’s newsletter, but the message is still important and resonates more than ever. As all of us are aware, times are tough—with the high cost of fuel, gas and food, many homes being foreclosed on, budget cuts being made, increased unemployment—and those of us who might have been able to give last year just don’t have it to give this year for those same reasons.

Now is the time to think back—remember how everyone bartered for services and knew their neighbors. Now is the time to re-connect with your family and friends, to slow down, to become creative. Share your resources and eat meals together. Put more blankets on your beds. Mend your clothes instead of buying new ones. Share your hand-me-downs with friends and family. Carpool to save on gas, or walk together. I am not telling anyone anything new when I say, “It is nice to help others, even in the little ways.” □

When the economy becomes tough, it affects all of us...especially the most needy. As we approach the Thanksgiving Season, please consider ways you can express your gratitude for what you have by sharing with PAVE.

You can help PAVE in many different ways:

Cash Donations

Cash donations immediately provide assistance to help us deliver our programs. To make a donation by check, simply make check payable to "PAVE" and mail it to P.O. Box 227, Bennington, VT 05201. You can also make a donation by credit card by calling our office at 802-442-2370 (8:30 am – 4:30 pm Monday – Friday).

Memorial Donations

A wonderful way to honor a person is to make a Memorial donation to PAVE in their name. Such donations can be made on the occasion of a person's wedding, retirement, anniversary, graduation, or the death of a loved one.

Gifts of Appreciated Stock

Stocks, bonds or mutual funds may also be donated to PAVE. This type of gift can provide the donor tax savings on capital gains as well as an income tax reduction. Of course, you should first consult with your attorney and/or financial advisor.

Bequests

A bequest is a gift through a will and is a time-honored way to make a difference in the lives of others far beyond our own life expectancy. You can include the PAVE in your will and make a bequest in several different ways. Consult your lawyer for guidance.

Volunteer

There are numerous volunteer opportunities at PAVE: Hotline, Court Advocacy, Office work. Contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Nancy, at 802-442-2370.

Think Outside the Box

Running PAVE is like running any home or business, there's always something that needs doing. Driving by and see that our lawn needs mowing – stop and give it a cut. It's snowed and you have a plow, come by and clear the driveway. Leaves have fallen and you need exercise, come and rake. Anytime you have an hour or two to spare, give us a call. ☐



I want to help make this a safer community.

I have enclosed a tax-deductible check payable to PAVE. Please charge a donation to my credit card:

_____ VISA _____ Mastercard Exp. Date _____

Card # _____ \$25 _____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____ \$500 _____ Other

Name _____ Day Phone _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Contact PAVE to discuss volunteer opportunities. Thank you. Mail to: PAVE, P.O. Box 227, Bennington VT 05201

We are grateful to the volunteers of R.S.V.P. who help assemble this newsletter.

*Project Against Violent Encounters
P.O. Box 227
Bennington VT 05201*

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What do we live for, if it
is not to make life less
difficult for each other?
~ *George Eliot*

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Mission Statement

To end domestic and
sexual violence and to
provide supportive and
educational services to
individuals, families and
the community.