

A Call to End the Violence

BY LINDA CAMPBELL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

On September 14th, 2009, as part of the Presidential Proclamation in honor of the 15th anniversary of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), President Barack Obama, stated:

Far too many women in our communities and neighborhoods, and across the world, continue to suffer from violence. Inspired by the promise and achievement of the Violence Against Women Act, our Nation stands united in its determination to end these crimes and help those in need.

NOW, THEREFORE, I call upon men and women of all ages, communities, organizations, and all levels of government, to work in collaboration to end violence against women.

[\(http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/Presidential-Proclamation-15th-Anniversary-of-the-Violence-Against-Women-Act/\)](http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/Presidential-Proclamation-15th-Anniversary-of-the-Violence-Against-Women-Act/)

I will share with you one woman's story that exemplifies the silent suffering that so many women experience.

A young woman came into my office with tears in her eyes holding her young daughter of about three years old. She could barely keep from shaking as she began her story that spanned over four years. With her head held down and in a voice that was not much more than a whisper she said, "I need help."

As she sat down she began with, "I don't know where to start," and I said, "How about at the beginning." I sat in my chair listening intently on her words while her young daughter quietly played on the floor. This young woman of no more than twenty-three was telling me about being knocked down on the bed and being slapped across the face because she was arguing back to her new husband of one day. She talked about the pain of the slap to her face and of the greater emotional pain that she suffered realizing what this man, whom she just vowed to love and obey till death do them part, had just done to her. As she reached

over to touch her daughter's hair she quietly cried,

I was pregnant with her. He said if I had just shut up and listened to him, it never would have happened and he assured me it would never happen again. I believed him.

With a slight smirk she said, "It never did happen again, but it got worse." She remembered a time, shortly after their baby was born, they were in the car, just having been at their friend's house, when he started accusing her of flirting with his friend. She said:

No matter what I said or how much I tried to reassure him, he just got angrier. All of a sudden, he doubled up his fist and punched me in the arm. I was dumbfounded. I couldn't believe what just happened. He kept yelling at me and all I could do was cry. He made me feel so worthless and ashamed as if I had done something wrong. My arm was black and blue for a couple of weeks. I never told anyone.

I asked her about his relationship with the baby. She said he couldn't stand to hear her cry so "I never let her." I could see the pain and embarrassment in her face as she confided in me. "This is confidential, right?" she asked. I reassured her that anything she said would stay with me and she continued on, "I can't believe I'm saying this about my daughter's father but I never trusted him with her. He always seemed jealous when I would

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Kindling a Flame

BY CHRISTINE WILLIAMS, FAMILY
TIME DIRECTOR

At the beginning and end of the ten-week *Family Time* Nurturing Parenting Class we ask parents to complete a number of forms, consisting of pre- and post interviews, pre- and post-tests to measure what is learned, and a final evaluation of the classes and curriculum in order to solicit as much and as specific information and feedback as we can. I thought it might be interesting to share a few examples of the types of interview questions and pre- and post-test questions as well as the participants' responses to a final survey from our most recent class just completed in September.

The following is an example of a pre- and post-interview question and response:

What were the issues and concerns that brought you to the program?

(Pre-) "Son not getting up in the morning, missing school, daughter not going to bed at night and I didn't know how to fix or address the problem."

(Post-): "I learned ways to adjust and make plans that actually worked."

In the pre- and post-test questions, participants were asked to read a particular statement and rate how closely they agree or disagree with the statement by selecting *Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree, Strongly Disagree, Uncertain*.

***In the father's absence, the son needs to become the man of the house?
Parents should expect more from boys than girls?
Parents spoil babies by picking them up when they cry.
Children should be obedient to authority figures.***

The remaining examples are the participants' answers and feedback to the final evaluation of the classes and curriculum:

Participants were asked to respond to the following two questions by selecting *Yuck, Bad, Uncertain, Good, Great*

How did you feel about taking this parenting class when you were first referred? (Many

responded, "Uncertain.")

How do you feel about the program now? ("Good" was the response.)

What did you like about the parenting workshop sessions?

"I like the way it shows you how to think differently."

"I like the way it teaches you how to talk to your kids."

"The facilitators make it easier to understand by giving examples."

"My daughter and I have been able to do things using effective strategies and routines."

"I liked and learned a lot from the Impact of Domestic Violence on Children session."

"The atmosphere."

What didn't you like about the parenting workshop sessions?

"Nothing."

"Some of the material was too long."

How have you changed?

"I understand how my children's minds work better."

"I have a lot more patience with my son."

"I think now before I say anything to my kids."

"I'm more understanding of my child's needs."

"Learning all these things has helped me feel less frustration."

How have your children changed?

"She's more open and comfortable to be with other people."

"Happier"

"More organized, more on a schedule"

"My son gets up for school without a struggle now after we created "family rules" which he helped come up with."

How has your family changed?

"Being that I have more patience everything is a lot calmer."

"I got my daughter back."

"My wife and I talk more now."

"More understanding."

"We've grown close, bonded more, more family time."

"We have learned ways to adjust and make plans together that actually work."

What changes would you make?

"None, the parenting classes were good as is."

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Kindling a Flame
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“Did [sic] more interactive things like one on one.”

In closing, I would like to acknowledge that people can sit in a class and be in attendance, yet it doesn't mean they learn or understand what is presented and/or are able to translate what is learned into ongoing interactions with their children. These responses, while most appear positive, may or may not be indicative of change. However, we must realize that we don't become nurturing parents in a day, a week or in a ten-week class. To see changes in these parents, however slight, and we do, can speak volumes in a child's life. Our hope is to “kindle a flame” that continues to grow. ■

Education is the kindling of a flame, not the filling of a vessel.

~ Socrates

Power vs. Empowerment

BY CAROL STEINMETZ, VOLUNTEER ADVOCATE

Witness, please, this scenario:

The school bus is full — taking students home. Everyone is happy. It's Friday, — the week-end, two days off. Spirits are high. There is much clowning around. One 16 year old, probably thinking that he's being funny, maybe on a “dare,” jumps up and forces his hand down the pants of three young girls. The girls push him away calling him an idiot and continue their chatting.

Does this young boy think he has the power to do whatever he wants? Does he think about the repercussions of his actions before he commits them?

The girls tell their parents that night, and the parents respond with hysteria and anger. The episode is reported to the school, the boy's identity revealed and the legal process begun. The police are included, as well as the lawyers: the parents cry for justice and accountability.

October is National Domestic Violence Awareness month. Violence is about power — the abuse of power by someone or group over another. Abuse of power occurs in many forms- verbal threats, stalking, blocking passage, degradation, physical force. And, yes, hands on bodies without consent. Abuse of power evolves

out of imbalance of power. Think of the many examples in our society where power is out of balance — both obvious and subtle.

Parents deserve assurances from the school systems that their children will be safe both in school and on the bus. Children deserve safety and respect. They also deserve the skills to empower themselves- to understand and manage their world, to believe in themselves and live their lives fulfilled.

As parents it is our responsibility to focus on the needs of our children and to listen to them. We have this responsibility as adults and advocates to each other as well. Through active listening we begin to understand others experiences, thoughts and feelings. Acknowledging and responding with acceptance empowers others. Empowerment helps to create a sense of wholeness.

Instead of manifesting desire for restitution (imbalance of power) by storming the school and the police department, perhaps these parents could have given power to these girls by asking them for their feelings, discussing the conflict between the parents' feelings and the girls' feelings for this boy – their friend and peer. One could say that the parents empowered themselves, but the action was committed against their daughters. The parents' role can be questioned not in their quest for correction of the offence and prevention of further occurrences but for not taking the opportunity to empower their daughters as well.

We are not embroiled in a war against each other-where the good win and the bad lose. Misguided behaviors will continue. Our only chance to correct the wrongs is in HOW we deal with them. This involves sharing power at every table in the face of wrongs.

For example; I encourage your voice by making space for you to speak AND by listening. When I do not agree with you, I do not tell you that you are wrong; I tell you I do not agree.

Empowerment is shared respect; all victims of any power play deserve to tell their part.

We all must examine our motives. Are we on a power hunt because we harbor anger and resentment and we never really feel as if we get what we are due? Or can we step back in the face of struggle and witness the whole situation? Can we empower the recipient of the action to express her/his concerns and be empowered ourselves to express ours? Can we ask for solutions without “pay-back” and expect acceptable outcomes? In future, similar scenarios, can we avoid lengthy court cases and spontaneous labeling of offenders? Can we commit to righting the balance of power through empowerment? ■

A Kiss With a Fist Is Never Better Than None

BY KIAH MORRIS, PAVE ADVOCATE, DEPARTMENT FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

“A Kiss with a Fist (is better than None)”

By Florence and the Machine

You hit me once

I hit you back

You gave a kick

I gave a slap

You smashed a plate over my head

Then I set fire to our bed [...]

My black eye casts no shadow

Your red eye sees nothing

Your slap don't stick

Your kicks don't hit

So we remain the same

Love sticks

Sweat drips

Break the lock if it don't fit [...]

A kick to the teeth is good for some

A kiss with a fist is better then none

A kiss with a fist is better then none

I broke your jaw once before

I spilled your blood upon the floor

You broke my leg in return

So sit back and watch the bed burn

Love sticks

Sweat drips

Break the lock if it don't fit

A kick to the teeth is good for some

A kiss with a fist is better then none

A kiss with a fist is better then none

“A Kiss with a Fist (is better than none)” by Florence and the Machine is a new song which is now being played in heavy rotation on alternative radio stations across the nation. On a given day, this song will rotate at least once an hour on local radio, and has become very popular in recent weeks.

Both the recorded song and music video have an upbeat, fun, lively, pop-punk feeling. From just a casual listen, the lead singer's mousy, warbling voice punctuates the guitar licks in a way which makes you want to crank the radio up and rock out. In fact, it almost feels like some sort of anthem

you should belt out loud.

But I've found, as a listener, you simply cannot escape the graphic lyrics. These lyrics mirror the words DV advocates never want to hear. These lyrics reflect the attitudes that we work constantly to address and change in our communities. These lyrics depict the very actions that often stonewall efforts to bring charges against abusers. These lyrics embody the confusing messages which drive our clients to minimize their own abuse. In a sense, these lyrics invalidate the core belief that no one should be mistreated or terrorized in a relationship by suggesting that its okay to stay, as long as you fight back.

Until you hear the stories of actual women who are trying to survive an abusive situation, it can be difficult to imagine that the scenarios painted in these lyrics can in fact be real. It's easier to pretend that acts this heinous are not committed in intimate relationships, yet, frighteningly enough, they are. Every day. I think back to statements I've heard from women about how their abuser “wasn't so bad” because he was great with their kids or held a steady job. Never mind the constant physical assaults and domination she endured for years because in the scope of her life, the most recent incident wasn't really “that bad.” He may have dragged her across the floor, drunkenly kicked her in the face or strangled her to the point of having Petechiae, but at the end of the day, she did punch him in the arm when he called her degrading names after she confronted him about his actions. It's her fault because she did hit him first, she started it.

I was stunned to hear this song on the radio. Certainly there would be some sort of public response considering timing of the song's major US release puts it in strongest rotation during National Domestic Violence Awareness month. A search on the internet finds quite the opposite:

Gleefully straddling across the prog-rock, punk divide, Florence is going to be huge this year — at least in England, where a girl can sing rock songs with a title like “Kiss With a Fist” without totally freaking out the male population. (Queerty.com)

It's all a bit of a (rather sinister) laugh, as Welch's refrain “a kiss with a fist is better than none” is supported by her own lack of submission to the beau whose jaw she once broke. Clearly,

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Ride-along: June 2009

BY MARY GREY, PAVE ADVOCATE, BENNINGTON POLICE DEPT.

One of my job responsibilities as a PAVE advocate is to participate in ride-alongs with officers of the Bennington Police Department (BPD). This experience gives me the opportunity to observe first-hand when our men in blue respond to various calls, specifically a domestic call. On one particular ride-along, I was working the 6:00 to midnight shift. At 11:30 p.m. a domestic call came into the dispatcher's office. We were on our way, with sirens blaring, but not before I put on my bulletproof vest. My heart was pounding.

Four officers responded to this call. When we arrived at the address provided by the dispatcher, it appeared that no one was home...lights were out and it was quiet. However, there were cars in the driveway. A number of witnesses down the street had called 911. They reported that they saw a man driving his car and throwing a woman out of the car and that an argument ensued.

The police officers cautiously searched around the outside of the house. They knocked on the door several times identifying themselves. Finally, a man opened the door, and a porch light came on. He then came out onto the porch. At this time the officers questioned him and he stated he did not know where his girlfriend was. While this conversation was going on, the girlfriend came out of the house crying with significant visible bruises. She stated that her boyfriend's mother, having heard the police sirens, had taken her into the house and told her to stay in the bedroom and be quiet. After taking statements from the boyfriend and witnesses, and seeing the injury to the victim, the police charged the boyfriend with domestic assault. I remained in the car, happy to be wearing my bulletproof vest.

The victim was visibly upset. One of the officers was very patient with her and soon the victim regained her composure. The victim did not want to go to the police department to make a statement nor did she want to go to the hospital for medical attention. She stated that she would file a statement the next morning. She just wanted to go home. She did allow the officer to take pictures of her bruises, however.

We drove her home. I offered her PAVE services. I later learned that she did not appear at the police station to make a statement nor did she apply for a Relief From Abuse Order. Often times, when a victim is in crisis she just wants the abuse to end. As PAVE advocates we can only offer

options to the victim and provide support.

The officers of the BPD risk their lives when they go out on domestic calls. They never know if the perpetrator has weapons or might hold a victim hostage or keep her from getting help. The BPD officers are to be commended for their quick response and diligent work at the scene. Needless to say, this was a very scary domestic call for me!

■

Fact and Fiction Collide

BY HOLLY SCHMITZ, FINANCE MANAGER, PAVE ADVOCATE

As part of October's Domestic Violence Awareness Month, PAVE had an event at the Northshire Bookstore in Manchester. As the coordinator of the event, Mary Grey asked each staff member to read and critique a book related to domestic violence. I selected *Whispers* by Belva Plain, first published in April, 1993 by Delacorte Press.

This fictional story depicts one woman's struggle with the harsh reality of living with an abusive husband. It was a very difficult road for her to travel, but in the end she succeeds.

Reading this book brought back a memory I have while growing up in a close-knit neighborhood. There were often "whispers" about a husband that our neighbors believed was abusive to his wife. He was definitely an alcoholic.

One night we heard a loud verbal argument and saw the wife running down the street. Next thing we knew she was knocking on our door to let her into our house. My parents were afraid for her safety. Soon the husband was banging on our door threatening to burn our house down if we didn't hand over his wife. My father yelled through the door to go home and sober up or he'd call the police.

The book revealed what it must have been like for my neighbor behind closed doors. The "whispers" erupted one night and the walls could no longer contain the secrets. The book and my personal experience as an 8 year old child collided.

It was a scary evening for everyone involved. Thankfully, soon after this incident, the abusive husband left the neighborhood never to return. I gave my parents a lot of credit to help our neighbor in need, even though they didn't know her very well. It taught me the importance of helping someone in an abusive situation and violence of any kind is unacceptable. ■

A Burden Shared is a Burden Diminished

BY NANCY FEINBERG, VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

I heard that quote in an interview on Vermont Public Radio a few months ago. Our clients have a particularly hard burden, yet neither they nor PAVE will see an end to domestic and sexual violence without your help. To eradicate abuse, it will take a lot a dedication, thoughtfulness, and help from the entire community, with each member doing his or her part. It is especially gratifying when someone new calls the office to become a trained volunteer advocate or to ask how he or she can help. It means yet another person believes in our mission and will share some of the burden.

During the past fiscal year, you made the following contributions to PAVE:

- Volunteered 5475 hours as hotline and court advocates
- Volunteered 1124 hours fundraising for PAVE
- Volunteered 92 hours assembling bulk mailings
- Bought advertising space to support our events
- Ran a two-week girls' summer activities program and a series of workshops in the fall.
- Donated food cards, gas cards, and phone cards, clothing, building materials, batteries for toys, and arts and craft supplies for children's programs
- Provided carpentry and dry wall skills, and office support
- Hauled furniture, mowed the lawn, cleaned and organized storage space
- Collected cell phones, held food drives, and made Mothers Day Baskets to make women feel special.
- Donated beds and bedding, sofas, tables, chairs, lamps, appliances, kitchenware, cribs, high chairs, and cleaning and office supplies
- Baked donuts, cookies, and decadent chocolate desserts
- Produced, directed and acted in a play; sang folksongs; auctioned off wines
- Donated function rooms for fundraising events.
- Raised money from congregations, collected household items from Mission Committees, included us in your Holiday giving
- Bequeathed gifts – both in times of celebration and in times of remembrance
- Lent your voice to carry the message that domestic and sexual violence are wrong

Today, many people are suffering from homelessness and unemployment; in addition to these, add the threat of violence. The burden is too onerous for one person to overcome alone. Please do not turn away because you think the problem is too great or too scary. There is always something to do or give.

The point is to give in your own special way, and thank you for sharing the burden with us and lightening it for others. ■

Stretch Your Dollars

in three easy steps when you shop at Shaw's or Star Markets

Register your Shaw's or Star Market Reward's Card number online at the website <http://shaws.com/communityrewards> and follow the links to "Sign Me Up."

Enter PAVE's Community Rewards identification number – 49001021608.

Shop on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

PAVE will receive 1% of any eligible Rewards Card purchases you make. How easy was that?

If you don't have a computer, call Nancy at PAVE (802-442-2370) who will be happy to enter your Reward's Card number for you. ■

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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.

A Kiss With a Fist
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Florence is no victim in this Punch and Judy romp. (<http://www.guardian.co.uk/music/2008/jun/10/singlesclub.rosieswash>)

So the question remains, is the song just a rallying cry to women to begin to fight back against their abusers? If they do, does their retaliation then nullify the abuse they are experiencing? By using violence, are they now on equal footing with their abusers?

In VAWA's Applied Research Forum Paper, "Towards an Understanding of Women's Use of Non-Lethal Violence in Intimate Heterosexual Relationships" by Shamita Das Dasgupta, the author urges us to consider this aspect of supposedly mutually abusive relationships: "In reality, men's violence strikes prolonged fear in their partners whereas such behavior by women tends not to produce similar results." Dasgupta goes on to state:

Furthermore, the majority of research findings report that women who use violence are battered themselves and use physical aggression to escape or stop this abuse. Studies also indicate that women are generally quite unsuccessful in achieving their objectives. In most cases women are able to neither control violence against themselves nor modify their abusers' behaviors according to their own will. (www.vawanet.org)

In other words, generally, fighting back does not end the abuse nor does it return power to the victim in a way that will result in change.

With regards to the song, we still should consider the intentions of the artist. Florence and the Machine lead singer Stephanie West says that she didn't write the song about an abusive relationship, but one in which the power struggles are what actually strengthens the song characters' bond. In a recent interview, she explains her work,

Well it's not about domestic violence [...] you know when you see a couple and their whole thing is...they fight. That is what keeps [us] together, but *that's* what tears [us] apart. Two people giving as good as they get. They are sort of destroying each other, but *that's*

[the violence] what binds them. (<http://new.music.yahoo.com/programs/the-new-now/28/rage-against-florence-the-machine>) Emphasis added.

Mirroring West's assessment that these relationships are held together through the thread of constant retaliation and violence, for our clients, it is hard to imagine a life or relationship without the presence of abuse. A relationship filled with "drama" and "passion" is often perceived as one filled with strong love. Ultimately, this may be the reason why some victims struggle with the choice to stay because they believe "they can handle it." They have learned how to survive, albeit problematically, in the midst of constant dysfunction and violence. It takes a great deal of courage and inner strength to muster the will to leave an unhealthy relationship.

My concern is that presented without context, without dialogue and without resolution, this song has the potential to send the wrong messages to young women and men about what defines a loving relationship and most importantly, what defines abuse. Unfortunately, "Kiss With a Fist" does not end with the narrator leaving the relationship or her insistence that her life does not have to be lived in constant conflict. We as the audience are left to imagine what will happen after the song stops. I believe as advocates, we can use our voices to question these mixed messages and to help move our community away from examples that accept "mutual" abuse as a way of life and confidently toward examples of mutual respect and love.

Note: Since the submission of this article, I contacted a local radio station to share my concerns about "A Kiss With a Fist." In response, the station began airing a PSA for the PAVE hotline into their rotation within the same day and that is slated to run for the remainder of Domestic Violence Awareness Month. ■



The excitement was high as PAVE staff met Anita Hill — an inspiration to many women. (April 2009)

play with her”.

As she struggled to get the words out she spoke of a time when they got into an argument and he grabbed the baby out of the crib and started to leave the house with her. She said she was so scared that he would leave with the baby that she jumped in front of him to block his way and threatened to kill herself if he left. With tears streaming down her face, she told me:

He just pushed me out of way and walked on as if I wasn't there. I was so scared that he might hurt her that all I could think to do was to fall to the floor and pretend I had fainted. I lay there perfectly still as he called my name over and over. Finally, he put her back in the crib and called 911. As soon as he put her down and I knew I could get to her I got up and took her out of the crib. I couldn't let him get his hands on her again.

This young woman went on to tell me about his infidelity over the years and how he would spend any money they had. He wouldn't hold a job for longer than a month. She tried to work, but she couldn't trust him to babysit, so she settled for housecleaning jobs so she could take her daughter with her. She left him three times but always went back because she felt alone, guilty that she was taking her baby's father away, and afraid that she would never find someone else.

I asked what brought her to PAVE today. As she began to talk, I saw a strength well up inside her akin to a mother bear protecting her cub. Her voice was strong and clear and for the first time since she walked into my office her head was up and she was looking me in the eye.

Today he crossed a line....We got into a stupid argument over a TV show. He got so angry that he threw a glass of soda at me, and it hit the cupboard and broke into a million pieces. Our daughter was standing right there! The broken glass lay at her feet; it could have cut her or gone in her eyes....I am done with him My child deserves better than that.

I asked about her support system and she said, "I have no one. My friends couldn't stand him and he alienated everyone I ever met. My parents are done with me because I keep going back. I am alone with my daughter. "How can PAVE help you?" I asked. "I'm not sure. I think I just needed to talk and have someone listen without judging me." She never went back. ■

A Great Loss for Victims of Bennington County

BY DEBBY STANLEWICZ, TRANSITIONAL HOUSING
ADVOCATE

In the late Fall of 2005, PAVE was awarded a federal grant which allowed us to hire a part time Transitional Housing Advocate. It also allowed us to help women who were victims to find safe, permanent housing. Because of the grant, we were able to assist women with their security deposit, first month's rent, half of second month's rent and a quarter of third month's rent. Women, then, were able to pay off some old bills, pay deposits that might be needed for utilities to be turned on, or to replace items that they had to leave behind. This was a three-year grant, and we helped 56 families and 45 singles within this timeframe. By having the ability to assist these women, it freed up other financial resources from other agencies so they could assist people that had housing issues.

As the Transitional Housing Advocate, I was able to work closely with victims, assisting them with understanding what resources they have available to them and to map out what their options are for the future. This can happen in many ways – figuring out if they need to locate new housing, completing a budget to see if there are debts, assisting with applications, applying to any programs for which they may be eligible, safety planning if necessary, transportation issues and affordability of housing. The combination of financial and emotional support allowed many women to start to heal in a home that was safe and not a source of pain and fear.

In January of this year, PAVE once again applied for this grant with the full expectation that it would be awarded for another three years. Our expectations were high because the program had been so successful. But because of the current economy, many agencies throughout the country applied for this grant, and only a portion were awarded. Unfortunately, PAVE was not one of them. At a time when resources are being reduced, there is a cut in available employment, and an increase in the cost of housing. Many women were already feeling the pressure of having to stay in an abusive situation due to lack of resources; now they have to repeat the shame and pain to each resource they meet with in order to get assistance.

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Men in The Movement

BY SANDY KELLY, PAVE ADVOCATE, DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

A coworker and I were interviewed last week for a newspaper article for Domestic Violence awareness month – October. As I spoke, I realized how important the need is for men to join our “movement.” Men must take a stand against men’s violence towards women, and play an active role in promoting healthy, respectful relationships.

Until men get involved in greater numbers, domestic violence will continue to destroy the lives of women and children in Bennington County and our nation. I am not sure why the movement to end domestic violence is seen strictly as a women’s movement.

I so strongly believe this. Boys look up to men; men listen to other men; men are role models for all our young community members. Men are watched and imitated by youth all the time. It is from men’s actions in every aspect of their day-to-day life that children learn – from how they speak with women at a convenience store, to how they talk with their peers at a ball game, which music they listen to, to how they interact with their wives or partners, their mothers, their sisters. Men have

Children have never been very good at listening to their elders, but they have never failed to imitate them.

~James Baldwin

an opportunity to talk with young children about non-violence, to encourage respect, and to show and express what it means to be fair.

So what can men do in our community? The easiest is to live your life with kindness, integrity, and respect for all. Set an example. Remember, you are on stage – accept your role as mentor and teach by your actions.

PAVE is always in need of men to get involved in our community outreach programs. Call us to find out how you can help. National programs that offer different ideas and ways for men or organizations to become involved in ending Domestic Violence are:

- **Coaching Boys Into Men** – “A national campaign that invites men to be part of the solution by teaching boys that violence never equals strength.” <http://www.endabuse.org>
- **Founding Fathers Campaign** – Organized through The Family Violence Prevention Fund,

it aims to engage men to teach young males that violence against women is wrong. The Founding Fathers Campaign is striking a chord with men from across the country because it challenges them not with blame, but with hope and the opportunity to be part of the solution to end the violence. <http://founding-fathers.org>.

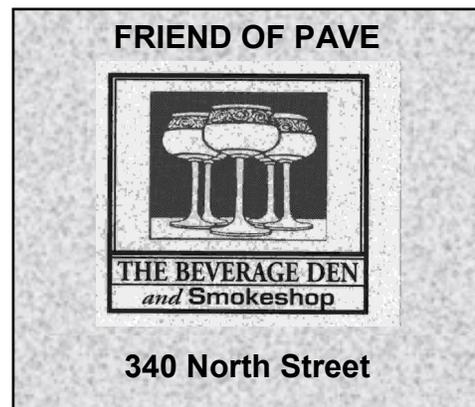
- **The White Ribbon Campaign** – “One of the most important things you can do to help end violence against women, is to speak out against it. You can do this by organizing your own White Ribbon Campaign effort in your school, workplace, faith group or community. Do what you can to get as many men and boys involved and encourage them to spread the word to the men and boys they know.” <http://www.whiteribbon.ca>

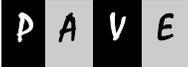
This is our community; these are our children. We are responsible for our actions and in-actions. ■

A Great Loss for Bennington County *continued from page 8*

Do we as a community want to re-victimize our neighbors, co-workers, friends and relatives? Do we want them to have to stay in situations where they could end up being another statistic?

Now is the time for our community to step up and support this wonderful program. All donations and ideas for continued funding to assist with financial need for housing are always appreciated. We have many local businesses that might want to take us under their wing. Please help us help the victims of our community. ■





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

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 _____ 3-digit Security Code # _____

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.