

## On The Same Page

by Linda Campbell, Executive Director

PAVE has always been committed to providing prevention education in our schools and communities. That being said, incidents of bullying, sexual harassment, and youth violence continue to rise. Below are examples of statements we have heard:

*"He threatens me through text messages while I'm in class."*

*"We were changing classes and he used his backpack to slam me up against the wall."*

*"I don't want to ride the school bus anymore because the kids say, 'You can't sit here. We don't like the way you talk.'"*

*"I can't look at anyone after what she said about me on Facebook."*

*"He attacked my daughter on the way home from school and the other kids watched and egged him on."*

*"We have to drive our kids to school because there is so much fighting on the school bus that it just isn't safe anymore."*

*"He keeps harassing my friend and I don't know how to help her."*

Bullying and other abusive behavior can have a wide-ranging impact on the students bullied, students who observe bullying, and the overall climate of the school and community. Bullying may vary between schools and school districts, but it is very prevalent:

Statistics show that 23 percent of students in grades 4-6 had been bullied "several times" or more; 20 percent had bullied others.

- 17 percent of students in grades 6-10 reported having been bullied "sometimes" or more, with 8 percent being bullied once a week. 19 percent said they had been a bully to others "sometimes" or more.
- Bully-victims and bullies witnessed higher levels of victimization within their homes (e.g., domestic violence) and communities (e.g., witnessing attacks) than other youth (59% for bully-victims, 61% for bullies).

- Bully-victims also reported the highest rates of sexual victimization (32%), which included experiences with sexual harassment as well as sexual abuse, and included familial and non-familial perpetrators.
- Nearly 1 in 5 students in an average classroom is experiencing bullying in some way. The rest of the students, called bystanders, are also affected by the bullying.

In the past, PAVE addressed bullying and dating violence issues by giving presentations and workshops to students in the schools. Research now tells us that in order to make a difference, everyone needs to be involved in prevention education.

Recently, PAVE received an education grant to provide violence and sexual abuse prevention education to students, parents and educators throughout Bennington County. We hired Youth Educators Michael Dreiblatt and Steve Breakstone, who have put together a research based, multi-component program that will help students, parents, educators, and bus drivers learn the skills necessary to deal with these issues.

Through highly interactive workshops and realistic role-plays, students will learn to recognize the different forms of bullying, including domestic abuse, how group dynamics can lead to bullying, and how bystanders can stop bullying and relational or social aggression. Parents will learn what role they play in bullying and social aggression, and how to help their children make good friends and prevent bullying and abuse from occurring. Finally, teachers and staff will gain practical knowledge on how to reduce bullying and sexual harassment that can be quickly and easily incorporated into their existing programs.

We are excited about the opportunity to bring this prevention curriculum into our schools and communities. With a coordinated effort, we can all "be on the same page" and move forward to end the inter-generational cycle of abuse. ■

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## “Why Does He Do That?”

by Christine Williams, Family Time Director

Recently I had the opportunity to meet with thirty-two Southern Vermont College students in a class on *Family Violence*. I was invited to speak about men who abuse women and children and how they behave when given the opportunity to visit with their children

This class is currently reading one of Lundy Bancroft’s books, *Why Does He Do That? Inside The Minds of Angry and Controlling Men*. Just in case anyone reading this article has ever wondered, “Why does he do that?” this book has such thorough coverage on a very confusing and complicated question that it is an excellent resource. The book contains information on “early warning signs,” “ten abusive personality types,” the role of drugs and alcohol,” “what you can fix, and what you can’t,” and “how to get out of a relationship safely.” Lundy is an expert and leader in the field of working with batterers and has an incredible ability as a writer and speaker educating on these issues.

I was asked to share since *Family Time* services initially and primarily evolved from the need for safe visitation plans for women and their children leaving abusive relationships. Even though our services extend to other areas, at this point, still, a large percentage of services involve families with histories of domestic violence.

The professor of *Family Violence*, Joan Sakalas Ph.D., believed it would be helpful for her students to hear firsthand what it is like working with this population. I was asked to explain what it is like working with these men. How do they behave when given the opportunity to visit with their children? Do we try to modify their behavior to benefit their children? How do we do this? What are the techniques we use? When and how do we intervene in visits? Finally, what training is required for someone to monitor or supervise visits at *Family Time*?

Rather than a straightforward “presentation” with Q&A to follow, we decided to allow questions during the talk as they naturally arose. The students were very interested in the complex issues and areas surrounding domestic violence and visitation. Questions and discussion flowed about fear, anxiety, and safety throughout the process; rights of the visiting parent vs. accountability, supports available; providing feedback and education; court involvement; and undermining of a mother’s authority, through skillful manipulation and the many personae these men display in public.

There was discussion around whether we work with men who have been abused, and the underreporting (of abuse) by men. I addressed the

question about women who use violence, and the differences between batterers’ use of violence and the reasons women use violence within relationships. We discussed the “pattern” of coercive control (using physical, economic, psychological, threats, stalking as abusive tactics) of a batterer vs. women’s violence that is used to defend herself, to strike out as a reaction of former abuse, or even to kill an abuser which she may perceive as the only option to stop the abuse.

It is exciting and hopeful to see this type of education being provided to young adults, and to hear the thoughts and questions that the class and book evoke in furthering discourse and learning about the complexities of domestic violence. Having this type of information available may prove very valuable, considering the high percentage of women who are abused over their lifetime.

The fact that the *Family Violence* course and Lundy’s *Why Does He Do That?* can offer women insights into their own relationships as well as into the lives of others they have the opportunity to touch is encouraging to me. To hope that despite statistics we can affect change in our community even if it is the tiniest part of one discussion or class is promising. Speak up! ■

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## Jane by Erin Skaar, PAVE Advocate to DCF

I have been working at PAVE for almost six months, and sometimes I think that I know less now than I did when I started. I actually find that to be one of the best parts of this job.

My best and current lesson is about courage, love, strength and resilience.

Every woman with whom I have worked as an advocate is as different as the day is long, each story unique, and yet they could be one woman. I will now try to tell you her story.

Jane, (I believe her last name was Doe), called our hotline one day when I was working. She told me that she and her partner had been together for a long time, and when they had met she had fallen deeply in love. He seemed perfect. He was strong, charismatic, loved her and her child more than anything in the world exactly the way that they were. After they had been together for a little while, he changed. He became critical, judgmental, critical not only of her child, but of the ones that they had together. He even started to get violent. Jane had gotten to the point where she was tired of trying to live up to her partner’s impossible standards, watching her children cringe in fear when he raised his voice to them, or his fists to her. So she called PAVE.

Jane had just taken the first of so very many steps

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**Jane** (continued from page 2)

toward a new and scary life for herself and her children. For years her partner and his family had told her that they would get custody of the children if she left. They would simply make her look “crazy”. He had mentioned on a regular basis that she was trash, stupid, broke and that no one else would ever want her. Or, he might just kill her. She took this first step anyway.

Jane was awarded first a Temporary Relief from Abuse Order, and then a Final one, which will actually last for one year. During this time, she continued to be threatened, and lived in fear of even seeing this man. She was awarded temporary full custody of their children, and the home in which they had all lived, but without both of their incomes how would she afford to stay there? She found a second job that would allow her to keep their residence, but what about child care? Most of those who had happily watched their children in the past were either his relatives (the one’s who wanted to take the kids away), or were friends who were too intimidated by his constant calls and rants to appear to take her side.

Throughout all of this Jane had been able to talk to people who wanted to help her achieve her goal of safety and independence. One person would lead her to another, then that person would refer her to another and so on. The key is that none of these people took any of these steps for her, or made any of her decisions. They simply offered the help and options that were in their field of knowledge. Yes, someone helped her to find child care that allowed Jane to work the hours that she needed to. Someone else helped her to arrange safe and supervised visitation for her kids and their father. Yet another group of people are supporting her as she wends her way through Family Court to figure out the divorce and settlements and all of the other attendant things that she never even knew she was facing.

When Jane made that phone call she also made the decision that she no longer wanted to live under someone else’s thumb, so she reached out. She didn’t know then, and, because her story isn’t even close to over, doesn’t yet know all that lies ahead. She is as scared and ready to forge ahead, as all who are truly brave march forward into the unknown.

There are no quick or easy steps for the women who are Jane. All they can do is keep putting one foot in front of the other, two steps forward and one step back, and so many other clichés.

I think that I can speak for all who have met and worked with this Everywoman, that we are blessed to have done so, and will be honored to do what we can when the next Jane walks through our doors. We will continue to be awed by her strength and commitment until society gets to the point where Jane simply needs us no more. ■

## Home Invasion in Cheshire, Connecticut

by Holly Schmitz, Finance Manager

*(This article may be disturbing to read. I apologize to the reader for the difficult subject matter, but this story seemed important to share. I tried to write it for the last newsletter in November, but I failed to complete it because it still makes me sick (mentally and physically) when I remember what took place. Why share this article now? After discussing this at length with the PAVE staff, we decided it is pertinent to write this story, lest we fall into complacency.)*

If you have followed the news or watch *Oprah*, you most likely have heard about the conviction and subsequent sentencing of one of two men who invaded a home in Connecticut. The trial made national news due to the horrific scope of the crime inflicted on an innocent family in Cheshire, CT.

This was the neighborhood where my family and I lived for 18 years. My walking friends and I passed by this house weekly on our quest to keep in shape. It was a typical, perceived “safe” neighborhood. Little did we know what evil was in store for this unsuspecting family of a Doctor, his wife and two teenage girls.

Although these two criminals are beyond the scope of what most of us think of as “batterers,” there are still some common threads; their behaviors were cunning, manipulative, violent, and motivated to inflict pain and misery on their subjects.

These criminals stopped at nothing. On that fateful day, they stalked attractive females driving upper-end cars at our local supermarket. Once found, they followed them home, with a plan to return at 3:00 a.m. This morning of pure torture lasted over 6 hours ending in the death of all three women of the house. They first beat the Doctor to near death, tied him up and threw him down the basement stairs, and then tortured, raped and ultimately murdered the mother and daughters.

It was a completely random act of evil. Eerily, it could have been any of us living in the quiet suburban town.

I am left with many questions:

- ~ How is this horrific crime possible?
- ~ Can anything be done to fight horrendous acts of violence against innocent people?
- ~ This was a family of faith. Was God somehow with them?
- ~ How do we protect our loved ones from harm?
- ~ What can any of us do in response to evil in our world?

These are heavy questions where the answers are almost impossible to know. Connecticut’s answer was to reinstate the death penalty. Many Cheshire

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## Home Invasion (continued from page 3)

residents' answer was to install home alarms.

I moved to Bennington several months after this horrific crime took place. I asked a woman I met why she moved to Bennington and she replied, "Because it's a safe place to live and raise your children." Deciding it would be best if I didn't respond, I thought to myself, "No place is safe." ■

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## Financial Empowerment For Women

by Debby Stanlewicz, Transitional Housing Specialist

A woman comes into the office and stresses that she would like to do a budget to figure out what she can afford for housing. She is currently living in "their" home. As we sit down to discuss her finances, one thing becomes apparent: I cannot complete a budget with her because she has little or no information. Although she has been working full time for many years, she hands her paycheck over to her husband. All the bills are in his name. She has no idea what their monthly expenses are. She doesn't know her hot water source. Is it oil (like their heat), or electric or propane (like her stove)?

She looks at me with tears in her eyes and says, "I feel so stupid. I have been married to this man for over 19 years and I have no idea what our expenses have been, and have never questioned where our money goes. You must think I am an idiot." He had told her that she was not smart enough to understand a budget and not to think about it. It would just make her head hurt.

Financial abuse is one of the many tactics used to gain and maintain power and control over another and can trap a person in a relationship. Advocates recognize the need for information and education around finances.

This year PAVE is offering a financial curriculum that was developed through the partnership of The Allstate Foundation and the National Network to End Domestic Violence to assist victims to increase financial literacy.

The Financial Empowerment Curriculum consists of five separate learning modules. These modules cover personal finances, financial fundamentals, finance management, identifying income and assets, managing debts and liabilities and banking options. The message given for learning these skills is:

We are proud you have made this first step to take control of your future and excited to share this curriculum with you. Financial planning and management are life-long processes. Surviving day-to-day, struggling to make ends meet, escaping abuse and starting over may be frightening. But trust in your right to be safe and understand that change is possible. Only you can

decide the best pace to pursue change.

Advocates are here to support and guide clients and show them that they are not alone.

The curriculum works as an Empower Matched Savings Program, a form of an Individualized Development Account (IDA). Participants that want to be part of this program agree to complete the curriculum, must have a current source of income, make regular deposits into the account, and they have up to six months in order to save. At the end of the mutually agreed upon savings amount they will receive a 2:1 match from the program. The money is then used to help pay back debt only, such as back rent, transportation expenses, unpaid medical or dental bills, outstanding utility bills, other approved debt repair, unpaid credit collection or charge and debts to financial institutions.

For example, if a person deposits \$300, they get \$600 (our max match) for a total of \$900. Participants may save more in this account but will only be matched up to the \$600 cap.

The program is offered to only 15 survivors from various Network programs throughout the state, on a first come, first serve basis. PAVE had seven survivors apply during 2010, and four completed the program to pay off a back cell phone bill, back electric, back dental and credit card debt. This was very empowering for these women to learn how to negotiate with creditors and be able to pay off some of their debt. Their credit scores have now gone up, and they are in more control of their finances.

I am very excited to offer this program to victims, especially during a time of increasing prices for basic needs. It can feel as if there are no options for victims, but this curriculum gives them a choice. I hope this program continues so we can offer financial literacy and empowerment to more women. ■

### SIGNS OF A FINANCIALLY ABUSIVE PARTNER

- Controls how money is spent
- Withholds money or "gives an allowance"
- Withholds basic living resources, medication or food
- Doesn't allow you to work or earn money; Harasses you at your workplace
- Steals your identity, money, credit or property, or that of your family
- Makes financial decisions without consulting you
- Forbids you from attending school
- Overuses your credit cards or prevents you from owning or using credit cards
- Refuses to pay the bills
- Forces you to file fraudulent tax claims
- Reports that you "cheat" on your benefits so they are cut
- Forces you to sign over assets and power-of-attorney ■

## *War On Women* by Nancy Feinberg, Vol. Coordinator

The 112<sup>th</sup> Congress of the United States is waging a fierce battle to cut federal spending, and, if H.R. 1: "The Continuing Resolution" passes, it will be at the expense of women and children. I was fascinated, a couple of weeks ago listening to "late-night" TV into the early morning hours, as each House member cast his or her vote on H.R. 1. It was like watching a train wreck. Some are calling it a "War on Women."

H.R. 1 would reduce or eliminate certain programs vital to many women in our community who already have an inordinate amount of obstacles in their life. Programs facing cuts or elimination include, but are not limited to, the following:

- *Women, Infants and Children programming (WIC):* Children in low-income households would fail to thrive without needed healthcare and nutrition.
- *Head Start:* Disadvantaged young children would be denied early education and be less prepared for first grade.
- *Planned Parenthood and Teen Pregnancy Prevention Grants:* Unplanned and "coerced" pregnancies (e.g., using pregnancy as a psychological weapon to control a partner or sabotaging contraception) would become statistics of an ignominious social policy that eliminated birth control and family planning information.
- *Abortion Care:* H.R. 3: "The No Taxpayer Funding For Abortion Act" would put a burden on employers whose insurance covers abortion care, and make eligibility for abortion care due to rape harder to access because of a narrowing of the definition of rape. (Adding "forcible" to rape is redundant when all non-consensual sex is forced.) Will we revert to an era reminiscent of 1979, when California State Senator Bob Wilson exclaimed, "But if you can't rape your wife, who can you rape?"

Furthermore, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) is up for re-appropriations. VAWA today funds many of the advocacy positions held by PAVE staff. PAVE's Police- and Probation and Parole-based advocates, Transitional Housing advocate, and advocate to the Department for Children and Families are an integral part of Bennington County's Coordinated Community Response, determined to achieve victim safety and perpetrator accountability through the legal and social justice framework.

There are detractors, nonetheless. On her website, EagleForum.org, attorney and ERA. opponent Phyllis Schlafly criticizes VAWA as a "harmful" program that puts money "into the hands of leftwing feminists." ("VAWA is an Excellent Target for Spending Cuts," 2/4/11) She also maintains that feminists use VAWA money to "promote divorce, marriage breakup, hatred of men, and false accusations" and to "train law enforcement and judicial personnel in feminist

ideology" that advances a bias against men and fathers through protective orders. ("The Awesome Power of Family Courts," 6/2010)

This is fallacy. These assertions are antithetical to the reality of the services PAVE provides and the Vermont Family Court system.

PAVE advocates know that an abuse victim (male or female) in requesting a protective order from the court must present the Vermont Family Court judge with detailed evidence of physical harm or attempted physical harm, as well as fears of imminent harm. Furthermore, Vermont judges respect the rights of fathers and believe there should be father-child contact. Judges do not settle child custody disputes through protective orders. Finally, judges rule the courts, not feminists.

In her *Power of Family Courts* article, Schlafly also states that protective orders:

Almost certainly increase violence and harm, because studies show that the safest place for adults and children is in a home with two parents, rather than one that is broken by a restraining order.

We know that risks of harm or lethality increase when a woman decides to get a protective order or leaves permanently with her children. We know, also, levels of risk increase when the man drinks, has weapons, has children and step children, has a record of previous assaults, has been rejected and can no longer control "his" woman. However, the relationship is already broken – not the other way around.

PAVE services grew out of a need that became apparent to the Bennington Police to provide safety for women living with a combative family member or husband. It has evolved into a full-fledged service organization based on principles of equality, civil and human rights, and social justice.

Reducing or eliminating funding for domestic violence programming will only silence, jeopardize the safety of and fail to protect victims of domestic and sexual violence, and put in jeopardy the lives of future generations. We shall rue the day that we did not stand up to our elected officials because, on that day, they will have won the war.

### Sources:

"House Republican Budget Wages 'War on Women'," NOW, 3/4/11, [http://action.now.org/p/dia/action/public/?action\\_KEY=3534](http://action.now.org/p/dia/action/public/?action_KEY=3534)

"Planned Parenthood: HR 1 completely eliminates family planning program," The Philadelphia Sunday Sun, 2/19/11, <http://www.philasun.com/news/1406/20/Planned-Parenthood-HR-1-completely-eliminates-family-planning-program.html>

H.R. 3 "The No Taxpayer Funding For Abortion Act," <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c112:H.R.3T>: ■

## The Parallel

by Sandy Kelly, Advocate at Probation & Parole

I recently had the opportunity to attend a daylong training entitled, "The Batterer as a Partner and as Parent," facilitated by author Lundy Bancroft. The audience of 150 or so consisted of a professional mix of law enforcement, health service personnel, professors, teachers, attorneys, advocates, counselors, and dispatchers.

Bancroft, an expert and consultant on domestic abuse and child maltreatment, has twenty years of experience specializing in interventions with abusive men and their families. He has worked directly with over 1,000 abusers as an intervention counselor, and has served as clinical supervisor on another 1,000 cases. He has also served as a custody evaluator, child abuse investigator, and expert witness in domestic violence and child abuse cases. He has authored four books, including *The Batterer as Parent: Addressing the Impact of Domestic Violence on Family Dynamics*, and *Should I Stay or Should I Go*.

Bancroft began the workshop by calling out to the audience: "Who here has worked for a bad boss? A tyrannical boss? Could be now, or in the past?"

His next question...think about it... "DID YOU STAY? WHY?"

The statements from the audience started pouring in: "I stayed because who will pay my rent." "I stayed because of health insurance." "I stayed because I loved my work." "I stayed because we have four children at home and need work." "I stayed because I was pregnant and needed a job." "I stayed because who would hire someone that is 65." "I stayed because what else can I do?"

It dawned on me. Maybe this is another way to answer the question I continue to get from so many people: "Why do women stay in a bad relationship? Why don't they just leave?" As if it were that simple!

I encourage you to reflect on this dilemma. In the first instance, we understand the reasons everyone gave for remaining in a bad work situation. Is it any different from a bad domestic situation? Why is it so hard for us to see the parallel?

Add to the scenario the use of physical violence and threats of harm to you and/or your children. You would think the decision to leave would be obvious. However, when the alleged abuser now states, "I will harm you if you leave or tell anyone," the dilemma becomes apparent. — "You are damned if you stay, and damned if you leave."

Why wouldn't you stay, then? If you thought you could stop the violence and threats of harm to you or your child by acquiescing to his demands, I believe many of us would not think twice about doing whatever the alleged batterer wanted.

When a domestic assault case goes before a jury

of well-intentioned community citizens, they come looking for compelling arguments, and logic. If you think about domestic violence, it does not lend itself to logic. There is "this dilemma," this dichotomy. Without logic, it is easy to create reasonable doubt.

Understanding this dilemma is at the root of understanding the dynamics of domestic violence and what battered women go through.

When a victim recants her story or doesn't want to testify against the alleged abuser, it may look as if she is lying or that she has falsely accused him. Instead, she is trying to preserve her life. She is simply too afraid of what the abuser may do, if (and too often when) he is pronounced, "Not Guilty."

By not testifying, she can say to the abuser, "I didn't say anything against you. They made me do it. I didn't want you to get in trouble." She thinks this will make things better. But we know it's a no-win situation for her. He doesn't go to jail, she goes back with him, he will escalate his threats and may act on them, as she has known him to do in the past.

The decision to stay or leave, testify or not testify, is not straightforward, neither right nor wrong. The reason she stays or leaves, testifies or doesn't testify, should not be the reason a jury doesn't convict the alleged abuser. Until we can educate the citizens of our community, who sit as jurors, about the inner workings of domestic violence, batterers will go free. We can start to understand living with a terrifying abuser if we draw the parallel to working under a tyrannical boss. Most of us can relate to that. ■

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## Hands Are Not For Hitting

by Tiffany Blair, Outreach Assistant

As a mother of a two year old, and seeing the children of friends similar in age I notice there is a common concern: hitting. Too often I am telling my son, "No hit, do nice touches." His response more times than not is, "Nice touches." With a big smile on his face, he shows me how he does "nice touches."

For a while when he started hitting I realized he was doing it when he wanted the praise for doing "nice touches." So I tried to make an effort to praise him more for good things, not just when he did a good thing after he did something not so good.

Now that he is almost two, he still hits, but not always to get my attention. He will sometimes hit when mad or upset. Sometimes when he gets excited, he will swing his hands up and down and if someone is in his path, he may hit, though not purposely. When he is hitting me or somebody else because he is not getting his way, this is the worst of all. It gets to be quite frustrating.

It is a very common trait among toddlers and young children to hit. Toddlers tend to use hitting as a form

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Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Contact PAVE to discuss volunteer opportunities. Thank you.

Mail to: PAVE, P.O. Box 227, Bennington VT 05201

### **Hands Are Not For Hitting** (continued from page 6)

of communication. Young children don't always have the verbal skills yet to communicate what they need or want. So when a child wants attention he/she may hit because this is known to get the attention, even if it is not praise.

For those having troubles with their children hitting, here is what I've observed. Try to take note of when your child is hitting you or other children. Ask yourself, "Is it because he is mad, tired, hungry, or bored?" Sometimes changes in routines may cause a child's behavior to change, such as a change in daycare or family dynamics. Notice these triggers and try to find ways to help meet your child's needs or help him to cope better with new things in his or her life.

In February, I began facilitating the *Hands Are Not For Hitting* classes. This program is sponsored by PAVE and is designed for pre-school aged children and early education classes. The program is designed to help children ages 3-5 years express their emotions in a safe and non-violent manner. The

program runs for an hour, minimum, in each class. When an intern and I go into the classroom, we read a book, created by a previous PAVE educator, called Hands Are Not For Hitting. The book discusses common emotions and feelings. We then do two activities with the group to reinforce positive activities that they can do with their hands.

It is a pleasure working with young children and listening to their ideas and thoughts. The children have a good time. We have learned to keep things moving along and busy at all times. They get rambunctious when they start getting bored.

When the class is over, we ask the teachers to fill out an evaluation form. I like to know how we are doing when we go into the classrooms – whether we need to change or improve the program. Their input is important to help make the program grow. It is a wonderful opportunity and learning experience.

#### Source:

Ask Dr. Sears: Toddlers Hitting Parents,  
<http://www.parenting.com/article/ask-dr-sears-toddlers-hitting-parents> ■

**P A V E**

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

# TAKE BACK THE NIGHT

## March and Candlelight Vigil

**STAND WITH US, UNITED FOR HOPE**

**April 21, 2011 — 6:00 P.M. Bennington Town Hall**

**Guest Speaker — Wynona Ward, Have Justice Will Travel**

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### **Miss ion Statement**

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

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