

Let's Talk About It!

By Linda Campbell, Executive Director

April is Sexual Violence Awareness month. It is a time when awareness efforts and events are in full swing around the country. It is a time for honoring the survivors of sexual violence and showing support for those that still suffer behind closed doors. These events are opportunities to learn about the issues, make a presence, give of your time, raise your voice against the ravages in your community, and believe in change.

We need to support women and men that are too wounded and ashamed to admit to themselves, let alone anyone else, that they were violated in the most intimate way possible. We need to support children that are too afraid to tell anyone for fear they won't be believed, or will be blamed, or because they have been threatened with an even greater evil.

What do you know about sexual violence? Do you know or do you care that it is eroding the community you live in? According to the 2000 Victim, Incident, and Offender Characteristics report, published by the National Center for Juvenile Justice (NCJJ), "1 of every 7 victims of sexual assault are under the age of 6?" How many children do you know that are under the age of 6? Do you know that, according to VT Department for Children and Families, "98% of child sexual abuse is committed by people known to the children and their families"? The NCJJ also points out that "children and adolescents that are raped or sexually assaulted are three times more likely to experience another rape in adulthood." Do these statistics make you outraged or apathetic?

I've been reading about the war on drugs and the need for a Task Force to address the infiltration of gangs in

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A Survivor's Letter

I am writing this letter in regard to the recent articles pertaining to the state filing charges against defendants for contacting their victims. This game has been played for many years; they know they are being monitored; that is why aliases are used.

The victim knows enough not to mention what really happened on that dreaded night, as in my case. See, these stories hit close to home because I was a victim who recanted her story because he made me feel guilty. "How could I do this to him?" So if they were doing this in my case, he would of least served time for his violations for contact.

This is not unusual, as I have learned, for victims to recant their stories. It's not as easy as people say -- "why don't you just leave?" We generally feel so bad about ourselves, once they are through with us we truly believe they are the only ones that will ever love us and that we are unlovable.

Even behind bars these men control our lives, especially now that we recanted our stories because the fear is going, because soon they will be released and the cycle will continue. They have not gotten any help because no abuse occurred; they did nothing wrong and they end up really believing that.

Therefore, life goes on for them. I wish these women well, and just think you are possibly facing a new felony charge for recanting your story for him; is it really worth it? How well has he protected you in the past? If you should go to jail for your felony, is he going to sit by the phone like we did, day in and day out, waiting for their call just to be degraded some more. Of course not; they have bigger and better things to do with their time.

I have only been out of my abusive situation since late October, but I knew something needed to change; I didn't want to be a victim anymore. I needed to learn what healthy relationships were and the red flags to be aware of. My ex wasn't my first abusive relationship, but I certainly knew I wanted it to be the last. I was willing to try anything so I could get strong and feel better about myself and just learn to like me again to realize that I am not a bad person.

Through PAVE and through counseling, I have gotten to where I am today on the other side; thank God really. If

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# Intensive Domestic Abuse Program: An Interview

By Christine Williams, Family Time Director

In my last newsletter, I interviewed Karen O'Mally, co-facilitator of the Bennington County Domestic Abuse Educational Program (DAEP). In keeping with the same format, I interviewed Sanda Micic, facilitator of the Intensive Domestic Abuse Program (IDAP), who shares an overview of the program and informs the reader how this program addresses domestic and sexual violence with perpetrators.



We work with participants to help them identify their beliefs around issues of violence and relationships. All of us are guided by our beliefs. If we change how we think about something—or develop new beliefs—it will impact how we respond in certain situations. For example, if you believe that abuse and/or violence is OK, then you will likely use it in your relationships. For those of us who believe that violence and abuse are unacceptable, no matter how angry or frustrated we may become, we do not use violence or abuse in our relationships.

IDAP is a mandated program. Many men don't feel like they belong in the group when they first come to us. However, they learn from their facilitators and peers, and eventually most men start moving toward wanting to make a change about how they are in relationships. Changing beliefs that are learned from a very early age is quite an undertaking. We know that as human beings, unless we want to make a change within ourselves, whether it be to stop drinking or smoking or to exercise more, the only way that we will follow through and succeed is if we can identify a benefit to ourselves. Our goal as facilitators is to help participants identify internal motivations that make them want to make changes in their lives—to be more respectful, to listen to their partners, to express themselves without being abusive, to be better parents, etc.

Over time, many participants do recognize that there are things that they would like to change about themselves and how they are in relationships. They can see benefits to being more engaged in their relationships—to compromise, to being with a partner who feels safe to express herself. At that point, our job is to help them practice how they might respond in challenging situations and to support them as they work toward making change.

## ***Do participants think they belong in this group?***

**A:** Not always. However, in time, they may see benefits to changing their behaviors and thinking, and realize the program will help them. (See above.)

## ***Do you get repeat(s) offenders in the program?***

**A:** Yes, we do.

## ***What are your favorite subjects/ themes?***

**A:** This is really hard to answer. However my top three would be:

1. Minimizing, Denying and Blaming (This tactic is used by men a lot. They always tend to minimize their abuse

*(Continued on page 3)*

## ***What is IDAP?***

**A:** IDAP is the Intensive Domestic Abuse Program. It is Department of Corrections (DOC) Program for violent offenders who have felony or multiple misdemeanor convictions related to domestic violence. It is an educational and cognitive behavioral program, the goal of which is to educate participants about what domestic abuse is and to help them explore their thinking and beliefs around that. The focus of the program is on behavior change, moving men to a place where they can be safe and respectful in intimate relationships while, at the same time, working with victims and ensuring their safety and support.

## ***Who is referred (from where)? How many (individuals and groups)?***

**A:** IDAP is a pre-approved furlough (PAF) program. Generally, participants are released into the community under strict DOC supervision with the requirement that they complete IDAP. If they don't comply with the supervision and programming requirements, they may be returned to jail.

According to the Statewide Standards for Programming for Men Who Batter Women, groups are limited to 8 participants. Groups may be larger than this for short periods of time. Currently, there are 3 groups in Bennington and the number varies from 4 to 8 per group. Groups meet twice a week for two hours each.

Enrollment in the program is ongoing. Group numbers fluctuate because some participants may be returned to jail for violations and others may be coming into the program at any time.

## ***What are some of the benefits and/or goals? Who would benefit?***

**A:** IDAP benefits many. Participants benefit from learning new ways of being with their partners and children and even with other individuals in their lives. When we help them to make these changes, we are helping increase the safety of the women and children they are in relationships with.

## IDAP Interview *(Continued from page 2)*

to their partner and/or blame it all on them)

2. Child Safe (It shows how much a father knows about his children and also how the children are affected by Domestic Violence)
3. Sexual Abuse (It is one of the hardest lessons for me to cover. However, it makes the participants realize that they have used this tactic in the past. The main part is that if you are in an abusive relationship the abuser will never know if their partner agreed to sexual intercourse. They have to take the abuse out of the picture to know what their partner's needs and wants are.

### ***Why do you choose to facilitate this group? Is it rewarding being involved in this program?***

**A:** I previously interned at PAVE, and I volunteered at Circle in Barre, Vermont, another domestic violence advocacy agency. I wanted to try something different and instead of working with victims I went to work with the abusers. I love facilitating groups and wish they were offered to more abusive men. It is rewarding being in this program. I hope that batterers can take something from this program and really explore their belief.

### ***What are some possible shortcomings of the group?***

**A:** As mentioned previously, making change in our lives is hard. It is particularly challenging working with men who batter because they generally have very strong beliefs, held since childhood, about women, children and relationships. These beliefs support their abuse. Additionally, many of their beliefs are supported by our culture, and all too often violence and abuse are condoned by their friends and/or family, as well.

We are asking men to change but they are in a mandated program; many don't feel they belong and don't see anything wrong in how they view women and children. The biggest hurdle is to help them realize the extent of their abuse, the widespread effects of their abuse and to help them see the benefits of making change. The next hurdle is to help them make the change. It's not an easy task.

In addition to this, many participants struggle with substance abuse or mental health issues. Programming is often interrupted by violations not necessarily related to group work.

*I would like to end by expressing my great thanks and appreciation to Sanda Micic who took the time to answer the above questions about the Intensive Domestic Assault Program. I hope you've learned something from this interview. I know I have. ■*

## Guiding Principles

*By Sandy Kelly, Advocate at Probation & Parole*

*What are the perceptions of PAVE in our community, among service providers and among victims? PAVE has been in existence for a long time, and we feel that the community may not fully understand PAVE's work. It may help community members to know what we base our advocacy on. Our role as advocates is to provide options, information and resources to our clients to increase their knowledge and safety. A strong belief of our agency is that each victim's view of **her own** success should guide our advocacy. This is her life; she has choices.*

PAVE bases its advocacy services on very specific guiding principles and goals. These principles are:

- Survivor defined: We look for direction from our clients; we don't assume what they need. It is not unusual for us to ask, "How can I help?" "What do you need?"
- Peer structured: We do not come from an authoritative position where we think we know better than our clients. We are equals.
- Educational: We pass on information we have to our clients so they can make more informed decisions.
- Voluntary: We do not mandate that clients participate in specific programs in order to receive services, but we do have expectations and ask clients to set goals for themselves.
- Confidential: We will not share information with anyone without the clients' consent.
- Social Justice Focused: There is accountability for everyone. We base this on the premise that everyone should have equal rights.

The guiding goals for our clients are: ♦ *safety*; ♦ *autonomy and agency* (having the ability to advocate for herself); ♦ *restoration* (helping to repair her life to a new normal); ♦ *justice* (ensuring legal and social fairness); ♦ *cultural transformation* (changing the cultural values that are not based on equal respect).

As an example of how these principles and goals guide us, just because a community agency wants or mandates that a client apply for a Relief From Abuse Order (RFA), we cannot be a part of any mandated process. We will not tell a victim what to do. Just because a community member has certain expectations from their client, we do not necessarily support those views. We will adhere to our principles and respect the clients' decision to choose.

Because our clients work with other community agencies that have their own guidelines and standards, our

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## **Guiding Principles** (Continued from page 3)

clients may become confused and not understand the differences between agencies. We are concerned that many women do not access needed services for fear that we too will encourage them to make decisions that they are not willing to make. For example, I heard from a client recently that she did not think PAVE would work with her because, as she said, "I was still with my guy." The reality is we won't tell a client to leave an abuser. This is futile because we know she has to be ready and motivated for that decision.

We respect our clients' decision to stay or leave, to seek services or not. Our services are here when they are ready to access them. They might call us the first violent incident or the sixth. We are here also for those in between times—between crises—when, in fact, a break in communication may be a very unsafe time for our client. Victims of abuse are controlled, maneuvered, threatened, and beaten by their partners' words and violence. They have been told over and over again, "Don't listen to those women at PAVE, they are men haters." The reality is we do serve men, but we do not tolerate violence and abusive tactics.

So how do we combat wrongful perceptions? We reiterate the facts....We are not trying to make anyone change. We keep doing our work. Victims need gentle support. We do not need to pull them in one direction while the batterer pulls in the other, and we certainly do not need to be a part of that cycle.

We want clients to make choices from a place of safety and health so they can begin to move forward. We advocate and support them until they can achieve that. This is the reality. This is how PAVE works. ■

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## **Letter** (Continued from page 1)

there is one thing you can do for yourself, if you are in a situation like this, is let someone know; talk to somebody; they cannot help if they do not know what is happening.

I had so many pre-conceived ideas about PAVE; none of it was true. They have support groups; you could sit in on one. If you don't like it, if its not for you, don't go back that's all.

I am not denying men aren't victims of abuse; they are, but this is my personal experience. One last thing: I hear a lot of women say, "It won't happen to me; if it does he will be out the door in a hurry." Ladies, I ask you are you faster than a speeding bullet?

HOLLY HAAS  
Pownal

[Printed with permission of the author. We admire Holly's candor and strength.] ■

## **Expectations of Children**

By Tiffany Blair, Family Time Assistant

We recently started another 10-week Nurturing Parenting Class at Family Time. A co-facilitator and I work with children of the parents that are in the program. During this time the children participate in a curriculum that coincides with the parents' curriculum, which is provided by Prevent Child Abuse Vermont (PCAVT.) Each week focuses around a different topic.

Of the series, one of my favorite topics is the one about expectations. Parents discuss reasonable expectations for their children at different ages.

As a parent this is one of my concerns as I raise my child, teaching him as he grows. When I was younger, my parents had somewhat different expectations at times. Some things I remember that were always expected were to be respectful of adults, do my best in school, use manners, and be a kid and not involved in adult problems. At different ages and stages there were always different expectations. When I was 7, my mom knew what I had for homework and helped me make sure it was always done. However when I was 16, I was expected to be aware of my own school work and get it done, but if I needed help it was there for me. Another expectation my mom had for me was to get a part-time job when I was 15. I think, even though at times I didn't want to work, especially when there was something going on Saturday night with my friends and I couldn't go because of work, it was reasonable. That is one thing I think I have carried with me. I never worked too much and it taught me to be responsible. I learned you have to work for things that you want and also how to budget and save money for things I wanted.

So now as a parent I struggle over the expectations I have for my son. Every child is different and grows at his/her own pace. One thing that is expected of one child may not be reasonable for another child of the same age. Milestones in the growth of an infant, potty training, learning to ride a bike will be reached by different children at different rates and times.

The expectations you have for your children molds them into the person they become. It will show them what is important to you, and what is important to you influences what will be important to them. You don't want to have high expectations that your child will never be able to reach because they will feel as if they have let you down. But you also don't want to have low expectations. There is a happy medium. Each family has their own ideas, morals and values. What's important to one family may be different from another.

Simply put, parenting is not just about one thing. Parenting is one of the most challenging jobs. So many

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## A Bittersweet Victory for Women and Men

By Nancy Feinberg, Volunteer. Coordinator

Until now, national and state rape statistics have been like comparing apples to oranges. However, by changing its 1929 definition of “forcible rape” to a broader, more encompassing definition that will closely resemble what many state statutes, including Vermont’s, use to prosecute sexual assault (rape), the federal government’s Uniform Crime Report (UCR) program <sup>1</sup> has the promise of depicting more accurately the occurrences of rape nationwide.

According to *New York Times* reporter, Charlie Savage, “many crimes that were prosecuted as rape under state laws...were not reflected in national statistics.” In order to meet federal reporting standards, local and state law enforcement had to “break down” their own rape figures, and so made only a “fraction” of their cases available to the UCR. Savage shows just how underrepresented national rape statistics can be. He reports that Chicago, for example, refused to toss out any of its 1400 rape cases, choosing instead to send no statistics to the UCR. <sup>2</sup>

The old definition of “forcible rape” is “the carnal knowledge of a female, forcibly and against her will.” The new definition defines rape as “penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any body part or object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, without the consent of the victim.”

The definition change and the way we rethink rape is a bittersweet victory for women and men. *Rape IS ALWAYS forced and always against our will. There is no middle ground.* It has been an uphill struggle for women to have others understand what they already know and what many have lived through.

For the first time, “force” is no longer the litmus test for nonconsensual sex. Many believe that if there is no evidence of physical force, then sex must be consensual. Consider the following instances where consent, without physical force, might not be given: an adult or child is drugged or highly intoxicated; is physically or mentally disabled; is underage (statutory rape) <sup>3</sup>; is coerced by threats of violence, or intimidated because a spouse or intimate partner is a batterer.

You may recall that during congressional budget appropriation hearings last year some argued “forcible rape” was the only basis for which a woman who became pregnant after someone raped her could use federal funds to get an abortion. *Women advocates and activists were aghast and decried assigning more importance to one category of rape over another. RAPE IS RAPE! We would not, could not, and will not fall victim to someone’s irrational logic that only if you put up a struggle does rape count.*

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## Verbal Abuse

By Mary Grey, PAVE Advocate/Bennington Police Dept.

“Sticks and stones may break my bones, but names will never hurt me.” Unfortunately, we know this is not true.

“The power of words to cause serious and often permanent harm is absolute....Verbal abuse is any use of language that causes someone harm....Criticism, cursing, recounting past offenses, expressing negative expectations, yelling, expressing distrust, all are forms of verbal abuse. The level of abuse can be gauged by the frequency, volume and emotional weight given to the words.” <sup>1</sup> All of which may result in emotional and psychological trauma such as confusion, guilt, depression, stress, low self-esteem and physical conditions as related to stress such as alopecia (loss of hair), or back pain.

Patricia Evans has written extensively on topics of domestic violence and verbal abuse. “People who experience both verbal abuse and physical abuse in a relationship say that the verbal abuse is the worst....Verbal abuse is usually hidden.” Ms. Evans goes on to say, “Verbal abuse is similar to mind control....Verbal abuse attacks one’s spirit and sense of self. Verbal abuse attempts to create self-doubt.” <sup>2</sup>

Verbal abuse may also consist of **threatening language and behaviors**. According to Wikipedia, “criminal threatening (or *threatening behavior*) is the crime of intentionally or knowingly putting another person in fear of imminent bodily injury. ‘Threat of harm generally involves a perception of injury...physical or mental damage...act or instance of injury, or a material detriment or loss to a person.’”<sup>3</sup>

The one point that often arises when working with a victim is, “...but, there has been verbal abuse.” This alone does not fit the legal criteria that are essential when completing a “Complaint for Relief From Abuse” (RFA). When applying for an RFA it is important to have the victim be specific with “threats” made to her to include language used such as cursing, shouting and body language, for example, “He held his fist in my face and shouted ‘I’m going to break your #(\*:^^ jaw again with this fist.’” NOT, “Hon, you look fat in that dress!”

The judge must interpret the law requirement and looks specifically for words that are threatening. The victim needs to demonstrate that the **verbal abuse has caused** him/her to be placed in **fear of imminent serious physical harm**. Of course there are a number of other factors to consider, such as history of abuse, children witnessing the abuse, circumstances, and, of course physical injury.

If you, a friend or a relative feels they need help, please call the PAVE Hotline 802-442-111. For more information about verbal abuse and domestic violence,

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- *The average child molester will molest fifty girls before being caught and convicted.*
- *A child molester that seeks out boys will molest 150 boys before being caught and convicted and he will commit at least 280 sexual crimes in his lifetime.*

Source: [www.registeredoffenderslist.org](http://www.registeredoffenderslist.org)

### **Bittersweet Victory** (Continued from page 5)

It IS time we rethink rape. Boys, male survivors of boyhood sexual assault, and adult male rape victims have systematically been discounted by the UCR. To be male and to be raped did not fit into the FBI's definition of "forcible rape." Now, for the first time, male victims will be included in the UCR's category for rape.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently published their 2010 study entitled *National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS)*, highlighting the degree to which men and women have been subjected to rape. The study interviewed 16,507 adults (9,086 women and 7,421 men) about violence that occurred for the 12-months immediately prior to the survey, as well as occurrences over their lifetime. <sup>4</sup> The survey found that:

- Thirteen percent of women and 6% of men have experienced sexual coercion in their lifetime (i.e., unwanted sexual penetration after being pressured in a nonphysical way)
- One in 71 men have been raped in their lifetime
- Twenty-eight percent of male victims of rape were first raped when they were 10 years old or younger.

The revised definition of rape is non-gender specific about either victim or perpetrator. Transgendered and same-sex victims will count. Victims penetrated by objects will count. Anal and oral penetration will count.

These are small victories because thousands of rapes previously discounted by FBI standards will now be included in national statistics. The message to boys and men, gays, transgendered, and women—who so often suffer, hide and endure the injustices for a lifetime—is that we take the act of rape seriously, and we support you in your courage to come forward.

The nation will see the full extent and pervasiveness of the problem. In order to reflect accurately what is happening nationwide and to have effective data collection, the FBI's UCR must represent all victims and categories of sexual assault (rape). Accuracy in reporting also means being able to gauge what monies should be allocated for prevention and, when/if that fails, for services to victims of rape.

Within the next few years, we can expect rates of reported sexual assaults (rapes) to increase. It will be interesting to watch the UCR's statistics in the coming years, as well as the CDC's ongoing national survey, which

will track sexual assault, intimate partner violence and stalking on individuals over a lifetime.

We need to stop denying that men we know—"trusted" friends, family, loved ones, our "respected" community leaders—rape our brothers, sons and daughters, mothers, and sisters. Stopping rape means stopping men who rape. We need to stop the scandals and cover-ups committed by "respected" individuals and "revered" institutions. We need to lift our voices, and support our domestic and sexual violence agencies whose aim is to prevent, not just reduce, sexual assaults.

Starting now, and until we get it right, we have to do a better job of protecting and prevention.

<sup>1</sup>Federal Bureau of Investigation Uniform Crime Report. [www.fbi.gov](http://www.fbi.gov).

<sup>2</sup>U.S. to Expand Its Definition of Rape in Statistics. January 6, 2012. [www.nytimes.com/2012/01/07/us/politics/federal-crime-statistics-to-expand-rape-definition.htm](http://www.nytimes.com/2012/01/07/us/politics/federal-crime-statistics-to-expand-rape-definition.htm)

<sup>3</sup>Department of Justice, *For Immediate Release: Attorney General Eric Holder Announces Revisions to the Uniform Crime Report's Definition of Rape: Data Reported on Rape Will Better Reflect State Criminal Codes, Victim Experiences*. January 6, 2012. [www.justice.gov](http://www.justice.gov).

<sup>4</sup>[www.cdc.gov/ViolencePrevention/NISVS](http://www.cdc.gov/ViolencePrevention/NISVS). ■

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### **Verbal Abuse** (Continued from page 5)

please go to the sites below or search "verbal abuse domestic violence."

<sup>1</sup>Definition of Verbal Abuse by Glen D. Williams. [http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Glen\\_D.\\_Williams](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Glen_D._Williams)

<sup>2</sup>The Verbal Abuse Site, by Patricia Evans/ [www.verbalabuse.com](http://www.verbalabuse.com)

<sup>3</sup>Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Intimidation>. ■

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### **Expectations** (Continued from page 4)

factors play a role in what you do and how you do it. It's both hard and confusing, but also most rewarding. You sometimes learn as you go, but it's great to have resources where you exchange ideas from others, such as the Nurturing Parenting Class. There's always something new to learn. ■

**Let's Talk About It** (Continued from page 1)

Bennington. Do you know there is a Bennington County Domestic and Sexual Violence Task Force that has been in existence for over seventeen years working to address the ongoing and increasing issues of domestic and sexual violence?

If you're thinking rape can't happen to you or anyone you know, then your head is in the clouds. It can happen to anyone! Chances are very good that you already know someone that has experienced this suffering, but they may never talk about it. Wouldn't it be wonderful if women and men could stop feeling the shame and the blame of being sexually violated, but instead could feel supported and know that we are working seriously to hold perpetrators accountable and responsible?

What are you going to do to end sexual violence? It's

easier to think, "Let someone else figure it out," but easier isn't always better. PAVE has been in existence for over thirty years, but we cannot do this work alone. On April 26<sup>th</sup>, PAVE will sponsor a Take Back the Night March and Candlelight Vigil in Bennington. Think what your presence could mean to women and men that have endured and survived sexual assault. Maybe more men would come forward and get the help they deserve if they saw more men publicly support ending sexual violence. Mark April 26<sup>th</sup> on your calendar and think about making it a family event. Children will learn from watching you. Instill in them that they have a voice and that we all have a responsibility to our community.

Sexual violence thrives in silence. Show up, take part, and let's talk about it. ■

## **GFWC TO AWARD SCHOLARSHIPS TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SURVIVORS** **\$8,000 in Scholarships to be Awarded in June 2012**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

February 21, 2012 (Washington, D.C.) – The General Federation of Women's Clubs is offering a unique opportunity to help domestic violence survivors rebuild their lives. Through its *GFWC Success for Survivors Scholarship* program, the organization will award eight, \$1,000 scholarships in June 2012 to fund survivors' academic pursuits.

"GFWC has a 122-year history of enhancing the lives of others through community improvement and volunteer service," explains GFWC International President Carlene A. Garner. "The *GFWC Success for Survivors Scholarship* will make a difference in the lives of domestic violence survivors around the country by helping them pursue their education and career dreams."

The GFWC scholarship was established to provide domestic violence survivors with a means to achieve financial and personal independence and channel GFWC members' steadfast commitment to the prevention of domestic violence. The scholarships are funded through generous donations from GFWC members, partners, and friends through the *GFWC Signature Project: Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention Fund*.

"We are so grateful to those who have made this scholarship possible," says GFWC Signature Project: Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention Chairman Beverly Lassiter. "Their generosity will positively impact eight individuals' pursuit of education and independence."

Survivors of intimate partner abuse seeking full- or

part-time higher education to advance their careers, train for a new career, or reenter the job market are encouraged to apply for the *GFWC Success for Survivors Scholarship*. Candidates must be sponsored by a nonprofit domestic violence agency and GFWC club. The agency sponsor must have worked with the applicant for a minimum of six months. GFWC club sponsors offer encouragement to the applicant throughout his or her educational tenure.

**The scholarship application deadline is March 30, 2012. For more information about the *GFWC Success for Survivors Scholarship* and to apply, go to [www.GFWC.org](http://www.GFWC.org).**

### About the General Federation of Women's Clubs

The General Federation of Women's Clubs is a unifying force, bringing together local women's clubs, with members dedicated to strengthening their communities and enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service. With 104,000 members in affiliated clubs in every state and more than a dozen countries, GFWC members are community leaders who work locally to create global change by supporting the arts, preserving natural resources, advancing education, promoting healthy lifestyles, encouraging civic involvement, and working toward world peace and understanding.

For scholarship questions, go to [www.GFWC.org](http://www.GFWC.org) or contact Katie Sullivan at [KSullivan@GFWC.org](mailto:KSullivan@GFWC.org) or 202-347-3168 ext. 121. ■



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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:

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**Contact PAVE to discuss volunteer opportunities. Thank you.**

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

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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.

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