



Women's Rural Advocacy Program
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Marshall, MN 56258

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Let's WRAP Quarterly Newsletter

Women's Rural Advocacy Programs, Inc.

Winter 2011

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

The mission of the Women's Rural Advocacy Programs is to provide supportive services including crisis intervention, advocacy and safe-housing. The priority population, work and dedication is to provide services for women and their children victimized by domestic violence. Assisting to protect battered women and their children from further violence. Committed to bringing women's strengths together in creating empowerment where domestic abuse exists. Educating communities and systems about the realities of violence in the home. Assisting communities in planning and organizing to end domestic violence. The ultimate goal is to work for the major societal changes necessary to eliminate both personal and societal violence against all women and their children. The management team is based on equality, honesty and an atmosphere of trust and mutual respect. Its structure is non-hierarchical and non-bureaucratic. The group as a whole share decision making and responsibilities.

*May the dawn of this New Year,
Bring promises of new joy for you...
May each of your days be blessed...
With peace, prosperity, and happiness too!*

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Winter



2011

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WRAP—Redwood County:

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Happy New Year!

WRAP's New Assistant!

Hello everyone,

I'd like to start by saying thank you to everyone for making me feel welcome. For those that have not had the opportunity of meeting me, my name is Sylvia and I am the new WRAP assistant. I live in Marshall, MN, am 26-years-old, and have two beautiful children. I currently attend Southwest Minnesota State University. I'm working on a double major; one being Justice Administration and the other Political Science. I hope to take what I learn from working with WRAP into my future career plans.

Thank You!

Donation Form

DONOR INFORMATION

NAME: _____

ORGANIZATION: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ AMOUNT: _____

REQUEST FOR RECEIPT: YES NO

Local support of WRAP is critical to meet increasing costs to deliver services.

WRAP has provided services to victims of domestic violence for 15 years.

Your contribution to the program is greatly appreciated!

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: Women's Rural Advocacy Programs, Inc.

WRAP is a non-profit organization. Your gift to the program is tax deductible. A receipt for your donation will be sent to you upon request.

MAIL DONATION TO: WRAP, Box 1193, Marshall, MN 56258



Thank You!!!

WRAP would like to say "Thank You" to all of those who made cash and non-cash donations to the program in 2011! Your ongoing support is greatly appreciated!

CELL PHONE COLLECTION



Please recycle your old cell phones to benefit:

Women's Rural Advocacy Programs, Inc.

Money will be earned for each recycled phone. Help us reach our goal today!

WRAP continues to collect old cell phones. Many of you have old cell phones gathering dust and taking up space. These phones can be put to good use.

Please consider donating cell phones that you no longer use, no matter the condition. Drop off used phones at one of our office locations or you can mail them to us.

Thank you!

CONGRESS APPROVES VITAL FUNDING FOR VAWA

DECEMBER 06, 2011

“The National Network to End Domestic Violence commends Congress for passing this appropriations bill which includes significant funding for these critically-needed services,” said Sue Else, NNEDV’s president. “In these challenging economic times, programs across the country are struggling to do more with less. With this federal funding, VAWA programs can continue to work as a coordinated community to keep victims safe and hold perpetrators accountable.”

In the current state of the economy, domestic violence programs struggle to handle increased workloads as more victims with fewer resources seek assistance. In fact, the National Network to End Domestic Violence’s 2010 National Domestic Violence Census reported that 82% of programs reported a rise in demand for services, while 77% of programs reported a decrease in funding. In 2010, domestic violence programs laid off or did not replace 2,007 staff positions due to a lack of funding.

The bill includes \$25 million for the VAWA Transitional Housing Program, which funds temporary housing programs and an array of social services for domestic and sexual violence victims after they leave emergency shelter, providing a bridge between crisis and long-term safety and stability. Importantly, the bill also included a total of \$23 million in funding for the Sexual Assault Services Program.

The bill provided level funding for many other VAWA programs, including the Services, Training, Officers, Prosecutors (STOP) grants, which support innovative criminal justice responses; the Civil Legal Assistance for Victims program; and programs to address abuse of older or disabled individuals.

“We recognize that this is an extremely challenging fiscal time and that Congress is faced with making difficult funding decisions. We are grateful for the appropriators’ support of these cost-effective, lifesaving programs,” said Else. “We are especially thankful for the steadfast commitment and leadership on the part of Senate CJS Subcommittee Chairwoman Barbara Mikulski, House CJS Subcommittee Chairman Frank Wolf, Senate CJS Subcommittee Ranking Member Kay Bailey Hutchison, and House CJS Subcommittee Ranking Member Chaka Fattah.”

<http://www.nnedv.org/news/national/934-congress-approves-funding-for-vawa.html>

Violence Against Women

Facts and Figures

Violence against women and girls is a problem of pandemic proportions. Based on country data available, up to 70% of women experience physical or sexual violence from men in their lifetime—the majority by husbands, intimate partners or someone they know. Among women aged between 15-44, acts of violence cause more death and disability than cancer, malaria, traffic accidents and war combined. Perhaps the most pervasive human rights violation that we know today, violence against women devastates lives, fractures communities, and stalls development. It takes many forms and occurs in many places—domestic violence in the home, sexual abuse of girls in schools, sexual harassment at work, rape by husbands or strangers, in refugee camps or as a tactic of war.

Femicide—the murder of women because they are women

- In the United States, one-third of women murdered each year are killed by intimate partners.
- In South Africa, a woman is killed every 6 hours by an intimate partner.
- In India, 22 women were killed each day in dowry-related murders in 2007.
- In Guatemala, two women are murdered, on average, each day.



<http://saynotoviolence.org/issue/facts-and-figures>

Trafficking

- Women and girls comprise 80% of the estimated 800,000 people trafficked annually, with the majority (79%) trafficked for sexual exploitation.

Harmful Practices

- Approximately 100 to 140 million girls and women in the world have experienced female genital mutilation/cutting, with more than 3 million girls in Africa annually at risk of the practice.
- Over 60 million girls worldwide are child brides, married before the age of 18, primarily in South Asia (31.1 million) and Sub-Saharan Africa (14.1 million)

Sexual Violence Against Women and Girls

- An estimated 150 million girls under 18 suffered some form of sexual violence in 2002 alone.
- As many as 1 in 4 women experience physical and/or sexual violence during pregnancy which increases the likelihood of having a miscarriage, stillbirth, and abortion. Up to 53% of women physically abused by their intimate partners are being kicked or punched in the abdomen.
- In Sao Paulo, Brazil, a woman is assaulted every 15 seconds.
- In Ecuador, adolescent girls reporting sexual violence in school identified teachers as the perpetrator in 37% of cases.

Rape as a Method of Warfare

- Approximately 250,000 to 500,000 women and girls were raped in the 1994 Rwandan genocide.
- In eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, at least 200,000 cases of sexual violence, mostly involving women and girls, have been documented since 1996, though the actual numbers are considered to be much higher.

Cost of Violence Against Women

- Domestic violence alone costs approximately US\$1.16 billion in Canada and US\$5.8 billion in the United States. In Australia, violence against women and children costs an estimated US\$11.38 billion per year.

Sexual Harassment

- Between 40-50% of women in European Union countries experience unwanted sexual advancements, physical contact or other forms of sexual harassment at their workplace.
- In the United States, 83% of girls aged 12-16 experienced some form of sexual harassment in public schools.

Support Reauthorization of VAWA!

Senate Judiciary Committee Pat Leahy (D-Vt.) and Senator Mike Crapo (R-Idaho) recently introduced bipartisan legislation to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act. Passed in 1994, VAWA provides vital resources for states and communities to respond to domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. The proposed legislation includes additional provisions to encourage joint efforts by schools, youth organizations, and domestic violence agencies to prevent and respond to domestic violence among young people. Contact your senators and representative to encourage their support of this important legislation.

For more information, go to www.GFWC.org and click on the link.

Critical legislation related to serving and protecting domestic violence victims includes the Violence Against Women Act, which was signed into law in August of 1994 as a part of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (PL-103-322).

VAWA has the following goals:

- Enhance judicial and law enforcement tools to combat violence against women.
- Improve services, protection, and justice for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.
- Strengthen America's families by preventing violence.
- Reinforce the healthcare system's response to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.
- Offer housing opportunities and safety for battered women, teens, and children.
- Provide economic security for victims.
- Protect battered and trafficked immigrants.

VAWA was reauthorized by Congress in 2000, and again in October 2005, when it passed the Senate unanimously. The bill was signed into law by President George W. Bush on January 5, 2006. Legislation to reauthorize VAWA was introduced in November 2011 and includes the following additions:

- Increased monitoring by states and local communities to provide earlier intervention for survivors and potential victims.
- Improved law enforcement response to sexual assaults to build stronger legal cases and direct victims to services.
- Targeted prevention programs for young people through joint efforts by schools, youth organizations, and domestic violence agencies.