

## Dear Friends,

As the leaves change, and we begin to look towards the new year, we pause to reflect over our accomplishments of the past year. We were able to reach and support 1291 survivors, almost 300 more than the prior year. Part of the growth can be attributed to the elevated conversation at the national level. But most of it is attributed to our more visible presence at Dartmouth and within Upper Valley schools and our communities. We reached 36% more students, we trained over 100 people as volunteers, and countless others participated in ending gender-based violence in one way or another.

Community is what we create together. There are so many ways that you are joining us and engaging with us in our work. You share the commitment and an acceptance of responsibility to collaborate in creating a community where we all can thrive. Your participation is essential to our mission. We all have different talents, different strengths, different needs, and there are different roles we can play to end gender-based violence. Thank you for working by our side and sharing our mission.

Warmly,

  
Peggy



## Save the dates

*A WISE Breakfast*  
November 14 at 8:15 am

*Court Observer Training*  
December 4, March 2, April 30, June 6  
9:00 am-11:30 am

*Covered Bridges Half Marathon*  
Team WISE Sign-up • Starts December 15

*RVC Spin-a-thon 2017*  
March 24

*Unedited Voices*  
Coming in April

*Foundations of Gender-Based Violence*  
Spring Training I starts March 1  
Spring Training II starts June 17

## Board Members

Jenny Williams, *President*  
Sharin Luti, *Vice President*  
Patricia Spellman, *Treasurer*  
Emily Dentzer, *Secretary*  
Brian Edwards • Gail Gentes • Pat Glowa  
Martha Goodrich • Kate Griffiths Harrison  
Valerie Nevel • Margaret Rightmire  
Gretchen Rittenhouse • Mike Shipulski  
Peggy O'Neil, *Executive Director*  
Kathleen Durante, *Tuck Revers Board Fellow*  
Martina Ravelli, *Tuck Revers Board Fellow*  
Susan Dewees, *Board Emeritus*

*Margaret Rightmire joined the WISE Board of Directors in September for a three-year term. Margaret is currently a Director at Ledyard National Bank and a consultant in financial management, strategic planning, operations and governance. Margaret, a Dartmouth and Tuck Alumna, also actively serves on several other nonprofit boards. Margaret is a resident of Hanover, New Hampshire.*

# highlights

November 2017

end violence  
**wise**  
share hope • change lives



*KK Durante and Martina Ravelli*

## Our 2017 Tuck Fellows

The Tuck School of Business Revers Board Fellows program brings together students and local non-profits. It gives students an opportunity to become involved in the community, apply their business skills, and learn about organizational governance. We have participated in the program since 2011. This year, Martina Ravelli and KK Durante join our Board for one year.

Martina, raised in the Italian Alps, worked at Deloitte Advisory, assisting companies with compliance, risk management, and business improvement projects. Due to her personal history, our mission immediately resonated. She is eager to contribute in whatever way she can. In her free time, she enjoys cooking, working out, and hiking with her husband John and with their German Shepherd dog Tuckie.

KK, a poli-sci major from Williams College, worked with several businesses including Harvard Business School, HawkPartners and New Balance, focusing on corporate governance, healthcare, and marketing. KK is excited to give back to the school and the Upper Valley community in meaningful ways. She looks forward to being involved with our valuable work in support of a better and brighter future for women and their children.

“Gender-based violence happens because people choose to commit violence. We can create a culture where it’s just something people don’t want to choose or aren’t able to choose.”

*- Kate Rohdenburg, WISE Program Director*

## Creating violence-free communities

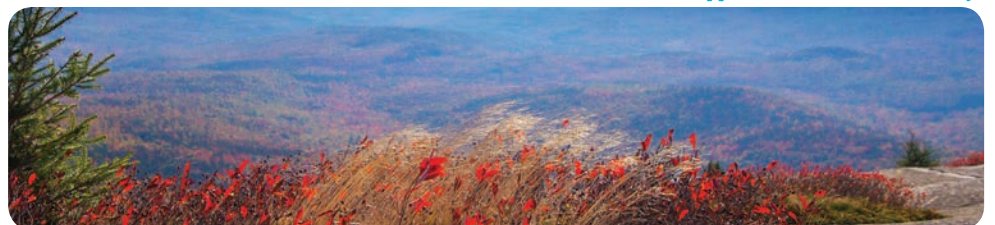
By increasing our presence and visibility, community members know that they can come to us to get support and information. They know that WISE is a leader and together we can create a culture without gender-based violence.

We draw from the experience and knowledge that we have gained from supporting many thousands of survivors for nearly fifty years, decades of research and international professional networks, and we channel it into our prevention and education program. We freely share our knowledge so our communities can better support survivors and, ultimately, create a community where violence no longer exists.

Our education program is a three-part program. The first part is our school-based youth violence prevention program. Our educators work with students at all grade levels in nine school districts across the Upper Valley. The second part is the volunteer training program. We reach out to people in the community and invite them to participate in our work. The third part is the professional training program. It is important that professionals are trauma-informed and can respond appropriately to survivors. On any given day, you will find us doing nursing grand rounds, training law enforcement, leading allied professional training, and working with systems to better support survivors.

Prevention is not a one-time thing. It does not happen after one interaction. It is about building relationships that people can be vulnerable in, explore new ideas, and feel encouraged to get the information and support they need. We are participating in the community in a way that is responsive and reflective of a partnership with both the people who are working to change the world and the people who are most vulnerable because of the world.

*The Upper Connecticut River Valley*





## Volunteer spotlight: Margery Phillips in her own words

*"The woman enters the courtroom, sometimes with a WISE advocate, sometimes with an attorney, sometimes entirely alone. She can be any age, even elderly. Her eyes scan the room, unsure, wary, frightened. My fellow WISE court observers and I are present as silent witnesses for this brave survivor seeking Court protection from further abuse.*



*Margery surrounded by her family*

*I hope she finds my face, that our eyes meet, that she sees kindness and understanding in mine. In hers I see my daughter, my seven granddaughters...and me. And when she tells her story of violence, sometimes unbearable to hear, I look for my own comfort in the kind faces of my WISE pals.*

*I am a 73-year-old woman retired after an extensive career as a litigation paralegal, when I was immersed in squabbles between corporations about contracts, power and money. Nothing about my past career was as personally meaningful as this work for WISE and what happens in this courtroom for each survivor."*

## WISE in the news

We hope you saw us on television, heard us on the radio, and read about us in print. Media outlets continue to reach out to us, recognizing WISE as the expert on gender-based violence. Valley News, Vermont Standard, Union Leader, Concord Monitor, and Mary Christie Quarterly covered our work. Dartmouth College and University of New Hampshire digital and print publications wrote about us. We had appearances on WMUR Channel 9, WNTK Talk Radio and NPR. The Book Jam Blog even called us for some recommendations of books to read during Sexual Violence Awareness Month. Check out our archives and visit [www.wiseuv.org/who-we-are.html#news](http://www.wiseuv.org/who-we-are.html#news).

## Our very WISE athletes

"No one can do everything, but everyone can do something." This well-known saying came alive this past year with a record number of community members who helped to raise money for us through their own generous sweat equity. Over sixty-five individuals participated in either the River Valley Club's Spin-a-thon or the Covered Bridges Half Marathon, and each of them reached out to friends, family, colleagues and neighbors for the benefit of WISE. Our successful fundraising year was based in large part on these wonderful spinners and runners, and even more importantly, their efforts demonstrate a desire to participate in the important work to end gender-based violence. This is quite something, indeed.



*2017 RVC Spin-a-thon*



*Susan Wills, Alisa Brisson, Marion Waters*

## Offering many WISE opportunities

*"The Upper Valley is not that huge of a place. We get to be in control of our culture and our community. We can live in an Upper Valley that does not have gender-based violence" - Chelsea Williams, WISE Prevention and Education Manager*

Over a year ago we refined our volunteer program to bring more community members into the organization. Traditionally, we had one 30-hour training program with the end goal of creating a pool of volunteer advocates to support the crisis line. We realized that many people wanted to be a part of the organization and help us in our mission, but that being on the crisis line was not necessarily the right fit. By separating the training into two distinct parts, we make the program more accessible to more people. The first part of training, Foundations of Gender-based Violence, offers people the space to learn about

domestic and sexual violence and creates many opportunities for people to engage in our work. By providing a solid foundation, we create a platform for people to understand the issue, discuss how it impacts our communities, and invite community members to identify their own roles in supporting our mission. Once completed, volunteers become Ambassadors, table at farmers markets, and attend community events representing WISE. With their presence, we are more visible and accessible within the various communities that we serve. With further more specialized training, volunteers develop skills to increase their involvement by becoming volunteer advocates.

In two years, we have more than doubled our wonderful volunteer pool from forty-three active volunteers to over one hundred. That is quite a force of people within our communities. And, most of our volunteers hold several overlapping roles. An Ambassador might also be a Crisis Line Advocate. A Program Center volunteer might also be a Court Observer. The prevalence of volunteers holding different roles within the organization is indicative of their dedication and commitment to always "do more" with the organization.

## WISE kids at camp

Summer camp can be an amazing time for children to experience new things or simply be outside in a unique environment. Yet, summer opportunities can be difficult for families in crisis because of financial and logistical challenges. We are able to provide camperships to a number of kids with the support of our communities. Whether taking karate or an art class, going to scouting camp, or simply working out at the CCBA with a gym membership, these opportunities offer normal childhood experiences. We could not do it without the support of local camps and the "Not in Our House" fund created by the Lebanon High School girls lacrosse team in the memory of Natalie Perriello, and generously supported by The Jack and Dorothy Byrne Foundation.

## Our WISE groups

Trauma Center Trauma Sensitive Yoga, WISE Women Writing and Women for Sobriety are ongoing groups. Please call the Program Center if you would like to learn more about the winter and spring sessions.

## WISE partnership with WANN

Welcoming All Nationalities Network of the Upper Valley (WANN) provides consultations and legal assistance to low-income individuals in immigration matters. For six years, we have been a fiscal sponsor of WANN. Some people we work with have the added complication of immigration issues that make it difficult to leave their abusers. For any victim, it can be very complicated trying to navigate the legal system. For a non-US citizen, it can be even more complex considering language barriers, unfamiliarity with



systems, and implications of immigration status. By partnering with WANN we can better support this group of survivors.

## Our partnerships with Dartmouth



We continue to advocate for a considerable number of Dartmouth survivors. Our goals center on advocating, being accessible to survivors on campus and increasing our outreach efforts to ensure that WISE is a well-known resource among the student population. We continue to work closely with the Title IX office to ensure that survivors who come forward are aware of WISE on campus and understand that they can have an advocate present with them at meetings throughout campus processes. We have seen an increase in survivors accessing WISE from building this relationship with the Title IX office.



*Three years on  
Dartmouth College  
campus*

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As we start our third year in partnership with Dartmouth, we have greater opportunities to do outreach on campus. We are included in many orientation activities for both the undergraduate and graduate schools, as well as training staff. With the increased visibility, we have the ability to discuss WISE as a resource with both incoming students and professionals responding to disclosures.



*2017 Dartmouth Medical Students*

## Digital communication

We are excited to share that there is one more way for us to connect directly with you. We now have new digital communication capabilities! Help us develop our email list so that we can share our current news and upcoming events with you. Simply email Lisa at [lisa.macdonald@wiseuv.org](mailto:lisa.macdonald@wiseuv.org) and share your email address. We look forward to keeping you up to date with current WISE news.

## Join us for breakfast

Do not forget to reserve a spot for our breakfast on November 14. We will share with you the many things we do every day to end gender-based violence. Come start the day with us, enjoy a healthy breakfast, and leave energized with all things WISE. Call Lisa to reserve a spot. 603-448-5922 extension 118.

*Our new Program Center porch*



## Our fresh look

Stop by the Program Center and see the structural changes. The days of experiencing cold rain dripping on your head are over! Domus Custom Builders ([www.domusbuilt.com](http://www.domusbuilt.com)) generously built a new porch roof so that our visitors are protected from the rain and snow when they come to our door. And, as often happens during construction, we discovered some damaged siding. The boards were replaced and we are now fixed up and freshly painted! Many thanks to our wonderful friends at Domus for their generosity and superior workmanship.



## Creating healthy kids

Our Youth Violence Program grew significantly last year, reaching 36% more young people. Our curriculum is an annual multi-session program offered throughout a student's educational career. Our vision is that students in the Upper Valley have access to this critical information, regardless of age and the school they happen to attend.

Last year, we increased our presence in elementary schools. We want to connect with each Upper Valley child at a younger age. It is critical to reach children as early as kindergarten in order to begin building skills and creating a foundation. We not only introduce the possibility of living their lives without violence, but we also ensure that we are available as they process either the violence they experience themselves, or the violence they witness. By giving kids skills and understanding, we ensure that they can navigate and challenge the assumptions that our culture teaches them. We are helping to create healthier and safer communities. A whole generation of WISE people.

We were pleased to add Canaan Elementary, Enfield Village School, and Marion Cross Elementary to our list of WISE elementary schools. But the increase in scheduled schools did have its challenges. Our two prevention experts shared one set of anatomically correct babies. At one point they had to execute a mid-air transfer of babies at the side of the road through the car window! This year brings an additional set of babies and a new prevention educator. We welcome Leah Wolk-Derksen to our team of very WISE educators.



*Our WISE PEP Squad: Kate, Chelsea, and Leah*



*As seen in Woodstock*

*Kate, Chelsea, and Delaney flying to the ALC*



*“You can’t ever break up with yourself. So you have to love yourself the best!” – 5th grade student*

## Our WISE team graduates

We are pleased to announce that Kate Rohdenburg, Chelsea Williams, and Delaney Anderson graduated from the Advocacy Learning Center, a national program through the U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women. The 18-month course was designed to strengthen how advocacy programs engage with survivors, address institutional responses to violence against women, and involve the community in ending violence.

WISE was selected as one of only 15 programs in the new class. Their participation deepens our ability to have a greater impact in the Upper Valley to support survivors of violence and engage the community in ending gender-based violence.

## WISE Windsor County rural project

In October, we were awarded a highly competitive Rural Grant from the Department of Justice's Office of Violence Against Women. This project-specific funding opportunity is dedicated to serving the Windsor County communities within our service area, with a particular focus on Windsor, West Windsor, Weathersfield, and Reading.

The three-year grant of \$490,382 will develop a coordinated, trauma-informed response to victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, and stalking in these communities, and address needs specific to youth and immigrant victims. Project partners include Mount Ascutney Hospital and Health Center, Windsor County Unit for Special Investigation, Windsor County State Attorney Office, Welcoming All Nationalities Network (WANN), The Junction Teen Life Center/The Listen Center, The Upper Valley Haven, and The Good Neighbor Health Clinic.



*Fall in Windsor, Vermont*