

Dear Friends,

We have seen increased attention by the media and others to the issues of domestic and sexual violence. Civil rights investigations on college campuses, allegations of crimes by NFL players, and exposures of international atrocities against women and girls are creating a greater public dialogue. As WISE enters its forty-fourth year of providing advocacy and support services to victims of this violence, we look forward to helping our community continue this conversation in an informed and thoughtful way. We know how important it is to listen to and to believe victims, and we encourage you - as friends, family, colleagues, and neighbors - to do the same. As supporters of WISE, you demonstrate a commitment to healthier and safer relationships for all. We are so grateful for you.

Warm regards,

Peggy
Peggy



July 2013 - June 2014

21 Communities
72000 Individuals
1100 Victims/Survivors
1177 Nights in Shelter
969 Safety Plans
842 After-hour Calls
425 Accompaniments

Board Members

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Peggy O'Neil, Susan Dewees, *Board Emeritus*

**Crisis Support
Advocacy & Prevention** | Domestic Violence
Sexual Assault
Stalking

highlights

April 2015



“I felt hopeless, powerless and destined to suffer for the rest of my life. The WISE advocates were comforting, supportive and encouraging. It didn't take long for me to see there was hope.”



With generous community support, including Jane's Trust and The Timken Foundation, we purchased our **Safe Home** in December 2013. After a year of renovations, we officially opened our doors on March 16, 2015. We realized our dream to provide a warm, nurturing and holistic space where victims can be safe and begin their journey towards healing and self-sufficiency.

Our unique curricula in **healthy relationship skills** and **sexual violence prevention** for K-12 students and educators are a vital part to an integrated response for future violence prevention. We are pleased to welcome our 7th school district - Windsor Southwest Supervisory Union. Our involvement in elementary school prevention education continues to increase.

We are increasing our presence at **Dartmouth College**. We are working with Greek houses, Undergraduate Advisers (UGAs) and Dartmouth staff to better support victims and prevent sexual assault. The student-run organization, **WISE@D**, provides peer support and creative outreach within the college community.

The **Lethality Assessment Program (LAP)** was developed to help law enforcement and medical professionals identify victims at high risk for homicide by intimate partner. When domestic violence is suspected, professionals ask a series of questions using the Lethality Screen for First Responders. If responses indicate an increased risk for homicide, victims are immediately put in contact with the WISE crisis line to begin safety planning and receive services. We continue to train police departments and hospital staff how to use this very important tool.

Visit www.WISEuv.org, our new web-site launched in January. We created a virtual office to provide community-based support, information and education. The new site educates how to identify intimate partner violence, increase safety, and support victims and survivors of domestic violence, sexual violence and stalking. Learn about our amazing programs offered by WISE and how you continue to make a difference.

Our **Program Center** continues to be a strong, vibrant and healing space for survivors. We offer a variety of support groups including yoga, Qui Gong, Women For Sobriety, Women Writers and We're Acting to End Violence (WAEV).



As seen in a Dartmouth fraternity.

This fall we offered two **Program Center Tours** and welcomed community members who had not visited our center. During the tours, Executive Director Peggy O'Neil shared information about WISE and answered questions from participants. Future tours are scheduled for April 14 and May 28. *Please contact Edith at 603-448-5922 x118 for a reservation.*

WISE About Town: Have you seen us at community events? Many local organizations designate WISE as their beneficiary. We are grateful to be continuously recognized and supported for all the work we do. Quechee Music Festival, UV Community Band at Lebanon Opera House, Howe Library Spreads the Word, RVC Spin-a-thon.

Join us for upcoming events:

- Flash Mob: First rehearsal 4/8
- Quick Silver Improv Comedy Show: 4/11
- Dan & Whit's Wine Tasting: 5/20
- Covered Bridges Half Marathon: 6/7

We established a **Board Designated Endowment Fund** with the generous initial gift from one of our strongest supporters. The fund will provide a reliable, long-term stream of revenue to help support our on-going efforts to remain a stable and strong organization for many years to come.



Abby Tassel

Congratulations to Abby Tassel, Assistant Director of WISE! She is the 2015 recipient of the **Visionary Voice** award. The NSVRC offers the Visionary Voice award, in conjunction with Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) each April. The award recognizes the creativity and hard work of individuals around the country who demonstrate outstanding work to end sexual violence. We are very excited that Abby is honored with this award.

Our May 2015 **Volunteer Advocate Training** begins May 2. Our crisis line is available every hour, every day because of our dedicated volunteers. Join us and strengthen listening, support and crisis management skills. Develop a unique and critical lens of the experiences and cultural context of domestic and dating violence, sexual violence and stalking. *For more information contact: chelsea.williams@wiseoftheuppervalley.com*

How Can I Help WISE? People often ask us how they can best support us in our mission to end violence, share hope and save lives. We value community participation and there are many different ways that you can help. Volunteer Advocates • Volunteer Professionals • Donation Drives • Benefit Events • WAEV • Donations • Planned Giving