

Dear Friends,

WISE celebrates forty-five years of supporting survivors of domestic and sexual violence this year. As the movement to end violence has grown through the years, so has WISE. Our steadfast commitment to believing and supporting survivors has, and always will, remain strong, while our attention to prevention education and the opportunity for social change has expanded. WISE is proud to share a new mission and vision for the organization, developed through a multi-disciplinary group of board and staff members, to reflect this growth.

Mission: WISE leads the Upper Valley to end gender-based violence through survivor-centered advocacy, prevention, education, and mobilization for social change. **Vision:** A world of freedom, justice, equality, and dignity where all thrive.

I invite you to join with us, as caring community members who wish a safe and peaceful world for all, as we move forward in our mission-driven work and our commitment to share hope, change lives, and end violence.

Warm regards,

Peggy
Peggy



Save the dates

Lebanon High School Parents Night

April 5

Unedited Voices

April 7 at 7:30 pm at LOH

Program Center Tours

April 27 and May 24 at 8:30 am

Court Observers Training

Starts April 12

Covered Bridges Half Marathon

June 5

Ottawaquechee Musicfest

August 6

For more information call 603-448-5922

Board Members

Pat Palmiotto, *President*

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highlights

April 2016

end violence
wise
share hope • change lives

“The experience of sharing at Unedited Voices freed me from the darkness that has hung over me for 50 years. The secrets are out and I’m free...” – 2014 participant



2014 production of Unedited Voices

Unedited Voices of the Upper Valley: The Rising

Courageous survivors and the community come together again on April 7th at 7:30 pm. This event is a celebration of survivors through song, dance and the spoken word.

Join us and experience the power of sharing and listening. Speaking one's own truth is powerfully liberating for writers. Survivors find a newfound strength realizing that there is a community that cares and that they may actually be stronger having survived the violence.

Truths released provide new perspectives. Presenters and audience alike are transformed together. To reserve a free ticket, please contact the Lebanon Opera House at 603-448-0400.

Our WISE parents

Parents often ask us about what we teach in the classroom and how they can support their children. As part of our goal to increase conversations with adults, we recently held a parent night at Hanover High School. It was well attended and parents learned more about our educational programs within the schools. We shared how and why we cover certain topics in our curriculum and how parents play an important role in prevention. Our next parent night will be in Lebanon.

“It’s nice to have a place to listen, ask questions, and walk away with skills on how to address what can be challenging topics with our kids in a gentle and respectful manner.” – Parent participant

All the best to Shirley

On March 31st, Shirley Rivard retired from WISE after more than thirty years at the organization. Truly the “face of WISE”, Shirley brought exceptional warmth and compassion to every individual who has ever called or entered the door of WISE. She greeted, listened, and supported survivors and staff for over three decades. Shirley will be greatly missed by all.

WISE Words on the radio

Have you heard our WISE Words segments in the morning on WGXL (92.3 FM) and The River (106.7FM)? The minute segments are part of our intention to increase our educational outreach efforts and reinforce our anti-violence messaging. WISE Words segments aim to inspire listeners to realize connections in their own lives and our greater culture.

We had a lot of fun recording our “student celebrities” in school cafeterias and gathering spaces. Student volunteers from Hanover, Hartford, Lebanon, Windsor and Woodstock are our WISE talent. It has been a pleasure watching them comfortably and confidently deliver our messages.

WISE Words would not be possible without the generous support of Hypertherm’s HOPE Foundation. For more information, please visit our website www.WISEuv.org/WISEwords.



Robin recording WISE Words at Woodstock Union High School

Our newest staff member: Jeremy Coylewright

You may remember Jeremy from our Fall Highlights volunteer spotlight. He has officially joined our Crisis Advocacy team as our Family Violence and Prevention Specialist. Jeremy increases our capacity to support victims who are involved in child protective cases. By helping child safety case workers better understand the complex and far-reaching impact of battering on families, we can help establish family relationships that support strength and resiliency.

News from Dartmouth

Delaney Anderson, our Dartmouth Campus Advocate, has been busy establishing connections within Dartmouth, working together to support students, faculty and staff. There are walk-in hours at North Fairbanks and individuals can reach out to Delaney directly to schedule appointments.

Our Safe Home one-year anniversary

The excitement of our Safe Home is still strong as we continue to offer the safety, beauty and comfort of a true home. This lovely house has 2 bathrooms, 3 bedrooms, a quiet room for reading and homework, a lively family TV room for gathering and chatting, and a laundry room! We now have the capacity to comfortably host 3 adults and their children. One mom with two pre-teens stayed with us until she was accepted into transitional housing. Recently, we have been delighted to watch an infant grow into a walking-talking toddler. The Safe Home feels exactly like a home.



Jennifer Karr inspiring riders in 2015

RVC 2016 Spin-a-thon

Cheers to the River Valley Club for choosing WISE as the beneficiary of its annual Spin-a-thon for the fourth year in a row. A huge shout-out to the local businesses who sponsored the event on March 19th: Geokon Inc., Domus Inc., Jake’s Market & Deli, Omer & Bob’s, Mascoma Savings Bank, Green Mt. Physical Therapy, Hubert’s Family Outfitters, JHM Wealth Management, King Arthur Flour, Lake Sunapee Bank, Ledyard National Bank, Strong House Spa, Mason Racing, and countless gift cards from local merchants. A special thank you to all the spinning participants and their wonderful fundraising efforts.

Covered Bridges Half Marathon 2016

Team WISE is training hard for our second Covered Bridges Half Marathon. This year we have a bigger team with 28 runners! Each runner is fundraising for WISE. Every Monday we feature a different runner on our Facebook Marathon Mondays. Like our Facebook page and learn more about these strong and dedicated individuals. You can even sponsor one of our runners.

Special thank you for in-kind donations

We have many individuals and businesses who generously donate shelter packages, personal hygiene bags, grocery and gas cards. These wonderful gifts help us to support survivors in different ways.

Many group opportunities

There are a number of opportunities for survivors to connect with one another. Please call us to find out more about our writing group, High Horses, yoga, Women for Sobriety, WAUV and court observers.