



Spring 2005

The Retreat
Domestic Violence Services

Volume 7/Number 1

Completing the Process

The Retreat is known for its comprehensive services for victims of domestic violence by providing support and empathy, advocacy, counseling, accurate information, and helpful referrals in a variety of venues. The Retreat also links victims of domestic violence with other human resource agencies, organizations, and educational institutions when appropriate. It is our hope that beginning with the East End, the message that domestic violence will no longer be tolerated will reach every ear in America.

To be successful in turning this hope into a reality, there is another segment of the population that must be addressed - the abuser. Simply knowing who the abuser is and why he chooses the behaviors he chooses is not enough. The Retreat recognizes this and provides Batterer's Intervention Programs (BIP). Basically, the philosophy of BIP is for the perpetrator of the abuse to be held accountable and responsible for past and present abuses perpetrated not only to his intimate partner but to the children who may be involved as well. Once he has disclosed past and present abuses he must demonstrate changes in his thinking or the beliefs he holds about his role in the family. This type of change is a process and does not occur quickly. For maximum effectiveness, the treatment of choice is a group setting.

Presently, there are two types of programs that The Retreat provides. The first is a 32-week

program called SHARP (Structured Help Anti-violence Re-education Program) that consists of no fewer than six and no more than ten men. Participants of SHARP are either mandated by a justice court, the Department of Probation, Child Protection Services, or can voluntarily request participation in the program. During the 32-weeks, the men learn to be accountable and responsible for their abusive behaviors, they learn that abuse is a choice, and that though they feel angry, they do not have the right to express their anger either covertly or overtly to anyone particularly their intimate partners and children. The second program is a collaborative program between The Retreat and Suffolk County Department of Probation. This program is a minimum of a 52-week program whose ideals are the same as that of the 32-week SHARP program however this program is specific to men who are currently on probation in the direct supervision of the Domestic Violence Unit of the Suffolk County Department of Probation. Another difference is that this program is facilitated by both a therapist and probation officer with specific training concerning domestic violence and batterers.

Presently, BIP is the only program that The Retreat charges a modest sliding scale fee. The fee is necessary for two specific reasons. First, the fee is a reminder that negative behaviors have consequences. The second reason is that there is little funding available for Batterer's Intervention Programs. New

York provides modest grants to only five BIP's in the state. Given our geographic location and our small communities, the East End of Long Island is not populated enough to warrant attention for a grant from New York State. Suffolk County also does not include BIP's in their funding process and allocations. Foundations, though generous for victim services, do not provide funding for the perpetrators of domestic violence. Working with women and children alone will not stop domestic violence from occurring. To end domestic violence the abusers also require services. Unless funding becomes available, at this time, the fee that is established with each BIP participant is the only means of sustaining these critical programs.

It is curious to think about crime in general. When one thinks about the crime of drinking and driving, more specifically, DWI, it seems the perpetrators of that crime, in most cases, are required to participate in programs with the hope of some level of rehabilitation. This is not unlike cases of domestic violence. However, many of the DWI programs are, in fact, funded to some degree by either state or county funding sources. I am curious to know what makes domestic violence less of a crime?

Karen Martin, Ph. D.
Clinical Director

From the Executive Desk

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Tracey Lutz, Executive Director

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Welcome New Board Members

Nancy Cohn and Barbara Olton who come to us with a background in business.

**Retreat Administration
329-4398**

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Editor: K. Schad
Cover Art: Chris Deveau



Every 9 seconds a woman is beaten in the United States

Between 3 and 4 million women are battered each year

90-95% of domestic violence victims are women

95% of domestic violence perpetrators are male

70% of intimate homicide victims are women

53% of men who abuse women also abuse children

Reading these statistics may produce initial shock and be followed by thoughts such as, "Well I don't know anyone in this position", or "That is terrible, but it doesn't affect me". We urge you to think again. Domestic violence does not just affect the people directly involved; it affects everyone in every community and every business and corporate office across America. Consider the following:

- **Health related costs of domestic violence exceed \$5.8 billion each year**
- **Each year, employers lose between \$3 and \$5 billion in sick leave, absenteeism, lower productivity, and health and safety costs associated with battered workers**
- **Children who witness domestic violence are more likely to be violent, depressed, and suicidal. Children are also at higher risk for abuse as adults**
- **94% of corporate security directors rank domestic violence as a high security risk**
- **22% of middle-class marriages end in divorce due to violence**
- **49% of senior executives say that domestic violence has a harmful effect on their company's productivity and negatively impacts employee attendance**

• Past and current victims of domestic violence are over-represented in the welfare population; 50% report interference from their partner with education, training or work that would enable them to be self-sufficient

Domestic violence is a pervasive problem and must be addressed as it occurs, and prevented at its roots. Our East End community has long supported our efforts to do just that, and while we are hopeful that strides have been made through legislation, collaboration with the justice system, and increased education, we must all continue to place a high priority on the issue of domestic violence.

We urge you to renew your personal commitment to our work by donating your time, talent, and resources. Throughout this newsletter are opportunities to become involved by volunteering for one of our programs, attending an event, contacting your elected officials to advocate for increased government support and stronger legislation against intimate partner violence, and/or using the appeal envelope to send in a donation to us. Remember, the problem of domestic violence affects all of us; therefore, all of us must be part of the solution.

A CALL TO ACTION

The following constitutes our elected officials representing the East End of Long Island. Please contact them to advocate for increased and less restrictive funding for domestic violence services and tougher, more enforceable legislation designed to combat violence against women.

On the Federal Level, please urge our elected officials to reauthorize "*The Violence Against Women Act*". During the past decade, this act has provided tremendous resources and protections for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Programs have provided increased training for police, prosecutors, and court officials, and greatly improved the response of the criminal justice system to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. At this time, Congress has the unique opportunity to continue successful programs but also, to expand their programs to ensure the safety and stability of the lives of survivors of domestic violence. Domestic Violence and sexual assault are pervasive crimes directly affecting one in four women and touching the lives of everyone in the community.

Urge members of Congress to pledge their support for a strong and enhanced Violence Against Women Act in 2005.

Senator Hillary Clinton

780 3rd Ave Suite 2601
New York, NY 10017
212 688-626 Fax:2631-249-2847

State Assemblyman

Patricia L. Acampora

400 W. Main Street
Riverhead, NY 11901
631-727-1363 Fax:631-369-3869

County Legislator Jay Schneiderman

75 Washington St.
PO Box 1827
Sag Harbor, NY 11963
631-852-8400 Fax:631-852-8404

Senator Charles Schumer

757 3rd Ave. Ste 17-02
New York, NY 10017
212-486-4430 Fax:212-486-7693

County Legislator

Michael J. Caracciolo

423 Griffing Avenue
Riverhead, NY 11901
631-852-3200 Fax:631-852-3203

Governor George Pataki

Executive Chamber, State Capitol
Albany, NY 12224
518-474-8390 Fax:518-474-1513

Representative Tim Bishop

3680 Rte 112, Ste C
Coram, NY 11727
631-696-6500 Fax:631-758-6776

State Assemblyman Fred Thiele, Jr.

2302 Main Street, Box 3062
Bridgehampton, NY 11932
631-537-2583 Fax:631-537-2836

State Senator Kenneth LaValle

325 Middle Country Road
Selden, NY 11784
631-696-6900 Fax:631-696-2307

BOARD OF DIRECTORS UNDERTAKES STRATEGIC PLAN FOR AGENCY

As 2005 dawned, the Board of Directors met to begin a planning process for the agency that will provide direction for the next five to ten years. Non-profit boards have many responsibilities - among them is to ensure that adequate planning is in place and to monitor its implementation. The planning will include, but not be limited to, the following elements:

- What are our strengths and weaknesses as an agency?
- What should our goals be?
- How should we define and brand the agency services?
- How should we expand our resources?
- How should we structure our Board?

The plan will analyze the environment in which the organization currently operates and how that may change over time, considering economic, political, and social trends. From this analysis, key issues will be identified, internal strengths and weaknesses will be assessed, and a plan of action will be developed. This is a process that is being undertaken with great care and all due seriousness by the Board and key staff. As the process evolves, we will report our progress in this Newsletter.

BOARD PRESIDENT ADDRESSES ST. LUKE'S PARISHIONERS

On Sunday, April 10, 2005, Board President, Katherine Ryden spoke to the Congregation at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in East Hampton. It is a goal of The Retreat to provide increased awareness about the services available for victims of domestic violence and their children and we were so pleased to be welcomed by the St. Luke's family. In our last newsletter, we provided an article about *The Communities of Faith Task Force* that we participate in. The focus of the Task Force is to bring the faith communities together with service providers in order to understand and address religious and ethnic concerns regarding domestic violence while increasing the awareness of the unique situation their members face in coping with domestic violence and the safety issues involved. We would be pleased to provide similar presentations to any and all faith-based groups throughout the area. To schedule a presentation, please contact Eileen Troiano at 329-4398 ext. 304.

2005 EVENTS



Benefit Spin at Sag Harbor Gym

The Sag Harbor Gym hosted a Benefit Spin on February 5th. Jack Fisher and Christa Schleicher organized an energetic group of spinners and we are very grateful for their support of our efforts.



(l - r) Nancy Cohn, Tracey Lutz, Jack Fisher, Patricia Garrity



Melina Wein and Georgia Curatola

photos by Ann Chwatsky

Fête d'Art

JLX Bistro in Sag Harbor was the site of our mid-winter get-together Fête d'Art on February 12th. The evening featured a special raffle of hand-painted plates and fantastic art from past Artists Against Abuse events as well as other great prizes. Special thanks to Philip Sauriat, Manager of JLX Bistro and his wonderful staff.

Linda Fairstein Luncheon at Doubles in New York City

In recognition of the 25th Anniversary of National Crime Victims' Rights Week, Caroline Hirsch, Barbara Roberts and Marilyn Skony Stamm hosted an amazing benefit luncheon and book signing at Doubles in New York City on April 13th. The keynote speaker was Linda Fairstein, author of the current best seller "Entombed" as well as one of America's foremost legal experts on crimes of sexual assault and domestic violence. Ms. Fairstein served for 25 years as the bureau chief of the Sex Crimes Prosecution Unit of the New York County District Attorney's office prosecuting such high-profile cases as the death of Jennifer Levin by Robert Chambers, known as the "preppy murder" case. Special thanks to our hosts, the Board of Directors of The Retreat for their support; Scribner's Publishing; HC&G and Eileen Ekstract; The Honorable Bruce M. Kaplan; Sylvester & Co.; and Wendy Carduner of the Doubles Club for a perfect afternoon.

photos by Richard Lewin



Board President Katherine Ryden, Board Member Jane DiGiacomo, and Linda Fairstein



Janet Yaseen and Linda L. Schaller



Mary Loving, Caroline Hirsch, and Beth Rudin DeWoody



Kathy Ferguson, Marilyn Skony Stamm, and Doris Schechter



Board Member Hon. Bruce M. Kaplan and Cynthia Lufkin



Andrea J. Berger, Melissa Cohn, Bruce Glasser, and Board Member Sharyn Lawall

St. Luke's Beach Walk

On Saturday, April 30th St. Luke's Episcopal Church in East Hampton hosted its 5th Annual Beach Walk to benefit The Retreat, East Hampton Day Care, Phoenix House and Fighting Chance. The Retreat was represented by Board President Katherine Ryden, Board Members Bernadette Collins, Jane DiGiacomo, Eileen Ekstract and Sandy Morell; Friends and Supporters Harriet Demato, Amy Eller, and Janet Jennings; and Staff Members Tracey Lutz, Liz Yennie, Lauren Walsh and Mary Slattery and many others. Good job!

2005 EVENTS

Event at The Elegant Setting in Southampton



On May 7th, The Elegant Setting, 27 Main Street, Southampton hosted an in-store appearance by famed crystal designer William Yeoward. Owner Stephanie Finkelstein donated 10% of the sales from this special event to support The Retreat. Please stop by this beautiful home décor shop to view new and vintage tabletop designs.

Benefit Fashion Show and Chinese Auction

The Retreat and The Mary Kay Ash Charitable Foundation both benefited from a Fashion Show and Chinese Auction on May 25th at Windows on the Lake in Lake Ronkonkoma. Men's and Women's fashions were provided by Casual Corner and Geoffrey Beene. Our deepest thanks to Dari Rudge, Senior Sales Director of Mary Kay Cosmetics, for organizing this wonderful event.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Artists Against Abuse

The Retreat will be celebrating Artists Against Abuse 10th Anniversary Gala on Saturday, June 25, 2005 at the Bridgehampton Tennis & Surf Club. This year's event and auction will feature 75 hand-painted plates and 10 original works from some of the most prominent names in the world of art and design. The Live Auction will be conducted by August O. Uribe of Sotheby's. Also on hand will be Joy Behar of ABC-TV's "The View" as emcee. And if that isn't enough, we will be honoring Melissa Cohn of the Manhattan Mortgage Company for her philanthropic work on behalf of charities on the East End and New York City that serve women and children. Mark your calendars for June 25th as we host our most important fundraising event of the year. Proceeds from the event will benefit both our residential and non-residential services.



Priscilla Bowden



Ralph Carpentier



Paton Miller



Stephanie Reit

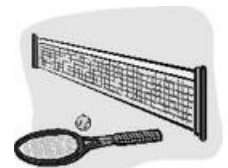
Bob Kyle Memorial Golf Classic



The 2nd Annual Bob Kyle Memorial Golf Classic will be held at Noyac Golf & Country Club on Tuesday, September 27th. Co-Chairs Pat Kyle, Steve Latham and Jane DiGiacomo are ready to tee up and are expecting to build on last year's great turnout! The Golf Classic raises funds for a scholarship in the name of Bob Kyle, our beloved past Board Chairman and tireless supporter. The scholarship is awarded annually to a graduating senior of East Hampton High School who has shown leadership in community service. The Recipient of the 2005 Bob Kyle Memorial Scholarship is Andrea Gallego. Congratulations Andrea! Mark your calendars and join us for a terrific day of golf!

Tennis Tournament

The Retreat is in the planning stages for a benefit tennis tournament to be held August 13th at Sportime in Amagansett. Watch your mail for more information. Co-Chaired by Nancy Cohn and Steve Bergerson, this event is sure to be an end-of-summer crowd pleaser.



SHELTER NEWS

April, not January seems to signal the beginning of a new year at The Retreat Shelter. It is a gearing up time for increased client activities and shelter projects. Enthusiasm abounds, and the shelter takes on a new and vigorous life. Residents are not aware of the significance of the effort on their behalf of volunteers, sponsors and supporters of The Retreat. Because of client confidentiality and the need to keep the shelter location as secret as possible, these efforts are not visible to clients. Residents will often say that their original idea of a shelter changed when they arrived. Often new Residents express their surprise. Residents who have been to other shelters tell us how comfortable, clean and caring this shelter is. Most residents appreciate the high quality of resources here to help them. This year our projects include a basket in each room with information about The Retreat so that the clients can appreciate the entire scope of The Retreat, and the people who are involved on their behalf.

We are very enthusiastic about our vegetable garden, in partnership with EECO Farms. This is going to be a great experience for staff, residents, and interested volunteers. The garden has been staked out and the turf is being removed. Plans are in effect to rototill, nourish and prepare the soil this week.

Also in the works is a grant for a van. We are waiting for the paperwork to continue the process. We have been notified that we are in the running. This is a very important grant for us because the shelter would not function long without a van. Our van is in constant use for clients to get to all their appointments (Court, Doctors, Department of Social Services, Social Security, Motor Vehicles, schools, food and supply shopping, camps, beach, theatre, field trips, and educational services). Having no van translates into mega taxi and bus expenses. We are fast approaching the mile that will break "Pretty Blue's" back. We would like to retire her to less strenuous duties before that should happen.

Despite our diligent interference, our cat population continues to grow. Most of the staff has seen the kittens in the late spring and there is nothing more exciting than new kittens. Our population has grown to 6 adult cats and numerous visitors. We will have more kittens in due time and ARF has come to the rescue. Borrowed traps will be used to catch four of them to be neutered. We will then maintain a cat colony with the help of ARF with feeding station and housing for them. I suspect new visitors will come and upset our balance and cute kittens will again delight us in the future. This time we will be ready for them and more practiced in the art of interference.

We invite all who wish to volunteer their expertise and enthusiasm to come and join in.

Many Thanks to the Americorps Volunteers

While visiting the East End for the Nature Conservancy, 10 of the Americorps Volunteers offered more of their time to help us.

After putting in a full day for the Nature Conservancy, they came to our shelter for four evenings to help out with a much needed painting project.



Occasionally we receive calls asking what the shelter is currently in need of.



Now that the summer and sunshine are here, sunscreen is always needed.

When our clients leave our shelter to their own new home, many times they are in need of home furnishings such as dishes, glasses, pots/pans, lamps, towels, sheets, bedspreads, etc.



Some of our clients arrive at the shelter with their belongings in a paper bag. When they leave, luggage is very helpful. The need for luggage is constant.

WANTED!!

Energetic, enthusiastic volunteers who are willing to share their talent with our clients.

If you enjoy helping others, please call Kathy or Shirley at 329-4398 to sign up!

If you would like to donate any of these items (new or slightly used) for our shelter, please call 329-4398 and specify that it is a shelter need.

**The Retreat Gratefully Acknowledges Our Donors
October 15, 2004 – May 15, 2005**

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** We apologize if we have omitted any donor names **

**FROM CROSS PURPOSES TO CROSSROADS:
CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ADVOCATES,
A COLLABORATION THAT WORKS**

As a member of the Long Island Regional Committee of the New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence, The Retreat was part of a joint effort that sponsored a bi-county conference held March 21, 2005 at the Melville Marriott.

Over two hundred people from as far away as Schenectady attended the conference, including several Family Court judges. The keynote speaker was Hon. Charles J. Hynes, District Attorney, Kings County, NY. He made a moving speech about his own experience as a child growing up in a home with domestic violence. He has also been instrumental in improving services to victims and their children in Brooklyn.

There were ten workshops in the afternoon session, including one presented by The Retreat's Dr. Karen Martin and Michele Halusic entitled "Strategies for Teaching Parenting Skills to the Abusive and Non-abusive Parent". The most common complaint heard was that the workshops were so interesting and informative, people would have liked the opportunity to attend more than two!

The conference was a success, and a great opportunity for agencies from both Nassau and Suffolk Counties to work together towards a common goal.

Eileen Troiano
Director of Advocacy

Volunteering at our thrift store is a labor of love.

Labor being

Sorting good donations from the bad donations (dirty, unsaleable).

Steaming, tagging and hanging clothing.
Keeping the store neat and windows changed and co-ordinated.

Love being

Customer compliments and repeat customers (as much as 2-3 times a week)
Meeting new people who love our store

Haven't seen the books, but am sure we are in the "black". In this economy, this is good. There is a new found love for thrift stores and we seem to be a big part of this love.

When asked to volunteer several years ago by Bob Kyle, I said "I'm not a professional and don't know how I can help," but from past experience knew that thrift stores were a good way to raise extra monies. I continued to nag Tracey and then one day, this lovely store in just the right location became available.

So here we are, and I invite all of you who have not visited the store, please do so and meet our wonderful store manager Nanao and our friendly, helpful sales people. You will wonder how we sell all that furniture, furnishings and clothing in so small a space, but we do!



If you'd like to volunteer, come join us!
Thrift Store Volunteer Bunny Jackson

Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon

Good food and good company were plentiful April 19th at The Retreat's Volunteer Appreciation Potluck Luncheon.

The luncheon is a great way for volunteers to meet one another and talk with staff members they may not necessarily have contact with.



The Retreat appreciates the time and effort all our volunteers offer. With their help, we are better able to serve the needs of our clients.

(l - r) Joyce Hochman, Evelyn Randazzo, Seija Hurskainen, John Malafonte, Dorothy Fishelson and staff member Eileen Troiano

Volunteers Wanted!

Do you want to help make a difference in someone's life? If so, and you enjoy working with others, The Retreat is looking for volunteers to help us help those affected by domestic violence.

Our immediate needs are in our Hotline Office in East Hampton and at our Thrift Store in Southampton.

Please call Kathy or Shirley at 329-4398.



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DOES YOUR PARTNER...

- Track all of your time?
- Constantly accuse you of being unfaithful?
- Discourage you from having relationships with family and friends?
- Prevent you from working or going to school?
- Criticize you for little things or blame you for everything that goes wrong?
- Anger easily when using drugs or alcohol?
- Control your finances and force you to account for the money you spend?
- Make fun of you or humiliate you in front of others?
- Destroy your personal property or sentimental items?
- Threaten to harm you or your children?
- Hit, punch, slap, kick or bite you or your children?
- Use or threaten to use a weapon against you?
- Force you to have sex against your will?

If Yes, You Are Not Alone
For information and support, call
THE RETREAT
(631) 329-4398
or our 24 hour crisis hotline (631) 329-2200
All calls are strictly confidential

In addition to private donations, the work of The Retreat is made possible through funding from:

- Town of East Hampton
- Town of Southampton
- Suffolk County Probation Dept.
- Suffolk County Department of Social Services
- New York State Crime Victims Board
- New York State Office of Children & Family Services
- New York State Federal Family Violence Prevention Fund
- Long Island's United Way