



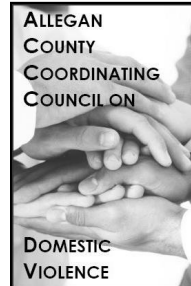
LAKESHORE ALLIANCE AGAINST DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Fall 2010
visit our website at
www.laadsv.org
E-mail: info@laadsv.org

9th Annual

Together We Can Appreciation Dinner

The 9th Annual Together We Can Appreciation Dinner will be held October 26, 2010 at Christ Memorial Church. Gathering for the buffet dinner will begin at 6:00pm. The evening's featured speaker is Dan Seaborn, family relationship and development expert, who has established the Winning At Home organization in West Michigan. Event cost is \$25.00 per person and tickets can be requested from kflower-day@miottawa.org. This Awards Dinner will recognize persons who have made a contribution to the prevention of domestic and sexual violence during the past year. The Lakeshore Alliance Against Domestic and Sexual Violence (LAADSV) and the Allegan County Coordinating Council on Domestic Violence (ACCCDV) are accepting nominations for an Outstanding Law Enforcement Officer, Outstanding Agency Professional, and an Outstanding Community Member from Allegan and Ottawa County. Nomination forms are available online at www.laadsv.org and delta.aplaceforwomen.org. The nomination and selection process is confidential. Please do not notify the candidate of your decision to nominate him or her. Return this completed nomination form with supporting documentation by September 28, 2010 at 5:00pm to Val Lyle, Sylvia's Place, PO Box 13, Allegan, MI 49010 or by email to vall@sylviasplace.com.



Register at http://www.qvsu.edu/women_cen/

Domestic and Sexual Violence Community Prevention Plan



LAADSV is proud to announce the publication of the Domestic and Sexual Violence Community Prevention Plan 2010-2012. This plan has been developed by Ottawa County community members, including law enforcement, agency professionals, students, and concerned community members. This local plan compliments the prevention goals of the Executive Report of the Michigan Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention Steering

Committee. The full report is available on the DELTA Project website. Thank you to the DELTA Community Prevention Committee and all those who contributed to the prevention plan and participated in the planning process.

<http://delta.aplaceforwomen.org/community-wide-prevention/>

Mission Statement

To prevent and reduce the incidence of domestic and sexual violence. To promote safety for victims and families and to hold abusers and perpetrators accountable.

This will be accomplished through coordinated community response, program development, community education, and collaborative activities.

These efforts are to be monitored through continual communication, research, and evaluation.

Join LAADSV

Any individual or agency may join LAADSV. Members benefit from training, agency collaboration, and domestic and sexual violence information. Annual membership dues are \$40. For more information on becoming a member or attending our trainings please contact Jo Ann Wassenaar at wassenaj@qvsu.edu or 616-331-2748. Membership applications are available online at www.laadsv.org.

Meeting Schedule

In 2010, LAADSV meets at 7:30 a.m. at Center for Women in Transition, 411 Butternut Drive in Holland on the third Tuesday of every other month:

September 21
November 16

Newsletter Submissions

Submit articles, agency news, upcoming events, and campus awareness activities to the LAADSV E-Newsletter to share with the community.

Email: LesleyC@aplaceforwomen.org



**October is
Domestic Violence
Awareness Month**

On the road to Cadillac by Charlie Donaldson

Charlie Donaldson, Director and Treatment Provider at the Men's Resource Center, had a life-changing experience early in his career of working with batterers. Here he recounts a conversation with Leslie Newman, Director of the Domestic Abuse Program at the YWCA in Grand Rapids.

February 16, 1996 was damp and drizzly day in Grand Rapids. I took the day off from work to attend the meeting of an organization I'd heard about – a group of people who were meeting to learn how to better work with guys who'd physically abused their partners. I'd met a woman, Leslie Newman, who worked at the YWCA, and she'd encouraged me to go too. At that time, Leslie was fifty, but with her hair in a pony tail she looked thirty-five and she had a vitality and energy that made her seem even younger. She'd developed the domestic violence treatment program for men and had achieved a reputation across the state for her expertise and commitment to the program.

I picked her up at her home, and we started off on the two hour trip north to Cadillac where the meeting was being held. In Michigan, a short distance can make a considerable difference in the weather, and no more than thirty miles outside of Grand Rapids we encountered snow and slick roads. I backed my speed down to 55 miles an hour, and we started talking about domestic violence.

I'd worked with men who'd been arrested for domestic violence on an individual basis here and there, but just recently volunteered to start running groups for court mandated men who'd abused their partners. I'd tried to help men to manage their anger, and I thought they probably needed to stop drinking so much. I'd worked with one client in particular who seemed to fit this mold: an ex-cop named Robert from Detroit who discovered his wife, Linda, was having an affair. After drinking a case of beer, he punched her repeatedly in the face, giving her a black eye and breaking her jaw.

As we passed Newaygo, I began telling Leslie about Robert and about how I'd tried to teach him anger management so he wouldn't hurt Linda again. I told Leslie that he was a proud man and that it wasn't surprising that he got so upset.

By now we'd seen cars in the ditch and I'd slowed down to forty-five. Leslie said, "You said he was a proud man, and I wonder if he wasn't really a pretty controlling man. I wonder if he didn't work to keep her under thumb. I'll bet he called the shots in their relationship, telling her what to do and not to do, and tried to keep her isolated from other people."

"Well," I said, "He did say that he didn't like her going out much. He wanted her to stay home and take care of the kids. I think he was afraid she'd meet somebody else. And she did."

"Charlie," she said, "I wonder, was his father a cop too?"

"Yeah, he was. How'd you guess?"

"From the way you described him, it sounded like that he came from a family with a dominating father, and he'd carried on the tradition. You know, domestic violence isn't really caused by anger. It happens when a man's control of his partner is questioned—when she doesn't do what he wants her to—when she gets outside of the box. Proud men are patriarchal men, and they gain their self-esteem by controlling others, and they're insulted when others don't do what they want."

"I hadn't thought of it that way," I admitted.

(Continued on page 3)

Alex is a 36-year-old mother of three children, ages 10, 13 and 15. While her husband once claimed to admire her kindness and affection to others, he showed his esteem with physical and emotional abuse. It took years for Alex to gather enough strength to save herself and her children by calling the crisis line at Center for Women in Transition.



24-Hour Crisis Services

(616) 392-1970 (English)

(616) 355-9755 (Español)

crisishelp@aplaceforwomen.org

Toll Free

(800) 848-5991 (English)

(866) 728-2131 (Español)

On the Road to Cadillac (continued)

“In fact, control is really kind of a high, especially if you don’t feel very good about yourself in the first place. I went to a workshop recently, and the facilitator asked us to stand up with another woman in front of us. She told us to reach out with both hands out and push the woman back by the shoulders, and to continue to push her until she backed into the wall. I was surprised at myself. I was surprised at how much I enjoyed being this aggressive. I was surprised that pushing another person around was a high. It felt good to be so in control of another person.

“As we processed our experiences afterwards, we discussed how we had mixed feelings about our behavior. On the one hand we had to admit it felt good. On the other hand, the woman who was the “victim”—the one who was pushed—had quite a different experience. She spoke about how small and abused she felt. We recognized that it feels good to control another person but it’s also very destructive.

“So,” Leslie went on, “domestic violence really isn’t so much about anger or alcohol as it’s about power. Guys are raised in a society that tells boys that to be real men they should be in control. They should have power over the women in their lives.

“And what we as counselors need to teach these guys is that it doesn’t work to have power over other people. What works is to feel empowered and to share power. Your client, the cop, may have looked competent and strong, but behind that badge was a pretty insecure guy. He thought that he could make himself feel better by calling the shots and he’d probably been in control her for a long time. In fact, of course, in the long run, things only got worse. She had an affair. And she finally left, didn’t she?”

“Yeah,” I said. “She didn’t leave right away after the violence. He told me she said she wanted to give him another chance. But then one day, he said, a couple weeks later he came home and she was gone. There was a note: it said, ‘I hope you’ll get some help.’”

There was silence in the car. I said, “Want a stick of gum?”

“Sure,” Leslie said.

In Cadillac, the beginning of the north country in Michigan, it was snowing hard and there was a foot of snow on the ground. That day, at our meeting, we elected the first co-chairs of the Batterer Intervention Service Coalition. It was an important day for that organization. But what was important for me was that in that two hour car ride, I’d been given the gift of understanding the core of domestic violence. It’s about the use of abuse to get what you want.

Charlie Donaldson
Men’s Resource Center
<http://menscenter.org/>

CREATES
an opportunity for individuals to learn and share experiences regarding racial barriers.

ENGAGES
a group of 20 participants, with at least 25% from diverse backgrounds.

KNOWN FOR
... initiating powerful, personal impacts and realizations

Institute for Healing Racism
Tuesdays, September 21 - November 09, 3-5pm
Holland Area Chamber

Lakeshore Ethnic Diversity Alliance

The Lakeshore Institute for Healing Racism is an 8-week or 2-day dialogue focused on understanding and healing the wounds of racism. Through facilitated dialogues and activities, individuals participate in a cognitive and affective program of learning, sharing, and processing in a multi-cultural setting. Participants examine the history and pathology of racism, institutionalized racism, concepts such as white privilege and contemporary bias, and ways to combat racism. A commitment pledge is completed, which identifies a personal action an institutional action each individual vow to change. Follow up sessions are scheduled to assist participants with their personal and professional goals. Cost is \$100; Scholarships are available for financial hardship; please contact our office at (616) 846-9074 or admin@ethnicdiversity.org.

Alliance Against Domestic and Sexual Violence

S P E A K E R S E R I E S

The Lakeshore Alliance Against Domestic and Sexual Violence and the GVSU Women's Center presents the following speaker series:

Stopping the Violence: Effective Community Response

Date: Monday, Sept 27, 2010
Time: 12-1:30pm
Location: Rm 102 – GVSU Meijer Campus
(located at 515 S. Waverly Road/Holland)

Ben Atherton-Zeman from "Voices of Men" will facilitate training on the awareness and prevention of domestic violence within our communities. Ben uses engaging and relevant material, through numerous means, to create an interactive workshop. Participants will learn different aspects of violence against women, and how they can become part of the solution to ending that violence. Additionally, individuals will be provided with tools needed to make a difference in the workplace, in their homes, schools, and faith-based communities. *Discretion advised: skit/program includes graphic simulated violence.*

Reservations are required by calling GVSU Women's Center @ 616-331-2748 or by signing up online at www.laadsv.org. The program is FREE and open to all community members.

For individuals requiring special accommodations please contact the GVSU Women's Center at 616-331-2748 or by emailing womenctr@gvsu.edu.



Upstream 2010: Promoting Healthy Communication & Respect in Relationships

Date: Wednesday, October 6th
Time: 12–1:30pm
Location: GVSU Meijer Campus (located @ 515 S. Waverly Road/Holland)

Have you wondered what to share with the members of your faith community about preventing domestic violence? Upstream 2010 will equip you with practical activities that will engage teens, adults, and the leaders of your church to prevent domestic violence and promote respectful relationships. Discover lessons to share with adults and teens to positively intervene, address gender stereotypes, and promote respect in relationships. Explore ideas for sermons and policies that promote non-violence. This program will provide domestic violence prevention information to pastors, faith leaders and those working in communities of faith. All participants will receive a training packet, prevention toolkit, and tangible ideas to use in your faith community. This program is presented by Lesley A. Coghill, LMSW, DELTA Project Coordinator at Center for Women in Transition.

Protecting All Students from Harassment: What Students and Parents Can Do!

Date: Friday, November 19th
Time: 12-1:30pm
Location: GVSU Meijer Campus (located @ 515 S. Waverly Road/Holland)

Jennifer L. Martin, Ph.D. of Oakland University will provide an overview of different forms of harassment and bullying, its effect on victims, and what parents and schools can do in order to promote a safer, more equitable learning environment for all students. The legal responsibilities of schools and the legal rights of parents and student will be addressed. Title IX case law will be discussed which protects students from sexual harassment. Participants will be encouraged to share experiences and discuss potential solutions.

The series is free. For social workers needing CEU's for licensing requirements this will be available for \$15. Please call 616-331-2748 or email womenctr@gvsu.edu and reserve a space for you and your staff members. Participants are encouraged to bring their lunches. *For individuals requiring special accommodations please call the Women's Center at 616-331-2748 or email at: womenctr@gvsu.edu.*