

Domestic Abuse Intervention Programs 2010 Annual Report

Innovating change to end domestic violence locally and globally for 30 years.



#### 1980

The Domestic Abuse Intervention Project (DAIP) organizes under the nonprofit corporation Minnesota Program Development, Inc.

The City of Duluth is selected as the site of a pilot criminal justice reform project in handling domestic abuse cases. Nine city, county, and private agencies adopt policies and procedures coordinating their intervention in domestic assault cases.

### 1981

The Duluth Police Department (DPD) issues an experimental "mandatory arrest policy."

The City prosecutor agrees to a "no drop" policy in misdemeanor domestic assault cases.

#### 1982

The court changes the number of required sessions for court-mandated offenders from eight to twelve weeks.

DAIP consults with Range Women Advocates to adapt the Duluth Model in four rural mining communities in northern Minnesota.

#### 1983

Women in neighborhood groups develop the *Power and Control Wheel*.

Duluth receives the "President's Award" from the Minnesota Corrections Association for its work in the domestic violence field.

## Mission Statement

The mission of Domestic Abuse Intervention Programs is to end violence against women. We give voice to diverse women who are battered by translating their experiences into innovative programs and institutional changes that centralize victim safety. We partner with communities worldwide to inspire the social and political will to eliminate violence against women and their families.

## Values Statement

To live this mission:

- 1.We listen to battered women. Our work involves active engagement with women who have experienced violence so that our efforts are guided by their realities and concerns.
- 2. We educate to promote liberation. An educational process of dialogue and critical thinking is key to our efforts to assist women in understanding and confronting the violence directed against them, and to our efforts to challenge and support men who commit to ending battering.
- 3.We advocate for institutional and social change. We examine the practices and policies of social and governmental agencies that intervene in the lives of battered women, and address systemic problems by engaging with institutional practitioners and leaders in the development of creative and effective solutions.
- 4. We struggle against all forms of oppression. Women are not defined by a single identity, but live in the intersection of their race, gender, class, ethnicity, nationality, disability, age, religion and sexual orientation. Our work must also challenge all systems of oppression that create a climate of supremacy and intolerance that facilitates violence and exploitation in women's lives.
- 5. We promote non-violence and peace. Every step we take, every interaction we have with others, is an opportunity to advance non-violence, continually working toward and building a culture and a future of peace.



This report is dedicated to Kay Marie Sisto and her loving family, who will keep Kay's memory alive.

On the front cover:
Dreams

"Dreams are where our hopes are born. The images in this quilt come from the Native American dream catcher and reflect the Power and Control Wheel."

–Lee Zimmerman

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## From the Executive Director

#### Dear Friends of DAIP,

The year 2010 was amazing and eventful at DAIP. We completed capacity building work with the Lake Superior Initiative that helped us develop the mission and values statements on the opposite page. We saw the Visitation Center step up as a force for justice, we introduced the Blueprint for Safety to the Duluth community, and we continued to believe in and work for change. The National Training Project began to see the results of careful planning, curricula and training development. The Battered Women's Justice Project stood at the forefront of emerging issues across the nation. We celebrated 30 years of social change to end violence against women. The quilts featured in this report are from our 30th Anniversary celebration in October 2010 at Clyde Iron Works, where we honored our co-founders and celebrated a new generation of activism to end violence against women.

In late May of 2010, my heart was broken to learn of the death of Kay Marie Sisto at the hands of her husband here in Duluth. The reality came screaming home: most domestic violence never gets to the criminal justice system. Most domestic violence continues as silent suffering; no police calls, no reports, no advocacy – no use of the systems and responses we have built over 30 years. I have always said that we need to do this work with the courage, savvy, and resiliency that battered women use every day just to live their lives. Please join us in a commitment that will get in front of the violence, stop it before it starts, and stretch further in efforts to create non-violence. That, I believe, is our challenge now and a covenant we hold for our children.

Linda Riddle



Achilles

"Achilles was a Greek hero who was almost immortal. He had only one weakness. In a similar way, when a baby is born, they represent our own mortality – a weakness in our armor. The child is a reminder of our weakness, our hope, our reach toward change." – Lee Zimmerman

#### 1984

Circle of Life, an educational and social change group for Native American women, begins.

Women's Action Group forms to work on issues of violence and poverty in women's lives.

#### 1985

The court changes the number of mandated sessions for abusers from 12 to 26 weeks.

The "no drop" policy of the prosecutor's office is eliminated. Conviction rates fall from 80% to below 47%.

#### 1986

A group is organized for Native American men who batter.

DAIP publishes a curriculum for a 24-week program for men who batter: *Power and Control: The Tactics of Men Who Batter.* 

DAIP produces the video *Profile of an Assailant*.

#### 1987

The City of Duluth receives the "John F. Kennedy School of Government Award" from the Ford Foundation for "Innovations in State and Local Government" for its changes in public policy regarding domestic assault.

In Our Best Interest, a curriculum for leading education groups for women who are battered, is published

#### 1989

A new DPD policy eliminates arrests in self-defense cases.

DPD and DAIP develop a new training curriculum, *Law Enforcement Response to Domestic Assaults* for ongoing training of law enforcement officers.

DAIP organizes the National Training Project to provide training, materials, and technical assistance to communities; to create new training material; and to build an ongoing funding source for Duluth domestic violence programs.

#### 1989

The Visitation Center opens, offering a safe place to exchange children and for on-site visitation.

#### 1992

DAIP contracts with the US Marine Corps to develop a *Marine Corps Intervention Model* in spouse assault cases.

#### 1993

The Battered Women's Justice Project begins with funding from the US Dept. of Health and Human Services. BWJP is a clearinghouse on criminal and civil court reform work and the development of programs for men who batter.

#### 1994

DAIP receives the "Stop the Violence" award from the Minnesota Medical Association.

#### 1996

DAIP receives the "President's Award of Excellence" from the American Medical Association for its model of coordinated community response to domestic assault.

#### 1997

DAIP and the Law Enforcement Resource Center of Minneapolis jointly publish an updated curriculum: *Domestic Violence:* The Law Enforcement Response.

#### 1998

DAIP moves into The Center for Nonviolence in downtown Duluth.

Crossroads is started – a City of Duluth diversion program for domestic assault victims who are arrested for using violence in an intimate relationship.

DAIP holds its first national conference in Duluth.

#### 1999

NTP provides training on The Duluth Model for emerging democracies in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

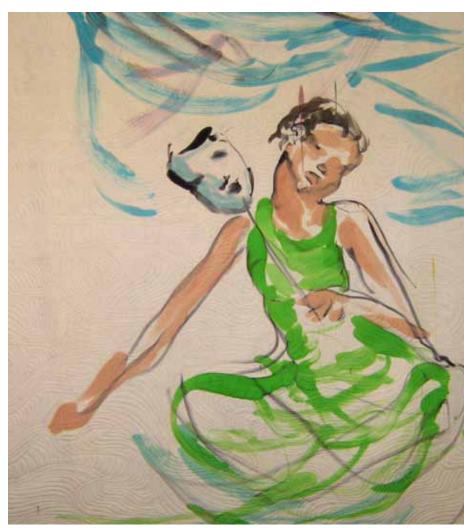
# From the Board Chair

Dear Friends,

My contribution as Board Chair pales to the daily work being done by the staff of DAIP. As a woman / adult advocate for eliminating domestic violence this organization has given me a deeper understanding and an appreciated knowledge into what it takes to achieve this goal.

Although my term as board chair is coming to an end, I will continue to be involved with this wonderful organization. The community coordinated response is such an important piece of the process which needs to be implemented to its fullest so we as a community can end domestic violence.

Sincerely yours, Carmen Wendland



Masguerade

"Often we present to the world an image that is very different from our honest feelings. This can be even more distorted in the case of domestic abuse."

–Lee Zimmerman

# 2010 Highlights

# Revised Curriculum for *Creating a Process of Change for Men Who Batter*

The first major rewrite since 2003, the curriculum includes ten new video vignettes, a new women's experience video, and a video demonstration of a men's nonviolence class with facilitator reflections. Added to this edition is an outline of key elements of a successful men's nonviolence program to help facilitators who are starting a new program.

#### Disability Grant from Office on Violence Against Women

We received a grant for a three-year collaborate project to fundamentally change how we address issues of domestic violence and sexual assault when serving women with disabilities.

#### BRAVE Gala at Clyde Iron

We celebrated our first 30 years and honored our co-founders. Silk-painter Lee Zimmerman, suspended in the air, painted a 6' x 30' column of silk, accompanied by the cello music of Kathy McTavish and the spoken art of Sheila Packa, Tera Freese, Linda LeGarde Grover, and Karen McTavish. The six silk panels from the paintings were turned into the beautiful quilts by award-winning long-arm quilter Karen McTavish and are displayed throughout this report.

#### Safe Transitions: Healthy Families

The Visitation Center provides a safe place where children can build and maintain positive relationships with their parents. More than 90% of parents using the center are court-ordered as a result of domestic violence. Before the existence of Safe Transitions: Healthy Families, parents using DFVC services would often leave abruptly because of sudden changes in their parenting time mandated by the courts. Such changes failed to account for safety concerns of child and adult victims of domestic abuse. Sudden transitions placed children in harm's way and left mothers who are battered to navigate potentially dangerous exchanges where they were forced to communicate with their abusive former partner, often facing threats, coercion, harassment, and continued violence. Safe Transitions: Healthy Families ensures victim safety and offender accountability when supervised visitation and exchange are in place.

#### Strong Moms/Safe Kids

Strong Moms/Safe Kids is another new program in the Duluth Family Visitation Center. The program consists of groups of mothers who meet weekly for ten weeks and discuss topics they have self identified. Strong Moms/Safe Kids facilitators work to strengthen the participants' resiliency, improve their safety, and equip them with new skills in parenting and keeping their children safe. Each session focuses on understanding the effects of domestic violence on children and on their relationships with their children. Mothers identify ways to build emotional and mental strength in their children, advocate successfully for themselves and their children, and how to plan for their children's safety in the face of ongoing psychological and physical violence.

#### 1990

Dabinoo'lgan Shelter for Native American women opens in Duluth.

#### 2000

The St. Louis County Sheriff's office adopts a predominant aggressor policy to reduce dual arrests.

#### 2001

The curriculum *Power and Control:* The Tactics of Men Who Batter is translated into Spanish, with culturally relevant vignettes using Spanish-speaking actors.

#### 2002

DPD adopts a predominant aggressor policy to reduce the number of dual arrests.

#### 2003

Power and Control: Tactics of Men Who Batter curriculum is updated and retitled Creating a Process of Change for Men Who Batter.

DAIP creates The Domestic Abuse Information Network (DAIN) database for domestic violence programs nationwide to track and monitor cases, evaluate demographic information, types of arrests, re-arrests, and offender program records.

#### 2006

Praxis International produces a DVD highlighting DAIP's history: Building a Coordinated Community Response: The History of the Duluth Model.

#### 2007

DAIP publishes a supplement to the Creating a Process of Change for Men Who Batter with a Christian focus entitled Changing Men, Changing Lives: Building Nonviolence with Christian Men.

#### 2008

NTP launches an online catalog for training materials and course registrations.

OVW Safe Havens Project funds a comprehensive evaluation of the Visitation Center.

#### 2009

The Domestic Violence Response Team at the Duluth Police Department expands with support from OVW for developing and tracking the criminal justice response to the co-occurrence of domestic violence and sexual assault.

DAIP receives the "Touchstone" award from the Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation.

#### 2010

The Visitation Center implements changes from the OVW Safe Havens Project evaluation.

OVW funding supports a three-year project on community collaboration on violence against women with disabilities.

DAIP publishes a new curriculum Building a Coordinated Community Response to Domestic Violence.

DAIP releases a new DVD featuring three batterers discussing their use of violence: *Men, Battering and Change*.

Documentary filmmaker Peter Cohn produces a film titled *Power* and *Control: Domestic Violence in America* featuring DAIP and the work of the Duluth Model.

# A special thank you to these outgoing board members

Brooks Anderson Beverly Balos Nancy Bratrud Janet Haynes Mary Louise Klas Laura Lokken Monica Miles Jo Olsen

# **Programs**

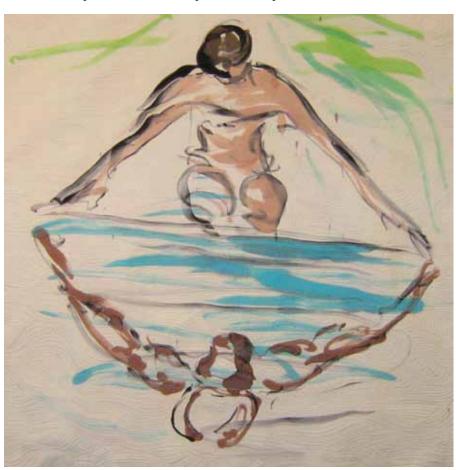
#### **Domestic Abuse Intervention Project**

As the first intervention project in the country, DAIP continues to coordinate the interagency effort and provides nonviolence education programs for court-ordered offenders. In 2010, 334 men participated in the Batterer Intervention Program and 16 women participated in the Women's Nonviolence Program.

Additionally, the staff of DAIP provide ongoing training for law enforcement, prosecutors, court personnel, and other professionals; assist criminal justice agencies in developing policies and procedures to increase victims' safety and consequences for assailants; monitor law enforcement, prosecutors, probation officers and the batterers' program to ensure an appropriate response to victims of domestic violence; and contact women whose partners enter the DAIP men's program to provide information on women's education groups and other community resources.

#### **Duluth Family Visitation Center**

The mission of the DFVC is to provide a safe place where children can build and maintain positive relationships with their parents. The DFVC strives to



The Beast

"We cannot examine the world of domestic abuse without realizing that nearly all of the physical abuse is perpetrated by men. The images in this quilt draw their inspiration from the tale of Theseus and the Minotaur. The Minotaur represents the power-seeking responses of the abuser. In order to become a true man and a leader, Theseus must conquer these impulses."

–Lee Zimmerman

support parents' efforts to end power and control in their lives and the lives of their children. It offers small groups, skill building, and safety planning for all family members affected by domestic violence. The DFVC provides the only location in the city of Duluth for safe exchanges and supervised visits that centralizes the safety needs of child and adult victims of domestic violence.

In 2010 the DFVC provided 3,494 safe exchanges and visits between 350 parents and 225 children.

#### **National Training Project**

NTP provides training and technical assistance to communities implementing intervention programs throughout the world. NTP has conducted more than 1,800 trainings and seminars in the past fifteen years in Duluth, around the country, and worldwide.

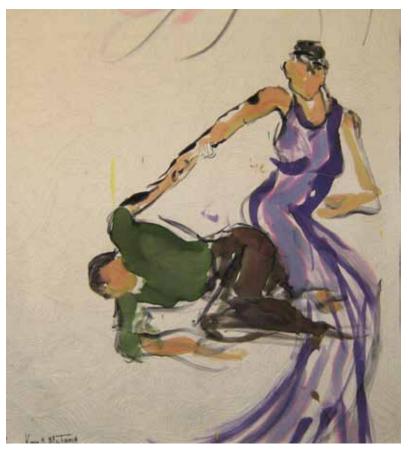
Approximately 500 people attend trainings at our center each year.

Communities and individuals using the Duluth Model have long asked for more ways to connect for meaningful dialogue. Soon we will launch the Duluth Model NING network, a social networking tool that will allow registered users to connect with other practitioners and exchange ideas, learn about best practices, and share successful outcomes.

In 2010, NTP conducted 12 trainings in Duluth and 24 national/international trainings.

# Battered Women's Justice Project

BWJP's Criminal and Civil Justice Office offers training, technical assistance, and consultation on the most promising practices of the criminal and civil justice system in addressing domestic violence. Criminal and Civil Justice staff can



Lonely King

"Sometimes people think that the world is much like a game of king of the hill – where one must push down all the other players to win. This can be the view of an abuser in the domestic environment. Yet, if you look at life as a game of king of the hill, you will eventually be a very lonely king."

–Lee Zimmermar

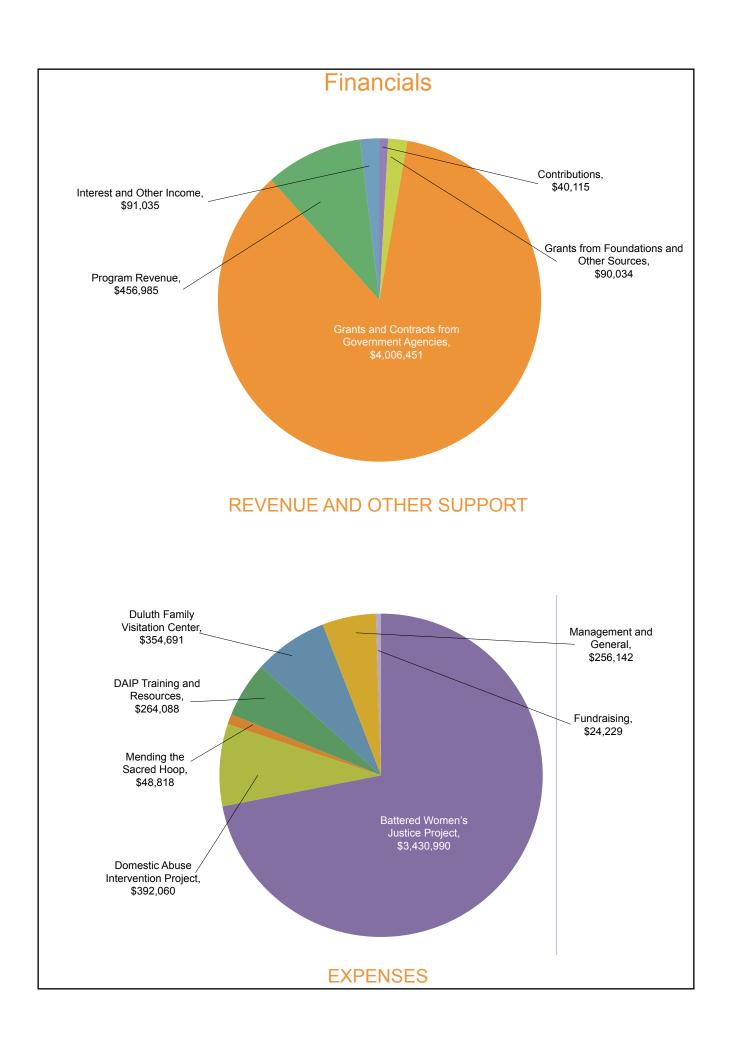
provide information and analyses on effective policing, prosecuting, sentencing, and monitoring of domestic violence offenders, as well as protection orders, confidentiality issues, divorce and custody, and separation violence.

The Defense Office of BWJP is managed by the National Clearinghouse for the Defense of Battered Women in Philadelphia and addresses issues that arise when battered women are charged with crimes.

# The National Center on Protection Orders and Full Faith and Credit

NCPOFFC provides ongoing technical assistance and training on full faith and credit, federal firearms prohibitions related specifically to domestic violence, federal domestic violence and stalking crimes, and inter-jurisdictional child custody cases involving domestic violence.

Audiences include law enforcement officers, prosecutors, judges, court administrators and other court personnel, civil attorneys, victim advocates, and others who work with victims of domestic violence and stalking.



# Thank you to the following individuals, foundations, and corporations for financial support during 2010.

Jill Abernathey

Abused Adult Resource Center

American Legion Post 71 - West Duluth Brooks Anderson and Coral McDonnell

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Edgewood Smith and Bridget Riversmith

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Teresa Walter

Bradford and Bonnie Wedge Carmen and Doug Wendland Paul and Mary Windberg

Tom Wirtz Jen Wright

Naomi Yaeger-Bischoff Young and Associates Grace Zemlin

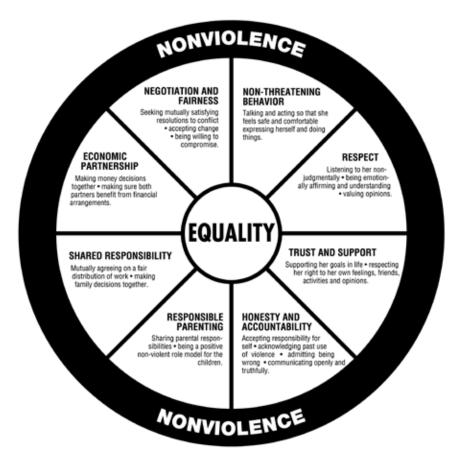
Lee Zimmerman and Andrea Wahman

Sheralyn Zlonis

# The Power and Control Wheel

The *Power and Control Wheel* was developed from the experience of battered women in Duluth who had been abused by their male partners. It has been translated into over 40 languages and has resonated with the experience of battered women world-wide.





# The Equality Wheel

The Equality Wheel was developed to describe the changes needed for men who batter to move from being abusive to a nonviolent partnership. The wheels can be used together as a way to identify and explore abuse, then encourage nonviolent change. For example, the "emotional abuse" segment on the Power and Control Wheel is contrasted with the "respect" segment on the Equality Wheel.

### DAIP Board of Directors



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#### Falling

"When domestic abuse has been felt and has been so deeply tied to the 'bottom' – it threatens death, and the 'Falling' into final disaster. Flying symbolizes a companion and inverse to Falling that pulls the spirit from despondency to elevation, to entering strength provided from another sphere."

–Lee Zimmerman

### About the artists

Lee Zimmerman is a silk painter who has exhibited his work in New Orleans, Minneapolis, Duluth, and Santa Fe. He has performed large scale live silk paintings on several stages in many venues, often as part of symphony orchestra concerts. The quilts throughout this annual report were painted during our Brave Gala 30th Anniversary celebration in front of a live audience on October 23, 2010. Lee was suspended along a 30-foot tower of silk, painting to music and poetry.

Karen McTavish is an awardwinning long arm quilter whose method of quilting is known nationwide as "mctavishing." Karen has won more than fifty national and international awards for her heirloom quilts. She took Lee Zimmerman's completed silk paintings and turned them into the six masterpiece quilts.