# Community Partnerships

inspiring the social and political will to eliminate violence against women and their families



Domestic Abuse Intervention Programs 2011 Annual Report



# Dedicated to the memory of Ellen Louise Pence

April 15, 1948 - January 6, 2012

Ellen Pence, our dear friend and colleague, passed away on January 6, 2012. Ellen's tireless efforts toward ending violence against women and children has left an imprint so wide and deep that it can truly be said that the lives of women and families worldwide have been changed for the better because of her work.

#### From the Executive Director

When Ellen Pence died on January 6, 2012, the world lost a great leader and an amazing woman. As a co-founder of DAIP and a tireless activist against domestic violence, Ellen saved the lives of thousands of women, and the work she initiated continues today. A hallmark of the Duluth Model is partnerships and



collaboration – all of us working together as a community to end violence against women, to hold offenders accountable, and to bring safety to the lives of victims.

As you'll see in this 2011 annual report, many community partners work with DAIP to continue and expand upon the work of the Duluth Model. Many of our formal partners are in law enforcement and the criminal justice system. But we are expanding our collaborations to include our entire community.

DAIP was proud to co-sponsor public awareness activities and events, including a film on child sex trafficking, Women's History Month, and acknowledging the work of women leaders from Liberia. We participated on the Trafficking Task Force, shared a bus to the Capitol in St. Paul with our sister organizations for Stop Violence Against Women Action Day, collaborated with Safe Haven, CASDA and Men as Peacemakers on Domestic Violence Awareness month activities, and continued building relationships through the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women and the Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless. DAIP was also a proud partner in Duluth's UnFair Campaign and initiated a networking group of women leaders in Duluth nonprofit organizations.

We are all in this together and we all do better when we all do better! None of our work would be possible without the partnership and commitment of DAIP's Board of Directors, the funders who have joined us with their financial support, and community members who increasingly step up to help build the social and political will to end violence against women and their families. In closing, we acknowledge the partnership of the many women who have given their time in focus groups and in conversation to help us learn about their lives, their dreams and their needs as they move forward from violence. We thank you all. As Ellen Pence once said, "if you want to make something happen, if you live in Duluth, that's where it can happen."

Linda Biddle

# Friends,



Something truly amazing was born in Duluth just over three decades ago. A few incredible visionaries came together with an idea that would change not only our community but eventually our state, nation and many places around the world.

That idea was the foundation for The Domestic Abuse Intervention Programs, which to this day is a global leader in building effective intervention strategies and tools to reduce, prevent and

break the ongoing cycle of domestic violence.

As a retired Duluth police officer, I know all too well the damage and destruction caused by domestic violence. I am proud to be part of an organization which makes such an incredible difference in our world. I encourage you to read the annual report and find out more about us. We would be honored to show you what we are all about!

Sincerely, John Beyer Chair, Board of Directors

Advocacy cannot be limited to giving women information about court proceedings and then offering to accompany her to court. Advocacy starts with our unraveling the practices that silence and oppress women, then developing strategies to alter those practices.

"Advocacy and the Conceptual Practices of Power"



Throughout our history, partnerships with community organizations and agencies have been at the core of the work of Domestic Abuse Intervention Programs. Each partner we work with plays a vital role in accomplishing our system response work and is an integral part of DAIP's four project areas: the National Training Project, the Domestic Abuse Intervention Project, and the Duluth Family Visitation Center, as well as the Battered Women's Justice Project, located in Minneapolis.

#### THE NATIONAL TRAINING PROJECT

NTP has many partners across the United States who provide Duluth Model training on a range of domestic violence topics for organizations, practitioners and communities working to eliminate violence in the lives of women and children. NTP also works closely with our DAIP coworkers and others in the Duluth community to capture emerging issues and approaches, thereby building trainings and creating materials that help create a global community committed to ending violence against women. In 2011 these partnerships included a team of writers, video journalists and funders who all contributed to the release of our updated version of the curriculum used for facilitating men's groups, entitled "Creating a Process of Change for Men Who Batter." In October of 2011, the United States State



Department's Open World Program supported 10 women from Petrozadovsk, Russia

for a week of tailored and translated Coordinated Community Response training in Duluth.

### THE DULUTH FAMILY VISITATION CENTER

The DFVC continued to expand community partnerships in 2011. Most significantly, the Supervised Visitation Collaborative with St. Louis County Health and Human Services, the 6th Judicial District Court, and Dabinoo'Igan Native Women's Shelter informs and strengthens our work with families after parents have separated and there has



been domestic violence in their relationship. This partnership started in 2007 with the purpose of sustaining visitation and exchange services based on equal

consideration for adult and child victims of domestic violence.

First Witness Child Abuse Resource Center is another important partner in the work of the Visitation Center. A new

resiliency program began in 2011 for mothers and children who have experienced custody and visitation issues after ending an abusive relationship. Two



sessions of 10 weeks each were completed by the end of the



year. Strong Moms/ Safe Kids was created through a partnership with First Witness. First Witness staff member Sara Lee was present for planning,

for the mother's groups and conducted the groups for their children with funding from our partners, the Weyerhaeuser Family Foundation. The Transition Program began in 2010 with the support of our partners at the Mardag Foundation and the

Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation and by 2011 the Transition Program



worked actively with the Courts, guardians ad litem, attorneys and parents to create visitation agreements focusing on building long-term safety, again with equal regard for both adult and child victims, following



#### THE INTERVENTION PROJECT

DAIP's Intervention Project monitors Duluth's Coordinated Community Response (CCR), the interagency effort to create institutional intolerance for domestic violence through practices and procedures based in victim safety and offender accountability. It requires effective collaboration among practitioners and agencies, and a fundamental basis in victims' experiences.

The working relationship between the intervening agencies and the local victim advocacy programs has been and continues to be at the core of all of our system response work.

In 2011, we conducted an in-depth study of "system" responses to domestic assaults when the victim is sexually assaulted by her abusive partner. Made possible by a grant to the City of Duluth from the Office on Violence Against Women, this study included input from



the Domestic Violence Response Team (DVRT) based at the Duluth Police Department, Safe Haven Shelter and Resource Center, Arrowhead Regional Corrections, and Program for Aid



to Victims of Sexual Assault (PAVSA). The results of this study will strengthen and improve our response to domestic violence cases when the

victim is sexually assaulted by her abusive partner, as well as informing the development of policies, procedures and trainings in best practices around a victim-centered response.

As a result of the above-mentioned grant from OVW, the City of Duluth was eligible to apply to become a Blueprint for Safety community, one of only three in the entire country. DAIP's Intervention Project staff is taking the lead on developing Duluth's Blueprint for Safety. The work began in the summer of 2011, and continues today, involving all of our partners in Duluth's CCR, as well as some new ones, including the St. Louis County Sheriff's Department and the City and Coun-



ty Attorney's Offices. The ultimate goal of the Blueprint for Safety is to create one community-wide set of comprehensive, integrated domestic violence policies and procedures that not only hold offenders accountable but also repair the harm done to victims.

#### **NATIVE PARTNERSHIPS**

Fond du Lac Human Services, AICHO, Dabinoo'igan Shelter, MIWSAC,



Mending the Sacred Hoop

Grand Portage Reservation, White Earth Reservation Dove Program, PAVSA, Red Lake Urban Office, Family Justice



Center, Mending The Sacred Hoop, Community Action, and NW Legal Aid.

All these partners help keep area Native Women safe and violence free. We partner up to bring awareness to the community about trafficking of Native women and children and help connect to provide services and a proper systems response to domestic violence.

#### **DULUTH'S WITNESS INTIMIDATION PROJECT**

In 2011, DAIP partnered with the City Attorney's Office to examine the frequency and impact of intimidation of domestic violence victims by their abusers and made recommendations on how to address the problem.

#### CONNECTIONS

Begun in 2010, this federally-funded partnership includes DAIP, Access North, Arc Northland, AICHO, Safe Haven, and PAVSA. We are working to develop responses and services for women with disabilities who are victims of domestic and sexual assault. The second year of this three-year project focused on needs assessment planning.

#### **BATTERED WOMEN'S JUSTICE PROJECT**

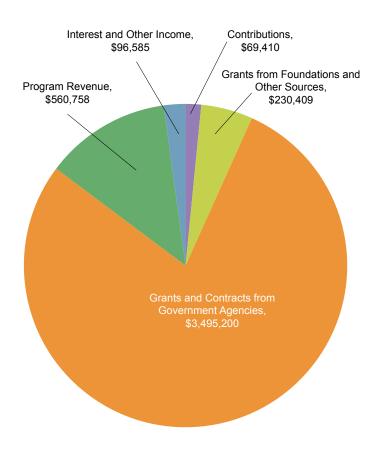
BWJP is currently partnering with researcher Neil Websdale of Northern Arizona University, Praxis International and two Arizona communities in an effort that combines two powerful methodologies that examine institutional responses to domestic violence and identify systemic problems or gaps: fatality reviews and institutional assessments (formerly called safety audits). A grant from the state of Arizona awarded in 2011 allowed the partnership to implement the project in Coconino County, the area around Flagstaff in northern Arizona.



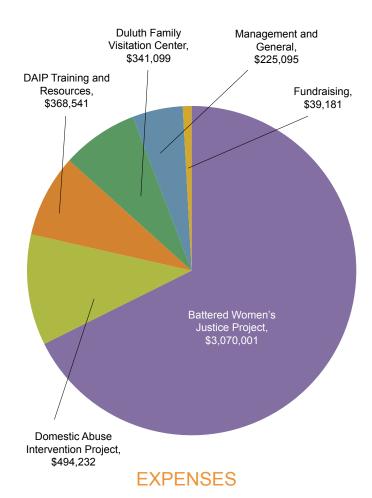
Many children who have lived with violence come to visitation centers cloaked in it. They may display no bruises, but its traces are inscribed in their bodies, minds, dreams, and fears. In the broad sense, these children are not situated in neutral space; violence and society's response to it have permeated their experience and re-ordered their lives. They are situated not in a neutral world, but in an everyday life shaped by assault, coercion, and intimidation. We risk failing children if our interventions are wrapped in claims of "neutrality" that protect us from facing the ugly and complex realities of violence in their lives and those of their mothers.

On Safety's Side – Protecting Those Vulnerable to Violence: Challenges to Notions of Neutrality in Supervised Visitation Centers, 2008

# **Financials**



REVENUE AND OTHER SUPPORT



# Thank you to the following individuals, foundations, and corporations for financial support during 2011.

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In the end I think the DAIP's greatest contribution was its demonstration of how a local advocacy group could reshape institutional responses to male violence. In our case, that meant that we were able to create new boundaries around acceptable interventions to protect women and children. It redefined police action, it integrated women's safety into all court interventions, it created a way to focus rehabilitation on the abuser instead of the relationship, it demonstrated how to create interventions based on different levels of dangerousness and the context of the violence, it insisted on a system that intervened beyond the incident and understood the whole context of the violence, and finally it showed a way for activists and their allies in the system to work together. We made gender visible in a justice system that purported to be blind to all of the privileges it so routinely maintained.

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### 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.

### **Core Values**

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.



First Lady Michelle Obama hosts a Mother's Day Tea in the State Dining Room of the White House, May 7, 2010, posing here with Ellen Pence and her mother, Anne Marshall

(Official White House Photo by Samantha Appleton)



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