“...I worked hard to overcome the constant sense of worthlessness that had been stamped into every fiber of my being. ... "My work, Lisa’s Self-Portrait," expresses at long last a sense of transformation.

– LISA DIETZ
“A Reflection of the Beast” Lee Zimmerman
This work, inspired by Greek Mythology of the Minotaur and the Labyrinth, portrays the struggle of man’s ego living as a beast inside. Upon looking at his reflection, he is reminded of the life-long struggle to tame the impulse of his beast.

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Dear DAIP friends, supporters and community members,

Strong communities don’t just happen. They are intentionally cared for, challenged and guided through change. For more than 30 years DAIP has worked to help make Duluth a community of nonviolence committed to ending domestic violence.

The change inspired through the Duluth effort, The Duluth Model, has quite literally changed the world. We are proud of this change, not because of what we ourselves are doing, but because of what it inspires.

Change happens when we show people how to create a coordinated community response to keep victims safe and hold offenders accountable.

Change happens when a perpetrator of domestic violence examines the beliefs that led him to exert domination over his partner.

And change happens when a woman weighed down, buried by years of abuse, sees the Power and Control Wheel and, often for the first time, understands what has occurred in her life. Something is broken open and she begins a journey to know her strength.

During our 30th anniversary year we ask your help.

Help us continue to build the vision here in Duluth:
• That every battered woman who is taking steps away from abuse can expect protection in her community, every time she takes those steps;
• That children can expect safety and expect to be protected from the trauma and injury of watching their dad or a male adult abuse, dominate and control their mom; and
• That all men who believe they have a right to authority over their intimate partner can start a process of change.

We can end the kind of beliefs that perpetuate violence, power and control in all its forms against women. We can do better, and with your help we will do better. We have a generation of children and women depending on it.

Please support the work of DAIP by giving directly with the envelope provided, or by taking part in any of this year’s events. Thank you for joining us this year with your participation and your critical contributions.

Carmen Wendland
Domestic Abuse Intervention Programs
Board Chair 2009-2010

SAVE THE DATE
See the back page for more details:

SEPTEMBER 19
Walk Away from Abuse/Walk for Safety
Walk, run or wheel your support for women taking steps away from abuse.

SEPTEMBER 25
Shoot Hoops for Safe Youth
A family-fun basketball event for the whole family featuring the Harlem Ambassadors.

OCTOBER 23
30th Anniversary Celebration: An Evening of Performing Arts at the Clyde Iron Works
Join us for an unforgettable evening of “never-done-before” performing arts.
The Duluth Model:  
HISTORY, THE PRESENT AND DECADES AHEAD

The document in your hands serves a three-fold purpose. It’s an annual report for 2009, an update on current work and a look ahead to an important year for Domestic Abuse Intervention Programs: its 30th anniversary.

Here you’ll find the remarkable story of The Duluth Model, a system of ensuring rapid, coordinated response to domestic violence that originated in Duluth and has spread around the world. You’ll find out how military and civilian leaders sharpened and refined their response to domestic violence by military personnel. You’ll find out how The Blueprint for Safety builds on The Duluth Model. You’ll find some numbers: practitioners trained, courses taught, communities touched.

Beyond the numbers, you’ll find stories of real people: of women who mustered the strength to leave their abusers and men who confronted the beliefs that led them to abuse. You’ll see how art expressed and transformed the experience of some women. Because transformation—change—is what’s necessary to confront domestic violence, both in individual relationships and in communities. In every part of our work we ask one question: Are women safer as a result of our work? The answer is: absolutely. It happens through a process of change.

Duluth’s criminal justice system has gone through its own process of change. It turned, gradually, from a place that has permitted battery and left children and women scarred, traumatized and unprotected in the early 1980s, to a place that keeps victims safe and holds offenders accountable.

How do we carry that work forward and build on its foundation? The year 2009 began with an exciting opportunity and challenge for DAIP: to successfully apply for, then complete, an organization-wide capacity building project with funding from the Lake Superior Initiative. Developing our leadership and revenue capacities became a major focus of the year and continues to drive our strategies into 2010 and beyond. The year-long initiative gave us the time and attention to clarify, solidify and move forward together. I am proud to share DAIP’s newly adopted mission statement and core values:

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. To live this mission: We listen to battered women, we educate to promote liberation, we advocate for institutional and social change, we struggle against all forms of oppression and we promote non-violence and peace.

This mission and values form DAIP’s core and guide our organizational and programmatic directions, strategies and priorities. We offer many thanks to the Lake Superior Initiative for a wonderfully intense experience.

Even as we honor our 30th year and celebrate successes with family entertainment and an arts gala (back cover), we’re reminded that the work of ending domestic violence continues. Using the attached envelope, please give your financial support to Domestic Abuse Intervention Programs. When you do, you foster a process of change, not only in your own community, but across the nation and around the world.

Linda Riddle  
Executive Director

DAIP DIRECTOR  
EARN STATEWIDE HONOR

Linda Riddle earned the Virginia McKnight Binger Award in Human Service from the McKnight Foundation. The award recognizes up to six Minnesotans who attend, unite and empower others in communities throughout Minnesota but who haven’t gained wide recognition for their efforts. Linda was recognized for more than 15 years of local and statewide work serving abused and homeless women and children, and for her accomplishments at DAIP where, in just 3 years, she has instilled renewed energy and vitality for DAIP’s mission and direction.
DAIP RECEIVES TOUCHSTONE AWARD

Each year, the Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation grants its Touchstone Awards to “non-profits that have gone above and beyond … for their leadership in transforming problems into opportunities and service into action.” In 2009, DAIP earned a Touchstone Award centered on the theme “Celebrating Our Creative Economy.” DAIP was chosen for its contribution to attract and retain creative people based on the “four Ts” of economic development: Technology, Territorial Assets, Talent and Tolerance. Participants from over 200 communities across the country attended trainings in Duluth in 2009.

“Behind the Mask” Lee Zimmerman
Inspired by Mardi Gras in New Orleans, a mask is worn to hide what the inner world contains. It can show others that everything is alright but when it comes off, sometimes by carelessness, our exposure reminds us that we are human and are again embarrassed.
WOMEN IN A PROCESS OF CHANGE

DAIP women’s groups aim to support women in a process of change to self-efficacy and strength. Women’s education groups and one-on-one assistance is available for women who have lost custody of their children or are victimized by a history of abuse.

Loretta’s Story

“Most of the learning in women’s group has to do with understanding how we ended up in relationships with this kind of abuse. Seeing the Power and Control Wheel was pivotal to my life. I realized, ‘Yes, the same things are happening to me.’

What helped my change was owning my own life. I had to get my life back. Through the women’s education groups, I unearthed how it was that the opinion I held about myself had been shaped almost exclusively by my husband. He had convinced me I was worthless. When I did change, it was because I had taken a distance from the assumptions and beliefs that I held all those years.

My kids were the tipping point for me. During the time I was abused by my partner, I was trying to shield both my son and my daughter from it, but they were actually learning how to protect the abuser and continue the cycle. I thought stepping away from my abuser and becoming a single parent would be harsh on the children. But, when I took steps for healing myself and could see the change in myself of no longer accepting the abuse, I came to love myself. My children really grew seeing me change.”

Loren’s Story

“There is something remarkable about how the Wheel resonates with women’s experiences all over the world. The Wheel ignites a truth about what is so, so needed in our world: fundamental respect for women, and protection for her safety.” – Linda Riddle, Executive Director

“If I could say one thing to DAIP, it would be ‘Thank you for teaching me to how to get my life back’.” – Women’s group participant

MEN IN A PROCESS OF CHANGE

When a man enters our non-violence class, it’s usually because he has been court ordered to attend the class for 27 weeks. What do we find on the other end of the 27 weeks? One man, Robert, talks to us about entering a process of change.

Robert’s Story

“At first when I started in the Men’s Nonviolence Class it was hard because I wanted to be so defiant, I wanted to say ‘The hell with you guys, you don’t know anything,’ but I’m able to go home now after being in this program to have peace of mind with the family. It used to be that when I got home from work the roughhousing or laughter in the house just went away. I put that into them, I put that, not a fear, but ‘Oh s---, dad’s home.’ And now when I talk to my kids about that, our youngest will give me a hard time when I raise my voice saying: ‘Well you better go back to your class because you obviously haven’t learned anything.’

But, you know, it’s a slap of reality, because it’s true. I haven’t mastered it yet, I have little slips here and there and I’ll raise my tone or whatever, but I catch myself. Before I’d blow up over the stupidest little things and cause the dumbest little arguments, even with my kids. You know, if my dog could talk back I’d probably cause an argument with him. But I can go home now and see the difference, feel the difference.”

“The change we witness in men is a change in belief. Belief about themselves and about their privilege or ‘right’ to authority over women.” – Barry Anderson, 10 year veteran facilitator for DAIP’s Men’s Nonviolence Groups.

“There is a new connection to myself—a person that is loveable, and capable in a peaceful relationship. I want to be that person. Because of the men’s groups I know it is a real possibility.” – Men’s group participant
BUILDING SAFETY FOR MOTHERS AND CHILDREN

The Duluth Family Visitation Center provides a space for safe visits and exchanges for children in families affected by domestic violence. Supervised visitation and exchanges is one important intervention that interrupts the cycle of violence. Without safe visitation centers, battered women face continued power and control conflicts and are at high risk of ongoing violence. Children may be witness to this violence and often are put in the middle.

Stories From Battered Mothers Finding Safety In The Visitation Center

“We first came to the Visitation Center during the divorce. The father of my children had been violent and I needed an Order for Protection (OFP). The OFP lasted for two years and included supervised parenting time at the Center. I knew that the only way my children’s safety would be guaranteed was under supervision.”

“My goal when I went to the Center was just for my children to have a safe relationship with their father. I wanted them to have a Dad and have a safe place to maintain that relationship. I knew that if he wanted to change he would have to do it. I accomplished my goals and still feel as if I am in my security zone.”

“The Visitation Center has given me peace of mind. I feel confident that my children are safe and secure. I can see a steadiness in my children. Having the Center held him accountable so he couldn’t go wishy-washy on the children. The Visitation Center enabled me to speak honestly with my children about our experiences. I feel safe to tell the truth about why things are they way they are. Since they have experienced success and changes, I believe it is safe to address the past. This is success for me, for the children, even for him. The visitation center is the only way to go – it’s the way I had to go.”

“My child witnessed fighting and abuse for years before we started coming here. Using the Center has made a huge impact on my child. He wouldn’t have a relationship with his father if the safe exchanges weren’t available. I think this has been a positive experience for his father too. If the Center wasn’t available and we had to do exchanges elsewhere, he would have continued to abuse me, mess with me, pressure and manipulate me. Now he has to re-learn how to have an appropriate relationship with me, without the power and control tactics. He has no choice but to focus his energy on our child.”

Battered woman using the Visitation Center

“I hope that viewing [this image] will help viewers’ [with their] fear as much as painting it has helped with mine.

“And Then The Phone Rang” Lynn K. Hansen

More Success Stories from Our Programs
THE NATIONAL TRAINING PROJECT

The National Training Project helps define and refine best practices to respond to and reduce domestic violence, nationally and internationally.

Global Impact
In 2009, we brought our trainings to 21 cities across the United States, as well as Australia, Canada, Mexico and Sweden. Participants from more than 200 communities across the country attended trainings in Duluth.

Training participants learned skills to improve gaps in their criminal justice system, how to provide greater support for victims and how to hold batterers more accountable.

The National Training Project also provided education plans, posters and DVDs to more than 300 communities to help them end domestic violence.

Building a National Community of Practitioners
Communities and individuals using the Duluth Model have long asked for more ways to connect for meaningful dialogue. This year, 2009, was a marker year for laying the groundwork to make it happen: enter the new Duluth Model NING network.

The “NING” is a social networking tool that allows registered users to connect with other practitioners and exchange ideas, learn about best practices and share successful outcomes. Check out the e-community at www.theduluthmodel.org.

BWJP BUILDS COORDINATED MILITARY/CIVILIAN RESPONSES TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The Battered Women’s Justice Project (BWJP) provides technical assistance to communities across the country as the national resource center on civil and criminal justice responses to domestic violence.

Working with military leaders in a demonstration project funded by the Justice Department’s Office on Violence Against Women, the BWJP identified two military sites, Jacksonville, FL, and Fort Campbell, KY, where it could give technical assistance required to coordinate the military and civilian agencies’ responses to domestic violence.

Using the experience gained, the project created guidelines for other military communities to achieve three goals:
• Enhance victim safety and autonomy;
• Hold perpetrators accountable for ending their violence; and
• Give safety and support to children exposed to violence in these families.

BWJP and the partner sites used small, interdisciplinary work groups and a mapping process to examine the existing military and civilian response. They interviewed practitioners who intervene in domestic violence cases, observed that intervention in practice via such activities as riding along with first responders and observing the 911 center and conducted a systematic analysis of case files and administrative procedures. The recommendations from this process were institutionalized in a formal Memorandum of Understanding that clearly identified each agency’s role in responding to domestic violence cases involving Navy personnel.

The project’s document, “Collaborating for Safety: Coordinating the Military and Civilian Response to Domestic Violence – Elements and Tools” is available on the Battered Women’s Justice Project website: www.bwjp.org
Blueprint for Safety Builds on the Duluth Model

In 2010, Ellen Pence, cofounder of Domestic Abuse Intervention Programs, along with nine participating agencies in St. Paul, MN, agreed to replicate and expand on what Duluth successfully accomplished with its Coordinated Community Response thirty years earlier in a much smaller community. The Blueprint for Safety is a written document produced by the inter-agency group that demonstrates the intricate details that must be figured out to process cases in ways that always centralize victim safety and offender accountability. We are currently working with our partner agencies in the criminal justice system in Duluth to implement the lessons from St. Paul in Duluth and to develop and add to the Blueprint for Safety components around civil protection orders, visitation centers, sexual assault and batterer intervention programs.

Partnership Formed to Assist Crime Victims with Disabilities

What if fear kept you from being able to protect yourself from abuse—fear of retaliation, fear of being judged, fear of being stigmatized? It’s not a what-if for people with disabilities living in Duluth. It’s a reality that Domestic Abuse Intervention Programs and other partners aim to change. Our new multi-disciplinary collaboration project with the Program to Aid Victims of Sexual Assault, Access North Center for Independent Living, and the Minnesota Disability Law Center is reaching out to people with disabilities, victim service providers, disability service providers and law enforcement to provide training, invite collaboration and improve communication among service providers on disability issues. The goal is to increase reporting of crimes by people with disabilities and to create improved responses by victim service providers and the criminal justice system.

Mending the Sacred Hoop

Mending the Sacred Hoop became an organizational program in 1990. Over the past 20 years, Mending the Sacred Hoop has grown to provide both domestic violence and sexual assault training on reservations and in tribal communities across the United States and Canada. Mending the Sacred Hoop created independent organizational status in 2009. DAIP continues a close working relationship with Mending the Sacred Hoop and congratulates them for becoming a fully Native American run organization.

New Curricula to Start Off the 30th Anniversary Year

Our “Creating a Process of Change for Men Who Batter” curriculum is the most widely-used curriculum for working with men who batter. In 2009, we began updating this important curriculum to create a new edition that will help lead domestic violence practitioners into the next era of work.

“The success of our work turns on our ability to collaborate and develop intervention and prevention that interrupts the underlying causes of the systemic, controlling behavior we call battering. Our strategies for change and collaboration seek to make visible the invisible and interrupt the beliefs that allow battery to continue.”

– Linda Riddle, Executive Director

“Wheelchair Yoga” Lisa Dietz

When I tried an adaptive yoga class at Courage Center, it triggered something deeper inside... It wasn’t just about stretching. It was about finding a new way to live.
Thank you to all individuals and federal, state and local funders who gave grants and gifts from January 1 to December 31, 2009.

Barry and Ila Anderson
Greg Andler
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Tim and Valerie Burke
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Our Special Thanks to Outgoing Board Members:
Anne Bergman
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Carmen Wendland, Chair
Brooks Anderson
Beverly Balos
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Emebet Davies
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DAIP 2009 Executive Staff
Linda Riddle, Executive Director
Denise Gamache, Battered Women’s Justice Project Director
Denise Lisdahl, Administration Team Leader
Beth Olson, Duluth Family Visitation Center Team Leader
Scott Miller, Duluth Intervention Project Team Leader
Lora Wedge, National Training Project Team Leader
Patty Opoien, Finance Director
Ellen Pence and her mother Anne Marshall were recognized for their work to end domestic violence by First Lady Michelle Obama at a Mother’s Day Tea at the White House, May 7, 2010. Join us in honoring Ellen and our three additional co-founders at our special 30th anniversary event on October 23. See back page for more details.
Fall 2010

LOOKING AHEAD TO THE NEXT 30 YEARS

September 19: Shoot Hoops for Safe Youth
A family-fun basketball event for the whole family featuring the Harlem Ambassadors. All proceeds support the Family Visitation Center, where kids can expect safety from the adults in their life. Come see the DAIP team featuring players such as Mayor Ness, County Attorney Melanie Ford and your other favorite Twin Ports personalities as they scrimmage with the Harlem Ambassadors. Follow the buzz on Facebook and purchase tickets at www.theduluthmodel.org/events. Consider sponsoring this event with your business! Location: University of Wisconsin Mertz Mortorelli Gymnasium, 19th and Catlin Avenue, Superior, Wisconsin, 3:00 p.m.

September 25: Walk Away from Abuse/Walk for Safety
Walk, run or wheel your support for women taking steps away from abuse. Nobody walks away from abuse alone. The distance can be far, so we walk together. Come walk, run or wheel with friends, co-workers and family. Walk with or in honor of a friend or loved one making her own courageous steps. All funds provide direct support for men, women and children affected by domestic violence. The 3-13 mile run opens at 9:00 a.m. at the Willard Munger Trail, 7408 Grand Avenue, Duluth. Register online at www.theduluthmodel.org/events.

October 23: 30th Anniversary Celebration: Evening of Performing Arts at the Clyde Iron Works
Join us for an unforgettable evening of performing arts that thanks Duluth for doing what had never done before (mandatory arrest for batterers and interagency protection for the battered)—with a “never-done-before” performance weaving together silk painting, interpretive cello and the poignant movement of battered women’s stories. These stories will culminate in an evening that promises, like The Duluth Model itself, to take you to unimaginable heights. The evening includes a special tribute to Duluth and to our co-founders—Ellen Pence, Shirley Oberg and Coral McDonnell, and Rep. Michael Paymar. It features the exquisite work of four artists. Learn more at: www.theduluthmodel.org/events.