Recognizing Domestic Violence in our Communities

The following was adapted from an Op-Ed piece published in local newspapers in June 2005

During the last few months, several Litchfield County residents were involved in domestic violence situations that ended in serious injury or death. At Susan B. Anthony Project, people come to us and ask, “Should we have known this was coming?” “Could I have done anything to help?” While I too feel helpless, sad, and outraged, I am not completely surprised when I hear of a particularly violent incident. People tell us all the time that they are afraid that if they leave their spouse or partner, or if they fight for custody of their children, that they could be killed. People tell us that they stay with an abusive spouse because it’s better than being hunted down and murdered.

While I don’t know the individuals who were recently injured or killed, I do know that in many relationships that include physical, emotional, sexual and financial abuse, there is one person who uses power to control the other person. This exertion of power and control takes many forms. The most obvious is physical abuse. Sometimes in addition to physical abuse, the controller may threaten or intimidate as a way to keep the victim under control. Some victims are also forced to engage in sexual activity, have someone exert complete control over all aspects of their finances, or are isolated from friends and family.

Does any of this sound familiar to you? Do you know someone who’s in an abusive relationship? You probably do. Is it someone in your family? Your neighborhood? Your circle of friends? There are people in abusive relationships living in each one of our beautiful peaceful communities in Litchfield County. In Bantam court, which serves Litchfield County, there are an average of 60 domestic violence arrests every month. And, there are many people being abused who never call the police.

You can help. Pay attention to the warning signs. Is there someone who’s not working because their spouse doesn’t like when they work? Do you have a friend you haven’t seen in a long time and the reason is because of abuse at home? Has someone told you that they can’t dress a certain way, or they can’t buy certain things because it will upset their spouse or partner? Listen to the person. Believe what they’re telling you. Help them with a safety plan so they can keep themselves and their children from being hurt. Help them understand they are not the only one going through this. Tell them to call Susan B. Anthony Project’s hotline at 482-7133 where they can talk to a counselor. Susan B. Anthony Project is available to help victims as well as family and friends of victims understand what is going on in an abusive relationship. We can help someone with a safety plan. Our confidential services are free and available 24 hours a day.

In addition to crisis and support services, Susan B. Anthony Project staff and volunteers also work with young people in our prevention program. In the last year, we provided educational programs that reached more than 6,000 students and helped children and teens understand that teasing and bullying are not okay, that sexual harassment is not okay, and that exerting power and control over

Please respond before March 1, 2006

(continued on page 2)
October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

**Purple Ribbon Campaign:** Wear a purple ribbon to raise awareness of domestic violence in our community, to honor the survivors and memorialize those who have died.

**An Empty Place At The Table** is a visual display designed to allow the observer to view a table set for mealtime with one space left empty as visual testimony of the absence of the domestic violence victim within that family setting. The displays will be in downtown store front windows.

**The Clothesline Project** at Susan B. Anthony Project, Torrington, CT displays t-shirt artwork of survivors of domestic violence who have taken time, in their work toward healing, to display messages of hope.

**October 2** The agency will provide outreach and an information table at the Winsted Safety and Awareness Fair.

**October 3** Day of Unity marks the kick-off for all Domestic Violence Activities throughout the State of Connecticut. Participants and the general public are asked to wear purple ribbons on this day and for each day during the month of October.

**October 7** Walk in Our Footsteps held in Hartford is a display of children’s shoes, to bring awareness to children affected by domestic violence.

**October 15** Northwest CT Women’s Wellness Expo. The Silent Witness Exhibit will be on display. It includes 13 life-size figures representing Connecticut women who were killed by their abusers in 1996.

**October 19** Susan B. Anthony Project Candlelight Vigil at 6:30 p.m. at Coe Park in Torrington, features activities to promote awareness of domestic violence, honor survivors and remember those who have lost their lives. The vigil provides an opportunity to give voice to survivors and their families in a portion of the program known as “Speak Out”. Call 489-3798 to participate in “Speak Out”.

**Teen Essay Contest** New this year is a teen essay contest on dating violence. The winner’s essay will be read at our vigil. Call Tanya at 489-3798 for more information.

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**Recognizing Domestic Violence (continued from page 1)**

another person is not okay. We teach young people ways to resolve conflicts peacefully and how to have self respect and respect for others.

Join us at Susan Anthony Project in our work to end domestic and sexual violence. Learn more at our website www.sbaproject.org. Become a volunteer or donor. And please come to the Susan B. Anthony Project Domestic Violence Candlelight Vigil on October 19th.

Barbara Spiegel
Executive Director

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**Shelter Dedicated to Gillian Hanna**

For over 20 years, the Susan B. Anthony Project’s shelter has provided temporary housing for women and children to live without abuse while helping them to rebuild their lives. This summer, the shelter went through a major renovation including a new roof, siding, and accessibility for everyone regardless of ability. In August, the shelter was dedicated to our founding mother, Gillian Hanna.

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**SUSAN B. ANTHONY PROJECT PROGRAMS AND SERVICES**

**HEART Group:** (Help End Abusive Relationship Tendencies) An on-going, peer support group for women who have experienced any form of family violence meets Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. Please call to speak to a co-facilitator prior to attending your first group.

**Trauma Survivors’ Group:** An on-going group for women survivors of trauma focuses on coping skills for those dealing with past trauma meets Thursday evenings 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. Interested participants must call to speak to a facilitator prior to attendance.

**Moms and Self-Esteem Support Group:** This group will be forming in the near future. Call Lois for more information or to add your name to the wait list.

**Volunteer Training:** A 40-hour, domestic violence/sexual assault certification training for new volunteers is starting soon. Call Lois for more information.

For more information about exact dates, times and to pre-register, call 489-3798 and reference the title of interest.
Women's Doubles Round Robin Tennis Tournament

Fifty women participated in the second annual tennis event at the Kent School on June 14th and raised over $5,000 for SBAP.

The second annual Women's Doubles Round Robin Tennis Tournament was a great success thanks to the Event Chair Lisa Horne and Event Coordinator, Manny Clark. Noted Litchfield County tennis pro Kenyon Clark organized the teams and kicked off the event for the second year.

Barbara Spiegel, SBAP Executive Director, thanked everyone for participating in the event and for their support of the agency services for victims of domestic and sexual violence in our community. She thanked the committee members for their hard work including Mary Adams, Liz Keilty Donovan, Saun Ellis, Phil Gargan, Theresa Hargrave, Hilary Houldin, Palmer Marrin, Susan Payne, Anais Perkins, Jane Risley, and Turi Rostad.

Raffle items for the event were donated by: Painting by Patricia McTague Pontolillo, Jack Black Cosmetics donated by Emily Dalton, Barbara Bourgeois Antiques, Tennis Lessons by Kenyon Clark, Dinner at The Mayflower Inn, Tickets to the Bantam Cinema, Tennis Bag from Sushe Designs and Gift Certificate from The Village Sheep.

24-HOUR CRISIS LINE: 860-482-7133
STATEWIDE TO LL FREE HOTLINES:
Domestic Violence: 1-888-774-2900
Sexual Assault: 1-888-999-5545
En Espanol: 1-888-568-8332

If you have any questions about an item listed, please call 860-489-3698 and ask for Jeanne, Michelle or Danielle.

On-going Needs:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Items</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CASH DONATIONS</td>
<td>CASH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>For client assistance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GIFT CERTIFICATES</td>
<td>GIFT CERTIFICATES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grocery stores</td>
<td>Grocery stores</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pharmacies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gas stations</td>
<td>Gas stations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department stores</td>
<td>Department stores</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHONE CARDS</td>
<td>PHONE CARDS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

BEDDING
- Pillows
- Washable pillow covers
Twin sheets
Pillow cases
Towels and face cloths
DIAPERS
- Older babies
- Toddlers

Holiday Wish List:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Items</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ADOPT A FAM ILY</td>
<td>Call for details about the family and ask for Jeanne, Michelle or Danielle.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GIFT CERTIFICATES</td>
<td>GIFT CERTIFICATES</td>
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<tr>
<td>Department stores</td>
<td>Department stores</td>
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<tr>
<td>Haircuts</td>
<td>Haircuts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Athletic supplies</td>
<td>Athletic supplies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Small electronics</td>
<td>Small electronics</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TOYS
- Children of all ages

CASH
- To purchase gifts for teenagers and adult women.
Agency News and Notes

In May the Board of Directors elected three new members:
Barbara Douglass, President of Northwestern CT Community College
Donna Keane, Information Architect, Intelligent Hosting LLC
Mary Schinke, Attorney at Law

Susan B. Anthony Project is proud to announce the following grants:
- Bank of America Foundation to support shelter, counseling and advocacy
- Swindells Charitable Foundation to support counseling and advocacy for children
- Elizabeth Carse Foundation for counseling and advocacy for children
- George A. and Grace L. Long Foundation for counseling and advocacy
- Verizon Foundation for STRIVE job readiness and case management
- Connecticut Community Foundation for the 2nd year of a 3-year grant to support Community Education
- Maximilian E. and Marion O. Hoffman Foundation for direct assistance to clients
- Alan Shawn Feinstein Foundation as part of the Feinstein Challenge to Fight Hunger
- Junior Women’s Club of Litchfield Hills, Inc. for general support
- Crosswicks Foundation for general support

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, November 12, 2005
11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Susan B. Anthony Project Authors’ Luncheon
Bistro East at the Litchfield Inn
Route 202, Litchfield, CT
Limited seating. Call for reservations 860.489.3798
Luncheon tickets $40 per person ($25 as a donation to SBAP)

Sponsored by the Hickory Stick Bookshop, Washington, CT

Handmade in Maine

20” @ $15 + $1* = $16
28” @ $25 + $1* = $26
38” @ $40 + $1* = $41

Wreaths are available for pick up the week of November 28th.

*We hope that you will add $1 to the purchase of your wreath as a donation to the Rebuilding Lives Campaign.

Holiday Wreath Sale

Name of Organization:
Contact Person/Title:
Address: ____________________________________________________________________________
City:____________________State:____________________Zip:_________________________
Telephone #:____________________Fax #:_________________________

Wreath Order: Qty Total

20” $15 + $1* = $16
28” $25 + $1* = $26
38” $40 + $1* = $41

TOTAL

860-489-3798 phone orders
860-482-6268 fax orders

Order by mail
Susan B. Anthony Project
434 Prospect Street, Torrington, CT 06790
Rebuilding Lives Campaign

For over 22 years Susan B. Anthony Project has provided crisis services for victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse in northwestern Connecticut. It has become clear that the need for our services has grown and that our current office and counseling center is inadequate to meet the community’s needs. Currently, fourteen staff members work in a 2,200 sq. ft. office where we provide crisis and support services to more than 2,500 people and educational programs for more than 7,500 people per year.

To address this problem, we began our early work on the Rebuilding Lives Campaign in 2003. Our campaign goal is to raise $2,500,000 to accomplish the following:

- Establish a new Counseling and Advocacy Center that will be accessible to all with comfortable, safe spaces for confidential client services.
  $1,750,000

- Expand and enhance agency programs to ensure quality staffing and services are available 24 hours a day 365 days a year.
  $750,000

The business community and foundations have been especially generous including gifts from:

AKC Fund, Inc. 
Anthem Blue Cross 
Burns Brooks & McNeil 
CT Community Foundation 
Deupree Family Foundation 
Diebold Foundation 
Dishy Family Foundation 
Dymax Corporation 
First National Bank of Litchfield 
Gallen Family Foundation 
Litchfield Bancorp 

NewM il Bank 
Northwest Community Bank 
O & G Industries 
Salisbury Bank & Trust 
Seherr-Thoss Foundation 
Shred-it Connecticut 
Community Foundation of NWCT 
Thomaston Savings Bank 
Timken Foundation 
Torrington Savings Bank 
Webster Bank

However...we still have a way to go and need to raise $423,061. Please help!

CAMPAIGN & CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Construction and renovations began in May 2005 and we expect the project to be completed in early 2006. We look forward to moving to our new center that will provide access for everyone regardless of disability, increase space for confidential individual counseling sessions, and ensure a safe and secure facility for our clients and staff.

We have seen tremendous success in the Rebuilding Lives Campaign, thanks to the generosity of our Board, staff, and friends.

Recent major gifts include:
- $50,000 grant from the Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Authority
- $275,000 The Kresge Foundation

While interior work is being done, site contractors are at work on the new accessible entrance.
Polly’s Dream Thrift Shop
To benefit Susan B. Anthony Project, Inc.
Tuesday-Saturday, 10-5 p.m.
Thursday evenings until 6 p.m.

Donations accepted during business hours only.
Furniture donations: please call for an appointment.
Volunteers always needed.
Please call if you are interested.

114 Water Street, Torrington
860-489-2808

Susan B. Anthony Project
434 Prospect Street
P.O. Box 846
Torrington, CT 06790

24-hour Crisis Line: 860-482-7133
Office: 860-489-3798

www.sbaproject.org

OCTOBER IS...
Domestic Violence Awareness Month
Candlelight Vigil, October 19, 6:30 p.m.
Coe Park, Torrington