



Susan B. Anthony Project

Safety • Healing • Growth

Newsletter - Spring 2003

Executive Director's Message:

Recognizing 20 Years of Service

This year we proudly recognize 20 years of service provided by Susan B. Anthony Project. In 1982, a group of concerned local citizens held the first meetings and identified the need for crisis services for battered women.

Wasting no time, these founders-- Gillian Hanna, Polly Doremus, Kevin Brophy, Pat Finn, Faye Tway-Grant, Carmella Lattizori, Sister Diane Guerette, Charlotte Organschi, Sheri Gorneault, Dr. Laurie Franklin, Gary Grant, Marianne Christiano, Paul Pagano, and Mary Lou D'Amico-- applied for their first grant, secured temporary office space, and hired a part-time organizer to find and train volunteers to operate the crisis line. Susan B. Anthony Project for Women, Inc was incorporated in May 1983.

Within months, following meetings with the Torrington Mayor and Chief of Police, the agency's services expanded to include sexual assault crisis services and Susan B. Anthony Project became a member of ConnSacs, the statewide coalition of Rape Crisis Programs. The next six years were times of impressive growth and expansion. In 1985, we opened

our shelter--a confidential secure space that would house 12 women and children for stays up to 60 days. In 1986, we shortened our name to Susan B. Anthony Project, Inc. In 1987, the STRIVE (Seeking to Realize Independent Values and Esteem) program was added to provide education, counseling, and support services to women in transition and to address the personal and systemic barriers women face in the workplace.

Throughout these times of growth, one consistent contributor was Board member Polly Doremus whose vision and energy cannot be overstated. In 1989, under the leadership of Polly Doremus and Executive Director Claudette Baril, the agency secured State of Connecticut funding and purchased a 4-family house which would become the Sojourner Truth House Transitional Living Program. This program would provide housing and continuing support and programming for families leaving shelter.

Polly Doremus' next burst of energy came with the opening of Polly's Dream, the agency operated thrift shop. In 1994, this modest enterprise opened in New Hartford with one part-time staff person. In 1998, Polly's Dream moved to Water Street in Torrington to a much larger space, and in 2002, the agency purchased the property that houses the thrift shop.

Throughout these last twenty years, we have provided crisis and support services 24 hours per day, 365 days per year. Our staff and volunteers have met victims in the middle of the night at the hospital, at the police sta-

tion, and at our office. Families have moved in and out of our shelter and transitional house, participated in support groups, benefited from our court advocacy services, learned from our community educators, and been supported as they've paved new roads for themselves.

Today, we provide direct services--shelter, counseling, advocacy, and support groups--for approximately 2700 people per year. In addition, we provide prevention and education programs in schools and throughout the community for approximately 8,000 people per year. Our staff has grown from one part-timer to fifteen full time and eight part time staff based in seven locations. Our modest budget has grown to nearly \$1,000,000 per year.

Unfortunately, the need for our work will continue for many years to come. Everyday, we receive calls on our crisis line. We hear about our neighbors in our communities who have been sexually abused or assaulted. We learn of the arrests and crises in families experiencing physical, emotional and sexual abuse. We know of victims who are isolated and don't even know there is help for them or that they aren't the only one in this situation. We at Susan B. Anthony Project do our best to let people know we're here and that our services are available, confidential, and free of charge. Please help us help those in need. Tell people about Susan B. Anthony Project and about our rich history and that we're here to stay.

Barbara Spiegel

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Sexual Assault Awareness Month Activities

April 1: Beginning on April 1st and continuing throughout the month, the Clothesline Project will be displayed at Susan B. Anthony Project.

April 1: Area churches will participate in a bell ringing service at noon in recognition of victims and survivors of sexual assault.

April 2: Flower planting at Coe Park in Torrington in honor of victims and survivors of sexual assault.

April 3: "Break the Silence around Sexual Violence" press conference offered by Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services at 10:30 at the State Capitol.

April 8, 15, 22, 29: Participants may attend one or all of a series of popular creative writing and poetry workshops being offered from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. at Susan B. Anthony Project. Call Nancy to register for one or more than one session.

April 25 & 26: FACES project will be offered providing a creative outlet for individuals wishing to express feelings and facilitate healing by creating a three-dimensional plaster face mold of their own face. Participants will decorate these faces using various images, words and colors. The group will process their work and will utilize guided visualization to connect with their personal experiences while tapping into their creative expressions. Please contact Doreen for more information and to register.

For information, call 489-3798.

Agency Programs & Services

H.E.A.R.T. 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.

Male Sexual Assault Survivors Group: Call for information about this group offered in Middletown, Connecticut

TRAUMA SURVIVORS GROUP: An on-going, ten week cycle for women survivors of trauma with a focus on coping skills for those dealing with past trauma meets Thursday evenings from 6:30-8:00 p.m.

FACES Project: offered on April 25th & 26th to a maximum group of 8 survivors of trauma interested in utilizing a creative outlet to healing. Doreen will answer questions about this program.

Pro Se Divorce Clinic: This workshop, in the development phase, is offered in conjunction with an attorney from CT Legal Services and is designed to help women navigate through the divorce process independently. Call to reserve a space for this upcoming program.

Poetry Workshop: offered once again in April by Sandra Bishop Ebner. Participants may attend one or more than one of four workshops offered on April 8, 15, 22 and 29th from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. This workshop is designed to empower, uplift, inspire and heal.

For more information about exact dates, times and to pre-register, call 489-3798 and reference the title of the program of interest.

4th Annual Poetry Workshop to be Offered in April

Sandra Bishop Ebner has generously offered to facilitate her always-popular creative writing and poetry workshop once again in April. This will be the fourth annual workshop she is facilitating at Susan B. Anthony in honor of both National Poetry Month and Sexual Assault Awareness Month. While this is one of our favorite ways to honor Sexual Assault Awareness Month and the healing power of writing creatively, participants need no writing experience or "talent" and need not be survivors of abuse or assault to attend. All they need is the desire to experience the joy of discovering and igniting their own creative energies. The process will do the rest: empower, uplift, inspire and heal. The four-part workshop will meet on Tuesday evenings, April 8, 15, 22 and 29 from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Participants may attend from one to all sessions and should call 489-3798 to register.

Polly's DreamThrift Shop

To benefit Susan B. Anthony Project, Inc.
Hours: Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Thursday evenings until 6 p.m.

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

**114 Water Street Torrington, CT 06790
860-489-2808**

\$

20% OFF PURCHASES IN APRIL

We're celebrating at Polly's Dream during the 20th anniversary of Susan B. Anthony Project Present this coupon for 20% off your total purchase.

Note: one coupon discount offer per customer

\$



**24-HOUR CRISIS LINE:
860-482-7133**

**Statewide Toll Free Hotlines:
Sexual Assault: 1-888-999-5545
Domestic Violence: 1-888-774-2900
En Espanol: 1-888-568-8332**



Susan B. Anthony Project

The White Ribbon Campaign

Susan B. Anthony Project strives to create safety, healing and growth

for clients throughout the northwest corner of Connecticut. In an effort to promote awareness and prevent violence against women, we are introducing the White Ribbon Campaign. **The White Ribbon Campaign is the largest effort in the world organized by men devoted to ending violence against women.**

The history of the White Ribbon Campaign stems from the Montreal Massacre. On December 6, 1989, 14 women were shot and murdered by a fellow student at the University of Montreal because they were feminists. The White Ribbon Campaign began in 1991 as a result of this horrendous act when a small group of men came together and decided that (as men) they had a responsibility to educate and urge other men to speak out against violence against women. The White Ribbon Campaign has currently grown to include chapters in 25 countries.

The goal of the campaign is to encourage self-reflection amongst men, to forge alliances between men and women, and to call on governments and institutions to seriously address the question of violence against women. Violence against women includes physical assault, sexual assault, psychological abuse, and emotional abuse. These abusive acts contribute to the real suffering of women in society today.

During April, Sexual Assault Awareness Month, Susan B. Anthony Project launches the White Ribbon Campaign in northwestern Connecticut by asking men in the community to take a personal pledge to never commit, condone or remain silent about men's violence against women.

In order to create change, men must first become aware of their socialized role and how that role affects violence against women. We know that all men are not

violent. In our society, boys are socialized to be strong and show no emotion. Acceptable behavior for boys includes violence and aggression. "Big boys don't cry" is a common theme taught to boys from the time they are very young. Boys showing their emotions are seen as "feminine". So boys grow up believing that to be a man is to be powerful and in control. With this in mind, it becomes clear how violence against women has become such a monumental problem in our society.

How can men make a difference?

- Take a stand in your community, family, school, or workplace
- Don't be a silent bystander to sexual harassment
- Acknowledge that violence against women is every man's business
- Call 911 if you see violence being perpetrated
- Wear a white ribbon
- Talk to the women in your life about the problem
- Educate a boy about what it really means to be a man

Please join us in our work to end violence against women. Without your help no change can be affected. **If you or someone you know is interested in making this pledge please fill out the pledge form that accompanies this article and send it in to the agency.** Thank you for your support.

White Ribbon Campaign

Agency News & Notes

The Board of Directors welcomes new Board members Jessica Fowler, Lisa Horne, Vickie Patrick, Christine Robertson, and Turi Rostad.

We're proud to announce the following recently received grants: from the Thomaston Savings Bank Foundation for printing teen brochures; from the Alcoa Foundation (Howmet, Winsted) for ongoing client assistance; from the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation and The I. B. and Zena H. Temkin Foundation for emergency client assistance; from the Coe Foundation, emergency shelter and services for women from Litchfield, Morris, Warren and Goshen; from the Benas Foundation for emergency services for women from Litchfield; from the Olga Sipolin Foundation for shelter, food and clothing for children 0-17 to relieve their situations of domestic violence or sexual abuse.

I, _____ am making a personal pledge never to commit, condone or remain silent about violence against women. I am doing this out of respect and love for the women in my life.

Signature _____

Print _____

Address: _____

Phone # _____

May we contact you? ___yes ___no

By signing above, I understand that my name may be printed in the newspaper and displayed publicly.





SINCE 1983

Susan B. Anthony Project

SAFETY • HEALING • GROWTH

works to promote the autonomy
of women
and the safety of
all victims of domestic
abuse/sexual assault
in northwest Connecticut
as well as to promote
community action
toward ending
domestic violence
and sexual abuse.

Board of Directors

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Susan B. Anthony Project

Safety • Healing • Growth

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TORRINGTON, CT

APRIL IS . . . SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH
5th Annual Festival of Performing Arts
Saturday, April 12, 7:00 p.m. - Warner Theatre

5th annual
**FESTIVAL OF
PERFORMING
ARTS**

This year's
Festival of
Performing
Arts, present-

ed by Torrington

Savings Bank, will be held on
Saturday, April 12, 2003 at 7:00
p.m. at Torrington's Warner

Theatre. This year's program marks this
event's 5th annual performance and recognizes
20 years of service by Susan B. Anthony Project
in northwest Connecticut. As a tribute to this
special anniversary, the show has been planned
with a family focus.

**RECOGNIZING 20 YEARS OF SERVICE BY
Susan B. Anthony Project**

Master of Ceremonies for the show will be Fran
Brill with Muppet, Zoe, of Sesame Street
Workshop. Fran Brill was the first female
Muppet performer to be hired by Jim Henson for
Sesame Street. She has created the characters of
Prairie Dawn, the Countess, Zoe and many oth-
ers. Her work with the Muppets includes THE
MUPPET SHOW, THE JIM HENSON HOUR,
DOG CITY, THE ADVENTURES OF ELMO
IN GROUCHLAND and ZOE'S DANCE
MOVES. Fran has appeared in films, off-
Broadway and in major regional theaters in lead-
ing roles. Her voice has been heard in hundreds
of voice-overs for commercials and cartoon
series including the popular DOUG.

Promising to live up to its high calibre of per-
forming arts presentation, the Festival
once again offers returning performers from
dance companies including MOMIX, Pilobolus,
Torrington's own Nutmeg Ballet and the chil-
dren's choir, Chorus Angelicus with Paul Halley.
New to the show this year is Larry Hunt of
MASQUE, who is mask-maker and performer to
audiences of all ages.

For families
attending the
program with
children, special
children's pric-
ing for tickets is

available this year thanks to the Torrington Area
Foundation for Public Giving. As in past years,
Patron tickets are available for \$100.00 and
include a post-performance reception in the
Atrium Room of the Warner Theatre. General
admission tickets are \$25.00. For each Patron or
General Admission ticket purchased, up to two
children's tickets may be purchased (for children
under 12) at \$5.00 each. There are plenty of
FUN party surprise give-a-ways for the children
at this year's show!

Susan B. Anthony Project would like to
acknowledge this year's corporate sponsors who
contribute greatly to the success of this program.
Presenting sponsor for the event is Torrington
Savings Bank. Other sponsors include ALEX,
American Savings Foundation, CCADV, First
National Bank of Litchfield, FM97.3 WZBG,
Litchfield Bancorp, SCASCO, Settle Agency,
Shred-It, The Register Citizen, Thomaston
Savings Bank, Torrington Area Foundation for
Public Giving and Webster Bank.

Plan to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Susan
B. Anthony Project by joining Zoe and all of the
performers who have so graciously donated their
performances for the benefit of Susan B.
Anthony Project. See you there!

Saturday, April 12
7:00 p.m.
Warner Theatre
Torrington, CT

**FOR TICKETS CALL THE WARNER
BOX OFFICE: 860-489-7180
FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL
SUSAN B. ANTHONY PROJECT:
860-489-3798**