



# Susan B. Anthony Project

Safety • Healing • Growth

Newsletter - Spring 2005

## A Personal Account by Former Board President

This has been a difficult story for me to write. I felt compelled to write this because of my respect for all of you who share a deep commitment to end abuse against women. I have been involved with Susan B. Anthony Project since the early 1990's. I know that because I have been selling Holidays wreaths since 1992.

I became involved with Susan B. because of a need to feel I was doing something to end violence against women. Over the years I helped raise money to support services, attended vigils, and met some incredibly courageous women. I was deeply moved by their stories and their journey to heal. I supported them and cheered them on but could only imagine their personal

struggles and the effort it took just to get through the day.

In early 2002 the cover-up of sexual abuse by priests began appearing in the media. Since I have a long commute, I'm an NPR junkie. One day after hearing numerous stories about the extent of the cover-up by the Catholic Church I suddenly became enraged. I was sitting in New Haven traffic shaking, screaming, sobbing, and yelling "What about the victims?" It was at that moment that the emotional impact of being molested by a priest hit me. The pain of my abuse by a priest was multiplied by the enormity of the abuse of power and the subsequent silence and cover-up by those in authority. I was enraged at the abuse not only caused by this one

priest but by a church that preached about love and caring for children yet let so many accused priests be moved from

one parish to another continuing to abuse children. It was at that moment I identified with being a victim for the first time in my life and began my own journey of healing. My entire life was turned upside down; it felt so raw, the pain penetrating my bones. Nothing would ever be the same.

The priest began appearing at our house, just standing at the door and my parents, being good devout Catholics, would invite him into our home. It was almost always before dinner and he would be invited to stay for dinner. It was in our home that he molested me. I was 11 years old when the abuse began. He had this 35 mm camera that he skillfully used to lure me. Sometimes when he knocked on the door of our home, my older brother would tell him that my parents weren't home but he would say "That's okay I'll just come in and pour myself a drink". (That meant scotch) I always wondered why I hated the smell of scotch so much. To this day I hate that smell. I always thought my parents had invited him for

dinner but discovered years later from my mother that they had never invited him to our home. I never told anyone about the abuse. The abuse continued over several years, he betrayed our entire family. The trust I had as a child for priests and the love of going to church was damaged forever. This priest I trusted took away my innocence, my dignity and my spiritual life.

For years I had referred to myself as a "recovering Catholic" as I no longer attended church. I began feeling a need to reach out to others who had been victimized by priests. I contacted the Survivor's Network for those Abused by Priests (SNAP) and discovered that there were no support groups in Connecticut. I began traveling to West Springfield and felt an instant bond with this group of strangers. Last February the Connecticut chapter of SNAP was formed and I found myself leading a group in East Hartford. I am honored to have met many survivors in

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# Sexual Assault Awareness Activities

**April 5th:** National and Litchfield county-wide bell ringing at 5:45 p.m. for 60 seconds to honor survivors of sexual assault

**Tuesdays in April:** 6th annual Creative Writing and Poetry Workshop to aid healing. Call Molly for more information.

**Throughout the Month of April:** Community Education at Informational Tables during lunch at local area high schools to raise awareness regarding sexual assault. Check the school in your area for the scheduled date.

**Date to be Announced:** "Killing Us Softly", a video and discussion at Northwestern Connecticut Community College; date and time to be announced.

For more information about any of these activities, 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 evenings, 6:30 -8:00 p.m.

**TRAUMA SURVIVORS GROUP:** An on-going group 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.

**MOMS AND SELF-ESTEEM GROUP:** A new group is forming. Call and ask to be added to the list if you are interested in attending.

**POETRY AND CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP:** Led by Sandra Bishop Ebner for the 6th consecutive year during April to facilitate healing during Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Meets Tuesday evenings in April.

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

## Continued from cover...

Connecticut and across the country who have had the courage to speak out. Our silence is what keeps us imprisoned. The Church depends on our silence so that perpetrators aren't brought to justice. Thankfully with the help of a gifted therapist and the support of my family and other survivors I am healing. I have found a spiritual community in the Women's Temple in Canton. I am a survivor.

And so my connection to Susan B. Anthony Project has come full circle.

My experiences over the past three years have deepened my commitment to help others who have been abused. A wise woman once shared with me that telling personal stories is the only thing that has ever changed anything in the world. So I am telling my story so the truth will be heard.

Beth McCabe  
SNAP Leader  
Past President SBA

# SUSAN B. ANTHONY PROJECT WISH LIST

### For Polly's Dream:

A new or gently used pick-up or small box truck to facilitate pick up of large donations including furniture

### For Shelter:

A seamstress interested in sewing curtains

### On-Going Needs:

Gift cards / certificates to local grocery stores and pharmacies

Phone cards for long distance calling  
TRAC phone cards  
Gas cards  
New twin sized sheets, blankets, comforters and pillowcases  
Towels and washcloths  
Household cleaners: laundry detergent, bleach, bathroom cleaner, floor wash, dryer sheets  
Toilet tissue, facial tissue



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

### Statewide Toll Free Hotlines:

**Domestic Violence:  
1-888-774-2900**

**Sexual Assault:  
1-888-999-5545**

**En Espanol:  
1-888-568-8332**



**Susan B. Anthony Project is a United Way Agency**



# 6th Festival of Performing Arts

*Comes to Warner Theatre in April*

On Saturday, April 30, 2005, at 8:00 p.m., the 6th Festival of Performing Arts will come to the stage of the Warner Theatre. This year's Presenting Sponsor is **Thomaston Savings Bank**. In what promises to be a magnificent show, performers with ties to Litchfield County will donate their performances for the ben-

efit of Susan B. Anthony Project. For tickets, contact the Warner Box Office at 489-7180.

MOMIX, the internationally acclaimed dance troupe will perform excerpts from their show, *Opus Cactus*. State Troubadour Thomasina will take the stage with John Marshall and Joseph FireCrow will perform.

## Agency News and Notes

Welcome **Nancy Rogers, Director of Development**. We're pleased to have Nancy on our staff overseeing all of our development activities including the Rebuilding Lives Campaign, annual appeal and special events. Nancy is a well seasoned fundraising professional who served as Director of Development at the Hartford Art School, University of Hartford before joining the SBAP staff.

**Susan Jordan, Millie Belfort and Jeanne FitzGerald** have joined the

Susan B. Anthony Project Advisory Board.

Susan B. Anthony Project is proud to announce the following recent grants: **Michael Bolton Charities** for support of client legal services; **The TJX Foundation** to support shelter and crisis services; **American Savings Foundation** and **The Fox 61 Family Fund** to support Community Education; the **Benas Memorial Fund** to support counseling and advocacy for residents of Litchfield; the **Olga Sipolin Children's Fund** for shelter, counseling and advocacy for children; and the **Marion Isabell Coe**

**Fund** to support shelter and crisis services for residents of Goshen, Litchfield, and Morris and Warren.

We're participating in the **Feinstein Foundation's Challenge Grant**. By joining forces with the Foundation, we are a part of the most successful grass-roots drive fighting hunger in this country.

**Nancy Rogers, Director of Development (left), with Board President, Marlene Smith**



# Save The Date!

## Tuesday June 14

(rain date June 15)

### 2nd Annual Litchfield County Women's Doubles Round Robin & Luncheon

9:30 a.m.- 2:00 p.m.  
Kent School  
Kent, CT

Tickets:  
\$75 per person

Patron Tickets:  
\$250 for 1 team

Sign up as a Team  
Limited to 34 Teams:  
First Come, First Serve

Call Lisa at  
Susan B. Anthony  
Project  
860-489-3798

Check or Credit Card



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

Marlene Smith, President  
Ann Bott, Vice-President  
Bob Berson, Secretary  
John Gergots, Treasurer

### Members

Gayle Carr  
Saun Ellis  
Jessica Fowler  
Jake Horne  
Lisa Horne  
Carissa Keepin  
Debra Kenneson  
Vickie Patrick  
Turi Rostad

### Advisory Board

Claudette Baril  
Regina Barreca  
Millie Belfort  
Louis G. Donne, Jr.  
Elizabeth Donovan  
John Donovan  
Polly Doremus  
Jeanne FitzGerald  
Susan Jordan  
Beth McCabe  
Cynthia Quinn  
Diana Savory  
Corey Simmons  
Ellen Tillotson

### Executive Director

Barbara Spiegel

### Associate Director

Jeanne Fusco

### Director of Development

Nancy Rogers



## Susan B. Anthony Project

Safety • Healing • Growth

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Torrington, CT 06790

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Office: 860-489-3798  
Fax: 860-482-6268  
[www.sbaproject.org](http://www.sbaproject.org)  
[info@sbaproject.org](mailto:info@sbaproject.org)

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FESTIVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS  
APRIL 30, 2005  
WARNER THEATRE

# Susan B. Anthony Project Kicks Off \$2.5 Million Rebuilding Lives Campaign

individuals, businesses, and foundations and reduce Susan B. Anthony Project's dependence on state and federal funding.

**Campaign goal    \$2,500,000**

1. Establish a new Counseling and Advocacy Center in the historic Coe Brass Building, a Second Empire granite building located at 179 Water Street in downtown Torrington  
**\$1,750,000**

2. Expand and enhance agency programs and services to ensure that quality staffing and programs are available 24 hours a day. Expand community outreach, enhance prevention and education programs, and increase the number of support groups offered.  
**\$ 750,000**

**Rebuilding Lives Campaign co-chairs  
Bob Berson and Marlene Smith**

Susan B. Anthony Project has raised \$1,563,801 during the quiet phase of the Rebuilding Lives Campaign and on March 31 will kick off the campaign and announce the campaign goal of \$2.5 million. A press conference recognizing this occasion will take place at 179 Water Street, the future Susan B. Anthony Project Counseling and Advocacy Center.

The Rebuilding Lives Campaign will raise financial support from

## Campaign Progress to date

- \$1,563,801 raised in pledges and gifts

- Of the 99 pledges to date, 50 are new donors

- 100% participation of the Board of Directors and Staff who have pledged \$461,200

- We've had an excellent response from businesses including gifts from Northwest Community Bank, Shred-It, Thomaston Savings Bank, O & G Industries, Litchfield Bancorp, NewMil Bank, First National Bank of Litchfield, and Torrington Savings Bank.

- We have also had an excellent response from foundations including gifts from Timken Foundation, Torrington Area Foundation, Seherr-Thoss Foundation, AKC Fund, Connecticut Community Foundation, and The Gallen Family Foundation.

## Special thanks to ...

the *Rebuilding Lives Campaign* Committee which includes the following volunteers, board and staff:

Kay Abella  
Robert Berson

Allan Borghesi  
Ann Bott  
Tom Bott  
Polly Brooks  
Peter Dahlin  
Louis Donne  
John Donovan  
Liz Keilty Donovan  
Polly Doremus  
Michael Eanes  
Jessica Fowler  
Jeanne Fusco  
John Gergots

Elisabeth Childs Gill  
Jake Horne  
Lisa Horne  
Natalie Hunter  
Lisa Huston  
Susan Jordan  
Robert Krzys  
Mark Macomber  
Sheila Nevins  
Vickie Patrick  
Susan Payne  
Cynthia Quinn  
Turi Rostad

Diana Savory  
Chris Smith  
Marlene Smith  
Barbara Spiegel  
Jed Struckus  
Ellen Tillotson  
James Youngling

Nancy Rogers, Director of Development  
George Ferguson,  
Campaign Counsel

# Counseling and Advocacy Center

Susan B. Anthony Project is currently operating in a small, 2,200 sq. ft., two-story house on Prospect Street, Torrington. The overcrowded space and cramped working quarters seriously limit the organization's ability to provide ongoing confidential crisis and support services and educational programming.

Fourteen of the agency's 20 staff members work in this center providing counseling and support services to 2,500 women and children per year.

space also serves as the agency's administrative hub. Today, there is neither enough space to meet the needs of the current clients nor is there room to manage the organization.

The new Counseling and Advocacy Center will allow staff and volunteers more privacy and space to help women and children in need.

**The new Center will:**  
- Provide access for everyone

In addition, the education and outreach division provides programs that reach another 7,500 people per year. The current

regardless of disability  
- Increase space for confidential individual counseling sessions

- Provide comfortable room for confidential support groups  
- Create a specially designed area for children

receiving victim services or childcare  
- Ensure a safe and secure facility with a well-lit exterior and parking area

**Barbara Putnam and Allan Borghesi with Jason Woodward of United Construction and Engineering and Glenn Yaekel of Friar Associates**

Friar Associates, Inc. of Farmington is the project architect, and United Construction and Engineering, Inc. of Torrington is the construction manager.

## Program Enhancement

As government support provides only 60% of the actual cost of providing the agency's free services, SBAP must seek private support from individuals, businesses and foundations to underwrite the services it provides to the people of Litchfield County.

**The Susan B. Anthony Project Program Expansion and Enhancement will reach more people and will:**

- Increase capacity to provide quality crisis services 24 hours a day, 365 days a year by adding additional staff positions to cover the night and weekend hours. Today, 24-hour coverage is accomplished with staff on call but not on site

- Expand SBAP's primary prevention and education programs

- Increase the number of adults and children who participate in counseling and support groups

- Enrich skills of SBAP staff to ensure that all are culturally competent and trained to address complex client issues including the cycle of violence, substance abuse, and mental health.

## Special thanks to ...

the Building Committee for all their time and expertise:

Allan Borghesi, co-chair  
Barbara Putnam, co-chair  
Jessica Fowler

Jeanne Fusco  
John Gergots  
Chris Smith  
Marlene Smith  
William Spear  
Barbara Spiegel

## You Can Help the Rebuilding Lives Campaign succeed in reaching our goal

We hope that you will join the Susan B. Anthony Project as we strive to rebuild the lives of victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Our challenging goal of \$2,500,000 can only be accomplished through the generous support of individuals, businesses and foundations. The new Counseling and Advocacy Center will provide the Susan B. Anthony Project with a caring and safe environment where its dedicated staff can respond to the needs of our clients and expand the programs we provide for the community.

**You can help by giving in one of the following ways:**

- Outright Gift: The simplest method of giving by check or credit card  
- Appreciated Securities: A gift of appreciated securities can provide considerable tax benefits

- Wills and Bequests: Your gift passes to the Susan B. Anthony Project after your death

- Other Planned Gift Opportunities: Gift Annuity, Charitable Remainder Trust, Life Insurance or Retirement Plan Bequest

- Real Estate: A gift of real estate may benefit both you and the Susan B. Anthony Project

To make a gift or to learn more about these and other charitable giving programs, contact Nancy Rogers, Director of Development, at 860-489-3798. Your financial advisor can tell you more about the tax implications and advantages of each giving method described above. Susan B. Anthony Project is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.