

Susan B. Anthony Project names Jeanne Fusco as next Executive Director

Susan B. Anthony Project took a noteworthy step toward the future when its Board of Directors unanimously named Jeanne Fusco to lead the organization upon the upcoming retirement of Barbara Spiegel. The selection of Fusco, a 21 year veteran of the organization, follows an intensive national search. "We interviewed many applicants, and Jeanne stood out as the person with extraordinary professionalism, passion, and skills to lead Susan B. Anthony Project into the future," said Board President Jackie Miller.

Since 1983, Susan B. Anthony Project (SBAP) has served the northwest corner of Connecticut with comprehensive support for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, including crisis response, advocacy, prevention, and community education. Under Spiegel's leadership, SBAP has become a recognized national leader in its approach, and advocacy, for victims.

"Jeanne has incredible knowledge of the issues of domestic violence and sexual assault in our community, the state, and nationally," said Miller. "Having spent the last 20 years working alongside Barbara Spiegel, this team has built SBAP into the strong, respected organization that it is today. Jeanne possesses an amazing historical knowledge, as well as an intense passion for this cause. This unique perspective will help us meet the increasing challenges that we face."

Fusco began her career at Susan B. Anthony Project in direct client services, became the first Director of Development, and then Associate Director. As Associate Director, she oversees all the crisis and client services—shelter, transitional housing, counseling, support groups, and more. She also supervises the prevention education programs in schools throughout northwestern Connecticut.

"Jeanne and I have worked together for two decades," said Spiegel. "She has worked tirelessly as an advocate for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. Jeanne is ready to lead the organization as it faces the day to day challenges. There is no one more dedicated to serving those in need in our community."

In fact, those day to day challenges can be immense. Last year, the organization provided "24/7" services to 2,500 victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, and brought prevention education programs to more than 6,500 Pre-K through 12th grade students in the 20 towns in northwestern Connecticut.

"In this time of increasing budget cuts in our state, as well as nationally, we must be focused on our daily mission of support, but with an eye towards a strong, strategic future, to ensure the legacy of these critical services," said Fusco.

Fusco holds a bachelor's degree from Emmanuel College and a masters degree in Human Services/Clinical Counseling from Post University. Prior to coming to Connecticut, she worked for the American Bankers Association in Washington, D.C.

"I am ready to face the challenge, and am truly honored that the Board has entrusted me with this responsibility," said Fusco.