The New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence is taking part in a unique type of fundraising that enables supporters to give to their favorite charity while making an online purchase at their favorite store. CharityBlast.com enables online shoppers to connect with dozens of stores such as Target, Old Navy and iTunes. The stores have agreed to take a portion of their proceeds and donate them to the Coalition. Here’s how it works, supporters go to CharityBlast.com and choose the New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence from a list of charities on the homepage, then start shopping. Feel good about knowing that a portion of what you spend will be going to a worthy cause. To learn more go to www.charityblast.com

St. Anselm students organize road race to benefit members of the Coalition

In early February several nursing students from St. Anselm College approached the Coalition with the idea of holding a road race to not only help support members of the Coalition but also to spread awareness about sexual assault. Senior Danielle Salvas has said she had wanted to do something to raise awareness of this issue for a while, it wasn’t until she gained the support of her fellow students in her “Community as Client” Class her vision become a reality. The students have named this effort S.A.V.O.R. which stands for Supporting Awareness of Victims of Rape. Runners and walkers are welcome to participate in this 5K road race.

S.A.V.O.R. 5K Road Race
April 21st 10:00 am
Elm Street, Manchester

For more information call Danielle Salvas at (401) 744-5571 or email dsalvas@anselm.edu
**Message from the Executive Director**

The Coalition recently collaborated with researchers from the Division of Public Health Services and the University of New Hampshire to conduct the first ever state-specific survey on violence against women in New Hampshire. While this research collaboration is exciting and promises many great things for the Coalition and the future, the results of the New Hampshire Violence Against Women Survey are sobering and alarming.

One in five women in New Hampshire has been the victim of a completed sexual assault, including penetration, and one third of all women in our state have been physically assaulted by an intimate partner. Research consistently shows that being a victim of sexual assault or domestic violence has long lasting effects, resulting from the trauma of experiencing such a devastating event. This trauma history plays itself out in numerous ways in women’s lives—through depression and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, through addiction to various substances as a way to self-medicate the pain, and through impaired health and chronic health conditions. Over the past 30 years, the Coalition and its fourteen member programs have built a strong, dynamic organization focused on addressing these negative effects of victimization. The 14 member programs of the Coalition provide comprehensive, direct services to victims to help them sort through their options in dealing with, and healing from, these abuse.

The programs also offer prevention education and awareness presentations, to help create communities that understand how to support victims, and how to keep the next generation of young women from becoming victims themselves.

The Coalition office staff serves on dozens of statewide commissions, task forces and advisory boards, to be sure the voices and struggles of women who have suffered sexual assault or domestic violence are considered when social systems, statewide agencies, and the legislature are considering programs and policies. In the next few months, the Coalition will be convening our Health and Safety Program, to promote routine screening of violence related trauma in all patient populations. The Coalition will begin an assessment of how local member programs can better address the mental health needs of children exposed to battering and support their mothers with their own mental health and parenting challenges.

The Coalition will continue our collaboration with the Division for Children, Youth and Families that is creating more effective responses to families experiencing a co-occurrence of domestic violence and child abuse and neglect. We will also continue bringing to the public’s attention the prevalence, and severity of violence against women in our state. But the work of the Coalition and its member programs, while dynamic and necessary, is not enough. Think of all the women and girls you know. Then think about one out of five of them being raped, and one out of three of them being hit by their boyfriends or husbands. These are women who have seen sexual assault and domestic violence, and where victims are believed and honored and helped to heal.

**Gracie Mattern**

**Congratulations to Kathy Beebe, the New Hampshire winner of the National Sexual Violence Resource Center’s annual award for OUTSTANDING ADVOCACY AND COMMUNITY WORK IN ENDING SEXUAL VIOLENCE**

Kathy Beebe has been advocating and working on behalf of sexual violence survivors for the past 18 years. She began working at Sexual Assault Support Services in 1989 where she coordinated the 24-hour client services program before leaving in 1997 to become the Training and Standards Coordinator for the New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence. In both of these roles, Kathy actively participated on numerous statewide committees to develop protocols and improve services for victims and has provided training to an array of victim service workers, including medical, law enforcement, and legal personnel. In 2002, she returned to Sexual Assault Support Services where she is currently the Executive Director. Kathy is a member of the Governor’s Commission on Domestic and Sexual Violence, a graduate of the National Victim Assistance Academy and was recently appointed to serve on the NH Judicial Selection Commission.

We want to recognize the other nominees chosen for their outstanding contributions as well:

- Abby Tassel, WISE Assistant Director
- Madelyn Davis, Bridges Crisis Intervention Agent
- Jennifer Berry, RDVCC Sexual Assault Services Coordinator
- Sandra Matheson, Director of the State Office of Victim/Witness Assistance, NH DOJ

**The number of women who have been the victim of a sexual assault could fill Fenway Park more than 3 times over.**

**SEXUAL ASSAULT:** The New Hampshire Violence Against Women Survey found that 22.7% of women have been the victim of a sexual assault, with 19.5% having been the victim of sexual assault with penetration. These figures represent 112,909 New Hampshire women who have ever experienced sexual assault, or the number of women it would take to fill Fenway Park more than three times. These rates of sexual assault are significantly higher than those found in the National Violence Against Women Survey, in which 17.6% of women reported having been sexually assaulted, and 14.8% reporting being a victim of sexual assault including penetration.

However, it is important to note that this survey measured lifetime prevalence of assaults, and did not determine where the assaults occurred. While New Hampshire has a higher percentage of women currently living in the state who have been a victim of sexual assault than the national survey found, it cannot be concluded that the assaults occurred in New Hampshire.

The number of female victims in NH is greater than the population of Manchester and Concord combined by almost 14,000.

**Legislation, Cont. from page 1**

**SB 193: Adjustments to the Child Support Guidelines under Special Circumstances**

Child advocates have been working since the end of the 2006 Legislative Session to develop a child support bill that recognizes the social changes that have occurred in the past 15 years and is focused on the best interests of children. This is especially important to support more parents finding ways for both to remain involved in healthy parenting following their divorce. The result of these labors is SB 193. It lays out specific factors for the court to consider in cases where parents share equal, or approximately equal, residential responsibilities. These include: whether the parents have agreed to a specific apportionment of variable expenses; whether the fixed expenses of the obligee have decreased, and whether the income of the lower income parent enables the child to enjoy a similar standard of living in both households. The bill also provides the courts with guidelines in making child support adjustments when families have extraordinarily high or low incomes. The Senate has unanimously passed this measure and it is now headed to the House Children and Family Law Committee.

**OTHER BILLS OF INTEREST**

**HB 591: Establishing an affirmative defense to certain sexual and domestic violence cases**

This bill requires a victim to testify at the hearing for temporary relief in a domestic violence proceeding, for the hearing to be on the record, and for a record of the testimony to be made available to either party.

**HB 591: Establishing an affirmative defense to certain sexual and domestic violence cases**

This bill attempts to establish an affirmative defense that the defendant reasonably believed the person was 16 years of age or older at the time of the offense. The Coalition is in opposition to this bill.

**DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE IS A HEALTH PROBLEM IN NEW HAMPSHIRE.**

Consistent with other research, women reporting multiple types of abuse also reported poorer physical health. Women who report having a chronic disease or medical condition were more likely to report sexual and physical violence than women who do not report having a chronic disease or medical condition.

For a full copy of this report contact the New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence at (603) 224-8893.

**Intimate Partner Violence has been experienced by at least 33.4% of New Hampshire women, a figure that is consistent with the findings of the National Violence Against Women Survey.** Survey respondents were asked to identify the most recent physical assault they had experienced and were asked who the perpetrator was. Because prior assaults could have occurred, the number of women who have been assaulted by an intimate partner could be greater. For the purpose of the survey, an intimate partner was any of the following: current spouse, ex-spouse, live-in partner or someone the victim was dating. Based on the survey, it is estimated that 166,131 women in New Hampshire have experienced physical assault by an intimate partner.
In January the New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence debuted a new awareness campaign designed to educate the public about stalking, a pervasive crime that affects nearly 1.4 million Americans a year. Governor John Lynch and Attorney General Kelly Ayotte joined Executive Director Grace Mattim at a press conference held January 19th. New brochures and posters were distributed through the 14 crisis center members of the Coalition located throughout the state. The campaign is designed to bring more awareness to the issue and to let victims know there is help for them in New Hampshire.

The Governor’s Commission on Domestic and Sexual Violence is focusing its efforts on Stalking Awareness in 2007. At the press conference the chair of the commission, Attorney General Kelly Ayotte pointed out that the use of technology is making it easier for estranged partners to continue to control their victims once they have left them, “cell phones, PDAs, and GPS technology help make our lives easier, but it does come at a cost. With every new technological advance, stalkers have a new weapon to terrorize victims with.” The commission sponsored a stalking and technology training for law enforcement and advocates in January and a two day stalking conference is planned for November.

For a copy of the brochure and/or poster contact the Coalition office at 224-8893.

The Public Education Committee of the Governor’s Commission on Domestic and Sexual Violence has recently produced several new materials.

This fall the “Interpersonal Violence Resource Guide for New Hampshire Media” was released. Hundreds of print, radio, and television journalists across the state received this guide which is designed to help them view the crimes they report on through the lens of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

Also being published this month is a revival of the sexual assault monograph. The report attempts to encapsulate a week of sexual assaults in New Hampshire – to give people a sense of the prevalence of this crime. The report shows people what statistics can’t by giving them an idea of the devastating impact sexual assault is having on victims right here in New Hampshire.

This year information was collected during the week of February 11th to the 17th. Crisis centers, law enforcement, and child advocates all contributed to this year’s monograph. They tracked their contacts with victims or perpetrators of sexual assault, and also volunteered at meetings, trainings and outreach events aimed at ending sexual violence in our society.

For more information on either of these projects contact Maureen McDonald at 224-8893 ext. 311, Maureen@nhcadsv.org

Welcome Our New Board Members

The New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence would like to welcome three new board members:

Rick Axtman is a therapist and shareholder at Bicentennial Square Counseling Associates in Concord. He has worked in the domestic violence field for over 20 years, and anger management for over 18 years.

Peter Michaud is the Victim Services Coordinator for the New Hampshire Department of Corrections in Concord. For the past eight years he has been the voice for crime victims within the corrections system in the state. He also volunteers as a crisis line advocate at New Beginnings in Laconia.

Kathleen Kimball is a Detective Sergeant with the New Hampshire State Police. She has been in law enforcement for over 20 years. During that time she’s worked as a domestic violence victim/witness advocate, and she’s also conducted trainings for fellow officers on domestic violence.

AVAP recruiting for 2007-08

The AmeriCorps Victim Assistance Program is seeking full & part-time domestic and sexual violence and stalking advocates. Positions are available throughout New Hampshire at crisis centers, police departments, corrections offices, prosecutor offices and colleges and universities.

Qualifications

• At least 18 years of age
• Available beginning September 4, 2007
• Interest in the issues of Domestic and Sexual Violence and Stalking
• No related experience necessary

Benefits (Available to full-time members, some pro-rated for part-time)

Weekly living stipend
Health insurance
Childcare (if eligible)
Education award
Excellent training, transferable skills, and great networking experience

To receive an application, which includes additional information, visit our web site at www.avap1.org or call (603) 224-6466.

We encourage people of diverse backgrounds and experiences to apply.

SAVE THE DATE:
Governor’s Commission on Domestic and Sexual Violence
13th Annual Domestic and Sexual Violence and Stalking Statewide Conference

When: June 7-8
Where: Attitash Grand Summit Resort Hotel & Conference Center

Keynote Speakers:
Patti Bland, Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

Patti is an expert on the co-occurrence of domestic violence and drug and alcohol addiction.

Jessica (Gonzales) Linehan, Castle Rock, Colorado

Jessica is a survivor of domestic violence whose three children were killed by her ex-husband. She sued her local police department and her case went all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court

New Awareness Campaign Launched During Stalking Awareness Month

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Media Guide and Sexual Assault Monograph released

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This year information was collected during the week of February 11th to the 17th. Crisis centers, law enforcement, and child advocates all contributed to this year’s monograph. They tracked their contacts with victims or perpetrators of sexual assault. In addition they sent information about any participation in meetings, trainings and outreach events aimed at ending sexual violence in our society.

For more information on either of these projects contact Maureen McDonald at 224-8893 ext. 311, Maureen@nhcadsv.org
Domestic Violence and Animal Cruelty

The New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence is working with representatives of the Governor’s Task Force on the Humane Treatment of Animals to heighten awareness of the co-occurrence of domestic violence and animal cruelty. For many survivors of domestic violence, one of the biggest concerns when leaving an abuser is what will happen to the family pet. Survivors may fear that if left behind their abusers may harm the animals as a way of punishing the victim. Most domestic violence shelters cannot allow pets which poses a problem for survivors unable to find outside care for their animals. While many of our shelters have worked to find options for survivors we recognize the need for more outreach in the community. The NHCADSV and the Governor’s Task Force want to work to build partnerships between crisis centers and organizations and community members that work with animals. Our goal is to find a way to provide long-term care for pets through temporary foster or boarding accommodations. Once the survivor has obtained secure housing, the animal will be returned.

This collaborative work is in the early stages, the group hopes to organize a day long cross training workshop sometime this fall. Several Task Force Members will also be offering a workshop at the 13th Annual Statewide Governor’s Commission on Domestic and Sexual Violence and Stalking in June. For more information on the Governor’s Task Force on the Humane Treatment of Animals go to www.nh.gov/humane.

Coalition Trainers Reaching a Large Audience

Staff members from the Coalition have been busy crossing the state providing trainings for a wide variety of groups. Sally Wuellewembe our Training and Standards Coordinator continues to work with disability service providers. A major training involving providers from across the state is scheduled for April. This year’s scheduled training for the New Hampshire Emergency 9-1-1 dispatchers will include not only domestic violence, but for the first time it will also cover sexual assault and stalking. Other groups requesting trainings include the new recruit academy at the NH Police Standards and Training, the NH Firearms Safety Coalition, the New Hampshire Mental Mediators, as well as Marine Patrol.

So far this year Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Program Directors have sent out invitations to the SANE section of our website www.nhcadsv.org/trainings. At St. Joseph’s hospital in Nashua, the second will be held in May at Portsmouth Hospital. This year marks the beginning of the SANE training that includes all age groups across the lifespan. There will no longer be separated adult and pediatric trainings.

In addition to national speaking engagements and trainings, Jen has also worked with medical students at Dartmouth Medical School, OB/GYN residents training at DHMC, and occupational health nurses in Keene. She has also been providing technical assistance and training for several regional SART’s (Sexual Assault Response Teams) in the process of forming.

For more information and a schedule of trainings go to the SANE section of our website www.nhcadsv.org/trainings.

Coalition Collaborating On Firearms Safety

The New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence has begun working with a group that advocates for responsible gun ownership. The New Hampshire Firearms Safety Coalition has previously worked on awareness campaigns around gun safety and children, encouraging gun owners to obtain trigger locks. The group is currently looking at the correlation between domestic violence and firearms, as well as suicide and firearms. Upon the recommendation of members of the NHCADSV the New Hampshire Firearms Safety Coalition

Around the Statehouse

The Legislature began the 2007-2008 Legislative Session on Wednesday, January 3rd. There were 1,300 Legislative Service Requests (LSR) originally filed this Session, and the Coalition is either working on or tracking over 140 bills this year.

HB 184: Repealing the Parental Notification Law

The Parental Notification Law, HB 184, 2003 requires that one parent be notified before a doctor or clinic performs an abortion on a minor child. This bill was passed without an exception for rape or incest. Since its passage, the Parental Notification Law has been found unconstitutional by three courts and is currently in limbo. This year Liz Hager (R-Concord) introduced a bill, HB184, which would repeal this unconstitutional law in its entirety. A four hour hearing was held on February 8th by the House Judiciary Committee. Amanda Grady presented testimony in support of the repeal.

SB 194: Human Trafficking

SB 194, sponsored by Senator Estabrook (D-District 21), attempts to establish a commission to study human trafficking in New Hampshire. The Coalition’s Public Policy Department has worked with Senator Estabrook in drafting this legislation and has worked to gain broad support from several organizations. To date, no hearing has been scheduled.

SB 197: Divorce Health Access Project (DHAP)

The DHAP is a multi-disciplinary group that has worked to draft a bill that would extend health insurance eligibility to an individual in the event of a divorce or legal separation. One spouse (the “non-member spouse”) retains domestic violence eligibility at a minimum premium charge, for group health insurance through the plan covering the other spouse (the “member spouse”), as if the divorce or legal separation had not occurred.

HB 523: Lobbyist Registration and Statements

Legislature, Cont. on page 7

The Coalition welcomes new Public Policy Asst. Jennifer Devarie, M.A.

Jennifer was born and raised in Merrimack, New Hampshire and lived in California for the last four years, where her husband served in the United States Navy. They moved back to New Hampshire in June 2006. While stationed in San Diego, Jennifer worked as the Case Manager for the local SART, worked with medical students, and began training case managers and victim advocates working in the field. She is excited to be “returning back to her roots” and looking forward to working in the domestic violence support community in New Hampshire.