



GATHER Domestic Violence/Violence Prevention Committee

3/16/06, 3:30, New Hope, 39 Taunton Green

Attendees: Deb Brown (TPS), Jennifer Brown (New Hope), Loran Roderigues (AHS), Annemarie Matulis (SEMA-VAV), Richard McMahon (NCLA), Lorraine Rosa (GATHER/GTHHSC), Jennifer Tinglof (SEMA-VAV). Regrets: Barbara Clark

Discussion Highlights:

- **Suicide** is an act of violence and/or control. In 89% of cases worldwide, at least one mental disorder was present. Substance-related disorders accounted for 40% of the cases, and disruptive disorders in 20%. Mood disorder like depression accounted for most of the suicides, but the contribution of these disorders was lower than expected. (WHO).
- **Dress for Success** – Domestic violence victims and all low income women and men who are returning to the workforce and don't have the appropriate clothing for interviews would benefit by such a program. There would be no cost to the person in need. A referral would be required either from an agency or organization. The start up program will cost about \$300 monthly for 15 months, for a renovated room at the 1st Parish Church. This includes heat and electric. The project will be volunteer run, by appointment, with letterhead authorization needed.
- **Dancing for Our Stars** is a New Hope fundraiser on 3/31/06 at the Mansfield Holiday Inn. Tickets are \$75.
- **Yellow Dress** play will be provided to Taunton High School juniors and seniors on 3/24/06 from 1:00-2:00. The one-woman play will be followed with a panel discussion. New Hope dating violence brochures will be available. The program helps students identify the warning signs of abusive behaviors, how to help friends and family members and develop school community awareness of the issue. The hope is to develop a school and community culture that does not endorse, promote or accept violence in relationships. Area media were invited to cover the event.
- **Take Back the Night** – Observances will be held at Wheaton College on March 25, and at Stonehill on April 29.
- **Domestic Violence Media Manual** prepared by The Commission for Equality and The Rights of Women in Portugal was shared. It encourages media involvement in the solution to the problem in Portugal and worldwide.



April Events: National Sexual Assault Awareness Month:

- **Verizon Cell Phones Project** –SEMA-VAV is having a planning meeting this week. They are taking cell phones and pictures for a press release. The Verizon community has been supportive of victims of domestic violence with grants or boxes of refurbished cell phones.
- **Garden of Hope** work will continue by volunteers, one day on every weekend, weather permitting, from March to June. In the past, 1400 bulbs were planted. Minigrants are being sought to support the effort.
- **Attleboro** - New Hope has outreached to 15 libraries, 15 police departments and 2 hospitals with packets containing brochures, hotline cards and a letter. 1,000 teal ribbons are being distributed. New Hope will hold a basic and open forum on sexual assault for community members on 4/19/06, at the Attleboro Library from 10:00-Noon.
- **National Crime Victims Rights Week** “Victims’ Rights: Strength in Unity” Silent Vigil featuring campaign signs will be held **4/24/06**, 4:30-6:30, throughout Taunton in locations such as Taunton Green, Taunton High School area, and anywhere volunteers are willing to participate in the awareness campaign. Taunton High School and Bristol-Plymouth students will participate. Ponchos are available in case of rain. The Norton Library will do a display on crime victims and sexual assault. Other GATHER libraries may also participate.

Next Steps:

- Compose parent letters and press releases for The Yellow Dress.
- Apply for “Dress for Success” funding.

Next Meeting:

GATHER DV/VP: **4/21/06**, 3:30, (3rd Thursday of the Month), New Hope, 39 Taunton Green

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