



# NEWS from Domestic Violence Services of Greater New Haven



Fall/Winter 2007

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## 'Tis the Season of Gift Cards

You can help provide families with some of the necessities and small pleasures of life with gift cards – especially in amounts of \$20 and more. We suggest cards from: *Walgreen's, CVS, RiteAid, Shaw's, Stop and Shop, ShopRite, Sears, JC Penney, Target, Wal-Mart, TJ Maxx, Marshalls, Kohl's, and gas companies.*

Gift cards make it possible for our clients to purchase the things they need when they need them – and permit them to make their own choices and decisions.

*The mission of the Domestic Violence Services of Greater New Haven is to create an environment that supports individual safety and breaks the cycle of domestic violence.*

DVS is a member of: Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence, United Way, Guilford Community Fund. We are also supported by: State of Connecticut Department of Social Services, Emergency Food and Shelter Program, Title III – Older Americans Act, Agency on Aging, Community Development Block Grants, Office of Victim Services, State of Connecticut Judicial Branch, local municipalities, and corporate and private donations.

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## The 30th Anniversary Finale: "An Evening of Appreciation"



The DVS board of directors with Nedda Nussbaum (center, seated) and Sandra Koorejian (to Nussbaum's left).

On Saturday, October 27th, 135 people gathered at Woodwinds in Branford to honor six individuals who have been especially dedicated to the programs and services of Domestic Violence Services of Greater New Haven. They are three Hamden High school health teachers: Nancy DeFrank, Sharon Hale, and Charlene Scarpati; Sharon Miller and her co-workers at Proliance; Shelley O'Brien, from the Connecticut Department of Social Services, Adult Protective Services; and Marc Ramia, Connecticut assistant state's attorney, Geographical Area No. 23 at New Haven.

Hedda Nussbaum, the survivor of notoriously brutal abuse, spoke movingly about "Surviving Intimate Terrorism."

Other speakers included DVS President Josiah Brown; Board Treasurer and Event Chair Eileen Cavanaugh, and Executive Director Sandra Koorejian (see excerpts from her remarks on page 2).

Connecticut State Attorney General Richard Blumenthal offered strong support of DVS and of victims and their families. He also presented certificates of appreciation to each of the honorees.

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## Notes from the Executive Director Old Misconceptions Haunt Us Still

The folksy observations of local people and places that we have come to expect from Randall Beach were missing in his October 26 New Haven Register column about Hedda Nussbaum. He said Hedda has a lot of questions to answer about why she didn't report the abuse of her daughter Lisa that resulted in her death 20 years ago and whether she was an enabler to Joel Steinberg. His parting shot was, "It's up to the readers to make up their minds about her."

Sadly, he speaks for many. Despite all we have learned about the insidious and destructive nature of being controlled by another person, what was true 20 years ago for victims like Hedda is still true. The victim is still blamed and judged as weak, selfish, irresponsible, and worse if children are involved. Like it or not, Hedda's case revealed an ugly fact that thousands of families face: children are abused in the context of wife abuse. Hedda will live with the memory of that hell for the rest of her life. Hasn't she been punished enough?

Our clients tell us that the tyranny of judgment can be more debilitating than the physical violence and that our society is still not serious about holding offenders accountable. Is it any wonder, then, that domestic violence continues to be so underreported, and that victim services are so under-funded? The message is that it is just not worth trying to save people who won't help themselves.

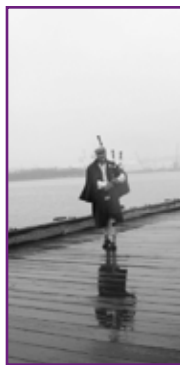
The DVS mission is not limited to providing physical safety by shelter or orders of protection. It is and has always been our offer of emotional and spiritual safety that nourishes and brings healing. When the burdens of personal guilt and shame and external judgment are lifted the victim can begin to reclaim her life. My wish, as our 30th anniversary year comes to a close, is that more people have the compassion to understand this.

Some of us have made up our minds.

Sandra Koorejian

*(The above was excerpted from remarks made at the Evening of Appreciation on October 27th.)*

## The Powerful Sound of Hope



Bagpiper Tom Dalton leads the way down the pier.

It was a rainy, dark day on October 10th when some 100 people gathered at New Haven's Long Wharf Pier for the eighth annual Sound of Hope commemorating victims and survivors of domestic violence. Speakers included State Representative Toni E. Walker; State Representative Deborah Heinrich; Lee Cruz, Senior Philanthropic Officer, Community Foundation for Greater New Haven; and Charles Forcier, Family Relations Supervisor, Superior Court of Connecticut. A former victim told her moving and inspiring story of suffering and escape to freedom from abuse. As the ceremony ended, the skies cleared and the piper led the solemn assembly off the pier.

The event was covered by The New Haven Register, The Grand News, and WSFB, TV 3.

## Silent Witnesses in City Hall

On September 27th, the Greater New Haven Domestic Violence Task Force, of which DVS is a founding member, honored Sgt. Lisa Dadio of the New Haven Police Department for her years of dedicated service to the Department, the Task Force, and the community. Among the speakers was New Haven Mayor John DeStefano.

In addition, the Task Force's new Silent Witness exhibit of figures was unveiled. Each plywood figure – a young woman, a man, a boy, a girl, and an elderly woman – represents domestic violence homicide victims in 2004 – a total of 28 individuals. The exhibit was produced by students at New Haven Job Corps, three of whom attended the meeting at New Haven's City Hall and described how important the project became to them.



The Silent Witnesses represent all the victims of domestic violence: an adult woman, adult man, elderly woman, a boy and a girl.

Job Corps members (left to right) Eddie Cardoza, Cory Batiste, and Ashley Dubose with their instructor, James Bailey.

## The 30th Anniversary Finale: "An Evening of Appreciation" (cont.)

Live and silent auctions inspired spirited bidding. Auctioneer Eric Hummel encouraged, with humor and conviction, already eager bidders on items ranging from interior design consulting to a long weekend at a Maine waterfront cottage and tickets to a Neil Young concert.

The flowers for the evening – including boutonnieres and corsages for the honorees and board members – were donated by Forget-Me-Not Flower Shop, an event sponsor.



Hedda Nussbaum speaking of her survival.

### Sponsors of An Evening of Appreciation

**Lavender: \$5000**

AT&T

Yale University

NewAlliance Foundation

**Iris: \$2500**

Anthem Blue Cross and

Blue Shield

The Milford Bank

Neubert, Pepe & Montieth, PC

**Wisteria: \$1000**

Patriot National Bank

UHY LLP

Webster Bank

The evening would not have been possible without the support of the sponsors and individuals and organizations that purchased tickets for the dinner, bought ads in the program book, provided auction items, and made donations to honor 30 years of service to Greater New Haven by DVS.

### Donations to the Silent and Live Auctions

- 2 tickets to the Giants/Vikings game
- Sea kayaking lessons
- Long weekend stay at a Maine cottage
- Kitchen Design Center consultation
- Dinner for 8 *al fresco* at the Yale Farm
- Forget-Me-Not Flower Shop floral arrangement of the month for one year
- DGR Interiors design plan
- Black & white photograph of Central Park by John Rosenthal
- Gift certificate from Benders Plumbing Supply
- 2 handmade baby quilts by Pepe Santorelli
- Photograph of hoar frost at Yellowstone by Pat Kaplan
- 2 tickets to University of Connecticut men's basketball game
- Godiva chocolate gift baskets
- Gift certificate from Union League Café
- Gift certificate & beauty products from Celebrity Brows
- Gift certificate from Van Wilgen's Nursery
- Signed World Series baseball by Trot Nixon & other Red Sox material
- 2 AT&T VIP suite tickets to Jethro Tull concert & 2 AT&T VIP suite tickets to Neil Young concert
- AT&T Golf gear package
- 2 haircuts at Y Haircutting
- Gift certificate from Ferrucci's
- 2 photographs by Hedda Nussbaum
- 14-carat gold on platinum earrings
- Package from AT&T consumer products and package with cordless phone & unique caller ID
- One semester adult dance class at the Neighborhood Music School
- Child's portrait and a family portrait by SM Cooper Photographer



Connecticut State Attorney General Richard Blumenthal addresses the audience – and especially the honorees.



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## AT&T Lends a Hand

Sandra Koorejian accepts a \$5,000 check from Mary Pat Healey, manager of external affairs for AT&T. The company was a Lavender sponsor of An Evening of Appreciation.

## Mary Kay Ash Charitable Foundation Donates \$20,000

The DVS emergency shelter is one of 150 shelters nationwide to receive a \$20,000 grant from the Mary Kay Ash Charitable Foundation in October. "I am thrilled to accept this grant on behalf of the emergency shelter," said Kim Ross, residential services coordinator. "Domestic violence is a significant and growing problem that affects millions of women and children. This grant will help us continue our work to protect, educate, and care for survivors of domestic abuse."

Ryan Rogers, a foundation board member and Mary Kay Ash's grandson, said, "We are hopeful that these grants will succeed in heightening awareness of the insidious problem of domestic violence against women, as well as providing much-needed financial aid to local shelters on a grassroots level."

*Note: A listing of all 2007 contributions to DVS will appear in the Winter 2008 issue of NEWS.*

## Board of Directors

New members of the DVS Board of Directors are Viviana Santana (top), vice principal, Clemente Leadership Academy; and Alice Hummel (bottom), philanthropist, community leader, and entrepreneur. Long-time member Betsey Parlato (not pictured here) has also returned to the board.

Josiah Brown, President  
Kate C. Evans, Vice President  
Erika Tindill, Esq., Secretary  
Eileen Cavanaugh, Treasurer  
Edna Aklin  
Sharon Bender  
Merrie Cavanaugh  
Alice Hummel  
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Viviana Santana



Alice Hummel