



*Nebraska
Domestic Violence
Sexual Assault Coalition
Statewide Report
2003-04*

*Working with
Nebraska's Network of 22 Community Programs
to Serve Survivors of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault*

NEBRASKA DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SEXUAL ASSAULT COALITION

Committed to the prevention and elimination of sexual assault and domestic violence.

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Letter from the Chairperson

Dear Friend of the Nebraska Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Coalition,

It has been my privilege to serve as Board Chair of the Nebraska Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Coalition for the past year. I have nothing but respect and awe for the amazing job that local program staff and volunteers do on a daily basis to help victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. It is a difficult and challenging job that all too often goes unrewarded and unacknowledged. It is my hope that this report will help bring recognition to the work of all of these wonderful people.

This past year has been one of growth for the Coalition and its network of programs. Through rural grants from the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) the programs have had the opportunity to expand access to their services to rural communities, to increase public awareness programs and to open new shelters that will provide safety to women living in rural areas throughout our state. The programs have also reached out to expand services on college campuses, with faith congregations, to rural communities and with statewide organizations. These efforts have increased awareness of domestic violence and sexual assault and continued the demand for our programs' services.

The Coalition has continued its efforts to support the state's network of 22 domestic violence/sexual assault programs. We have increased our efforts to network with other agencies and organizations that regularly work with victims of domestic violence and sexual assault to improve services to these individuals. We have worked hard to shape public policy in Nebraska, to support victims of these crimes and hold their perpetrators accountable. We have collaborated with other agencies, organizations and businesses to increase awareness of domestic violence and sexual assault throughout the state. We have brought resources such as national speakers and state-of-the-art trainings to the state to keep our advocates informed on issues pertinent to their work. We have received grants that have brought funds into our state to expand and enhance our programs' services.

Each supporter and contributor to the Coalition and the 22 domestic violence/sexual assault programs has helped make these accomplishments possible. Thank you and please continue to support these important efforts.

Sincerely,
Sheryl Schrepf
Sheryl Schrepf
Board Chair

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Our Core Values

The Coalition and the 22 domestic violence and sexual assault programs in Nebraska share many core values.

Among those are the following priority issues:

- “ The safety of women and children come first.
- “ Empowerment is at the heart of our programs.
- “ Women have a right to make their own decisions. Women’s decision-making occurs within the context of their lives, not our lives.
- “ Our services are voluntary, non-coersive and confidential.
- “ Women and children are not responsible for their victimization or for the violence perpetrated against them.
- “ Perpetrators should be held responsible for their use of violence.
- “ We value diversity.
- “ We respect the people we serve.

Our History

Thirty years ago a national movement began to address the issue of domestic violence. At that time, several individuals in Nebraska began meeting to determine the extent of battering taking place in Nebraska and to develop strategies on how to provide services to victims and their children. This group became the Nebraska Task Force on Domestic Violence. Two years later, in 1976, the Nebraska Legislature passed the Protection from Domestic Abuse Act, which provided a mechanism for funding a statewide network of crisis intervention services and provided for protection orders for victims.

In 1986, the Task Force became the Nebraska Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Coalition. One year later, in 1987, the Coalition had sufficient funding to hire an Executive Director and open an office in Lincoln. The Coalition has grown steadily since then, as has its federal and state funding. Today, the Coalition is comprised of eight full-time and two part-time positions and provides an array of services to the 22 domestic violence and sexual assault advocacy programs in Nebraska.

National studies estimate that up to 3.9 million women are abused by their husbands or live-in partners each year.

Coalition Policy Recommendations

The Governor's Children's Task Force found that domestic violence contributed to 46% of the 30 child deaths in Nebraska occurring between 1998 and 2003.

Over the past 17 years, a core function of the Nebraska Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Coalition has been to work on public policy initiatives and legislative changes to increase the safety net for victims and to insure that systems are more responsive to the issues of domestic violence and sexual assault.

Recently, the Coalition facilitated a series of regional meetings with staff, board members and volunteers from the 22 local programs and hosted a day-long, statewide Public Policy Summit to discuss and prioritize immediate and long-term goals for creating and sustaining long-term systemic social change.

While many important issues were raised through these discussions, one of the key issues that emerged was the need for policies that clearly recognize that the safety of children in domestic violence households is directly linked to the safety of their mothers. These issues cannot be separated. Far too often, the programs work with victims who are attempting to establish safety for themselves and their families and face a civil legal system that does not effectively recognize and address the detrimental impact that domestic violence has on victims and their children.

To participate effectively in the justice system, victims must believe it is a safe and effective place where abusers cannot continue their abuse against the victims and their children. Domestic abuse affects each relationship in a family. Children's emotional recovery is inextricably linked to the healing and empowerment of the parent who is the victim of the abuse.

Assist Battered Women with Children

The Coalition believes that the following recommendations are critical to increasing child safety when domestic violence is occurring:

“ The Coalition proposes that Nebraska consider the creation of a “rebuttable presumption test” that gives the courts the correct analytical framework to decide custody cases and truly serve a child's best interest.

Current Nebraska law lists domestic violence as one of four factors a judge must consider when determining the best interests of the child in a custody case. This law has fallen short of the goal of protecting children in violent homes because, unfortunately, courts generally allow the other three factors of the test to outweigh credible evidence of domestic violence. The other three factors are: 1) the relationship of the child to each parent, 2) the desire of a minor child, depending on his or her age, to stay with a parent, and 3) the general health, welfare, and social behavior of the child.

To address this issue, a growing number of states have created a “rebuttable presumption test” against custody for the perpetrators of domestic violence. This test mandates courts to consider the complex interactions of family members living in a violent home when determining custody arrangements. A rebuttable presumption test presumes that both joint and sole custody with a batterer is detrimental. Until both battering attitudes and behaviors change, batterers are inappropriate parents.

Coalition Policy Recommendations

Other Child-Custody Related Recommendations

- Temporary custody on domestic violence protection orders should be considered when requested by the petitioner.
- Custody provisions granted through protection orders should be expanded beyond the current 90-day limit.
- Visitation with the perpetrator should occur only if there is clear and convincing evidence that there is no increased risk to the child or the adult victim.

Support Reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act

Over the next several months, the United States Congress will be working to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act – a comprehensive federal program that has truly transformed the work of domestic violence and sexual assault in communities throughout Nebraska.

In addition to strengthening federal laws against domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking, the U.S. Department of Justice has provided funding for a continuum of services and projects designed to reduce violence against women. VAWA programs include grants to rural communities, grants to encourage arrest, judicial training, safe havens for children, rape prevention and education funding, legal assistance for victims, and transition housing. The Violence Against Women Act also funds the National Domestic Violence Hotline that has received over 1 million calls since 1996. It is critical that these services continue.

Support Recommendations to the Attorney General's Task Force on Sexual Assault

The Attorney General's Task Force on Sexual Assault, a 28-member committee of sexual assault advocates, law enforcement, prosecutors and health care providers, has worked together since May, 2004 on recommendations to improve Nebraska's response to sexual assault. Some of the initial recommendations the Coalition has recommended include:

- Reinstate funding to Nebraska's Crime Victims Compensation Fund to assist victims with immediate and follow-up medical expenses, moving expenses and counseling services;
- Eliminate the requirement that health care providers make an immediate report to law enforcement without the victim's consent.
- Increase funding for local programs to expand their prevention, intervention and support services.

Other recommendations from the task force include:

- Improve the investigation and prosecution of sexual assault cases by increasing the number of hours devoted to sexual assault investigations in basic training; requiring law enforcement officers and prosecutors to receive continuing education on investigation and evidence collection; and developing written policies for law enforcement and prosecutors;
- Expand the number of Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners in the state and standardize the Sexual Assault Evidence Collection kit; and,
- Develop a statewide public education campaign.

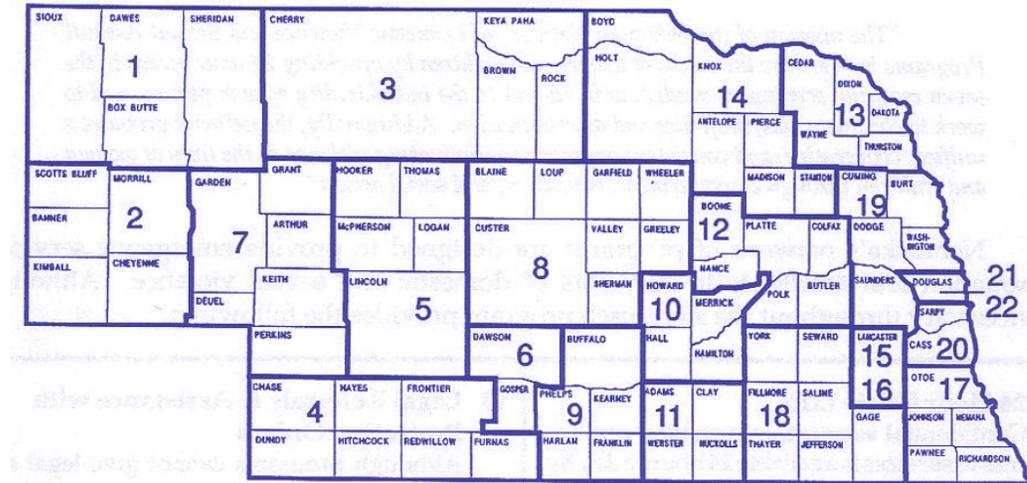
Recommendations:

- Create a "rebuttable presumption test" that gives Nebraska courts the correct analytical framework to decide custody cases and truly serve a child's best interest.
- Support reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA).
- Support the recommendations of the Attorney General's Task Force on Sexual Assault

A Network of Programs Serving the State

"The mission of the Nebraska Network of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Programs is to ensure the safety of women and children by providing 24-hour access to the seven essential services as needed, with respect to the individuality of each person, and to work to eliminate bias, prejudice and discrimination.

Additionally, the network provides a unified, cooperative and consistent approach to eliminating violence in the lives of women and children through empowerment, education and social action."



Region I:

Family Rescue Services, Chadron
DOVES, Scottsbluff/Gering
North Central Quad County Task Force, Valentine

Region II:

Domestic Abuse/Sexual Assault Services, McCook
Rape/Domestic Abuse Program, North Platte
Parent-Child Center, Lexington
Sandhills Crisis Intervention Program, Ogallala

Region III:

Cedars Family Violence Center, Broken Bow
The S.A.F.E. Center, Kearney
The Crisis Center, Grand Island
Spouse Abuse/Sexual Assault Crisis Center, Hastings

Region IV:

Center for Survivors, Columbus
Haven House, Wayne
Bright Horizons, Norfolk
Crisis Center for Domestic Abuse/Sexual Assault, Fremont

Region V:

Blue Valley Crisis Intervention, Fairbury
Rape/Spouse Abuse Crisis Center, Lincoln
Friendship Home, Lincoln
Project Response, Auburn

Region VI:

Heartland Domestic Abuse Program, Bellevue
YWCA – Women Against Violence, Omaha
Catholic Charities – The Shelter, Omaha

*** There are also four tribal domestic violence/sexual assault programs in Nebraska: The Winnebago Child Family Services in Winnebago, the Dakota Tiwahe Service Unit in Niobrara, the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska in Norfolk, and the Omaha Tribe in Macy.

Overview of Program Services

Overview

In 2003-04, through the dedicated efforts of staff and volunteers, Nebraska's 22 domestic violence and sexual assault programs were able to provide an array of **services to 7,799 individuals** who came to the programs seeking assistance. The vast majority of these individuals, 98.4%, were women and their children.

Each program in our state is somewhat different from the others; yet, they all share a commitment to the safety and well-being of the people who turn to them for assistance. The services they provide to victims of sexual assault and domestic violence include 24-hour crisis lines; access to shelter and safe housing; counseling, both one-on-one and group; medical and legal advocacy; and a variety of other support services. The programs also serve their communities by providing education and training programs to increase awareness about issues related to domestic violence and sexual assault and to help prepare others who work with victims, such as those in law, criminal justice and medical professions.

Shelter/Safe Housing

A total of **2,222 individuals were served in shelters** in Nebraska in 2003-04, including **951 adults and 1,271 adolescents and children**. Nearly all were there directly as a result of experiencing domestic violence or other crimes related to domestic violence, such as stalking, harassment, and threats. Serving these women and children required **providing over 121,344 meals** throughout the year.

Crisis Intervention

The majority of victims of domestic violence and sexual assault who contact the network of programs are initially seeking someone to talk to and someone who will listen and understand what they are going through. Last year, program staff provided face-to face **crisis intervention session with 7,214 individuals**. Of these, **740** sessions were with victims of sexual assault and incest, and **6,474** were related to relationship violence.

Advocacy

Nebraska's network of domestic violence sexual assault programs are actively engaged in advocacy for victims. This advocacy included direct and systemic assistance to clients. Direct client advocacy included legal advocacy, such as assistance with protection orders or victim impact statements and referrals to local attorneys; and medical advocacy, such as providing support and information to victims of sexual assault or domestic violence who are in emergency rooms. Systemic assistance involved networking with other agencies, law enforcement, county attorneys, and government leaders to bring about needed changes in laws, policies and systems to assist and benefit victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

Last year, the programs provided **57,815 total hours of advocacy and support services**, which included the time spent assisting **1,315** victims to complete protection orders, conducting **707** medical advocacies, and accompanying **371** victims to court for their perpetrators trials.

Nebraska's 22 domestic violence sexual assault programs provided services to 7,799 individuals in 2003-04.

Over 98.4% were women and children.

2,222 women and children were in shelter.

7,214 used crisis intervention services.

1,315 received assistance with harassment and domestic violence protection orders.

Program advocates provided over 1000 medical and legal advocacies.

1,485 individuals received financial assistance.

The programs' 24-hour crisis lines answered approximately 70,000 calls in 2003-04.

The programs provided 7,330 educational and training programs throughout the state.

The programs report 126,000 hours of volunteerism in 2003-04, equalling \$945,000.

Support Services

People who come to our programs for assistance are often in need of a wide array of services. Some are in need of financial assistance to help them get started in a new life. They need money for down payments on apartments or for food to feed their children. Some need child care while they visit with counselors or attorneys, others lack transportation to get them out of the state or just to the local prosecutor's office. Often, clients ask for basic-needs items ranging from diapers and shampoo to sheets and blankets for beds and cribs. Whatever the need, the network of programs will try to meet them.

In 2003-04, the programs helped **1,216 clients with transportation** and gave **various forms of financial assistance to 1,485 victims**.

Crisis Line Calls

Perhaps the most important and most visible service provided by our network of programs is the 24-hour crisis phone line. Through their crisis lines, the programs provide 24-hour access to confidential information, support and needed services to victims and their families and friends. Last year, **the 24-hour crisis lines received approximately 70,000 calls** for help and information. Of these, approximately **90 percent** of the calls pertained to domestic violence and **10 percent** were sexual assault or incest. For many callers, these crisis line calls represented their first step toward safety, self-confidence and a life free of violence.

Prevention/Educational Programs

Staff at the 22 programs provided **7,330 educational and training programs** throughout the year on topics ranging from overviews of services provided by programs, to an explanation of the dynamics of domestic violence, to information on topics such as sexual assault and dating violence, child abuse and incest, and personal safety plans.

The audiences for these presentations included **more than 10,000 pre- and elementary school students**, many of whom heard presentations on bullying; **over 18,000 high school students**; approximately **7,500 college-aged students**, who learned about the dynamics of date rape and relationship violence; as well as over **10,000 members of civic organizations**; more than **3,000 clergy and congregation members**; **over 4,000 employees at business**; and **approximately 1,000 medical personnel, 2,000 social workers and 1,700 legal advocates or lawyers**, who received information and training on domestic violence and sexual assault.

Volunteers are Key to Services

It would not have been possible to provide all of these services to victims of sexual assault and domestic violence without the more than **126,000 hours of volunteerism** provided by caring Nebraskans, equaling \$945,000 for the programs. Each of our programs provides comprehensive training courses for its volunteers. These volunteers serve as the backbone of 24-hour crisis lines. Volunteers also facilitate support groups, assist in advocacy calls, give community presentations, organize fundraisers, and provide clerical support for the programs.

Grants & Partnerships Enhance Program Services

VAWA Rural Grants Help Programs Expand Services

Several programs in Nebraska received grants from VAWA to help expand services into rural areas and increase public awareness of their program and its services among rural residents. The grants were used in differing ways by each program, but all resulted in improved services in rural areas to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and incest.

The grant had a huge impact on the services offered by Scottsbluff's **DOVES** project. Previously, all staff was based in Scottsbluff, resulting in a 2-hour wait for some clients to receive face-to-face services. In the last 18 months, the program has expanded its staff to provide 24-hour coverage in Scotts Bluff, Cheyenne, Morrill, & Kimball/Banner Counties. They also opened four outreach offices, where community members can drop off donations and obtain information, volunteers can donate their time, clients can access an advocate just by walking in, and other clients can obtain much-needed items (food, household, hygiene, etc.). In addition, a new shelter in Cheyenne County that was made possible through the rural grant has provided an additional safe place for women & children needing shelter. These changes have given DOVES more flexibility to move individuals around when one shelter may not be safe.

The **Crisis Center for Domestic Abuse/Sexual Assault** program in Fremont used their rural grant funds to hire a full-time advocate to work in a satellite office in

Wahoo. "The new rural grant has allowed us to bring our services and increased awareness of domestic violence and sexual assault to Saunders County," says program director Suzanne Smith. "With our full-time staff member in Wahoo we are able for the first time to offer direct services within that county."

North Platte's **Rape Domestic Abuse Program** used grant funds to hire two staff members to enhance services to clients. A new outreach staff member provides follow-up services after women leave the shelter. The other new position, a Facilities Manager, is assigned to work closely with women and children while they are staying at the shelter.

The grant money allowed Norfolk's **Bright Horizons program** to expand its staff and offer new services to clients and the community. The program hired two new community education specialists who are increasing public awareness of the program and its services, as well as two criminal justice liaisons, a domestic violence attorney, and a part-time paralegal.

In Auburn, **Project Response** used the new funds to open two new shelters in southeast Nebraska. Lincoln's **R/SACC** used its share of southeast Nebraska's rural grant to expand services into rural Lancaster County communities.

North Platte...

"Choosing to leave a mentally or physically abusive partner can be quite immobilizing, and there is a challenge just in meeting the basic need for shelter. Through the Rape & Domestic Abuse Program, I had access to a safe, secure, private home which gave me the courage to make that first step in leaving and getting on with a healthy lifestyle."

Broken Bow...

"I am writing to let each and everyone that is connected to Broken Bow's CEDARS Domestic Violence Center in anyway know how much I truly appreciate everything that the wonderful people there have done for my daughter and myself."

Programs Collaborate with Colleges & Universities on Campus-Based Programs

Several programs around the state have coordinated with colleges and universities in their area to provide services to students who are victims of sexual assault or relationship violence and to increase awareness of these issues on their campuses.

Haven House and Wayne State College co-wrote a grant to form a partnership to reduce crimes against women on campus. The partnership led to the development of a coordinated response team in Wayne that has resulted in improved services and response throughout the community, as well as on the campus.

Hasting's **SASA** program coordinated with the Central Community College Hastings Campus to offer workshops that introduced women who had been or currently were involved in domestic violence and poverty to non-traditional careers that offer a higher wage level. They also collaborated with Hastings College to bring a presenter to campus to lead a discussion with students on date rape.

In January of 2003, Lincoln's **Rape/Spouse Abuse Crisis Center (R/SACC)** began a project with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to provide a part-time victim advocate on campus to assist student, faculty and staff who are victims of sexual assault, domestic/dating violence and stalking. The project was made possible through a grant from the Violence Against Women Office of the U.S. Department of Justice. The advocate, who is a full-time employee of RSACC,

spends every Tuesday afternoon at the Women's Center in the Nebraska Union seeing walk-in clients. In addition, she spends Fridays in the campus office seeing scheduled appointments and following-up with campus-based clients. She also provides ongoing advocacy on campus for victims, such as arranging meetings with campus judicial affairs and campus police to discuss policy and procedures or making advocacy calls at the Health Center for sexual assault victims. In the past 18 months, the UNL victim advocate has worked directly with approximately 20 students who sought serves through the campus office. R/SACC believes that the project not only helped the agency to serve student victims, but has also increased awareness on campus about these issues and where students can go for assistance.

In Scottsbluff, Western Nebraska Community College, working in collaboration with staff from **DOVES**, held a 10-week, noncredit course titled, *Domestic, Dating and Sexual Violence... Understanding the Dynamics and How You Can Help*. Of the five people who signed up for the first class class, four went on to become volunteers for DOVES.

Other campus based programs included coordinated services between UNK and advocates at the **SAFE Center** in Kearney and between the Nebraska Technical College of Agriculture in Curtis and McCook's **Domestic Abuse Sexual Assault Services** program, where the counselor at the college volunteered to facilitate a sexual assault support group on campus.

Grant Creates Probation Office Specialists in Lincoln

A recent VAWA grant allowed Lincoln's **Rape/Spouse Abuse Crisis Center** to assign two part-time advocates to the County Probation Office to provide services to the victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. The advocates, titled "probation specialists," spend 10 hours a week at the Probation Office meeting with victims and helping them as the perpetrators' cases move through the court system.

"We send a packet of information about R/SACC's services to the perpetrators' victims," explains R/SACC's probation specialist, Ruth, who reported that approximately half of those who are sent information contact R/SACC for assistance. R/SACC reports that staff members at the probation office have been very cooperative in working with the advocates and the victims. "They are thankful we are there and recognize that we are providing an important service to the victims of these perpetrators," says Ruth.

Programs Successfully Collaborate with Area Churches

The Wayne Association of Ministers and Churches and Wayne State Campus Ministries addressed prevention of domestic violence by providing age-appropriate materials and training for Sunday school teachers, youth leaders, dorm counselors, campus peer ministers, students and parents.

The Lincoln Interfaith Council, along with project partners the Lincoln Police and Fire Chaplains and the Lincoln Victim-Witness Unit, focused on domestic violence and the Muslim community, by sending representatives to the "Peaceful Families" training in Minneapolis. Upon returning, the attendees facilitated four in-service trainings and will continue to consult and network with local domestic violence agencies. Long term plans include organizing a day-long conference on Domestic Violence and Muslim Families.

Friendship Home & St. Monica's Collaborate to Serve Clients

In May of 2003, Lancaster County received a three-year, \$1.5 million Targeted Capacity Expansion Grant on behalf of St. Monica's Substance Abuse Treatment for Women Program and Lincoln's shelter, **Friendship Home**. The grant, which was provided through the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), provides most of the funding needed to operate a joint services model developed by staff at St. Monica's and Friendship Home. The two agencies are working together to provide substance abuse treatment and domestic violence shelter services for women who are dealing with both issues concurrently.

Norfolk...

"Bright Horizons gave me the courage to leave. They were there for me. I had a place to live. I had people who listened to me and gave me any kind of support I needed."

Local Support Critical to Programs' Services

Last year, Nebraska communities provided more than \$3.5 million of funding in support of their local domestic violence sexual assault programs. This represented 41.5% of their total funding. The following are examples of some of the successful local fundraising efforts that took place in support of the programs last year.

North Platte...

"The shelter provided a home of transition with total support from the caring advocates. I really do not know what I would have done without the entire program."

North Platte

North Platte's **Rape/Domestic Abuse Program** is nearing the completion of a successful capital campaign that enabled them to purchase a new domestic violence shelter for their clients. The program can now provide emergency shelter for clients and use their old shelter for transitional housing, a service they have never been able to offer in the past.

The campaign raised \$130,000 for the shelter. One aspect of the campaign not only helped generate donations, but also raised awareness throughout the community. All of the doors from the new shelter were removed and given to businesses throughout town to paint and decorate however they wanted and then display them in their businesses and around town until the shelter needed them for the facility. (See photo at right.)

"We truly had an outpouring of support from our community," says Executive Director Lynne Lange. "And equally important, we have dramatically increased the community's awareness of our program's services."

The Rape/Domestic Abuse Program also held a successful Fitness Day Fundraiser at a local spa, which included a silent auction for fitness clothes, tapes, and books. A fitness editor from Shape Magazine in California attended and led the workouts.

North Platte's Rape/Domestic Abuse Program used decorated doors from their old shelter, such as the one at left, to help raise \$130,000 in a capital campaign for a new shelter.



Valentine

In Valentine, the **North Central Quad County Task Force** raffled beautiful handmade quilts donated by the Sandhills Quilting Guild. The quilts were raffled at various area events such as health fairs, Old West Days, etc. Brochures about the program and its services were distributed to everyone who bought a raffle ticket, so the fundraiser also increased community awareness.

Kearney

In Kearney, the **SAFE Center** partnered with the Black Sheep Coffee Roasters, who donated 10% of every bag of coffee they sold to the Center.

Lincoln

Last year, Lincoln's shelter, **Friendship Home**, organized the largest door-to-door fundraising activity in the history of the shelter. The campaign, titled "Safe Quarters" involved over 2,000 volunteers calling on over 50,000 households in one day to ask people to donate their change to help Friendship Home provide safe quarters for victims of domestic abuse. As a result of their efforts Friendship Home raised \$140,000.

"When Friendship Home was facing the prospect of closing shelter beds due to a lack of funding, a few former board members stepped forward to help," explains Executive Director Amy Evans. "In addition to raising so much money, our volunteers also met hundreds of families in their assigned neighborhoods who had been impacted by domestic violence in one way or the other, making their work even more meaningful and poignant."

A Friendship Home volunteer collects for "Safe Quarters."



Auburn

Auburn's **Project Response** held fundraising Rock-A-Thons in both Auburn and Nebraska City. The fundraisers were held in cooperation with Pizza Hut in Auburn and Valentino's in Nebraska City, both of which agreed to donate a percentage of their sales throughout the event to Project Response. People volunteered to rock in rocking chairs throughout the event, which lasted from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. In addition to the percentage donations, a donation jar that was placed on the information table along with brochures and information about Project Response helped increase donations. "We had staff at the information table to visit with people and share information about our services," says Project Response director Phyllis Heidzig. "As a result, the event also helps raise awareness about our program."

Hastings

In Hastings, the **Sexual Abuse/Sexual Assault Crisis Center (SASA)** held a "non-event" fundraiser, inviting donors NOT to come to a fundraising event. Instead, the donors were asked to enjoy an evening at home and to donate the money that it would have cost them to go out for the evening to SASA.

Broken Bow

Broken Bow's **Cedars Family Violence Services** held a 10K and 5K Run and a 5K Walk to help raise money and publicize domestic violence awareness month. The participants' entry-fees covered all expenses while the programs benefited from money raised by businesses that bought ads that were placed on t-shirts and mugs that were given to participants.

Auburn

"The fundraising event also helped increase awareness about our program."

Project Response
Executive Director
Phyllis Heidzig

Programs Increase Public Awareness

All across the state, domestic violence and sexual assault programs conducted a variety of public awareness activities, all aimed at raising awareness of the services the programs offer to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and incest and help people realize that these crimes are occurring in their own communities. The months of October and April were particularly busy for the programs as they helped their communities and regions throughout the state to observe National Domestic Violence Awareness Month and National Sexual Assault Awareness Month with candlelight vigils, clothesline projects, "Walk a Mile in their Shoes" displays, and other awareness building activities.

Chadron...

"Thank you for providing such a wonderfully informative workshop on Domestic Violence. Chadron is very lucky to have your agency in our community."

Programs Reach Out to Teens

Several programs initiated new educational and awareness programs aimed at teens, which they report have also resulted in increasing requests for services from teens.

Project Response in Auburn reports that they reached over 2,500 students in their region with outreach programs about dating violence and what a healthy relationship looks like.

In Columbus, the **Center for Survivors** reports that their demand for adolescent programs and services has sky-rocketed as a result of increased awareness programs for teens, including a teen speaker's bureau. "Our speaker's bureau made up of adolescent peer educators has been very successful," reports Executive Director Jamie Snyder, who along with staff will be giving a presentation on the adolescent speaker's bureau at a national conference this fall. In addition to the speaker's bureau, the Center also worked with high

school students on dating violence issues. "We are in five high schools now and hope to be in another 1 or 2 this year. We do dating violence ("Healthy Relationship") groups in the schools as well as provide crisis intervention as requested. Our male group facilitator works with young men and has groups in all of the high schools. We also have a bi-lingual educator who will work with Spanish speaking girls this fall. We have been able to provide bullying education to area elementary schools as part of their day and also in after school programming."

Other programs that offer teen groups or provide curriculum to the school systems include the **SAFE Center** in Kearney, which developed a Teen Student: Speakers Against Violent Environments (SAVE) program; Lincoln's **R/SACC** and Wayne's **Haven House**, which both provide bullying curriculum and presentations for schools in their community; and Grand Island's **Crisis Center Inc.**, which offers teen groups in two Grand Island middle schools and two senior highs.

Program Projects Create Awareness in Communities

Several programs focused their public awareness programs on the community in general. **Blue Valley Crisis Intervention** hired a full-time public information coordinator to increase public awareness about the dynamics of domestic violence and sexual assault and of resources available through their program. In Chadron, **Family Rescue Services** conducted a highly successful volunteer-community training that was attended by police officers, head start employees, guidance counselors and individual who were interested in serving as volunteers. The training resulted in heightened awareness throughout community of the many services available through Family Rescue Services.

The **DOVES** program in Scottsbluff offered a 10-week community education course at Western Nebraska Community College last spring entitled 'Domestic, Dating, & Sexual Violence: Understanding the Dynamics and How You Can Help.' "It was an amazing opportunity to educate community members and broaden our volunteer base," says Executive Director Hillary Wasserburger.

In addition, DOVES implemented two program-wide campaigns that were very successful. "Love Shouldn't Hurt" is an easy and effective way of reaching young adults in the community; and "Freedom from Violence" has given an innovative way to remind neighbors that many women and children are not free because of violence they are experiencing at home. These campaigns include specialized public awareness materials and public service announcements and have been extremely well received by the community.

DOVES also received publicity when they built a small house to promote National Night Out. The house, with the theme "Every House a Safe House," was displayed at the local shopping mall. (See photo. below.)



Scottsbluff's DOVES program got their message across by building their unique "Every House A Safe House" display for National Night Out.

In Grand Island, the **Crisis Center, Inc.** discovered that their decision to move their offices to the Conestoga Mall resulted in much greater visibility for their program and a dramatic increase in walk-in clients seeking their services.

Hastings...

"Once I even tried to kill myself. It was in this dark time that I realized my children and I had to get away, so I sought emergency shelter. They made me feel empowered to get back on my feet. When I left him I had nothing and now I have so much, by reaching out and hearing stories of other survivors."

Continued, next page

Lincoln...

"Two weeks before I called Friendship Home my husband threw me down the basement stairs. I'm getting older and I don't heal like I used to. I was afraid he would kill me. I am so grateful that Friendship Home was able to take me in. I was afraid that if I didn't leave my husband that day I would never be able to leave. They put me in a hotel and then I came to stay at the shelter. I felt safe for the first time in many years."

16

The **Bright Horizons** program in Norfolk created a great deal of public awareness along with some controversy with a series of thought-provoking billboards that were placed on busy streets and highways around town. The billboards feature large photographs with attention-grabbing captions on each. For example, one poster showed a man who appeared to be a farmer or rancher looking over his expanse of land. The accompanying caption said, "How could such a God-fearing man have such a husband-fearing wife?" (See photo at right.)

"We have received quite a bit of news coverage and stirred up some controversy along the way," says program director Rhonda Horse, "but we think it's all great. The more people who are talking about domestic violence the more our message is out there."



Bright Horizon's series of thought-provoking billboards created controversy and awareness in the Norfolk area.

Lincoln's **Friendship Home** generated publicity and \$12,000 worth of in-kind supplies for their shelter with their fourth annual "Stuff the Bus" project. Public awareness was dramatically increased for this event last year when two buses were used for the first time, each parked outside Lincoln's two Wal-Mart stores in Lincoln, resulting in twice the number of items collected and increased publicity.



McCook's **Domestic Abuse/Sexual Assault Services** had a similar increase in awareness and walk-in clients after local radio stations agreed to run a series of public service announcements about domestic violence and services available through their program.

Friendship Home's "Stuff the Bus" campaign, in partnership with WalMart, helped women and children in shelter and raised awareness in the Lincoln area.

NDVSAC Collaborative Efforts Enhance Statewide Services

The Nebraska Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Coalition has initiated several collaborative efforts in the last year that help the 22 local programs expand services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault and provide training opportunities for professionals who work with these victims, such as clergy and attorneys.

The Coalition is continually seeking opportunities to network with other organizations throughout the state that can help us to improve services for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault,” explains Sarah O’Shea, Executive Director of the Coalition. “Increasingly we see these collaborative efforts as the key to educating more people about the impact of these crimes on victims and developing coordinated responses in communities throughout the state.”

Partnership Provides Resources and Training to Faith Communities

Local research and collective experience indicate many victims of domestic violence initially turn to their faith community for support, information and assistance. With that in mind, the Nebraska Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Coalition applied for and received a federal grant in 2002 to work with faith communities and their responses to domestic violence. A partnership with **Interchurch Ministries of Nebraska** and the **Family Violence Council** in Lincoln was formed to implement the project.

The accomplishments of this partnership are many, including:

- producing educational materials for clergy, lay leaders, and youth on domestic violence intervention, education, and prevention,
- creating a statewide resource library for faith communities regarding domestic violence, housed at the Interchurch Ministries of Nebraska;

- providing training opportunities on faith based responses to domestic violence,
- organizing a conference on Faith Community Responses to Domestic Violence, and
- establishing a statewide network of project advocates.

In addition, the project awarded mini-grants totaling approximately \$31,000 to 27 faith communities to create or enhance their responses to domestic violence. The grant recipients worked in collaboration with their local domestic violence/sexual assault programs. Activities included training clergy, lay leaders and staff on responding to domestic violence in their congregations and communities; implementing curriculums for youth groups; establishing resource libraries; and conducting retreats and educational sessions on domestic violence.

“The Coalition is continually seeking opportunities to network with other organizations throughout the state that can help us improve services for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.”

Sarah O’Shea
NDVSAC
Executive Director

Researchers estimate that from 3.3 to 10 million U.S. children annually witness assaults by one parent against the other.

Partnership Focuses on Connection Between Domestic Violence & Child Abuse

The link between domestic violence and child abuse has been well researched and documented through numerous studies. We know that children living with a batterers live in an atmosphere of fear and uncertainty, just as their mothers do.

With this knowledge in mind, the Coalition, working in collaboration with the Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services (NDHHS), formed a partnership several years ago to address the connections between domestic violence, child abuse, and economic self-sufficiency.

Currently, eleven domestic violence/sexual assault agencies around the state have on-staff liaisons that spend a portion of their time at the local office of the Department of Health & Human Services as a part of this project. The liaisons' activities include working directly with victims within the HHS system and coordinating services when possible (with a release of information), "checking in" with HHS staff through informal contacts, participating in multidisciplinary meetings, attending HHS staff meetings, and giving presentations on domestic and sexual violence.

Last year, liaisons from the eleven project sites worked with 499 clients of Child Protective Services and Employment First. Liaisons attended intake meetings, assisted CPS and EF staff with assessment, and provided information, counseling, and referrals to women experiencing domestic violence. As a result, many of the liaisons felt that they helped the

CPS and EF staff members to understand the dynamics of domestic violence and to more fully comprehend what a victim goes through when living in or leaving an abusive relationship.

The project has led to increasing cooperation between the CPS and EF staff members and the liaisons when working with mutual clients. Liaisons report they are also seeing growing numbers of referrals from CPS and EF staff members.

The Coalition remains involved with the project through periodic meetings with staff from the Department of Health & Human Services to provide technical assistance to the pilot sites and to offer training and resource materials to the pilot sites and participating agencies. Coalition staff also provided a portion of the mandatory new worker training for Employment First staff. The training focuses on domestic violence, connections to poverty and economic self-sufficiency, responding to disclosure, and ways to collaborate with the local advocacy program.

The eleven project sites are: Project Response, Auburn; Rape/Spouse Abuse Crisis Center and Friendship Home, Lincoln; Center for Survivors, Columbus; The Crisis Center, Inc., Grand Island; Spouse Abuse/Sexual Assault Crisis Center, Hastings; Parent-Child Center, Lexington; Rape/Domestic Abuse Program, North Platte; YWCA Women Against Violence Program, Omaha; DOVES, Scottsbluff, and the Heartland Family Services Program, Bellevue.

Nebraska LAPTOP Helps Victims Obtain Legal Assistance

The Nebraska LAPTOP project was started in 2003 through a partnership between the Nebraska Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Coalition and the Nebraska State Bar Association's Volunteer Lawyers Project. The partners of the project connect victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking with attorneys who will provide pro bono or reduced fee assistance in civil cases. Nebraska LAPTOP staff also provide technical assistance to attorneys representing clients through the Nebraska LAPTOP project.

During the past year Nebraska LAPTOP received a total of 263 calls for legal assistance and was able to place 111 cases with attorneys. The program received only 23 completed applications for assistance in which an attorney could not be found. The remainder of individuals seeking legal assistance through the program did not complete the application process.

To receive assistance through the Nebraska LAPTOP project, an applicant must be a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking and must be seeking assistance in a case involving the perpetrator. The victim must also seek assistance from Legal Aid of Nebraska and the Nebraska State Bar Association's Volunteer Lawyers Project before Nebraska LAPTOP is able to provide assistance.

State Patrol Grant and Coalition Help Lexington's Parent-Child Center Expand Spanish Hotline

The Coalition has provided funding for Nebraska's domestic violence/sexual assault hotline for the past 10 years. Last year, through the efforts of the Parent-Child Center in Lexington, the Nebraska State Patrol, the Coalition was able to create a statewide Spanish crisis hotline for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. The idea for the hotline began at the Parent-Child Center in 2002 when staff recognized the growing number of calls to their crisis line from people who spoke only Spanish or very little English. In the spring of 2003, through the efforts of the Center's staff and volunteer, they were able to begin providing a local Spanish Hotline.

In 2003, the NDVSAC submitted a proposal for funding for the Spanish crisis line to the Nebraska State Patrol. The Patrol received permission from Governor Johanns to donate \$25,000 to the hotline. The funding enabled the Parent-Child Center to expand the services into other areas of the state.

Since being hired in January of 2004, the Spanish Coordinator has started working to recruit hotline volunteers from other communities throughout the state, such as Grand Island and Scottsbluff. The hotline currently has 15 bilingual volunteers and hopes to recruit more soon. Their efforts have resulted in increasing numbers of calls to the statewide hotline in recent months.

Are You In Danger?

**If yes, call the
Statewide Domestic
Violence/Sexual
Assault Crisis Lines**

**Statewide Hotline
1-800-876-6328**

**Spanish Hotline
1-877-215-0167
(in Lexington area:
308-324-1942)**

Holding Offenders Accountable

“Perpetrators will continue to get away with this heinous crime until we create caring communities, through public awareness, supportive services, and training to improve the level of care and the quality of investigations.”

Executive Director
Sarah O’Shea

Coalition Participates in Batterer Intervention Program Standards Committee

Over 4,000 individuals are convicted annually in Nebraska of criminal acts committed in the context of domestic violence. Insuring that offenders are held accountable for these crimes is a challenging task. Without effective interventions and appropriate sanctions, the likelihood of the violence becoming more lethal is very high.

In recognition of these issues, the Coalition partnered with the Lincoln/Lancaster County Family Violence Council to create a Domestic Violence Offender Review Committee. The committee’s purpose is to increase the number and enhance the quality of Nebraska’s community-based intervention programs. The committee includes representatives from probation, corrections, and victim services. Through the leadership of **Bob Moyer, Executive Director of the Family Violence Council**, committee members conducted on-site program reviews in 5 Nebraska communities (Lincoln, Grand Island, North Platte, Omaha and Auburn) and hosted two statewide meetings for treatment providers during the past year. The Family Violence Council also sponsored “Creating a Process for Change: Working with Men Who Batter,” a two day training program for individuals and agencies interested in conducting abuser programs.

Attorney General Bruning Forms Sexual Assault Task Force

In April, 2004, Nebraska Attorney General Jon Bruning held a press conference to announce the formation of a Sexual Assault Task Force. Inspired by the courageous journey of Heidi Wilke, a rape survivor from Omaha, Bruning committed the resources of his office and staff to bring together health care providers, law enforcement officers, prosecutors, educators and advocates to identify changes that can be made to improve the state’s response to sexual assault.

During the press conference, the Coalition released a report, titled, *Rape in Nebraska: One in Eight*, that estimates that as many as 84,000, or approximately one in eight, adult women in Nebraska, have been a victim of forcible rape in their lifetime.

“Unfortunately, rape is one of the most under-reported crimes in this country,” stated Coalition Executive Director Sarah O’Shea, who spoke at the press conference. “Perpetrators will continue to get away with this heinous crime until we create caring communities, through public awareness, supportive services, and training to improve the level of care and the quality of investigations. These efforts are critical to create a system where victims are willing to report the crime and go through the rigorous experience of the justice system.”

NDVSAC Member Services

Supporting the services provided by Nebraska's network of programs is the Coalition's primary focus. During the past year, the Coalition provided the following services to assist the state's domestic violence and sexual assault programs:

Training, Educational & Technical Assistance

- Responded to **743** telephone or email requests for information and/or assistance
- Conducted **47** on-site visits to network programs
- Provided **7** specific trainings for individual domestic violence/sexual assault programs, **4** statewide training institutes for all programs, and **5** trainings on specific topics, **2** regional meetings, **4** consortium meetings, and **5** meetings for program executive directors.
- Conducted **5** program peer reviews and **5** batterer intervention program reviews

Publications & Resources

- Shared information and resources through **155** mailings to all of the state's domestic violence/sexual assault programs and **167** mailings to individual programs in response for specific requests for information.
- Distributed **6** editions of "In Touch," a bi-monthly publication for the staff, board and volunteers at the network of programs throughout the state.
- Distributed the Coalition's 2002-2003 Annual Report and newsletter to over **8,000** people throughout the state.

- Maintained a comprehensive resource library of domestic violence and sexual assault materials that were available to the public as well as to the network programs' staff and volunteers.
- Published the following new publications and materials:
Looking In, Reaching Out: Service Provision to Specific Communities
Nebraska's Domestic Violence Protection Order Bench Guide
Rape in Nebraska: A Report to the State – "One in Eight"

Public Awareness

- Provided information booths at **7** public awareness activities around the state.
- Wrote **9** letters to the editor and editorials to major newspapers in and out of state in response to news coverage related to domestic violence and sexual assault crimes.
- Appeared on **3** television programs and **4** radio talk shows to discuss issues related to domestic violence and sexual assault.
- Helped the programs to promote October National Domestic Violence Awareness Month and April National Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

In 2003-04, the Nebraska Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Coalition provided a total of 111 presentations to 2,407 people and distributed over 49,174 copies of materials related to domestic violence and sexual assault.

Coalition staff collaborated on domestic violence and sexual assault-related projects with 16 different organizations including:

The Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force;

Bryan/LGH Medical Center's Violence Prevention Center;

the Mediation Center in Lincoln;

and, the Native American Family Violence Council.

- Co-Sponsored "Are You Man Enough?" an hour-long statewide production by NETV featuring a panel of young people and adults exploring the attitudes and influences that contribute to abusive behavior and violence in relationships between young people, and what can be done to change them.

Public Policy

- Coalition staff attended **18** national conferences to keep current and informed about the latest issues pertaining to domestic violence and sexual assault.
- Sponsored statewide Lobby Day in February to inform state senators and other leaders about domestic violence and sexual assault issues and laws.
- Provided public testimony at legislative hearings on bills related to child visitation rights, strangulation as a crime, and domestic assault definitions and penalties

Financial Assistance - Josie's Fund:

- Pets, like family members, are often victims of violence occurring in their homes. Often, women are reluctant to leave pets behind in violent homes when they are trying to seek safety for themselves. Through a new program established in 2003, titled Josie's Fund, the programs may apply to the Coalition for small grants to help women they are assisting to pay for kenneling pets or veterinarian bills and other expenses incurred from pets living in violent homes.

Assistance to Other Organizations

- The Coalition provided training and resources for other organizations involved with domestic violence and sexual assault, such as community response teams, child advocacy organizations victim witness units, various professional groups, and church organizations. Assistance to these groups ranged from training programs for health care and human service providers and faith communities participating in the partnership project between the NDVSAC, the Family Violence Council and the Nebraska Interfaith Ministries (see page 17), to presentations on domestic violence and sexual assault for various college classes, businesses and service organizations.
- Coalition staff collaborated on domestic violence and sexual assault-related projects with **16** different organizations including the Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force, Bryan/LGH Medical Center's Violence Prevention Center, the Mediation Center in Lincoln, and the Native American Family Violence Council.
- The Coalition responded to **426** requests for information from businesses, organizations, individuals and members of the media from throughout the state.

NDVSAC Funding Sources

The following is a summary of the 2003-2004 funding sources for the Nebraska Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Coalition.

Nebraska Health & Human Services (NHHS): \$90,000

NHHS manages over \$2.5 million in state and federal funding for domestic violence and sexual assault services. Since 1987, NHHS has contracted with the Coalition to provide training, technical assistance and peer support to the local programs and allied professionals, and to prepare annual statistical reports on violence against women.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services - Family Violence Prevention & Services Act: \$237,072

Each state's domestic violence coalition receives funding through the Family Violence Prevention & Services Act to support public awareness and planning to assist local domestic violence programs in their state.

U.S. Department of Justice – Violence Against Women Act

Legal Assistance for Victims Program: \$268,296 - Authorized by the Violence Against Women Act in 2000, the Legal Assistance for Victims program supports state and local communities to provide civil legal assistance to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking. In July, 2003, the Coalition, in partnership with the Nebraska State Bar Association, was awarded a two-year grant to provide civil legal assistance to diverse and traditionally underserved populations, including rural victims and immigrant and tribal populations

Rural Domestic Violence Child Victimization Grant \$346,510 - This two-year grant project provided support for the Faith Community Outreach Project and the creation of a statewide public awareness campaign – Step Up Speak Out – targeting teens and young adults.

Grants to State Sexual Assault & Domestic Violence Coalitions: \$148,746 - This funding provides support for the Coalition's Training Institutes and Program Peer Reviews.

Program Members: \$10,300 - Each of Nebraska 22 local programs provide support to the Coalition through annual membership dues.

Community Services Fund: \$5,000 - The Coalition is a member of Community Services Fund that provides coordinated campaigns for 24 organizations in the state.

Individual & Organizational Members & Donors: \$7,500 - Individual and organizational memberships provide support to the Coalition through annual dues.

Local Programs' Funding Sources

FEDERAL: \$2,931,277
(34.2% of total funding)

- " Victims of Crime Act
- " Family Violence Prevention
- " Rape Prevention/Education
- " Violence Against Women Act

STATE: \$2,071,402
(24.3% of total funding)

- " DV/SA Appropriations
- " Homeless Trust Fund

LOCAL: \$3,542,479
(41.5% of total funding)

- " United Way
- " Local Grants
- " Private Donations

TOTAL: \$8,545,108

NDVSAC Members & Supporters

The Coalition is deeply appreciative of the support and encouragement that it receives from its members and supporters. Without their ongoing support and financial assistance it would be impossible for the Coalition to provide resources and services to the state's network of domestic violence/sexual assault programs. The members provide the vision and leadership necessary to guide the work of the Coalition, and share a commitment to its mission and values. The following listing includes individuals and organizations who are members of the Coalition or who have donated through the Community Services Fund or through memorial funds. The Coalition also wants to acknowledge its many anonymous donors for their support. If a name has been inadvertently omitted from these lists, please contact the NDVSAC Office at (402) 476-6256.

"The members provide the vision and leadership necessary to guide the work of the Coalition, and share a commitment to its mission and values."

Individual:

Gwen Hurst Anderson, Lincoln
Pam Baker, Lincoln
Bonnie Bauer, Ogallala
Laura Barelman, Wayne
Katie Bean, North Platte
Kathleen Beashore, Kansas City, KS
Cora Berry, McCook
Monica Braun, Seward
Ann Brost, Chadron
Janet Buck, Lincoln
Linda Cattau, Columbus
Lorene Conner, Crete
Melba and Thom Cope, Tucson, AZ
Mary Bargman Crawford, Alliance
Dawn Delay, Lincoln
Marcia Elder, Imperial
Diane Fagner, Des Moines, IA
Shawn Farrar, Lincoln
Dr. Larry & Peg Fletcher, Lincoln
Lisa & Barry Forbes, Lincoln
JoAnn Gallatin, Benkelman
Pat & Ed Gehringer, Omaha
Judy Glather, Lincoln

Coalition Members

Jim Gordon, Lincoln
Jewell Grasmick, Seward
Cheryl Guggenmos, Broken Bow
Judy Haney, Omaha
J. Alan & Lois Hansen, Lincoln
Mary Harker, Lincoln
Ann Harker, Lincoln
Dorothy Hayes, Lincoln
Rosemarie Heinisch, Columbus
Dona Hohensee, Lincoln
Katie Holmes, Omaha
Ann Hoschler, Sioux Falls, SD
Linda Hospodka, Omaha
Pam Hromadka, York
Cindy Johnson, Norfolk
Vicky Johnson, Crete
Mary Kamerzell, Tucson, AZ
Carol Knieriem, York
Susan A. Koenig, Omaha
Charla Lambert, Columbus
John Lehotyak, Bellevue
Dr. James & Sheryl Lindau, Wayne
Carol Lockwood, Scottsbluff
Carla Loemker, Beatrice

Dianne Lozier, Omaha
Gretchen McGill, Papillion
Lori McIntyre, Grand Island
Marcee Metzger, Lincoln
Sue Michalski, Omaha
Vicki Miller, Lincoln
Deb & Stu Milligan, Norfolk
Michon Morrow, Lincoln
Barb Netherland, Scottsbluff
Carol Niemann, Lincoln
Lisa & Cary Peterson, M.D.s
Marilyn & Paul Phillips, Scottsbluff
Paula Pollart, Cairo
Roalene Redland, M.D., Omaha
Jean Robinson, Lincoln
Brenda Rohren, Lincoln
Judy Rudloff, Omaha
Catherine Saeger, Fremont
Judy Sandeen, Hastings
Sheryl Schrepf, Lincoln
Judy Schultz, Maywood
Kathy Seacrest, North Platte – In honor of Rhonda & Jim Seacrest

continued, next page

Eric Seacrest, North Platte
 Mike Seacrest, Lincoln
 Dottie & Bob Shapiro, Lincoln
 Joan Skogstrom, Omaha
 Sandi Skorniak, Omaha
 Jane Beck Smith, Waco
 Mary Spurgeon, Bellevue
 Deanna & Ted Suhr, Lincoln
 Tracy Swanson, Omaha
 Ruth Thone, Lincoln
 John Tidball III, Lincoln
 Kristine Winter, Norfolk
 David Wysong, Lincoln

Organizational:

American Association of
 University Women – Nebraska
 Boy's and Girl's Club of Omaha
 Domestic Violence Coordinating
 Council, Omaha
 Family Violence Council, Lincoln
 Mellinger Counseling, Kearney
 North Central District Health
 Department, O'Neill
 Notre Dame Sisters, Omaha
 Pinnacle Bank, Ogallala
 Servants of Mary Provincial
 Council, Omaha
 Yankton Women's/Children's
 Center, Yankton, SD



Community Service Fund Donors

We would like to thank the following individuals who designated the Nebraska Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Coalition as the recipient of their Community Service Fund contributions.

Christine Abraham, Lincoln	Sandra Howe, Lincoln
Patricia Amedeo, Lincoln	Samantha Kaiser, Lincoln
Nancy Arensdorf, Lincoln	Douglas Koebernick, Lincoln
Alexander Barret, Lincoln	Cherie Krueger, Lincoln
Shannon Becker, Lincoln	William Lyons, Lincoln
John Bernthal, Lincoln	Darleen Mahlendorf, Norfolk
Debra Bindel, Lincoln	Denise Manton, Lincoln
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Rhae Drijber, Lincoln	Kim Schellpepper, Lincoln
Galen Erickson, Lincoln	Janet Schmidt, Lincoln
Rebecca Faber, Lincoln	Sheryl Schrepf, Lincoln
Joan Feeney, Grand Island	Lillian White, Lincoln
Amanda Garner, Lincoln	Marc Wullschleger, Lincoln
Thomas George, Lincoln	David Wysong, Lincoln
Alicia Henderson, Lincoln	Alexis Zgud, Lincoln
Gerise Herndon, Lincoln	



Hastings...

[Excerpt from a poem written by a victim of domestic violence.]

*"Thank you all at SASA
 For the wonderful job
 you do.
 My heart is overflowing
 With the love I have for
 you."*

“We make a
living by what
we get, but we
make a life by
what we give.”

Winston
Churchill

Memorials

In Memory of Ted & Jan O'Shea

(All locations are Lincoln, Nebraska unless otherwise noted.)

Patty & Bill Allstrand, Boulder, CO
Frosty & Deete Anderson
Lisa & Mark Arter
Larry & Mary Arth
Ritch & Raette Bahe
Betty Lou Ball
Margaret Bartle
Craig, Shelley, Dustin & Brady Bauer
Mary Belle Beach, Ceresco
James & Kim Beach
Tera Beermann
Thomas Beman, Alpharetta, GA
Ann Beseke, Chadron
Bob & JoAnne Bettenhausen
David & Kathy Bingham,
Blue Valley Community Action, Fairbury
Gregg & Debra Boosalis Jean Brazda, Bellevue
Kristen & Detrich Brock, Alpharetta, GA
Pat, Brown, Topeka, KS
Lesley & Bill Browne
Jeanne & Philip Brusnahan
Donald Bryant
Bryant News, Inc, Hickman
A.R. Burton, Denver, CO
Max Callen, Hickman
Ann Campbell
Mike & Carol Campbell
Deb Carey-Minardi, Omaha
Clayton & Mary Ann Cech, North Bend
Tim & Karen Cech, Rochelle, IL
Mike & Diane Cech, Fremont
Center for Survivors, Columbus
Richard Chapin
Barbara Chapin

Dorothy Chapin
Patty, Dave & Connor Chase, Greenwood
Community Domestic Violence Intervention Program,
North Platte
Sally Connell
LaVon Crosby
Richard & Patricia Day, Paradise Valley, AZ
Rena Dean
Richard & Lisa DeBuse
Gene & Sue Deeter
Leslie & Doug Deeter
Randy Delaney, Atlanta, GA
Laura Delgado, Bellevue
Dept. of Correctional Services - Victim Representatives
Nancy Dobler
Domestic Violence Coordinating Council, Omaha
Kellie & Kerrie Draper, Gothenburg
Druid Hills Golf Club, Atlanta, GA
Kathryn & Jerome Druliner
Linda Early
Steve Erwin
Amy & Eric Evans
Family Rescue Services, Chadron
Shawn & Doug Farrar
Mel & Barbara Finke
Judith Flansburg Burton
John Foote
Marcia Freer, Crete
Christine & Kevin Gillespie
Diane Gonzolas
John, Jewell & Johnny Grasmick, Seward
Vicki Gratopp
Martha Greer
Charles & Carolyn Gregorius

Jill & Frederick Groshans
Bill & Marj Groszkruger, Walton
Bob, Sally & Ro Guenzel
Raleigh & Kathy Haas, McCook
Gretchen & George Hancock
Mary & Ann Harker
Karen Harker
Peggy Harriott, Omaha
Norman & Debra Hedgecock
Bernard & Connie Heier, Walton
Dan Hergert, Jr.
Heritage Builders, Inc.
Kathi & Mark Hesser
Carol Hibdon
Katy Hilgenkamp
Charles & Carla Hines
Mark, Kelly Jo, Emma & Lilly Hinrichs
Richard & Marilyn Hitz
Sue Holland Keller
Lisa & Martin Huff
Travis Huffines, Alpharetta, GA
Paul & Nelda Hunt
Guy Inzalaco, Las Vegas, NV
Midge & Eames Irvin
James Stuart, Jr Family Foundation
Marlene & Wayne Janssen
Rachel Jensen
Margaret & Richard Johnson
Marguerite Johnson
Jeanine, Randy & Grant Johnson
JJ Kat, Inc (Brewsky' Food & Spirits)
Barbara & Con Keating
Kim Kenney
Bill & Bev Kimball
Suzanne Kirkland
Dr. Steven & Judy Krueger
Bill & Myrna Kubly
Carolyn Lamphere
Catherine Lang

Mary Larsen & Marc, Nick & Max Delman, Omaha
Sue Lawlor
John Lehotyak, Bellevue
Gene & Louella Litz, Dodge
Dianne Lozier, Omaha
Marlin & Rita Lyon
Stan & Peg Maly
Joan Marr-Nichols, Murdock
Bob & Sheri Martin, Davey
Mark McGuire
Dorothy & Mark McManaman
Gail McNair
Marilyn Meecham
Lisa Meginnis
Jeff & Betty Mellen
Marcee Metzger
Elizabeth Meyer, Williamsport, PA
Bruce & Patty Miller
Allen & Kathryn Moore
Bob & Ruth Morin
Bob & Sally Morrow
Stephen & Lynn Morrow
W. Michael Morrow
Richard & Anne Nation, Friend
Robert & Mary Nefsky
Leslie & Jess Neujahr, David City
Jace, Britta, Hanah & Anika Nore
Richard & Elizabeth Nuss, Crosslake, MN
Diane Oldfather
Nancy & John Olsson
Carolyn Orlando, Houston, TX
Rob & Carolyn Otte
Paula Pace
Rhonda Pepper
George & Harriet Peterson
Jo & Jack Phillips
James & Julie Plttenger
Craig & Jane Pohlman, Omaha

Lincoln...

"I want to thank everyone at R/SACC for everything they did to help my daughter. Thanks to your help, she and my granddaughter are now safe and doing fine."

“Without our members and donors ongoing support and financial assistance it would be impossible for the Coalition to provide resources and services to the state’s network of domestic violence/sexual assault programs.”

Alan & Jean Pointek
Lorene Prester, Crete
Tom & Pam Price
Sue Quambusch
Rape/Domestic Abuse Program, North Platte
James & Pamela Rathe
Diane Richters
Rogers Foundation
Richard & Eloise Agee
Rex & Kuulei Marquart
Monty, Karen, David & Anna Rohde
Elizabeth Rost, Milford, OH
George & Jo Ann Russell
Julie Russell, Washington, DC
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Carol Sack
Chuck & Sherene Salem
Eileen Sawyers
Brad & Mary Schmidt
Sheryl Schrepf
Kathy Seacrest, North Platte
Mike Seacrest
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Thomas, Kunc and Black, LLP
Richard Thompson

Todd & Holly Tilton, Woodstock, GA
Tranquility Salon & Day Spa
Michael & Toni Unthank
Rosemary & Jack Wagener
Janice Walker
Don & Lisa Walla
Elizabeth Wanamaker
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