

Looking Forward...

- Remember to wear purple on Wednesday, Oct 26, to show your support for DVAM.
- The Text-To-Donate campaign doesn't end with October. Continue to donate \$5 by texting 'ICADV' to 20222!
- Plenty of training opportunities through the end of the year—see page 5.

August, Sept. & Oct. Highlights

- 10 Skylark AmeriCorp members have started their training and will begin their service soon.
- Janelle Melohn is the new director of the Crime Victims Assistance Division, part of the Attorney General's Office.
- Staff members Zeb Beilke-McCallum and Liz Battles received a grant from the Iowa Women's Foundation in October.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month Update

Report by Caitlin Feuer, Communication & Development Intern



October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Hopefully, you were already aware of this due to our many outreach efforts. The overarching theme of the month is that you can stop domestic violence, now more than ever.

Throughout October we are reaching out to audiences through various media, keeping in mind the more we spread awareness of domestic violence and inform about our Text-To-Donate campaign, the bigger difference we can make. The ICADV Facebook, Twitter and website pages are updated throughout the day with interesting facts and articles relevant to DVAM. We encourage you to like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter. If you do not use these social media outlets, then you can still check out our website for more information about domestic violence in the news.

We released radio and television public service announcements about our text-to-donate campaign, in which people can text 'ICADV' to 20222 and donate \$5. Our television PSA features former Iowa Energy Coach Nick Nurse, Rachel Pierce from WOI news, Miss Iowa USA 2011 Rebecca Goldsmith, Erin Kiernan from WHO news, Fred Hoiberg, the head coach of Iowa State Cyclones Men's Basketball and our own Andrea Fehring. You can view the video on our Facebook page and website. The ICADV staff members have been emailing and texting about our text-to-donate campaign to our professional and personal contacts; we hope you will do the same.

Although we are reaching out to our various networks, there is only so much one office can do on its own. We ask that you support us by using your knowledge and contacts to raise awareness about domestic violence and our text-to-donate campaign within your own network so we can work together to stop domestic violence, now more than ever.

State Training Update From the Desk of Kirsten Faisal



The term reproductive coercion is a new one in the domestic abuse field. It refers to explicit male behaviors to promote pregnancy (unwanted by the woman), birth control sabotage (interference with contraception), and pregnancy coercion, such as telling a woman not to use contraception and threatening to leave her if she doesn't get pregnant. It includes threats or violence if the partner does not comply with the perpetrator's wishes regarding the decision whether to terminate or continue a pregnancy, intentionally exposing a partner to a sexually transmitted infection, and threats or violence if the partner refuses to have sex.

I am very pleased to announce that the Family Planning Council of Iowa, in partnership with ICADV, has received a grant from the Lalor Foundation to expand knowledge of reproductive coercion, contraceptive choices, safer sex, and emergency contraception among women and girls currently living in domestic violence shelters in Iowa. The project will also develop a new and ongoing pool of reproductive health educators by training DV advocates to conduct programs on safer sex, reproductive coercion, and emergency contraception to the women and girls they serve.

The impetus for this grant has come out of our collaboration experience as part of Project Connect. Iowa was fortunate to be among nine states chosen by Futures Without Violence, a national domestic abuse prevention agency, to take part in a two year initiative to improve the health and safety of women and children through a focus on reproductive health care and domestic abuse. The Lalor Foundation Grant begins in January and I am looking forward to tapping into the expertise and educators of the Family Planning Council.

My upcoming travelogue has me in Sioux City for two days presenting to the Iowa Death Investigators Association; in Perry at the public library to talk about prevention, social change, and the impact of domestic abuse on children; in Fairfield for another two day mediator training; and back to Ottumwa for another strangulation conference before the holidays set in. Maybe I'll see some of you along the way.



Now
more than

EVER...

**Text "ICADV" to 20222 to donate \$5.
Data and message rates may apply.**

**You can
Stop
Domestic
Violence**

Civil Protection Orders and the Importance of Pro Bono Service

From the Desk of Tina Fisher



Due to the generosity of partners, communities, and individuals, ICADV helps prevent, serve and assist victims of domestic violence. Support is appreciated whether its in the form of sharing information and awareness, monetary gifts, or simply reaching out to volunteer your time. Regardless of pecuniary charitable capacity, one may possess other skills important to assisting a victim of intimate partner violence. As of December 31, 2010 there were 7200 attorneys licensed and residing in the state of Iowa (American Bar Association, Resources, Market Research Development, National Lawyer Population by State, 2011). A tremendous resource could be provided to victims who would otherwise be left to navigate the system alone if each attorney in Iowa would volunteer his or her time to handle one protective order, dissolution, custody case, etc.

According to the Iowa Judicial Branch State Court Administrator's Office, 8,804 **civil protective orders** under chapter 236 (domestic abuse) were issued in 2009. That same year, 9,213 no-contact orders were issued in domestic abuse criminal cases (Judicial Branch of Iowa 2010). Although it is unclear how many victims navigated the civil process without counsel, anecdotal evidence from local domestic violence programs suggests the majority of victims are left to manage on their own. Individuals representing themselves in court are referred to as "pro se litigants," responsible for advocating on their own behalf, by presenting evidence to the court to consider when adjudicating the permanent protective order.

It is common for the victim to appear pro se at the permanent protective order hearing for a variety of reasons. Many victims are indigent and cannot afford an attorney. The brief period between the temporary and permanent hearing doesn't allow the victim time to retain counsel available on that day. Pro bono services and volunteer lawyer programs often lack the resources to provide counsel for every victim, especially as state funding sources dwindle. Additionally, volunteer private lawyers are not as present in rural areas of Iowa.

For most attorneys, a chapter 236 civil protective order hearing may be one of the "easier" cases to handle. After the attorney is trained on the dynamics of domestic violence and the procedure at a protective order hearing, the typical protective order hearing requires a few hours of preparation for the 30 - 60 minute hearing. Despite the ease of handling such a hearing for any seasoned practitioner, representing the victim is often more heartbreaking than other varieties of litigation. The victim may be broken, defeated and overwhelmed. However, the volunteer attorney often provides a voice the victim may not otherwise have. As a result, the attorney's personal reward is significant. The attorney is responsible for guiding the victim to safety, and assisting her with regaining power and control.

According to Rule 6.1 of the American Bar Association's *Model Rules of Professional Conduct*, "every lawyer has a professional responsibility to provide legal services to those unable to pay. A lawyer should aspire to render at least (50) hours of pro bono publico legal services per year." Unfortunately, although providing legal services to those who cannot afford counsel is encouraged, it is not mandatory. In October 2009 the Iowa Supreme Court issued a [resolution](#) urging all lawyers to devote at least 50 hours of pro bono legal services each year to assist individuals who cannot afford legal counsel. Rule 32:6.1 of the Iowa Rules of Professional Conduct governs "Voluntary Pro Bono Publico Service," and although the hours of pro bono legal services completed each year is reported to the Iowa Supreme Court, pro bono legal services remain voluntary (Court Order April 20, 2005, effective July 1, 2005).

I cannot completely condone a mandatory requirement, as concerns arise regarding the quality of representation. Rather, the idealist in me still believes most of us attended law school with the purpose of helping someone, or providing passion and purpose to a movement. Some of us are in it because we love to win, others because we can't keep our mouths closed (I will raise my hand on that one), but *all* of us can certainly direct some of that energy to assist another in achieving the same great successes that came easy to us. And in the event your success didn't come easy, it is even more of a reason to lend a hand and extend an offering to the next person. Hopefully, the simple gift each of us provides will result cumulatively in elevating all of humanity. If each licensed attorney in Iowa represented one victim each year in a 30 minute civil protective order hearing, we could make a significant dent in the number of victims who proceed unrepresented.

"I am only one; but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something; I will not refuse to do the something I can do."

- Helen Keller

Housing and Economic Justice Update

From the Desk of Zebulon Beilke-McCallum



I go to lots of meetings—short, long, and longer. Most are productive, some are unproductive, and some days I would rather hide under my desk doing paperwork and responding to e-mails than to go to one more meeting. But I go. I go because of the axioms I learned as a community organizer:

1. Decisions are made by those who show up
2. Whoever shows up today are the right people.

These past months I have been repeatedly reminded of the importance of meetings as I traveled to Washington D.C. to attend the Women of Color Economic Justice Leadership summit, as I met in West Des Moines with domestic violence activists to discuss the importance of women's leadership in the political process. I visited the Meskwaki Nation in a resource sharing effort to end domestic violence and sexual assault. In September I visited with people living on the streets of Des Moines and was reminded of the importance of meetings.



Zeb Beilke-McCallum, HEAT Coordinator visits homeless camps in Des Moines. Photo credit Copyright (c) 2011 Joppa Outreach, Inc. Used by permission.

These meetings fostered sharing personal stories about the need for housing and lack of employment, over 20 letters to elected officials, and a reminder of people's strength and compassion to end domestic violence. I was reminded of consequences of staff reductions, work force development offices and funding reductions. The times are very challenging economically and politically, but together we can get through any challenge. Now, when asked if I have time for another meeting, I go knowing that is where the change occurs.

Prevention Update

From the Desk of Tess Cody



Healthy Relationship Facilitator Training happened Sunday, September 25th. Facilitators from Grinnell started running the groups at Toledo the first week in October. Facilitators from UNI and Seeds of Hope will be piloting a boys group at Eldora. We shifted to using the curriculum Mentors in Violence Prevention.

On Thursday, September 29, the Center for Disease Control staff visited ICADV as part of the DELTA PREP project. Community partners on many of our prevention projects joined us for the site visit to help tell the story of our work. The information gathered at the site visit will be used in a final report highlighting good work going on across the country at DELTA PREP sites. Iowa will be one of five featured.

The Iowa Men's Action Network is working on crafting goals and action steps and administering a survey to members. In late October, many members are helping with the UNI Center for Violence Prevention Conference on Engaging Men. This includes possibly hosting an Iowa MAN breakfast. Remember, getting involved is only a click away at www.icadv.org/iowaman.

ICADV Staff Spotlight: Liz Battles - Director Skylark Project

Q: Tell us about yourself.

A: I grew up in Des Moines. I graduated from University of Iowa in 2006, and then earned my JD from University of Iowa College of Law in 2009. I love to read. I'm an aunt to 5, soon to be 6 nephews; so much fun to watch them grow-up and to play with them.

Q: What is your role within ICADV?

A: I head up ICADVs work within the ICIW prison - commutation, classes, and re-entry fairs. I screen potential commutation clients and help the selected candidates pull together the application. I also coordinate Seeking Safety classes. I'm also an attorney with ICADV: I answer technical assistance questions, represent clients in civil matters, and help train people unfamiliar with DV.

Q: Why do you do this kind of work? Where do you find your motivation?

A: Feminism has been my driving force throughout high school, college and law school. I wanted to find a way to make my passion my career. In the DV field, I grapple with women's rights and feminist theory - making that a reality - everyday. Working in prison I've seen the intense level of need and absolute injustice - seeing how those women end up there (in prison). Its impossible to walk away until I feel I've made some kind of change - making sure no one else suffers that same injustice or that its correct for those who are already there.

REACH AmeriCorps Update From the Desk of Adam Stark



The Skylark AmeriCorps Program service year began October 3, 2011 with AmeriCorps orientation and Victim Counselor training. Currently, Skylark has five confirmed sites for placement of AmeriCorps members. We are still seeking five additional sites who can host and provide support for a Skylark Member who will providing prevention education, financial literacy training, and volunteer recruitment. In all, 10 members will serve to increase primary prevention efforts throughout Iowa.

Up coming ICADV trainings:

Webinar 11/08/2011 12-1 PM Brain Injury Brain Injury Association of Iowa
<https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/248023134>

Training 12/5-12/7, 2011 All day Certified Domestic Violence Advocate Training ICADV Staff
<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/cdaatraining>

Webinar 11/08/2011 12-1 PM Brain Injury BIA
<https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/248023134>

Webinar 12/12/2011 12-1 Recruiting Volunteers for Prevention Tess
<https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/718291654>

Skylark Update

From the Desk of Liz Battles



On October 7, 2011, Governor Branstad denied the commutation applications of four Iowa inmates, two of whom are trauma survivors at Iowa Correctional Institution for Women. The Governor's denial makes it clear that he does not want to spend his energy seriously considering these cases. Relying on past judgments, he is not considering the applicants as individuals capable of change.

The Skylark Project and the Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence responded loudly to tell the governor that we are disappointed by his attitude toward these candidates and toward the commutation process generally. Like administrations before him, the governor has missed this opportunity. Commutation is a necessary process, because we know the criminal justice system is imperfect. Commutation enables a governor to review a case with fresh eyes, after the sensationalism of a trial has past. With the benefit of time, the governor can consider new knowledge we now have about how trauma and/or youth can affect a victim's decision-making abilities. In order for our system to be valid and meaningful, we need the process of commutation to be able to acknowledge and correct our mistakes.

Our interview on KCCI News Channel 8 received a great response from the community. Friends and strangers reached out to ICADV to express their support. Governor Branstad and legislators must be feeling the pressure to engage honestly in the review of commutation cases. We hope that pressure will make commutation a more meaningful process for our Skylark candidates in the future.

In October the Alice Barton Scholarship Program, founded by Roxanne Conlin and her siblings Raymond Barton and Rhoda Olsen, awarded the first annual scholarships to survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault at the Iowa Correctional Institution for Women. This year the Alice Barton Scholarship Program received partnership funding from the Iowa Women's Foundation, enabling the program to help even more women across Iowa. By enabling victims to gain new knowledge and skills, the Alice Barton Scholarship Program helps victims increase their self-confidence, find better employment, and achieve economic independence. For incarcerated survivors, education makes a huge difference in their ability to re-enter communities safely and successfully.

In addition to paying for tuition and school supplies, the Alice Barton Scholarship Program provides unique support services to help women succeed. We will be teaming with Des Moines Area Community College to bring professors and classes into ICIW, a brand new opportunity at ICIW. In addition Skylark Project staff will assist students with college entrance counseling and individual goal setting and tracking. Volunteers from Grinnell College hold tutoring sessions each week. We can always use more volunteers for tutoring!

Looking Forward...

Next week the Alice Barton Scholarship Program will begin accepting applications from domestic violence survivors in communities across Iowa. Watch for an interview with Roxanne Conlin on Channel 13 News, and check back next week to find the application on the website www.icadv.org.

Congressman Dave Loebsack Stands Up Against DV

A woman is battered at least once every 15 seconds in the United States and one quarter of all women report having been physically assaulted in their lifetime. These statistics serve as a shocking reminder that we must redouble our efforts to put an end to domestic violence. As you may know, October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. This month we should all take time to remember those who have suffered and died from domestic violence and to celebrate the work being done to end such violence. Since domestic violence often happens in the privacy of a home, it can easily remain out of view if we do not work hard to raise awareness about it. Violence has no place in our homes, and everyone should be aware of the information and resources that are available for those in need of assistance and those who want to help raise awareness.

Each year, approximately 1.3 million women in America are physically assaulted by an intimate partner. While women experience more intimate partner violence than men, it is important to remember that men can also be victims of domestic violence. An estimated 835,000 men are physically assaulted by an intimate partner annually in the United States. It is also important to recognize that domestic violence can include abuse of other family members, such as in the case of elder abuse and child abuse. In short, victims of domestic violence can be young or old, gay or straight, male or female, rich or poor, and of any race or ethnicity.

Further, while it is common to think of domestic violence in terms of physical assault, domestic violence may also include sexual assault and emotional or psychological abuse. Emotional abuse includes undermining an individual's sense of self-worth or self-esteem. Psychological abuse might include threats and intimidation or forced isolation, such as by restricting contact with friends and family or by preventing a victim from attending school or work.

If you believe that you or a friend or family member may be a victim of domestic violence, I urge you to call the National Domestic Violence hotline, which is free, confidential, and open 24 hours a day at 1-800-799-SAFE (7233) or 1-800-787-3224 (TTY). This hotline provides crisis intervention, information and referral to local services for victims and their friends and families.

If you would like to find ways to participate in Domestic Violence Awareness Month, you can wear or distribute purple ribbons, volunteer for or donate to a local women's shelter, or donate an old cell phone to provide a victim of domestic violence with a means of communication to access emergency services. You can also educate yourself on the warning signs of domestic violence by going to www.thehotline.org or the Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence's website www.icadv.org. Please join me in working to raise awareness in the hopes that one day no one will have to experience violence at home.