

The First Take Action Awards 1999

In 1999, the KCCADV's Education Committee launched a new education campaign focused on actions we can all take to help end domestic violence. The campaign included a new brochure and other materials that were distributed in locations such as workplaces, churches, youth organizations, medical clinics, and community organizations.

In May of that same year, two reporters broke a story that would have resounding effects throughout Washington State. Anne Koch and Eric Nalder of the Seattle Times investigated the case of Linda David, abused by her husband, Victor David, for years. Their report told the story of the physical abuse, neglect, and isolation Linda David suffered while trapped on her husband's filthy boat, during which time Victor David collected money from DSHS as her caretaker and convinced case workers to ignore the obvious signs of abuse. This case forced the State of Washington to examine the systems that failed Linda David, and prompted the Governor to appoint the Domestic Violence Action Group, a task force designed to focus on domestic violence and abuse of dependent adults. If not for the investigation by Anne Koch and Eric Nalder, this case may have gone completely unnoticed.

When the KCCADV Education Committee members read the story and saw the impact it had on our communities, they decided to recognize these two outstanding reporters. Their coverage of the Linda David case seemed a perfect example of how taking even one action toward ending domestic violence can have far-reaching effects. So, without much fanfare, committee members went to the Seattle Times offices and presented awards for Outstanding Journalism to Anne Koch and Eric Nalder. This was the beginning of the Take Action Awards that we have today. Our humble awards ceremony in a newspaper office grew into an annual event, where the extraordinary actions of ordinary people are recognized and held as examples for everyone in our communities to follow.



Anne Koch



Eric Nalder