



**The
King
County
Coalition
Against
Domestic
Violence**
presents

October 27, 2005
4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

the sixth annual
**Take Action
Against
Domestic Violence
Awards Reception**

Held at the Bertha Knight Landes Room, Seattle City Hall

Awards Reception

Welcome and Introduction

Merril Cousin, Executive Director,
King County Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Presentation

“Rule of Thumb”
Lighthouse Theatre

Take Action Awards

Meena Vashee
Reverend Dr. Robert L. Jeffrey, Sr.
Sally Solaro & the Microsoft Threat Management Unit
The Dorcas Circle and the Quilters Group from
Trinity Lutheran Church of Enumclaw
Wing Luke Asian Museum

Raffle Drawing

Closing

Tom Rasmussen, Seattle City Council

Take Action Award Winners (Quotations are from nomination materials.)

Take Action Against Domestic Violence Awards recognize individuals and groups who have taken significant steps to raise awareness about domestic violence, help those dealing with it, or help find solutions to the problem. Nominations for these awards give us concrete, everyday examples of what each of us can do to stop violence. In choosing winners from our inspiring pool of nominees, the selection committee considered the nominee's initiative in taking the action; use of resources; creativity; the action's impact on survivors, public awareness or the community at large; and whether the action was something that might inspire others to do the same. In addition to evaluating individual nominations, the committee sought to present a range of winners representing individual and group projects of different scales, in a variety of settings, geographic areas, and cultural communities.

Meena Vashee

Despite her community's expectation that she would be silent after leaving an abusive ten-year marriage, Meena Vashee worked to raise awareness of domestic violence in the Indian American community. As she raised her two sons, she volunteered on the Eastside Domestic Violence Program (EDVP) Crisis Line and joined the EDVP Board of Directors. In addition, she granted funds to the University of Washington Women's Center to establish a scholarship for survivors or children of survivors, and to create an Educational Panel to raise awareness and educate the community through a lecture series and scholarly work. Through Meena's gifts of money, time, energy, determination, and knowledge, she has helped individual survivors, the Indian American community, and the community at large.

"It would have been less risky for Meena to continue her silence. Instead, she has helped further the dialogue on domestic violence, especially in the Indian American community."

Rev. Dr. Robert L. Jeffrey, Sr.

Reverend Dr. Robert L. Jeffrey, Sr., of New Hope Missionary Baptist Church, demonstrated that a faith leader's role can extend far beyond the church walls. Reverend Jeffrey and one of his aides drove a great distance to support a church member in court as she sought to obtain a protection order. After witnessing the bureaucratic hurdles this woman faced to protect herself, Reverend Jeffrey speaks about domestic violence in his sermons. His efforts to raise awareness have resulted in the formation of a support group in the church, and several of the church's male members participated in the Men's March Against Domestic Violence at Renton River Days.

"Reverend Jeffrey's actions have raised awareness and educated a great number of people in the community. The main thing is to get the word out to the public that violence is not acceptable and we need to learn to love at home if we are to have a safe and productive community."

Sally Solaro & The Microsoft Threat Management Unit

The Microsoft Threat Management Unit provides a safe place for Microsoft employees who are surviving abuse to get help and find resources. The unit's workers can help a survivor learn about personal safety inside and outside the workplace; provide additional security; support court orders; move an employee to an undisclosed office; and even help put an experience into words for a police report. Of course, to access these tremendous resources, one must know about them and be ready to ask for help. Sally Solaro, a Microsoft employee and domestic violence survivor, has assisted several other survivors in accessing resources at Microsoft, communicating with co-workers and appropriate departments, and working with Microsoft's security department to ensure survivors are safe and their jobs are secure.

"Sally reaches out to women to educate them about domestic violence and their options in a completely non-judgmental way. She is very diplomatic and discreet, but offers that helping hand that can really make a difference."

The Dorcas Circle and the Quilters Group from Trinity Lutheran Church of Enumclaw

Two groups at the Trinity Lutheran Church of Enumclaw — the Dorcas Circle and the Quilters Group — contribute to improving the welfare of domestic violence survivors in their community. The Dorcas Circle provides funds every month to the Enumclaw Domestic Violence Task Force for emergency hotel vouchers for domestic violence survivors and their families. Hotel vouchers are especially important in a rural community such as Enumclaw, where services are more difficult to access. The Quilters provide a personal touch. They make quilts for every bed in the Domestic Abuse Women's Network (DAWN) Extended Stay apartments, an interim home for families leaving violent situations. The quilts provide comfort to women and children in the apartments as they live there, and are gifts that they may take with them to enjoy in their new homes after they leave.

“ Without the support of the Dorcas Circle, many women and children in Enumclaw would not have had quick access to a safe place. The Quilters are insistent that the quilts go as gifts to the families, theirs to keep, no matter where they go.”

The Wing Luke Asian Museum

The Wing Luke Asian Museum developed the Women and Violence exhibit as part of their New Dialogue Initiative. Open from April 22 to September 22, 2005, the interactive exhibit addressed historical and root causes of the violence and abuse that women face in the Asian American community. Its well-rounded approach documented violence from war and racism as well as intimate partner violence. It also provided space to view Asian-Pacific Islander women's acts of resistance, and highlighted multilingual resources for domestic violence and trafficking victims. Additionally, the museum partnered with the API Women & Family Safety Center to screen the film “Once Were Warriors,” hosted and facilitated by a group of young API women, who shared their knowledge and experiences with the community.

“ As a museum, the Wing Luke Asian Museum always finds creative ways to engage community members. Providing a visual and tactile method of creating public conversation on abuse and violence against women is a phenomenal tool for engaging our communities.”

Rule of Thumb

“Rule of Thumb” is a one-act play that tells the story of five women in various stages of recovery and separation from their abusive partners. Based on the true experiences of fifteen different women, the play emphasizes the behavior patterns and psychological games abusers play in order to maintain power and control in the relationship. Lighthouse Theatre performs “Rule of Thumb” for community groups and service providers to reach out to women at risk of domestic violence and to further educate those who work with domestic violence survivors, such as police officers, counselors, and doctors. While their performance this evening is a shortened version of the play, Lighthouse Theatre is available to perform the full version for a variety of audiences. Because it is an informal, intimate show, the group can set up in any classroom, meeting room, or other venue. A discussion typically follows the performance.

Performing tonight are Lighthouse Theatre members Cathy Balan, Julie Lewis, Donna Liberty, Christine Millican, Deb Pierce, Janne Potter, Sigrid Thomas, and Sierra Zweig.

For more information about Lighthouse Theatre, please contact Deb Pierce, Artistic Director, at 206-686-4325, or debstages@yahoo.com.

Take Action Award Nominees

We were fortunate to receive many outstanding nominations. Though we cannot present an award to each nominee, we want to recognize and thank them for inspiring us all to do more to end domestic violence. (Nominees are listed alphabetically.)

Aetna Insurance Volunteer Committee

The Aetna Volunteer Committee coordinated an educational fair on the subject of domestic violence for Aetna employees. Representatives from the Renton Domestic Violence Task Force, the Salvation Army, and The Family Renewal Shelter spoke with employees about domestic violence in the community. Employees donated clothing, cell phones, and toiletry items for use by domestic violence survivors.

Caring Hearts

Joelle Kantor created Caring Hearts, a group of health and healing professionals who pamper single working mothers. Twice, the group invited participants from Project DVORA, the domestic violence program at Jewish Family Service. Pampered for four hours, participants received massages, facials, health and wellness services, chocolates, and other goody bag items.

Dr. Jane Dimer

Dr. Jane Dimer, herself a survivor of domestic violence, has demonstrated a commitment to increasing awareness of domestic violence in the medical field. With colleagues from Group Health's Center for Health Studies and the University of Washington, Dr. Dimer is nearing the end of a four-year study on the long-term healthcare effects of domestic violence. Dr. Dimer hopes that the study will help medical professionals better serve domestic violence survivors. Additionally, Dr. Dimer shares her experience with other medical personnel to raise awareness about domestic violence and survivors' challenges.

Jennifer Droz

For years, the "Motion for Revision Project" provided pro bono assistance to domestic violence survivors who have been improperly denied Domestic Violence Protection Orders. When the veteran attorney who coordinated the program retired, the program faded. Jennifer Droz of Foster Pepper and Shefelman resurrected the program and ensured its continued existence. She collaborated with the Access to Justice Institute at Seattle University School of Law in sponsoring a pro bono intern to work on the protection order revision motions and other pro bono projects at her firm.

Edymir Guerrero

As an Americorps Volunteer in the Teen Dating Violence Program at Youth Eastside Services, Edymir Guerrero has spoken to hundreds of middle-school and high-school classes about dating violence and resources for those who experience it. Edymir has served as a powerful male role model, engaging young men through his classroom presentations and encouraging more young men to participate as peer educators than ever before. To further his work with young men, Edymir created a brochure specifically for teen males entitled D.U.D.E.S. (Dudes Unite for Dating Equality and Safety).

Lisa Immerwhar

Lisa Immerwhar volunteered part-time for the Seattle Police Department's Crime Survivor Services and its Domestic Violence Victim Support Team. When the department was without a child advocate, and funds for a replacement were frozen, Lisa stepped in to perform the full-time duties of a child advocate without compensation for seven months. During that time, Lisa assisted 150 families through very stressful court cases. She provided unfailing support and services, spending many hours in court during trials. Lisa's advocacy made all the difference for these children and their families.

Linda Mitchell

As the President of the Seattle Women's Commission, Linda Mitchell is performing a critical review of the city's domestic violence programs, and is developing a strategic plan to make sure they are as effective as possible. Through her efforts, Linda is educating elected officials, ensuring that domestic violence is a priority for city leaders.

Pioneer Organics

Pioneer Organics, an organic-grocery delivery company, does more than drop off the food their customers order. They coordinated a clothing and home goods drive for New Beginnings shelter program during the holiday season. Customers were able to leave items on their porch for drivers to pick up on their delivery day. The company then sorted through the items and delivered them to New Beginnings. Additionally, they raised awareness about domestic violence and New Beginnings by distributing information to their customers.

The Shalom Bayit Project

Shalom Bayit means "furnishing peaceful homes." This project of the National Council of Jewish Women provides furniture for domestic violence survivors who are moving into new homes after leaving abusive situations. Survivors choose furniture and supplies from a warehouse in Redmond; among the items available are beds, dressers, couches, kitchen tables, pots and pans, dishes, linens, and toys. The staff and volunteers provide personal attention to each customer, often trying to help them develop a home decor from the furniture available. If they are unable to travel to the warehouse, survivors can "shop" over the phone, and the Shalom Bayit staff will arrange to deliver furniture, if necessary. Shalom Bayit helps survivors create not just a living space, but a true home.

Tukwila Hotel Managers

Ten hotel managers in Tukwila participate in the Safe Nights program, offering hotel stays of one to three days for domestic violence survivors and their children who need immediate shelter. In the first year of operation, participating hotels provided 178 bednights to 101 individuals affected by domestic violence; more than half were children. A committed Tukwila police officer and a DAWN advocate teamed up to develop the program with the Tukwila hotel managers, who already had a relationship of trust with the police officer. Their generosity has helped fill a gap for survivors when shelters are full and there is nowhere else for them to go.

Mary Ann Vandergriff

Mary Ann Vandergriff has given significant gifts of time and money to Hickman House over the past ten years. She has encouraged Windermere employees, community members, and community volunteers to assist with fundraisers and donations, including innovative events at Jazz Alley. She's gone beyond impersonal donations to provide scholarships for children to attend the Sonics Basketball Camp, gift certificates to grocery stores, supplies for children's playgroups, and funding for a clinical consultant. In addition to her own gifts, Mary Ann has educated her colleagues to make the Windermere Foundation's resources available to Hickman House, as well.

The Coalition thanks the following organizations and individuals for helping us recognize community members engaged in the effort to end domestic violence.

Take Action Campaign sponsorship

Special thanks to the HopeLine program of Verizon Wireless for its financial sponsorship of the 2005 Take Action Against Domestic Violence Campaign.



Radio Shack Corporation provided additional financial assistance.



Thanks to Seattle City Councilmember Tom Rasmussen for hosting the 2005 Take Action Awards Reception.

Awards Selection Committee

Merril Cousin, King County Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Sarah McNiesh, Eastside Domestic Violence Program
Lupita Patterson, WA State Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Daniel Perez, Northwest Immigrant Rights Project
Sara Rigel, Swedish Hospital
Simone Tais, South King County YWCA

KCCADV Education Committee

Margaret Alquist, Dept. of Corrections
Scott Dungan, King County Sheriff's Office
Brie Gyncild, community volunteer
Dianne Heide, South King County Community Network
Maria Lee, Broadview Emergency Shelter
Sara Rigel, Swedish Hospital and Medical Center
Chris Peterson, City of SeaTac DV Program
Ashley Spreada, Salvation Army Hickman House

Reception

Photographer: Jessica Levine
Music: The Chinook Trio
Clarinet: Margy Newton, Steve Noffsinger
Bassoon: Lesley Petty
Awards: Athletic Awards Co.
Catering: Bill Pritchard of Mosaic Catering

Raffle Donors

Airial Balloon Company
Salish Lodge
Wild Ginger