



Peace and Hope in our Community

TAKE ACTION WITH THIS ISSUE

- ◆ Volunteer to staff the crisis line
- ◆ Thank someone who volunteers their time
- ◆ Schedule a PADA presentation for your group

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As this year comes to an end, the staff and board of directors at PADA feel the importance of creating peaceful homes and communities in Jefferson County. Violence in the home happens at an alarming rate. Just pick up any newspaper or listen to the nightly news and you will hear the stories of domestic violence related homicides. If you talk to police districts, they will tell you that this is one of the most frequent and frustrating calls that officers respond to. If you talk to anyone working in the civil or criminal court, they will recount the large volume of cases where domestic violence is involved. In Jefferson County alone, PADA took over 1,000 crisis calls in 2007, and worked extensively with over 500 individuals. As of November 1st, Watertown Police Department has made 259 domestic violence related arrests. Unfortunately this kind

of volume is replicated across the state and the country.

The Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence reported that statewide, 36 lives were lost in 2006 and 49 in 2007 to domestic violence. Other aspects of domestic-violence-related homicide during 2006 and 2007 include:

◆ In both years, perpetrators of domestic violence homicide incidents were overwhelmingly male: 87.5% in 2006 and 85.7% in 2007.

◆ Most victims were female: 75% in 2006 and 59.5% in 2007. Most males who were murdered were killed by another male, either their father, in the case of child homicides, or in conjunction with an attack on a female partner who had left the relationship by divorce or separation.

◆ Nearly half of the homicides involved a victim or someone close to the victim

who had left the relationship or was taking action to leave the relationship, such as moving out or filing for divorce.

◆ Victims reflected the lifespan, from a few months gestation to 75 years, and were from 25 counties in all regions of the state.

◆ Fifty-eight minor children and 14 adult children were left orphaned or without a mother or father as a result of a domestic violence homicide. Of the minor children who lost one or both parents, 28 lost their mothers.

◆ Where there was information about past arrests of a perpetrator for domestic abuse-related crimes, there was a pattern of battering, restraining order violation, and stalking charges that were dismissed or reduced to disorderly conduct.

◆ Firearms accounted for half of all domestic violence homicides. ...Continued on next page

PADA's Sexual Assault Program

By: Alejandra Munoz

When PADA became a sexual assault program we were careful about how the program evolved. In order to assist victims of sexual assault, different specialized skills are needed. Sexual abuse is not the same as domestic violence. PADA's staff has been dedicated and committed to providing compassionate, quality assistance to victims of sexual abuse. All

staff members have undergone ongoing training offered by the Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault.

In sexual assault cases, the first important step is to make sure the victim is safe, feels comfortable, and understands what is happening and what will happen in the future. The legal system can be extremely scary for a victim. PADA supports the victim in the hospital, during the investigation, the prose-

cution, and is the sounding board as the victim continues to battle the emotional and psychological harm caused by their assault. Imagine being thrust into a situation where you have to talk about one of the most intimate violations to your body; to repeatedly relate it to strangers in law enforcement, hospitals, and the district attorney's office knowing you have to somehow resume your regular life and routine after this traumatic event; knowing that many people in your small community

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"Treat people as if they were what they ought to be and you help them to become what they are capable of being."

- Johann Wolfgang von Goethe



"Act as if what you do makes a difference. It does."

-William James Goethe



...Peace

...from front page.

These are grim facts, but Jefferson County is working hard in 2009 and in the years to come to prevent these needless deaths. The Coordinated Community Response Team (CCRT) on domestic violence anchored in Watertown and led by police chief Tim Roets, is implementing strategic initiatives to enhance law enforcement efforts focusing on repeat offenders, providing education in the community, and cross discipline work. The CCRT members with the three sub-committees; the awareness committee, the law enforcement committee, and the judicial committee, meet monthly. Highlights of the meeting include updating policies and procedures in the police department, initiating a "stop back" program where a specialized officer follows up with victims, assigning a detective to oversee all domestic violence complaints at the police department, developing a resource brochure, reinstate offender programs, conduct a

community forum on cable channel 13, and in 2009, publish a monthly series in the Watertown daily times. We are also looking into federal money to fund more initiatives. Even though the media focus is typically on homicides and the detrimental effects of violence in the home, much research shows how resilient victims and their children are when facing terror in their homes on a daily basis. Based on the resiliency wheel developed by Nan Hendersen M.S.W., factors that help foster strength and resiliency despite unavoidable obstacles, are:

- ◆ Provide opportunities for meaningful participation
- ◆ Increase pro-social bonding
- ◆ Set clear and consistent boundaries
- ◆ Teach "life skills"
- ◆ Provide caring and support
- ◆ Set and communicate high expectations

The goal of this model is to mitigate risk factors and build resilience in the environment.

Fostering resiliency and healing in children includes:

- ◆ Strong caring relationships with adults, especially mom
- ◆ Relationships in the community (other siblings, family, peers, community groups)
- ◆ Encourage child's interests and abilities, praising strengths
- ◆ Encourage participation in positive activities.
- ◆ Opportunities to talk about events and express feelings, good and bad
- ◆ Safety (in their environment and immediate needs)

All of us have the power to change lives. Often it does not take much extra effort and the rewards are endless. We can give the gift of hope and peace to families in our community. The staff at PADA know the importance of being a solid resource to families, and we believe this community sees that importance as well.

Peace to you all in the year to come.



...Assault Program

...from front page

probably know about it by now; and face all of that alone? Even though the number of assaults reported in Jefferson County might seem low, sexual assault take place in great numbers in our community. When we get a call to assist a victim of sexual assault, we prepare ourselves for that meeting in several different ways. The victims needs and experience is often complex and it can be frustrating to try and fit them into the existing legal systems. The issues that have impacted me the most have come from the immigrant community. I have received calls from women that have been raped, and not understanding the process of the legal system or even what to do. They believe that the place to report an assault is at PADA. It's great

"They trust me and want me to be with them..."

that they have the courage to call and try to report it; since they don't want to do it on their own. Sexual assault is taboo. In the immigrant community it is considered shameful much as it is in other cultures. Clients have asked me to stay with them during the entire process of making a report; even though we have just met a couple of minutes prior to making the report. They trust me and want me to be with them when they are in the hospital or at police station.

Immigrants that have the courage to report an assault are faced with various obstacles that limit their empowerment. One major obstacle faced by immigrants that other victims don't face, and which is often overlooked, is the language barrier. The most obvious layer is the immediate access to services. Relating the details of their inti-

mate assault and having it translated to a police officer by an interpreter, can be an additional barrier for the victim. During the translation, many important pieces of information can be missed. Victims feel ashamed and often don't provide specific details. The problem is magnified when the interpreter is of the opposite sex of the victim. They also fear being blamed for the abuse, even though reminded it's not their fault. This can cause additional problems with translation if their reluctance is misunderstood.

It is extremely important for victims of violent crime that they have a qualified legal interpreter. A qualified interpreter is one who has attended trainings and has references from other interpreters who know both languages. Interpreters should have references from people who know both languages being spoken, otherwise the opinion of the interpreter's skills is useless.

... Continued on next page

Sexual Assault

...from page 2

Just because someone is bilingual, doesn't mean they are qualified to accurately and completely translate. Immigrants face large challenges when reporting sexual abuse, yet this can allow them to become a voice heard in the community.

PADA is very excited and proud to announce their receipt of the *Sexual Assault Victims Services* grant which will provide funding to hire a full time Sexual Assault Advocate/Educator. This position will expand and improve sexual assault services in Jefferson County.

At the end of the day I am grateful that there are domestic and sexual abuse organizations like ours helping victims in our community. I am proud to be providing this type of help and service to families in Jefferson County. Making a change in someone's life, no matter how small or large, is the greatest success we can have.

- Alejandra Munoz

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Thank you to our board of directors, supporters, and volunteers for all your help and hard work in 2008. You have stood by us and our mission to eliminate domestic violence and sexual abuse and be a resource to our community. Special thanks to those who regularly give to us and those who stood by us during difficult times. Your work does not go unnoticed and we are grateful for all you do!

Wish List



In these tough economic times, with deficits nationally and locally, we can certainly use your help. Please consider any of the following giving ideas this holiday season, or in 2009.

- ◆ Lockable four drawer filing cabinets for our offices
- ◆ Volunteer to organize or build custom shelving for storage at our office
- ◆ Volunteers to staff crisis line
- ◆ Pro bono attorneys
- ◆ Gas cards
- ◆ Shampoo and/or conditioner
- ◆ Hats/mittens/scarves for children
- ◆ Body soap
- ◆ Household cleaning supplies
- ◆ Toilet paper
- ◆ Laundry supplies
- ◆ Gift certificates for movie theatre or other family activities in the area



A Moment With PADA

Meet the new Executive Director!

I am so excited to be working here at PADA in a leadership role. PADA has such a great reputation in the community and in the state providing advocacy and support to victims of family violence and sexual assault. I am honored to be a part of this team, and have seen in my short time here, how dedicated the staff and board of directors are to this agency and the issue. I think it is also promising how energized our coordinated community response is around the issue.

Working to end domestic violence and sexual assault

has been my career for the past 14 years, working in battered women's shelters in two states, and for the past nine years with a large domestic violence agency in Milwaukee called The Task Force on Family Violence (TFFV). At TFFV I worked as an advocate, educator, prevention specialist, and finally as the Director of Education and Outreach. In this capacity I was in charge of support and educational programming for women and children affected by domestic violence, prevention initiatives with schools

and in the community, life skills programming to promote education, employment, and civic participation of survivors, and a collaborative project to promote accountability for perpetrators and enhance services to victims in the legal system.

Whether we live in a city, in the suburbs, or on a farm, domestic violence touches us all. Resources, support, and community response effect a victim's decision to stay or leave. It is a terrifying decision for a victim to reach out for help, as she and her children may have many negative consequences if her abuser finds out. Being a resource for victims and their children is such an important responsibility, one

that PADA takes very seriously. We also value the importance of prevention education with children in our schools and community groups. In order to stop relationship violence and sexual abuse we have to talk with children about healthy relationships and communication in an ongoing nature.

I look forward to working with you all in Jefferson County!

Amy Venables O'Neil
- Executive Director





After the pain and uncertainty, the successes of our clients become our reward for the services that we provide. At the end of the tunnel we find light. This is what drives us as advocates to continue working in an environment surrounded by danger and crisis. We hope that by sharing these success stories with you, our supporters, you too can share in that feeling of joy.



County Budget Update

This past September the County Finance Committee recommended a \$30,000 cut to PADA's funding. PADA Board members and community partners spoke to the County Board about the importance of PADA's services in an effort to reinstate PADA's full funding for 2009. At the end of the County budget process, the County Board voted to restore half of the proposed cuts.

As a result of the \$15,000 loss in the 2009 budget, PADA is facing the difficult challenge of reallocating resources and reorganizing the agency structure. In 2009, PADA will no longer have an Attorney Advocate to provide legal representation to victims of abuse in restraining order and family law cases. However, PADA will still have a legal advocate who is able to provide

accompaniment to victims in court, and legal information regarding restraining orders. PADA deeply regrets the loss of these crucial services which are not available anywhere else in the county. PADA continues to be deeply committed to advocating for the safety of domestic and sexual abuse victims within the court system.



Success Stories

....Shared by Alejandra

Marina

One of the most joyful moments PADA shared in 2008 were concerning a client I will call Marina. Marina married her husband in Texas, where she grew up and lived with her family. Her husband wanted to move to Wisconsin to be closer to his family. After the move, the abuse continued to escalate and she fled back home to her family in Texas. After her husband filed for custody and placement at the beginning of 2007, Marina was ordered by the court to return to Wisconsin with her son. She was ordered to remain in Wisconsin until her divorce was finalized. She had no family and friends in the area and was left with no choice but to live in the home she once shared with her abusive husband. Marina didn't feel safe returning to the home, but she had no other choice.

"Under great stress and pressure, she persevered..."

There were many bad moments for Marina during this process, and she would arrive at PADA often in tears, looking for support, understanding. She couldn't believe that she was facing continuous emotional and mental abuse while being isolated in Wisconsin without the support of her family. She feared that the courts would not allow her to return to Texas with her child. PADA became Marina's family and support system for her while in Wisconsin. Under great stress and pressure, she persevered and continued to be a good parent to her son, set goals for herself, and didn't give up until she achieved them. She spent a lot of time making sure she was cooperating with the court system. At times, Marina felt that the divorce process would never end. Finally, in the spring of 2008, her final divorce

A Special thank you to the following supporters who advocated for restoration of PADA's funding:

Cory Krueger

- Executive Director of Watertown Counseling Center

Captain Mark Meddaugh

- Watertown Police Department

Chief Tim Roets

- Watertown Police Department

Sara Babcock

- PADA Board President

Father Mark Moore

- St. Paul's Episcopal Church

PADA Board Members

PADA Board of Directors



trial was scheduled. PADA staff took turns attending the hearing to support Marina during those three long trial days. PADA was there when Marina bravely took the stand and testified about the abuse that she had endured during their marriage. Everyone was anxious and scared awaiting the outcome of the trial; freedom to choose a life in the state where she'd be supported by friends and family, or allowing the abuser to maintain power and control through the court system dictating where she was to live. At the end of the third day, she had won her right to return to Texas with sole custody and primary placement of their son. When the Judge gave the orders our hearts overflowed with joy for Marina. The long year had ended in happiness.



...More stories on next page

Success Stories

...Continued from Alejandra



Rocio

As the immigrant community continues to grow in Wisconsin, the need for bilingual and culturally sensitive domestic and sexual abuse services has increased. As part of my work with the immigrant community on domestic or sexual abuse, I am regularly exposed to the legal immigration component. Luckily, with the help of other organizations and the Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence, I have been trained to assist clients with immigration problems related to abuse.

I met Rocio in June of 2006. She was originally from Spain and in an abusive relationship. Her story was different from most clients. The previous year she met an American stationed on a military base in Spain. They became friends and then began dating. Later, they were

married. His unit was returning to the United States and so he filed a petition with immigration services that would allow Rocio to travel to the United States with him. Once in Wisconsin, she was given conditional residence status. Rocio started a new life with her husband in Wisconsin. However, he soon became abusive. She was afraid; she spoke only broken English, and had no family to seek support from.

She met a few people where she worked, but was terrified to share with them that she was being abused. After months of repeated beatings and with the help of a friend, she decided to end the relationship. She filed a domestic abuse restraining order and then filed for a divorce. When Rocio contacted me she was looking for information and support during both of

these processes. During the domestic abuse injunction hearing, she bravely testified to the abuse, showing pictures of bruises and a swollen mouth she sustained after her husband's beatings. She was granted a restraining order, but the ordeal was not yet over; she still had to complete the divorce.

At the time, she debated staying in Wisconsin or returning to Spain. The separation and divorce would cause Rocio to lose her conditional residence status. Rocio needed an immigration attorney to apply for legal immigration status without her husband's assistance under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). VAWA provides relief to immigrant women married to US citizens or permanent residents if they are victims of domestic or sexual

abuse. Until VAWA, immigrant women, often some of the most isolated victims due to their legal status, were much more likely to stay in an abusive relationship. PADA contacted an immigration attorney which took the case and assisted Rocio with her petition. After two long years of waiting, the immigration authorities approved her application. She is now a resident of the United States! When the news came in and she held the residency card in her hands, it was hard to believe at first; then we jumped for joy. Rocio was able to overcome the barriers that once seemed insurmountable; to succeed in achieving independence and an ultimate sense of empowerment which her former relationship sought to eliminate.



Success Stories

...Shared by Amber

Sharon

A call came to PADA during one of the busiest days we had had for some time. All of us advocates were plowing through the piles of paperwork on our desks while answering a steady stream of phone calls. Sharon called with tears of frustration; PADA being the last of a series of phone calls that brought her no relief. Just when she had found the courage to tell her husband she wanted a divorce, he left taking their infant son with him. He refused to let her see their son and told her he wanted her to "feel pain" like he felt pain, and that she would never see their son again.

Throughout their relationship, Sharon's abuser had often threatened to kill himself.

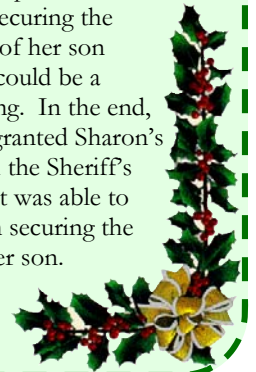
Threats of suicide were a means of maintaining his power and control in the relationship. After realizing his use of power and control, she wanted to live free from that abuse yet now feared for her son's life if her husband decided to follow through with his threats. He sought to hurt her in the worst way possible, by hurting their son.

She had tried everything she could think of to protect her son. She called the police and reported her concerns, but legally, they were still married and her husband had equal rights to the child. The police visited the home where he was staying with the child to check on the child's welfare, but as long as they couldn't see an immediate threat to the child's safety, they

couldn't take him away from his father. Her only option was to request an emergency child custody and placement order from the court so the police could assist her in obtaining her son's return.

Without an attorney or money to hire one, Sharon would have to wait three to five weeks for a hearing to be scheduled to address custody and placement issues. There is no form available for people in Sharon's position to get an emergency hearing scheduled if they don't have an attorney available to draft the documents. In the meantime, she had no idea what mental state her husband was in and if he would act out his threats towards the child in an attempt to punish her. By the time Sharon reached PADA, she was nearly without hope of protecting her child.

After listening to her story, we helped her focus on the elements the law required to grant an emergency custody and placement order. Often while in crisis, what is most important to a victim is not what the law deals with. After meeting with her for nearly four hours, we were able to draft court documents for the Family Court Commissioner to review which would then authorize the Sheriff's Department to assist Sharon in securing the safe return of her son until there could be a court hearing. In the end, The court granted Sharon's request and the Sheriff's Department was able to assist her in securing the return of her son.





People Against Domestic & Sexual Abuse
"Every Home a Safe Home"

P O Box 395
Jefferson, WI 53549

Business Phone:
920-674-6748

24 Hour Crisis Line:
920-674-6768

Toll Free:
1-800-228-7232.



Where Your Investment Goes

Yes! I want to help The People Against Domestic & Sexual Abuse continue to provide free programs and services such as finding emergency shelter, counseling, legal advocacy, childcare, child abuse prevention programming, community education, and a 24-hour crisis line.

I will support PADA and its clients with a contribution of:
() \$500 () \$250 () \$100 () \$50 () \$25 () Other \$ _____

Please acknowledge the above gift(s) in () honor or () memory of:
Send notice to: _____

TOTAL GIFT AMOUNT \$ _____

*Please make check or money order payable to: **PADA***

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*Contributors are listed annually.
Please check here to remain anonymous.*

PADA is a 501 (c) (3) charity and a United Way agency.

Donations are tax deductible as allowed by law.

Please mail to:

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