

# NEWSLETTER

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### **WHAT IS ABUSE?**

Domestic abuse and emotional abuse are behaviors used by one person in a relationship to control the other person. Abuse is not an accident.

Some examples of abuse include:

- Calling you names; putting you down
- Keeping you from contacting your family or friends
- Stopping you from getting or keeping a job
- Threatening physical harm
- Sexually abusing you
- Stalking you

### **Who are the people who abuse others?**

Abusers are not easy to spot. In public, they may appear friendly and loving. They often only abuse behind closed doors. They also try to hide the abuse by causing injuries that

can be hidden and do not need a doctor. Abusers have learned to abuse so that they can get what they want. Abusers do not take responsibility for their actions. They may even blame the victim for causing the abuse.

### **What happens to children who witness domestic abuse?**

Children who are part of an abusive family suffer too. Even if the children are not hurt physically, they may have emotional and behavior problems because of what they have seen.

Have you been hit, choked, kicked, or threatened? If so, you may have been abused. If you are abused, or know someone who is abused, break the silence and tell someone you trust.

### **Nobody deserves to be abused for any reason!**

Tell your primary care doctor or call the Battered Women's Hotline at 1-800-992-2600.

[Appeared in *Health Highlights*, MassHealth, Summer, 2001]

**WE GRIEVE IN THIS TIME  
OF NATIONAL CRISIS AND  
ADDED FAMILY STRESS**

### **More from Margie Vicknair-Pray**

We had positive responses from a number of newsletter recipients about last issue's first-person piece from Margie Vicknair-Pray. Since FRWC has been exceedingly careful about using victim stories, we were grateful she wanted to share her story. When she passed out copies of the *FRWC Newsletter* to friends, several disclosed their own abuse. Whenever a victim shares her own story others come forward. We are happy to share a poem she wrote while living with the abuser.

#### **Mind Over Matter**

She watches closely  
As he performs the trick,  
Knowing that the product  
Is an illusion.  
She suspends disbelief  
Long enough to love,  
Clapping for the image  
She wishes to see.  
Her mind dissects the reality,  
But her heart tells her  
Not to worry about truth. . .  
For the illusion of love  
Satisfies a need.  
Love done with mirrors  
Appears to have two sources.  
Margie Vicknair-Pray

c 1996

**FREE WOMEN FROM  
THEIR BATTERERS  
SEND CONTRIBUTIONS  
TO**

**Financial Resources For  
Women & Children, Inc.**

**645 Boylston Street  
c/o PPUF, Old South  
Church  
Boston, MA 02116**

### **LETTERS TO FRWC**

*McAuley Institute  
8300 Colesville Road  
Silver Spring, MD 20910*

August 14, 2001

Dear FRWC:

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Financial Resources for Women and Children for its participation in the Women's Wealth Building Symposium on June 30, 2001. The event was well attended and by all measures a great success.

The participants noted time and again the usefulness of the materials and resources available to them in the exhibit area and I thank Financial resources for women and Children for its participation. I am confident the participants will benefit greatly from the materials you provided. The knowledge the participants will learn from *Your Own Money* will allow them to move forward in planning their financial future.

I am hopeful we can work with you again in the future.

Sincerely,

Jill Steele, Homeownership  
Program Associate

### **FRWC DONORS**

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**Abstract: Explaining the Severity of Injury to Battered Women Using Male Partner Characteristics and Behaviors**

This study explored the relationship between the characteristics and behaviors of violent male partners and the severity of violence reported by female respondents. Subjects were drawn from a random sample of 8,000 adult females. National Institute of Justice (NIJ) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) conducted the national telephone survey for the National Violence Against Women (NVAW) study. This study sample used females who reported intimate violence with current spouses (n=240), ex-spouses (n=870), live-in boyfriends (n=242), and a combined group (n=1352). Independent variables were male partner's status, income, Patriarchal Index score, stalking behaviors, threats, race, and ethnicity. In general male partner stalking behaviors and threats predicted higher levels of violence. Status and race of the male partner were not significant predictors in explaining higher levels of violence in this study.

Conclusions from this study indicate that women who are **threatened** or **stalked** are in clear **danger** and should be given protection.

The complete study is available from the Boston College Graduate School of Social Work or Sheryl Jaynes-Andrews, PhD.

## NEW FRWC PILOT

FRWC announces its new DC-pilot with the Women's Economic Development Fund (WEDF). Founded in March 2001, WEDF is an affiliated project of WEAVE, Inc [Women Empowered Against Violence]. WEDF helps empower women survivors of relationship abuse achieve economic security. Like so many of you, WEDF believes that promoting women's financial well-being is a key strategy for preventing violence against women while increasing the quality of life for women and children.

WEDF's approach to women's economic empowerment includes monthly economic education workshops, financial assistance to individual women survivors, and capacity-building grants for domestic violence organizations. Working with Riggs Bank, The Women's Center of Vienna, and the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV), WEDF will offer economic education workshops on topics such as credit, budgeting, economic goal planning, the basics of investing, home ownership, small business development, and other subjects selected by women survivors.

For more information, please contact Trish Bonica at WEDF at 202-452-9550 x502 or visit [www.weaveincorp.org/wedf](http://www.weaveincorp.org/wedf).

## Debt Reduction Planning

Does the economic downturn have you worried about debt? Are you trying to decide which credit cards or loans to pay down first?

Get help on the FRWC website [www.frwc.org](http://www.frwc.org) by selecting (clicking on) "FRWC Navigator," then "Featured Sites," then "Financial Literacy Education," then "Debt Reduction Planner." This will hyperlink you to a site sponsored by Intuit (the folks who make Quicken). You fill out a form and submit it. They send you a personalized plan for paying off your debts. There is no cost for this service.

**Visit FRWC  
Website:  
[www.frwc.org](http://www.frwc.org)**

### NEW WEBSITE:

**[www.ssa.gov/women](http://www.ssa.gov/women)**

Social Security Administration has a new website for women at every stage of their lives. At some time in their lives most women will find they must take financial responsibility for themselves.

**Several Donors Have  
Sent Their Tax Refund  
To FRWC**

**Send us yours!!!**