

# NEWSFLASH

## *Inside this Newsletter*

- 1 Girls' Coalition of Boston
- 2 Warning Signs of Battering
- 3 Donors
- 4 Madison Update

### **GREATER BOSTON GIRLS' COALITION**

FRWC joins the Girls' Coalition of Greater Boston in its effort to promote education, advocacy, and networking about issues related to girls. Georgia Mattison of FRWC participated in the hearing on girls held by the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women March 15. Violence Against Women & Girls ranked first as a concern by participants. Financial Literacy for girls is also a concern. FRWC financial literacy brochures were distributed in English and Spanish.

Other members of the consortium include: Big Sister, Patriots' Trail Girl Scout Council, Wellesley Centers for Women, YWCA, Junior League, American Association of University Women, Boston Women's Commission, Title IX Advocacy Project, Women's Express, and other groups.

### **AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL RULES ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

For the first time, an international human rights organization has defined domestic violence as a form of torture and a violation of international law. In a report issued around the world on March 6, Amnesty International (AI) declared that violence against women is a human rights issue, and if a government fails to "prevent, prosecute and punish" acts of violence, that violence should be considered torture.

Broken Bodies, Shattered Minds: Torture and Ill-Treatment of Women explores the circumstances in which violence against women, in custody and in the home, constitutes torture. It concludes that governments should be held accountable for violence against women, regardless of where it occurs.

AI used a human rights framework to look at violence against women throughout the world. The report documents cases in which states have ignored or condoned violence against women that is committed by government agents, during armed conflict, and by private individuals.

AI holds states accountable for all acts of torture of women. Reprinted and adapted from "News Flash" (<http://www.fvpf.org/newsflash>)

## **WARNING SIGNS OF A BATTERING PERSONALITY**

### **1 QUICK INVOLVEMENT:**

Comes on strong, claiming, *"I've never felt loved like this by anyone."* He pressures you for an exclusive commitment almost immediately.

**2 JEALOUSY:** Extremely possessive, calls constantly, or visits unexpectedly.

### **3 CONTROLLING**

**BEHAVIOR:** Interrogates you intensely about whom you talked to and where you were, checks mileage on your car; keeps all the money; insists you ask permission to go anywhere or do anything.

### **4 UNREALISTIC**

**EXPECTATIONS:** Expects you to be the perfect woman and meet his every need.

**5 ISOLATION:** Tries to cut you off from family and friends; deprives you of a phone or a car; tries to prevent you from holding a job.

### **6 BLAMES OTHERS FOR**

**PROBLEMS:** It's always someone else's fault--the boss, you--if anything goes wrong. Everyone is out to get him.

### **7 BLAMES OTHERS FOR**

**FEELINGS:** He says, *"You're hurting me by not doing what I tell you"* or *"You make me angry"*

instead of *"I'm angry."*

**8 HYPERSENSITIVITY:** Is easily insulted. He'll rant about injustices that are just part of life.

### **9 CRUELTY TO ANIMALS**

**AND CHILDREN:** Kills or punishes animals brutally. Also, may expect children to do things way beyond their ability, or tease them until they cry.

### **10 PLAYFUL USE OF**

**FORCE DURING SEX:** Enjoys throwing you down or holding you down against your will during sex; says he finds the idea of rape exciting.

### **11 VERBAL ABUSE:**

Constantly criticizes you or says cruel things; degrades, curses, calls you ugly names.

### **12 RIGID SEX ROLES:**

Expects you to serve, obey and remain at home.

### **13 SUDDEN MOOD**

**SWINGS:** Switches from sweet and loving to explosively violent in a matter of minutes.

### **14 PAST BATTERING:**

Admits hitting women in the past but says the situation caused it.

### **15 THREATS OF**

**VIOLENCE:** Makes statements such as *"I'll break your neck,"* then dismisses them with *"I didn't really mean it."*

Adapted from the Project for Victims of Family Violence, Fayetteville, Arkansas as distributed by Legal Aid Society of Middle Tenn.

**HELP WOMEN STAY  
FREE OF THEIR  
BATTERERS**

**SEND CONTRIBUTIONS  
TO**

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

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

**Boston, MA 02116**

## **CONGRATULATIONS**

### **DR. MARY MONTMINY**

Mary Montminy, FRWC Board member, successfully defended her dissertation at the Boston College Graduate School of Social Work on March 26, completing requirements for the Ph.D. in Social Work. She explored collaboration between child protection service agencies and domestic violence programs across the country.

**WHEN TWO OR MORE  
FORMS OF VIOLENCE  
EXIST IN A HOME THE  
LIKELIHOOD OF INJURY  
OR DEATH INCREASES  
TO 60%**

## **FRWC DONORS**

**Robert Barrett**  
**Paula Jorde Bloom**  
**Richard Buchanan**  
**Dougherty Doak**  
**Fran Haas**  
**Elizabeth Hamilton & Tom**  
**Helman**  
**Lisa Henderson & Susan Mathis**  
**Zane Henderson**  
**Amy Hess**  
**Diana W. Hopkins**  
**Booth & Kurt Kammann**  
**Jay & Earline Kendall**  
**Katherine M. Kranz**  
**Clara Lee Miller**  
**Shelia M. Montminy**  
**River Country, Inc.**  
**Ida Long Rogers**  
**Maureen & Ken Sayre**  
**Marilyn Smith**  
**Margaret & James Smithey**  
**John L. Sobieski, Jr.**  
**Linda Stern**  
**Dot & Glen Strange**  
**Anne Bransford Wallace**  
**Foundation**  
**Leon Williams**  
**Etta & Amos Wilson**  
**Barbara Zang**  
**Docia Zavitovsky**

### **EDK FUND**

**Shareen Abramson**  
**Michele Brenner**  
**Eastern Michigan State U.**  
**Student Educators Association**

**Karen Paciorek**

### **IN HONOR**

**Jennifer Aldrich**

**Honoring**

**Zane Henderson**

**Joseph & Melody Garrison**

**Honoring**

**Anne Elise Garrison**

**and**

**The Howe Family**

### **MADISON MENTOR DONATIONS**

**Jim Bandy**

**Ezell Foundation**

**James & Melda Fulbright**

**Michael J. & Jo Findley**

**Patsi & Stephen Flatt**

### **MONTHLY DONORS**

**Jennifer Aldrich**

**Becky Porter**

**Margory Sweetser**

## **MARY KAY ASH CHARITABLE FOUNDATION DOMESTIC VIOLENCE GRANTS**

Thirty women's shelters received grants in 2000 of \$2500 each based on geographical location and recommendations of Mary Kay Beauty Consultants. The grants are to help domestic violence programs continue their work and improve the health and welfare of abused women and children. The January 2001 edition of *Lifeline*, the newsletter of MKACF lists five kinds of abuse:

- **Physical:** An actual assault, including shoving, hitting, punching or any harm caused by physical contact.
- **Psychological:** Ranging from threats and degrading remarks to exercising control over another person.
- **Emotional:** Putting a woman down, making her feel bad about herself or making her think she's crazy.
- **Sexual:** When a woman is forced to participate in sexual acts against her will or is treated like a sex object.
- **Financial:** Fostering total economic dependence by preventing her from getting or keeping a job or money she earns. p. 4 *Lifeline*, Jan 2001

### **FRWC's Financial Literacy Brochure Distribution List:**

- The Emergency Shelter Commission of the Boston Mayor's office
- The Massachusetts Women Legislators
- Girls' Coalition of Greater Boston organization members
- FRWC website requests

### **NEW TAX PROTECTIONS FOR BATTERED WOMEN**

New procedures adopted by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) allow a victim of domestic violence to apply for protection from the tax liabilities of her spouse or former spouse without revealing her identity or location. The IRS has implemented new procedures designed to offer additional protection to battered women who are applying for Innocent Spouse Relief - women who may not have applied for this relief in the past because of fear of retaliation from abusers. . . .Forms for Innocent Spouse Relief are available on the IRS web site, [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).

Reprinted and adapted from 'News Flash' (<http://www.fvpf.org/newsflash>), an online newsletter of the Family Violence Prevention Fund.

### **HELP BATTERED WOMEN AND CHILDREN SURVIVE: SUPPORT FRWC**

### **MADISON PROJECT UPDATE**

- car loans provided to 3 women
- EDK funds bought textbooks
- woman attained graduate degree & professional position
- apartment located for woman & son
- utility deposit made with FRWC loan
- mentors supported woman through Immigration & IRS problems
- women found jobs and provided rides to work until a car available
- mentor confronts car dealer about "rip-off" and gets money refunded to mentee
- valid driver's license secured for woman without one
- legal name change problems worked out for mentee
- children in program tutored
- when women repay 50% of loan, Brentwood Hills Church of Christ finishes loan repayment
- women in FRWC Madison program who have received loans are making payments
- Madison Church of Christ is funding monthly suppers for women & children and their mentors
- monthly programs include budgeting, parenting skills, resume preparation
- Kristy Pomeroy is the new shelter director

### **Madison Mentor Training Program Purposes**

The Madison project continually recruits new mentors, recognizing that the success of the Madison FRWC pilot depends on active mentors. Mentors are finding their tasks are more manageable if they work in pairs. This enables two mentors to know a woman well and provides a back-up when one mentor is unavailable.

Mentors asked for training. Current mentors have developed guidelines for training. They plan to offer mentor orientation sessions at least twice a year for new mentors. Eventually, the hope is that women who previously benefited from participating in the FRWC loan program will serve as mentors for new women in the program.

Mentors are the key to assisting women who are developing short and long-term goals. Mentors do not tell women what to do or what is "best" for them. Battered women need good listeners, affirmation, and resources. They have likely been told too long what to do and how to do it.

Madison mentors have found that each woman's situation and needs are different from any other woman. Each victim requires support and help tailored to her background and readiness to move ahead. Only the victim can determine when she is ready to leave the batterer, get a job, move to a new place. Thanks, mentors.