

This year's annual report is written to honor homicide victim, Starkeesha Wilkins who was murdered in her home by her long-time partner and father of her children who then killed himself. She was truly a "Star" to those who knew her. The aftermath of this crime affected WRC greatly.

Agency Service Activities for 2009-2010

Shelter services over the course of the past year:

Month	Total Women	Total New	Total Children	Total New	Daily Average	Total # of Nights of Care
Nov.	16	16	22	22	16.4	492
Dec.	13	6	19	10	18.7	580
Jan	16	10	16	7	11.7	363
Feb	10	4	4	0	7.7	215
March	20	14	22	19	15.5	481
April	14	9	23	18	13.9	418
May	12	6	10	5	12.7	393
June	19	14	25	19	18.9	568
July	17	12	21	12	11.6	361
August	23	17	31	20	21.9	679
Sept.	18	7	24	9	17.1	514
Oct.	13	3	12	5	11.8	367
TOTAL		118		146	14.8	5431

Increases in Service: 2009-2010 nights of care show a 5.9% increase over last year's nights of care. Last year showed a 4% increase over the year before. This means that since the economy has slumped, WRC has provided just short of a 10% in shelter service nights. The WRC staff attributes this to longer stays needed by women who have fled. This longer stay is needed in order for the head of the household to find gainful employment, save enough money for security deposit and first month's rent or secure other means of mainstream resources such as SSI, SSDI, food stamps, WIC, BadgerCare, unemployment benefits, W-2, and/or transitional or permanent housing program benefits.

This year WRC served 7 women in shelter less than the year prior (not a significant change), however there was an increase of 33 children this year from last.

Shelter Trends:

~February is always our slowest month of shelter services with the lowest number of persons in shelter-thus, the lowest nights of care. This has been consistent for the last five years.

~WRC sees at least one month each summer of a spike in families in shelter, usually bringing a large number of children into the house during the hottest time of the year. This year, the spike occurred in June and didn't let up until October. 46% of the persons served in the whole year were at WRC during the summer. With no air conditioning. And no daily routine for the children (school).

~The economic situation had continued to affect our shelter residents. Most women were leaving the shelter having not found permanent employment or full-time employment or either. Many

women were opting to secure other mainstream resources rather than employment due to the bleak employment scene in Racine County.

~WRC has served a larger number of women this past year who are diagnosed with a serious mental illness or are suffering from situational or chronic depression.

Purple Ribbon Permanent Housing

In December of 2008 WRC's first permanent housing units opened in Burlington, Wisconsin. In 2009, WRC competed federally for new grant funds through the US Department of HUD for additional permanent housing money. WRC was awarded funds to support six new units: three in Waterford and three in Union Grove.

Permanent housing is meant to be a lifelong solution for persons with disabilities who would otherwise lack the ability to live self-sufficiently. Purple Ribbon provides this long-term permanent housing to disabled persons or families that have fled domestic abuse. While permanent housing could be available for a woman or family forever, WRC did graduate a family from the Purple Ribbon project this year. T. entered as our first Purple Ribbon client with her family of teens just a few short days before Christmas. Volunteers from Love, Inc. helped her to move into her new home and even put up a Christmas tree and brought presents for her kids! When T. entered the program, she had no source of income and was awaiting determination from Social Security as to whether she would be approved for disability income. When T. exited the program two years later, she had secured enough disability income to support her and her family, had squared away past debt in order to live debt-free, made great progress with medical procedures and long-term medical plans and had graduated one child into adulthood. T. is now able to live on her own thanks to the Purple Ribbon project and the work of WRC staff and other key people at Love, Inc.

SafeStart-responding to teen dating violence

The past year has been an important one in the teen dating violence arena. A great deal of local, state and national attention has been given to the importance of reaching teens in their early dating experiences to provide the message of healthy dating. Locally, a taskforce has been established to investigate housing options for unaccompanied youth who are experiencing homelessness with a special emphasis on families comprised of only children (this would mean teen moms and their babies). When SafeStart was formed, one of the four goals of the agency was to establish long-term housing for teen moms and their small children. Because of the great commitment and awesome expanse of energy by SafeStart Prevention Specialist, Shani Kyle, the program provided 5,458 participants throughout Racine County with safe dating and healthy relationship information from July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010. These presentations took place in area schools, juvenile detentions, community centers, coalition forums with local teen serving adults, church groups, and with at risk youth in local programs.

SafeStart does more than offer prevention activities; we also respond directly to teen dating violence victims. LaTonia Lewis, SafeStart Case Advocate, provided intervention services to 133 teen girls and 5 teen boys in the period of July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010. Over 200 hours of individual counseling and over 150 hours of group counseling were offered in this part time position.

Statewide the focus on teen dating violence has increased dramatically. In April of 2010, the second Teen Summit on Dating and Sexual Violence was held at Chula Vista in Wisconsin Dells. Over 300 conference attendees were present. Two thirds of the audience were teens and represented multiple cultural and ethnic backgrounds as well as many faith communities and lifestyle choices. At this conference, SafeStart played a key role in its success in that the "Yellow Dress" (a one-woman play depicting a violent relationship gone terribly wrong) was presented.

Formerly, the “Yellow Dress” was a staple of the SafeStart prevention activities. Also at the conference, former SafeStart director, now ED, had the opportunity to moderate the Yellow Dress panel and offer the closing remarks to the conference.

Also statewide, attention is being put toward the issue of housing teens who are fleeing domestic violence. Various workgroups are investigating options for utilizing domestic abuse shelters and runaway shelters to respond to this growing trend. A presentation on these options was provided to adults in a legal forum at the Chula Vista conference and a second presentation was provided to DV ED’s across the state at their semi-annual Directors Conference.

Nothing perhaps will be successful without national support for the issue of teen dating violence. The federal shift has been slowly occurring with changes in the Violence Against Women Act language from a couple of years ago that now reflects dating violence to the most recent federal shift which is a focus by Vice President, Joe Biden, author of the original VAWA legislation, at his recent dinner held in Washington DC. Wisconsin was lucky to have its Coalition Against Domestic Violence Executive Director, Patti Seger in attendance. At the event, Patti and other attendees, were filmed for a short video which highlighted the importance of focusing our work on teen and young adult dating violence. This video can be viewed at the White House website.

Domestic Violence Homicide

Most of the work of a domestic violence agency is purposed for the decrease of risk, the increase of safety and the rebuilding of victim’s lives free of danger. However, every domestic violence agency is sadly aware that domestic violence sometimes turns deadly. In 2009, there were 47 domestic violence homicide incidents resulting in 67 deaths: 52 homicides and 15 perpetrator suicides. Two multiple homicide incidents accounted for 7 of the victim deaths and one perpetrator suicide. The numbers of victims and total deaths are the highest in ten years. This number reflects an average of 4 domestic violence homicide deaths per month in Wisconsin. Fifty-two percent of the homicide incidents 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. At least 52 minor children were left orphaned or without a mother or father as a result of a domestic violence homicide or homicide-suicide. Of the 32 minor children who lost one parent, 24 lost their mothers.

Because WRC knows the brutal affects that a domestic violence homicide incident has on families, the community, and the local DV agency, WRC ED has worked diligently on a dv homicide protocol and support resource in this past year with other ED’s from the state and with Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence. This protocol and accompanying support resource will assist local programs in responding when there is a homicide and provide them with resources needed to take a leadership role in helping the community grieve after and respond appropriately and sensitively to the family and those who knew the victim. While this project is not for the faint of heart, it has brought great reward to the working group as it reminds us of the very reason we work so hard in this field: to minimize the number of victims killed and the number of children orphaned.

Domestic Violence and Faith Communities

A large part of this year’s work by Western Racine County Advocacy Director, Sherry Hartog, has been in the organization of a Faith Conference to address family violence in faith communities. Held in October at the Olympia Resort in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin, “Not in our Pews” provided national speaker, Reverend Al Miles and a number of breakout sessions with the focus on how faith communities can work to respond sensitively to domestic violence in their own worship communities. This is particularly noteworthy as the beginning moments of this conference began right here in Racine County when a small Burlington Episcopal Parish, St. John the Divine, had a terrible domestic violence related incident occur: a batterer was attacked by a family friend and

the victim was held, charged, convicted and sentenced for calling a hit out on her husband. The small parish was overwhelmed by the incident in that the entire family were members, including the seven children. Sherry Hartog along with four other WRC staff responded immediately to the incident, however the long haul was taken on by the parish and its members. Out of the distress of this situation, Priest JoAnne Skidmore did all she could to learn about domestic violence and vowed to affect change in other faith communities in order to open the eyes of her colleagues to this very real truth: there are victims and perpetrators sitting in pews in every religious community.

(Attached to this report is a letter from Priest JoAnne that appeared in the conference handbill for your reading interest).

Sherry Hartog provided countless hours of staff and volunteer time to the success of this conference. She was highly acclaimed by her peers at the conference for her insights, empathy and skills. Sherry also provided a breakout session at the conference. WRC ED had the immense honor of providing the closing remarks on the first day which included a plea to faith leaders for their help in responding to spiritual abuse that we see all too often has happened to the victims we serve.

Individual counseling, group counseling, meeting folks where they work or live, play therapy, help with court proceedings.....the nitty gritty of community work.

Maria, Family Healing Director; Rhonda, Eastern Advocacy Director; Gerry, Legal Advocacy Director and Sherry Hartog, Western Advocacy Director and the newly formed Bilingual Advocacy Program provided thousands of hours of direct service to victims living in the community in 2009-2010. WRC is much more than a shelter. It is bigger than the services offered in one building located in the historic district of the City of Racine. WRC is about accepting victims where they are at-meeting them in their circumstance. Quite literally. Gerry, the legal advocate, appears in court at least twice weekly to help victims through the restraining order process or other family court proceedings. Rhonda travels to local homeless shelters and other public places to meet with victims living in very trying situations. Maria provides service in the west and east ends of the county; playing with kids. Playing that leads to healing, that is. And Sherry still works in the midst of the social service hub of Burlington-interfacing with dozens of people each day who are in need of compassionate care. The community work that WRC does sometimes leads to a shelter stay, and sometimes leads somewhere else entirely. This community based service is critical for those who do not have shelter needs or who are not able to come to shelter for a myriad of reasons.

We have a new “sheriff” in town-her name is ALICE! The law is, enter the data, run the reports and cross your fingers that everything goes all right. ALICE is a computerized system of data entry specific to domestic violence agencies that ensures all confidentiality laws are kept. ALICE has been a difficult learning curve for the entire staff at WRC. But here’s her benefits: I can tell you the following interesting information using this new system since we began entering data (not an entire year’s worth, please note!)

Of 521 community clients entered into the Alice system:

~14.4% of our clients were African American, 1.2% were Asian, 61.4% were Caucasian.

~Most were female, but 3.3% were male

~33% of our community clients were married, 40.3% single and 26.4% divorced

~Community clients had an average of 2.3 dependents who were affected by dv life circumstances

~54.2% of the community clients had a high school diploma and 25% of them had graduated from college or a technical school.

~95% of the community clients were with the abusive partner for longer than a year, with 26% of them having been together longer than 10 years!

~We served clients from eight surrounding counties.

Volunteers Abound: Helping the Healing Process through Innovative Programs

Volunteers provided over 443 hours of service in audit year 2008-2009 (July-June). Additionally, repair and maintenance projects were offered gratis by local handyman, John, with a total of over 100 hours of volunteer skilled labor. This does not include the over 350 hours of service provided to the agency by board members alone. This also does not include any number of hours provided in crafting by over 130 different persons who presented us with their handmade items for our fall craft fairs in 2009. Literally, the crafters must have offered thousands of hours in knitting, tatting, crocheting, beading etc.

Barb Kukla continues to provide art therapy for shelter women and now is offering occasional mom/child art therapy groups as well. This weekly group is provided gratis by Barb who is a certified art therapist. The residents adore her and their own creations! WRC is extremely lucky to have such a skilled and compassionate volunteer.

Two college-age volunteers assisted Maria this summer providing structured activities during a very chaotic three months in shelter.

A high school student is currently helping Maria on Tuesdays during the children's support group.

Members of the Board programs and services committee have taken on providing direct "family fun" events at WRC. Board members hosted the first shelter dinner (Italian Night) this summer. Other board members have brought their children to the agency to assist with child activities and most recently work on art projects with the kids that are going to be sold at the Fall Fling.

WRC tries to offer at least one student an internship each semester. We had three this past year.

The Voices Volunteer program was a concerted goal of WRC staff in its annual planning for 2009. The Voices program is meant to utilize the services, expertise, skills and rememberings of former victims of domestic violence to help current victims heal. The Voices program also is meant to offer current recipients of service an opportunity to engage in meaningful volunteer experiences while still receiving services. The WRC staff in its annual plan agreed to start off small in 2009 and grow the program over the next three years:

~One Voices volunteer helped plan this year's Off the Beaten Path awareness event.

~One Voices volunteer is helping in the preparations of the Fall Fling to be held in November.

~One Voices volunteer helped organize and prepare presentation to the State Department of Commerce funding team that came to monitor WRC.

~One Voices volunteer is training to become a lobbyist/social activist for the issue of domestic violence and wishes to provide those services to benefit WRC.

~And of course our Oprah-famous Voices volunteer, Teri Nicolai, provided WRC with the most fantastic 2009-2010 gift of all: the First Annual Runzheimer Spring Gala to benefit Women's Resource Center.

Training, growth and best practices: staff experiences of 2009-2010 that will aid us in providing the best services possible.

~The entire agency engaged in a Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence training opportunity: the peer review process. Many wonderful outcomes were achieved in this process of experts meeting with board, staff, the ED, and the local Coordinated Community Response Team. A clear vision of WRC's strengths and areas of growth was created and is now founded in the upcoming 2010-2013 agency strategic plan. Additionally, staff embraced this growth opportunity to make clear goals for their own work, work within their programs and what is needed within the community in order to bring sensitive response to victims of domestic violence from all walks of life.

~A first all shelter advocate retreat was held in the middle of winter at a Wisconsin Dells resort. Each shelter advocate was responsible for a training component and the entire conference theme was: Working in someone else's home.

~NAMI's mental illness training for law enforcement and social service agencies.

~Disaster relief training

~Quarterly program manager's meetings

~Shelter advocacy trainings

~Monthly case manager's workshops

~Children's conferences

~Therapeutic technique conferences

~Sexual Assault Services' sexual violence training

~Director's semi-annual conference

~All staff engaged in Family Centered Services training on-site

~Immigration law training

~Economic justice training

~Coordinated community response conference

~Non-profit administration conference

Board Committee Activities for 2008-2009

Executive Committee: Jean Schoenwaelder, Bob Henken, Nancy Wheeler, Jessica Hale

The Executive Committee has met monthly in committee and then again monthly in full board. The Executive Committee's role is to oversee the smooth operation of the agency, its programs, and all board duties and the oversight of the Executive Director.

The agency appreciates your leadership and commitment.

She walked into the shelter building with a small infant wrapped in layers of blankets in her arms. The baby was adorable. Too cute to fit any description. And by the look in her eyes, we could tell how much she loved that small one. This infant was a result of her brutal rape.

Buildings and Grounds: David Namowicz, chair. Jean Schoenwaelder Staff, Cherie Griffin and Barb Ware

Buildings and Grounds provides oversight to the maintenance, repair, upkeep and construction projects at the WRC shelter. We stay busy with the work of keeping up a "this old shelter". Thanks to the diligent work of Barb Ware, lead shelter advocate, for facilitating most of the projects including scheduling Dave Namowicz for handyman work project after project! Dave has done far more than simply chair this committee~he is the honey of our honey-do list!

Accomplishments:

We renovated all of the bathrooms-making one specifically designed to meet ADA standards.

We gained a new grant to install energy efficient windows throughout the first floor of the shelter building.

We painted the shelter advocacy office with purple highlights to reflect our signature DV color.

Overhaul of the boiler system.

New fans in all of the bedrooms.

One bedroom was adopted and completely refurnished with new paint, furnishings and touches of homemade love.

They all gathered around, excited to possibly win a raffle prize. The face-painted kids had danced to line dances all afternoon. All of us ate heartily. We gathered to offer silence and honor to those who had died at the hands of someone they loved. We walked through the park reading signs staked into the ground that informed us about domestic violence.

Off the Beaten Path: a journey to ending domestic violence. WRC's most acclaimed awareness event.

Finance Committee: Jessica Hale, Chair Members: David Namowicz and Bob Crossett. Staff: Cherie Griffin

Finance Committee met monthly this year and provided oversight to all financial tasks within the agency. Responsible for the preparation of monthly fiscal reports to the board and weekly checks and balances to staff work, the finance committee has remained strong and diligent.

Early audit predictions look healthy. The fieldwork was completed in early fall and the final audit will be presented to the Board in December. Considerable amounts of preparation reduced the number of journal entries and fieldwork time done by the auditors. Generous donated service by Treasurer, Jessica Hale has assisted the agency in completing Finance Policies, new methods of grant tracking and new procedures for grant invoice source documentation. Four funder

monitoring visits were conducted this year with each requiring small adjustments to the way that financial work is done within the agency. The finance committee provided oversight to these changes. WRC is in its most contained and controlled financial position that it has been in the past decade at least.

I will only need a month of rent help. Is it possible? YES! Through a grant from the State Department of Commerce, WRC is able to offer victims of domestic violence rental assistance so that they can remain in their home. We also have utility assistance and security deposit help. Additionally, we have accounts with local eye doctors, dentists, and pharmacies to provide medical assistance.

Fundraising Committee: Chair, Jean Shoenwaelder Staff: Cherie Griffin, Sue Sorensen and Sherry Hartog.

Fall Craft Fairs Chair: Pat Ogren

Spring Gala Chair: Teri Nicolai and next year to be joined by Rose Busey

Golf Outing Chairs: Vikki Prochaska and Fran Petrick and next year's chair: Melissa Dixon

Fall Fling Chairs: Cheryl Buckley and Liz Powell,

Silent Auction: Sally Neitzel and Roselle Donaldson

Basket Raffle: Sheila Bugalecci

Desserts: Nancy Wheeler and Linda Christ

PR and Marketing: Bob Henken

Community Relations: Cindy Murphy

Milwaukee Craft Fair: Paula Stack

Parkside Craft Fair: Jessica Hale

Historically, the fundraising committee of WRC is always a very active group. This year was no exception. With the immense creativity and commitment of Teri Nicolai, WRC added a third major fundraising effort: the Spring Gala. As a first time event, the evening was spectacular and has been billed as one of the best western Racine County events all year!

Craft fairs ran their course and the Board decided to pair down these shows and focus its energy on bringing the Fall fundraiser back to Racine County: now it has a name; "Fall Fling".

Alone, missing her child, and unable to work, one client finds a way to be productive by volunteering to prepare for this year's Fall Fling. Making fast friends with other committee members and offering terrific creative ideas, K brings spark and vitality to the work of fundraising. She has found an outlet for her talents during this time of grave circumstance. She tells the committee members that this is bringing her back some sanity.

Programs and Services: Chair: Monique Woods Members: Barb Riegelman, Kurt Wahlen, Melissa Dixon Staff: Cherie Griffin, Sherry Hartog and Rhonda King.

New life has been breathed into this committee. The committee has worked incredibly hard on first creating a plan for its work, then studying the Wisconsin statewide plan for domestic violence to see where WRC aligns with best practices. This committee is also looking at prevention activities and the interface with those intervention services that we offer. The committee has taken on some direct programming and will be focusing its attention on teen dating violence as a prevention activity in 2011. Lastly, this committee regularly reviews feedback surveys from clients to ensure that WRC is meeting the needs of those we serve.

With the temporary closing of Hand to Hand, WRC staff was faced with a very severe situation with a client: debilitating fear to face her husband in an exchange of their kids. WRC stepped in, allowing a third party to come to our shelter to pick up and drop off the kids. Later, after mom

had relocated, this exchange procedure allowed her confidentiality of her home. He, of course, would believe she was still staying with us! Enough time passed that court orders were established to secure her long-term and eventually he was unable to see the children with this type of exchange.

Board Development Committee: Nancy Wheeler, chair. Members: Bob Henken and Donna Haman.

This committee recruits members to the Board as needed. Members unanimously voted to the Board this year have been: Maggie Mentel, Pat Bohman, Barb Riegelman, Linda Christ, Melissa Dixon and Cheryl Buckley.

Sadly, we are saying goodbye to Donna Haman who has provided two full terms to the Board and was the inspiration of the WRC logo and all of its accompanying materials. Donna also provided one year of service on the executive committee as secretary. Donna was a key part of publishing materials for fundraising efforts. Donna was also a creative force in thinking through the needs of board development. Thank you so much, Donna, for your time and skills.

We also say goodbye to Genevieve Sesto who has been a voice in the community for WRC among education systems and neighborhoods that had not been tapped prior. Genevieve helped establish a new order for union negotiations. She effectively has brought donors and interested community members to WRC. Thank you Genevieve. We are sorry our schedules could not support your continued service.

She never left her house. He didn't allow her to. She sat most frequently all day long in front of the television or a window peering outside. Her mother-in-law took care of all of the household tasks. She had no purpose but to please him sexually when he returned home drunk. She was sentenced to an imprisoned life simply because she had married him. Not surprisingly, when she managed to come to WRC, she was fearful of sitting even in the back yard. Resocializing a human being; an adult woman. That was our charge with this dear soul.

Personnel Committee: Maggie Mentel, Chair. Pat Bohman. Staff: Cherie Griffin

This committee has engaged in union negotiations with SEIU Local 150 and was responsible for the rewriting of the union contract including wage reopener. Personnel committee has worked diligently on an entire re-write of the employee policies and procedures. Personnel committee has also prepared forms and methods for this year's staff evaluations. A change in health insurance provider occurred in Spring, 2010 and a change in dental and life insurance began on November 1. This provided a large cost savings to the agency and individuals insured.

I want to work here after I'm done with all of this crisis. The WRC ED hears that often. And sometimes, years later, after the degree has been achieved or some time has healed the wounds, former victims seek employment at WRC. As the folks at Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence say: one thing we can be sure of is that we are bringing economic justice to survivors of domestic violence when we hire them. A basic expectation of domestic violence agencies is that the voices of survivors is present in every level of the work: from Board members to staff to client feedback to survivor consulting committees. WRC has always done a very good job of meeting that expectation by funders and experts. We are proud of those who return after their abuse and after their healing to give back in paid service (and volunteer service!) to local programs.

Public Relations and Marketing: Robert Henken, Chair Members: Donna Haman and Paula Stack Staff: Cherie Griffin and Sue Sorensen.

This committee embarked on a new public awareness campaign: Domestic Violence in the Workplace in 2008. Work on that campaign continued this year with presentations to local businesses and HR groups and an article written for the Racine Journal Times.

Multiple advertisements about agency fundraisers have been found in the Journal Times on the Racine Post, in western Racine County newspapers as well as on local radio and even television programs thanks to the hard work of chair, Bob Henken.

WRC appears in the community newsletter and the local donation section of the Journal Times throughout the year as well.

Changes have been made to the website www.wrcracine.org to announce upcoming events as well as tweak announcements about our programs and services.

I heard this homicide vigil was happening and I just had to come, she said. Little did anyone know that day on the front lawn of City Hall, that this young woman was a victim herself. She was attending a vigil for homicide victim, Starkeesha Wilkins. But within the next month, she would appear for services with our counselor and then within the next month come to stay at the shelter. Her story of safety, salvation and future serenity would begin that evening on City Hall's front lawn. She found strength among us that night. A strength that overcame her fear of leaving him. And she was sure he was dangerous. And she was right to be afraid. Leaving is the most dangerous time.

Strategic Planning: Chair: Chief Wahlen Members: David Namowicz, Maggie Mentel and Cherie Griffin

The new strategic plan will be presented at the annual meeting and reflects the intended foci of the agency for the next three years. Thank you to all members for your very important work on this ad hoc committee.

What do I do with the rest of my life? How do I figure out who I am outside of this marriage? What kind of mom am I? These questions and many more are asked and often answered during late night meditation group with Barb Wilson, shelter advocate. This group is a beloved addition to the services offered through the shelter. Women have the chance to sit quietly at the end of a long day and simply.....meditate.....contemplate.....question.....wonder.....dream.

Programs

Safe Shelter: Thirty-two bed residential setting located in an anonymous location in the City of Racine offering an initial forty-five days of safe shelter and basic necessities for women and children who are fleeing domestic abuse. Extensions of stay are offered when needed to secure self-sufficiency and safety for a lifetime. The shelter provides a continuum of safety services available to families in order to help them to heal from the trauma of domestic violence. These services are also provided to any woman, man or child who is the victim of domestic violence and wishes to remain in a community setting (i.e. their own home).

Family Healing Program: Individual safety through play services for children, age appropriate support groups for kids, and parent/child advocacy are provided to ensure that the family unit regains the health needed for a secure future. Tutoring, special activities and other needs of children are met through this program as well. Over five hundred children each year receive assistance through our children's programs.

Legal Advocacy Program: This program provides assistance with gaining restraining orders, understanding court proceedings, completion of legal documents, the filing of divorce papers, support in child custody matters as well as any current or ongoing help with other legal issues. If the staff advocate is not able to assist, referrals are made to the Legal Action of Wisconsin office for attorney representation. At least an additional 300 victims are provided with legal services aside from those receiving help while in shelter.

Eastern Advocacy Program: The counselor provides individual case management, counseling, safety planning and support groups for adult women both in shelter and in the community.

SafeStart: This program, the first of its kind across the nation provides both prevention and intervention services geared to end dating violence. Adolescent girls who are in abusive relationships, early pregnancy or homeless receive advocacy and support services of all dimensions in order to end the cycle of violence early in their life rather than continue the same cycle into adulthood. Two part-time staff provide all of the services within this program. SafeStart provides intervention services to at least 100 adolescent girls (and their children) and prevention services to over 1200 teens each year.

Western Racine County Advocacy Program: All services provided through the agency are available county-wide, but this program works specifically at mobilizing resources in western communities to engage systems partners in the end of domestic violence. Sherry has worked tirelessly to get information about her program out throughout the county. The office is located at Love, Inc. on Pine Street in Burlington. Services are offered in every town west of I-94.

Hand To Hand: A safe exchange/supervised visitation program that thwarts violence in child custody situations that may prove dangerous, this program provides a neutral setting where children can feel safe while enjoying both parents in their lives without violence or fear. This program provides assistance to over one hundred families each year. Sadly, this program was suspended in October of 2009 because an anticipated federal grant contract was postponed due to other stimulus activities of the OVW office. Grant funds may be contracted in early 2010. Until that time families are returning to court to negotiate other visitation or exchange plans.

Grant Funding Sources

State of Wisconsin, Department of Children and Families	\$121,000
Shelter salaries and benefits	
United Way of Racine	\$170,000
Spread across all program areas as needed	
Sisters of St. Dominic	\$ 15,000
Continuum east and west, administration	
State Department of Commerce	\$ 16,675
Shelter Operations, Motel Vouchers, Rent Assistance, Client Assistance	
State WHEDA	\$ 7,500
Window replacement	
Racine Community Foundation	\$ 12,500
Collaboration with RPD for security alarms for victim's homes	
Racine County Human Services Department	\$ 20,400
Shelter costs	
Federal Emergency Shelter and Food Program	\$ 7,240
Mass shelter costs	
State Victims of Crime Compensation Act Grant (pass through Legal Action to WRC)	

	\$ 35,200
Continuum West and Family Healing Program	
Federal HUD	\$ 33,275
SafeStart and Purple Ribbon Permanent Housing Program	
City of Racine ESG	\$ 12,000
Shelter Operations and client services	
City of Racine CDBG	\$ 20,000
Shelter Operations, client services and administration	

Other Agency Accomplishments in 2009-2010

- Staff reviews and goal plans for 2011 are underway.
- Second annual open house held in December, 2009 and third annual is planned for December 6, 2011.
- Applied for, received, implemented and completed a UW Parkside CAN grant for the development of a 5 year strategic plan for the Family Violence Community Coalition (CCR)
- Started a new project with the Racine Police Department for alarm systems to be placed in victim's homes-funding received from the Racine Community Foundation
- Launched economic justice project which includes weekly budgeting help for clients
- Changed philosophy for committee structures: now include both board members and community members on most committees of the Board
- Secured an at least 20% cost savings in employee benefits
- Working on prepared, sensitive response to deaf community victims
- Expanded bilingual advocacy program to include two part time staff
- Responded to increased mental health and AODA issues and partnered with the HOPES Center to more effectively respond to victims with these issues
- Partnered for the 10th year with Legal Action of Wisconsin on the provision of legal services to victims
- Expanded services in Western Racine County to assist larger numbers of rural victims
- Worked with five immigrant women who had to achieve legal status through VAWA's U-VISA: a daunting, and long process
- Partnered with other housing providers to expand long-term housing support options for shelter clients