# Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence



2004 annual report



# **Message from the Director**

A funny thing happened in 2003. Seattle Post-Intelligencer food writer Hsiao-Ching Chou announced that she would be doing a "Community of Food" series, in which she would focus on how people associate food with community. She invited readers to submit their thoughts, and, in a moment of grantwriting procrastination, I sent an email waxing poetic about how the Coalition staff eats lunch together daily. Within 30 seconds, Hsiao-Ching replied and, a few weeks later, she and her photographer joined the Seattle staff for our mid-day meal.

The resulting article appears in this report. Ever since it was published, I have been asked, "Do you all really eat together every day?", "Are you still doing that lunch thing?", "Do you eat together in the Olympia office, too?" and "How can you like each other that much?" The answers are yes, yes, and it's not that difficult.

As I said to Hsiao-Ching in that first email: we need both food and community to live. I believe this firmly. Here at the Coalition, some of our best thinking and liveliest debates happen over lunch. Not to mention movie reviews and parenting confessions. And regrets and laughter. In community, we can see how the whole is greater than the sum of our individual parts. Is that not one of the fundamental tenets of social justice organizing?

You will see that this year's report is slightly more informal and conversational. As if we discussed it over lunch. Please – grab a bite, pull up a chair, and enjoy. We're glad you're with us.

Warmly,

Nan Stoops

**Executive Director** 

#### Adams County Resource Center Ritzville Abused Deaf Women's Advocacy Services Seattle Alcohol/Drug Help Line - DV Outreach Project Seattle Alternatives to Violence of the Palouse Pullman Asian & Pacific Islander Women & Family Safety Center Seattle ASPEN of Central WA Comprehensive Mental Health Ellensburg Broadview Emergency Shelter & Transitional Housing Program Seattle Citizens Against Domestic Abuse Coupeville Charlotte House Cathlamet Connections/Ferry County Community Services Republic Consejo Counseling & Referral Seattle Crisis Support Network \* South Bend DAWN \* Tukwila Dorothy Place/Opportunity Council \* Bellingham Domestic & Sexual Violence Crisis Center Wenatchee Domestic Violence Center of Grays Harbor Hoquiam Domestic Violence Services of Benton & Franklin Counties Kennewick Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Program of Jefferson County \* Port Townsend Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Services of the San Juan Islands \* Eastsound Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Services of Whatcom County \* Bellingham Eastside Domestic Violence Program \* Bellevue Emergency Support Shelter \* Kelso Families in Crisis \* Chehalis Family Crisis Network \* Newport Family Resource Center \* Davenport Family Support Center \* Colville Forks Abuse Program \* Forks G.R.O.W. \* Seattle

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Renton \* YWCA of South King County - Domestic Violence Services

Yakima \* YWCA of Yakima - Family Crisis Program

Lewiston, ID \* YWCA of Lewiston/Clarkston

Tacoma \* YWCA of Pierce County

Vancouver \* YWCA of Clark County - SafeChoice

Seattle \* YWCA of Seattle/King County/Snohomish County

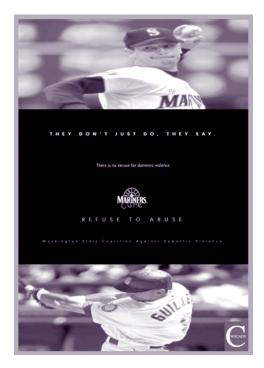
Walla Walla \* YWCA of Walla Walla



**ABC** The basics and beyond. From "Advocacy-Based Counseling for Rookies" to critical thinking on the effect of domestic violence on children, the Coalition's education and training for our member programs spanned topics, geography and disciplines. Hundreds of advocates honored us by calling us throughout the year for advice and by participating in Coalition meetings, workshops, audio conferences and our annual conference.

**Barriers and Borders** Given the tightening of our nation's borders and increasing suspicion and hatred of those who are "different," we must be diligent in our critical thinking about the many barriers that immigrants and refugees face. In 2004, the Coalition focused on the unique challenges confronting immigrant and refugee victims of domestic violence. We did intensive work with **Las Amigas Unidas**, an organization of farmworker women who live in rural areas of central and southeast Washington and are survivors of domestic violence. Las Amigas helps other immigrant

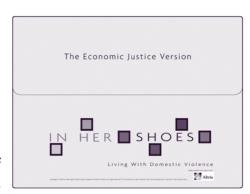
or farmworker women escape domestic violence, educates the community about domestic violence, and forms strong alliances with other community members to address this critical problem. The Coalition produced a training package called "Crossing Borders" to assist mainstream domestic violence programs in improving their services for immigrant and refugee battered women and their children. We conducted basic advocacy training in Spanish for mono- and bi-lingual Spanish-speaking advocates. We also produced two Spanish-language soap operas that aired on 25 Spanish radio stations around the state during Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October.



Baseball The Coalition continues to play ball with the Seattle Mariners in our nationally acclaimed Refuse To Abuse™campaign. Pitcher Jamie Moyer and left fielder Raul Ibañez served as Refuse To Abuse™spokesmen during the 2004 season. They lent their faces to print ads, and their voices (in Spanish and English) to a series of public service announcements that hit the radio airwaves across the state. Despite a losing season in 2004, the Mariners are champions when it comes to taking a stand against domestic violence.

Children The theme of the Coalition's 2004 annual conference, Kid's Eye View: Moms, Children and Domestic Violence, launched us in our efforts to more adequately address children's issues. Shortly after the conference, we began the development of a strategic plan for a Children's Justice Project. Concurrent with these efforts, Coalition staff worked with rural and tribal court judges to engage them in practices that increase the safety of adult victims and their children who are in their courtrooms because of interventions from Child Protective Services (CPS). The Coalition supported recent legislation that opened dependency hearings involving CPS to the public. This increases the opportunities for victim advocates to work closely with judges and other court personnel to hold the perpetrator, not the victim, accountable for domestic violence and to address safety issues for victims so that they, in turn, can keep their children safe.

**Experiential** The Coalition's newest educational tool is all about people taking action – walking in a survivor's shoes – to learn about domestic violence. *In Her Shoes: Living With Domestic Violence – Economic Justice Edition* was produced by the Coalition's Economic Justice Project this year. *In Her Shoes* portrays the lives of seven battered women and the many



economic barriers standing between them and safety. In addition to writing and producing *In Her Shoes*, the **Economic Justice Project** provided technical assistance to the Department of Social and Health Services to improve their services to battered women who are on public assistance. The Economic Justice Project also trained our member programs on topics ranging from accessing medical care for domestic violence victims to running educational groups on economic literacy for survivors.

**Four corners** And everywhere in between! The Coalition's primary constituency is our 65 **member programs** – the domestic violence victim services programs around the state that provide emergency shelter, crisis intervention, support groups, long-term counseling or advocacy, and a host of other vital services 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The Coalition exists because of our members. Through our mission "to end domestic violence through advocacy and action for social change," we work hard to meet the training, technical assistance and system advocacy needs of our member programs.

**Geek** We are proud to imagine that we might just be one of the geekiest state coalitions in the country. In 2004, the Coalition was funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Verizon Wireless to launch a **Tech Safety Project**, the first of its kind in the nation. Technology is a double-edged sword for battered women: on one side is the benefit of Internet access to resources,

networks and information; on the other side is the danger of Internet stalking by violent abusers. The Coalition's Tech Safety Project teaches survivors and advocates about the benefits and

### **Tech Safety Pilot Sites**

Alternatives to Violence of the Palouse in Whitman County
DV/SA of Chelan & Douglas Counties
Family Resource Center in Lincoln County
Family Crisis Network in Pend Oreille County
YWCA of Yakima

risks of today's technology. In 2004, we worked with five pilot sites to train advocates and survivors about critical safety issues and emerging technologies. Also, we trained 140 advocates statewide on tech safety issues and wrote a survivors' guide that gives pragmatic advice directly to survivors about the safer uses of technology. Currently, we are the only state coalition in the nation doing a project like this and we are pleased to have others looking at our tech safety project as a model to replicate in their state. Our challenge is to stay ahead of the waves of emerging technology to keep victims safe.

**How a bill becomes a law** The Coalition is more organized than ever to push for important new legislation. Our **Public Policy** staff coordinated two well-organized and well-attended lobby days, where over 100 advocates came to Olympia to press for change that resulted in three major legislative victories: 1 - passage of a critical bill that allows domestic violence victims to terminate leases if they need to escape violence, and prohibits discrimination in rental housing based on being a victim of domestic violence; 2 – a \$2 million increase in state funding for

domestic violence shelters; and 3 - legislation requiring that every law enforcement agency



Senator Maria Cantwell with Coalition staff and lobbyists

statewide must develop policies, in collaboration with domestic violence advocates, on domestic violence perpetrated by law enforcement officers. We are grateful to our lobbyists, Pam Crone and Carey Morris, for their outstanding work on our behalf.

Law Enforcement Shock waves continue to reverberate following the murder of Crystal Brame by her husband, Tacoma Police Chief David Brame in April 2003. After the 2004 legislative session, the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) was mandated to develop a written model policy on domestic violence committed by agency employees. All police agencies – over 300 statewide – were statutorily required to adopt and implement a written policy on officer-involved domestic violence by June 1, 2005. The Coalition worked with WASPC to develop the Officer-Involved Domestic Violence model policy. We also helped write a curriculum for a training sponsored by the Office of the Attorney General. Three communities participated in the intensive training and sent teams including law enforcement officers, domestic violence advocates, 911 supervisors, union representatives, probation officers and others. Teams forged

policies for their communities covering a wide range of topics, from removing weapons from police officers involved in domestic violence to safety and confidentiality for victims. The work continues.

**Media** The Coalition's **Fatality Review Project** spent considerable effort in 2004 **educating the media** about fatalities and providing an expert voice to reporters when domestic violence fatalities occurred. Placing domestic violence homicides in the larger context of battering, and properly understanding and portraying batterer behavior, are media's two biggest challenges. Coalition staff worked with reporters statewide to encourage coverage that avoided portraying domestic violence fatalities as freak accidents that no one could have predicted and homicidal abusers as good people driven to violence by heartbreak.

**National spotlight** The Coalition attracts attention from afar for our cutting edge work. In 2004, we received grants and/or carried out projects to provide nationwide technical assistance in three areas: fatality review, economic justice, and working with people with disabilities. Washington continues to be one of the most progressive states in the country, with laws, funding and community-based initiatives that increase safety for victims and hold perpetrators accountable. We are proud to represent these efforts, both within and outside our state.

**Organizational health** 2004 saw great success with Coalition fundraising, board development and leadership, and staff productivity and morale. We continue to expand to support new projects and programs, and we dare to hold on to a transformative vision.

**Organize!** Every year the Coalition supports constituent groups that meet and organize together, and 2004 was no exception. Over the course of the year, the Women of Color Caucus, Immigrant and Refugee Network, Queer Caucus, Jewish Caucus, Survivors' Caucus, *Kwuln Yamncū't* (Native Network) and our newest group, Women in Recovery Caucus, met to pursue their own goals, including educating others about oppression and disenfranchisement, sharing resources and strategies, building their leadership, and getting support for their work in the movement to end domestic violence.

**Profound** That battered women should not have died in vain, and that there are huge lessons to be learned from the lives lost to domestic violence, is what the Coalition's **Fatality Review Project** is all about. In 2004, we facilitated five in-depth reviews of selected fatalities with local community panels, gathered and analyzed data from all domestic violence-related fatalities in the state and published our third biennial report containing project findings and recommendations. Our 2004 report, *Every Life Lost Is a Call for* 



Change, joins Honoring Their Lives, Learning from Their Deaths and "Tell the World What Happened to Me" in enumerating the systems failures and inadequate resources that keep victims at risk and, for some, lead to death. The latest report carries on our tradition in this project of fact-finding, truth-telling, memorializing and calling to action.

**Rethinking** We've been rethinking what *access* really means. Serving people with disabilities has to be more than just having a ramp to your door. True access requires us to rethink, with survivors of domestic violence with disabilities, what they need to participate in *all* of our services – not just shelter. In its second year, the Coalition's project on **working with people with disabilities** is doing groundbreaking work in partnership with Abused Deaf Women's Advocacy Services (ADWAS) and Washington Protection and Advocacy System (WPAS). The project has

produced a self-assessment guide for domestic violence agencies and two model protocols on safety planning and screening practices. With our project partners, we provided intensive technical assistance to five local domestic violence programs.

### **Disability Access Pilot Sites**

Salvation Army - Hickman House in King County

Connections of Ferry County

Family Support Center in Stevens County

Alternatives to Violence of the Palouse in Whitman County

YWCA of Lewiston/Clarkston

**Vote!** The Coalition was one of five states selected in 2004 to participate in a national voter education and mobilization pilot project called *Vote Power*. We registered over 300 people to vote and educated domestic violence programs and battered women about how to vote safely and use the electoral process to make our voices heard – loud and clear.

Wahkiakum to Walla Walla Charlotte House in Wahkiakum County and the YWCA in Walla Walla are just two of the many programs that have embraced a specific role in the Community Partnership Against Sexual and Domestic Violence. This statewide healthcare initiative promotes awareness, education and action among healthcare communities for women who experience sexual and domestic violence. The Coalition's Perinatal Project continued to link healthcare providers with local victim services programs, strengthen our partnership with the Department of Health, develop guidelines for screening and referral, support the collection of healthcare data, and expand a new healthcare curriculum that incorporates information about sexual assault and domestic violence.

... XYZ and QED It seems fitting to end this report with the Latin *quod erat demonstrandum* – "to be shown or demonstrated." We have shown you the highlights of our year. But we hope that, between the lines, you also read what battered women, their children, and their advocates show us each and every day: courage, determination, joy amidst injustice, the will to survive, and hope for our future.

# **Community of Food:**

# Lunch ritual brightens dark realities

By HSIAO-CHING CHOU



Domestic violence workers enjoy a light moment at the lunch table in their downtown Seattle office. They are (clockwise from bottom left) Nan Stoops, Grace Huang, Judy Chen, Leigh Hofheimer, Lupita Patterson, Christine Olah and Kelly Starr. Credit: Dan DeLong/Seattle Post-Intelligencer

Leigh Hofheimer is always hungry. That may be why, at about a quarter to noon, she takes it upon herself to assemble her co-workers at the offices of the Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence for their daily ritual of sharing a midday meal.

Her call to action — which colleague Nan Stoops doesn't hesitate to demonstrate — might involve

standing behind her closed glass office door and yelling at the top of her lungs: "I'm hungry. It's time to eat lunch."

This signals everyone to step out of her office for roll call: "Who brought lunch today? Who needs to buy lunch? Where do we want to buy lunch?"

The dealing begins.

"So far this week," Stoops says, "we've been to Briazz. We could go to whozits for Mediterranean."

"If we go there, I can get the honey cake," adds Judy Chen.

"What about Gretchen's?" Stoops asks.

"Well, I like Gretchen's, but what kind of dessert are you going to get me?" Chen says.

Amid the discussion about where to buy food, Hofheimer explains that she has a theory about the benefit of having the staff stop to eat together.

"Because this work is really hard, the connection we have at lunch really helps with the work and it helps us to not become depressed," she says.

There are usually six to eight staff members who sit down to lunch at the "crappy" oval table, with the yellow floral tablecloth and glass covering, at the back of the room. On one of the walls that surrounds the table is a map of Washington, marked with pins that represent confirmed domestic violence fatalities, which serves as a sobering reminder of the work this group of women has chosen to do.

Once it's determined how many people need to buy lunch and where that lunch will come from, the ones who have brought lunch begin to prepare their meals in the kitchen, which consists of a sink, a small refrigerator, a microwave and a rice cooker.

On this day, Chen decides to make miso soup, which she whips up in a bowl with water from the cooler and a spoonful of miso paste, then nukes in the microwave. Lupita Patterson and Hofheimer slice vegetables for salads. Stoops and Christine Olah, who had gone to pick up lunch, return with boxed salads from Gretchen's and cookies from Starbucks.

Everyone has to be seated before lunch can begin.

Conversation zips easily from one to three and back again, and from the latest find at the farmer's market or who used to have the biggest hair to sparkly green shoes and teen-dating violence:

"Do you want to try that before I do?" Hofheimer asks Chen.

"I already did," she replies.

"What is it?" Kelly Starr asks.

"It's gefilte fish," Hofheimer says.

Or:

"Don't you have fantasies of totally going crazy in public?" asks Stoops.

"No," Olah says.

Or:

"What are malasadas?" asks Patterson.

And it continues.

The gathering usually lasts about an hour. After dessert, the levity of gabbing girlfriends disappears as the gravity of domestic violence resumes its grasp. One by one, each woman returns to her office.

Lunch is over.

# 2004 Coalition Staff

Teresa Atkinson ★ Technology Safety Project Coordinator

Judy Chen \* Program Coordinator

Mette Earlywine \* Economic Justice Project Specialist

Jake Fawcett \* Fatality Review Project Specialist

Daniel Reed Forrester \* Administrative Assistant

Joanne Gallagher \* Fatality Review Project Specialist

Margaret Hobart \* Fatality Review Project Advisor

Leigh Hofheimer \* Program Coordinator

Grace Huang \* Public Policy Coordinator

Christine Olah \* Public Policy Specialist

Tyra Lindquist \* Economic Justice Project Coordinator

Lupita Patterson \* Program Coordinator

Sarah Nason \* Assistant to the Director

Kelly Starr \* Fatality Review Project Coordinator

Ilene Stohl \* Economic Justice Project Specialist

Nan Stoops \* Executive Director

Jeri Sweet \* Bookkeeper

Sandi Winters \* Administrative Assistant



Coalition staff show off their karaoke talents at the annual conference

## **2004 Board of Directors**

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### **Board Meetings**

SeaTac \* January 15-16 Olympia \* March 13-14 Spokane \* May 3 Ellensburg \* July 16-17 Wenatchee \* September 23-24 SeaTac \* November 5-6

# 2004 Donors & Funders

We gratefully acknowledge the financial support of the following individuals, foundations, businesses and corporations. If we have inadvertently not included your name, please contact us. Thank you.

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### **Memorial & Honoring Gifts**

Anderson ZurMuehlen & Co., P.C. In Memory of James S. Baba

Marie Fortune and Anne Ganley
In Memory of Sharifa Alkateeb

Ruthie Suchoski *In Memory of Misty Castro* 

Ginny Ware
In Memory of Amy Hamlin

Mary Chen
In Honor of Judy Chen

The Coffee Coop Girls
In Honor of Renee Bush

Michael and Diane Puckhaber
In Honor of Michael Puckhaber's Birthday

### **Special Thanks**

### Verizon Wireless-Western Region

has been a great supporter of the Coalition since 2002. In addition to a grant, Verizon Wireless donated \$1,500, the proceeds of their "HopeLine" cell phone drive at SAFECO Field on July 21. Seattle Mariners fans donated 940 cell phones and accessories for survivors of domestic violence. Thanks to June Wiley, Deadria Boyland (both of New Beginnings) and John Loveall for joining the Coalition in collecting phones.

Lance Hofstad and his band Estocar held their 2<sup>nd</sup> annual band benefit for the Coalition on July 24 in Seattle, with bands including Silver Surfer. Lance organized, performed, and donated all proceeds. Thank you to Lance, the bands, and Mars Bar for their generous support!

### "Team Coalition"

Special thanks to "Team Coalition" members! Each member solicited pledges to raise money for us at the May 2004 Bloomsday Race in Spokane. Hats off to the eight participating staff and volunteers from ASPEN, a domestic and sexual violence program serving Kittitas County.

Debra Adams
Teresa Atkinson
Jamie Bankston
Deanna Boggs
Jenni Brennan
Lindsey Conway
Mette Earlywine
Leigh Hofheimer
Kim Nuffer
Allison Perry
Robert Pigott
Erin Schultz
Erika Sommer
Nan Stoops

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Cindy Everhart

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Altria Group, Inc.
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Verizon Wireless
Washington State Ladies Auxiliary,
Fraternal Order of Eagles

### **In-Kind Support**

"Refuse To Abuse" ad campaign:
Bcommunications
Clatter & Din
Dave Syferd & Partners
Seattle Mariners

Dolce Skamania Lodge Hewlett Packard Southwest Airlines Starbucks Coffee #393 of Monroe

Pat Gruis Kasey Hargan Leigh Hofheimer Dina Lindquist

## **2004 Financial Statement**

Assets Current Assets Fixed Assets Other Assets	\$684,019 \$2,306 \$4,234
Total Assets	\$690,558
Liabilities & Net Assets Current Liabilities Temporarily Restricted Net Assets Unrestricted Net Assets	\$66,287 \$4,706 \$619,564
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$690,558
Total Public Support & Revenues Total Expenses	\$1,571,632 \$1,504,697
Change in Net Assets	\$66,935

### **Government Contracts and Grants**

- \* Seattle-King County Department of Public Health
- U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services Administration for Children & Families
- \* U.S. Dept. of Justice Office on Violence Against Women
- \* WA State Criminal Justice Training Commission
- \* WA State Dept. of Social and Health Services Children's Administration
- \* WA State Dept. of Social and Health Services Economic Services Administration
- WA State Dept. of Community, Trade and Economic Development Office of Crime Victims Advocacy
- \* WA State Administrative Office of the Courts Gender and Justice Commission

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