

# Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women

## Don't Sacrifice the Safety of Women and Children: 2002 Violence Against Women Action Day

*Danielle Kluz, Communications Coordinator*

Hundreds of domestic violence and sexual assault advocates, volunteers, survivors, and supporters gathered at the Minnesota State Capitol Rotunda on Friday, March 1, 2002 to raise awareness of domestic violence and sexual assault and to decry the State of Minnesota's massive funding cuts to programs that serve women in crisis.

This year's theme was *Don't Sacrifice the Safety of Women and Children*, a direct message to the state that funding cuts to domestic violence and sexual assault programs could possibly result in the assault and deaths of untold numbers of women and children

in the state. Co-sponsored by the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women and the Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault, the event was a great success in bringing our statewide programs together as one voice and getting our message out to legislators and the media.

Violence Against Women Action Day actually began on February 28th with a legislative training at the Sheraton Four Points in St. Paul. Women from programs all over the state met to learn how to effectively lobby their legislators on domestic violence and sexual

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## From Where I Sit...

*Karmit Bulman, Executive Director*

Please indulge me as I get personal in this update. I want to share some insights looking back over my first eight months as the MCBW Executive Director. I will focus on a few general topics and provide my own personal viewpoints on each of these.

### **Building a Strong Organization**

The importance of building an MCBW that has strong internal systems, management, and accountability should not be underemphasized. MCBW has a big job to do. Many voices need to be

heard, many agendas need to be created, acted upon, and fulfilled. Only an organization that is internally strong, sensibly organized, and accountable can meet the many demands made by our members and battered women.

Thanks to many Board members, staff, and consultants who were willing to roll up sleeves and do the necessary hard work; we have built a stable foundation. MCBW can be counted upon to address the needs

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"When I care to be powerful -- to use my strength in the service of my vision, then it becomes less and less important whether I am afraid."

-Audre Lorde

## Spring 2002

### Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women Staff:

**Karmit Bulman**  
Executive Director

**Sandy Davidson**  
Rural Grant Supervisor

**Danielle Kluz**  
Communications  
Coordinator

**Delrita Rudnitski**  
Associate Director/  
Program Coordinator

**Delia Ruiz**  
Financial and Adminis-  
trative Coordinator

**Lonna Stevens**  
Program Coordinator

### Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women

1821 University Ave. W.,  
Suite S-112  
St. Paul, MN 55104

Voice/TDD: 651-644-6177

Fax: 651-646-1527

Crisis: 651-646-0994

Email: [mcbw@mcbw.org](mailto:mcbw@mcbw.org)

Web: [www.mcbw.org](http://www.mcbw.org)

## From Where I Sit...

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of members and battered women. I wish to give special acknowledgement to the Board of Directors who work with staff so effectively and who bring the diverse voices of the members of the movement to the table. I also extend deep gratitude to the hard working and dedicated staff of MCBW. This group of women brings a wealth of knowledge, expertise, commitment, passion, energy, and skill to the job of ending domestic violence. MCBW staff makes up a strong force and a powerful voice for battered women and their children.

### Legislative and Funding Concerns

What a year to commence my work with the state and at the legislature! I have often been left scratching my head in amazement and frustration following some of my state and legislative experiences. "How did we get here?" I sometimes ask myself. "How do we get back to our focus and our clear mandate to stop battering and the oppression of women, when our waters have become so muddied?"

I wish I could give you a legislative update. What exactly happened there? In the first few weeks of the session, everything happened at lightning speed and behind closed doors. The atmosphere was so tense and so fraught with unspoken agendas that it was virtually impossible to move forward with even the most benign legislative agenda. The few minor clean-up pieces MCBW got passed seemed miraculous given the uniqueness of the legislative session.

Funding-wise, I still can't give you an update, either. MCBW lobbyists worked very hard on many different levels to reinstate lost funding to per diem and MCCVS grants. While all of us who work on behalf of battered women at the legislature intended and desired to work as a unified force, we fell short of our expectations. What became painfully clear is that we must reach common ground. We must hear and acknowledge the many voices that make up our battered women's movement. Trust, respect, and communication are at the core of this work. We will begin to plan for the 2003 legislative session on May 13<sup>th</sup>. Those interested in being part of this process should contact me at (651) 646-6177 or [kbulman@mcbw.org](mailto:kbulman@mcbw.org).

### **Our Substantive Challenges**

**Male Victims:** Within my first few days at MCBW, it became clear that the issue of "male victims" was on the radar screen here in Minnesota. Our legislature mandated a study of domestic violence as it

relates to both men and women and a report on issues related to gender and domestic violence, as well as an assessment of the needs of male victims. Domestic abuse programs are now required to submit quarterly and annual state reports on numbers of males served. The MCBW Gender Think Tank is ready to collaborate with MCCVS and the Inter-agency Task Force to assure that information gathered is clear and put into an accurate context. Please see Page 8 of the MCBW Winter Newsletter for more details on the male victim issue. The Gender Think Tank will meet again on May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9:30 a.m. at the MCBW office.

**Underserved Populations:** We have come so far and, yet, have so far to go to better work with underserved battered women. The voices of those who experience so many layers of oppression are crying to be heard. We have heard so much about those voices and the need for MCBW to continue to take the strong role in hearing and speaking out. I am so grateful to our Program Coordinator, Lonna Stevens, for the passion and expertise she brings to working on behalf of underserved battered women. We have heard about non-English speaking battered women turned away from shelters; the "invisible" lesbian battered women who are not served in many of our communities because there is the impression that "those women aren't in *our* community;" the battered women with serious mental illness who have nowhere to go and aren't acknowledged or given help from battered women's programs; the women of color, not heard or seen because of the obstacles institutional racism creates and perpetuates. MCBW's commitment remains strong to hear, speak out, and act on behalf of all underserved populations.

**Marriage and Domestic Violence:** Did you hear? Marriage is the best way to protect women and children from abuse from intimate partners! Take a peek at the *Minneapolis Star Tribune*, the *New York Times*, and the new Heritage Foundation Study. They have found the answer! And to think, we have been wasting our time all these years arguing that domestic violence happens to all women regardless of marital status, economic, educational, or racial background. Please see my article on page 6 for more on this issue.

**Youth and Children:** Have you ever talked to MCBW Rural Grant Supervisor Sandy Davidson about youth and children? Better yet, have you

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## Introductions Are In Order!

*Delrita Rudnitski, Associate Director/Program Coordinator*

Greetings to everyone. I am very glad to be the newest staff member at the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women. I work with a great group of talented and resourceful women.

As many of you know, I was the Executive Director of the Pearl Battered Women's Resource Center for the past 5½ years. When I first started at Pearl BWRC, I was the only employee. I know that there are a number of women out there in rural programs who know what that is like! Nonetheless, with a lot of hard work (and a bit of complaining about scarce resources and political representation) the program grew to its present capacity of seven employees. I wrote grants, many grants, along with my colleague Nicole Matthews, and we diligently worked towards meeting the needs of battered women and their children, and all victim/survivors of sexual violence. It was challenging, yet rewarding work, and I am very proud of my part in creating a viable place for victims/survivors of domestic and sexual violence to go to for help and resources in Mille Lacs County. Although I was sad to leave Pearl BWRC, I know that the program is well established and that the staff will ensure its successful future.

Since my arrival at MCBW on March 4th, I have been learning about coalition work and the challenges facing programs and victims/survivors of domestic abuse across the state of Minnesota. Of course, the legislative decisions made in respect to funding for domestic and sexual violence pro-

grams has been particularly distressing to me, as I understand the serious dilemmas facing all programs with budget shortfalls. I will continue to advocate for more financial support for battered women's programs across the state of Minnesota in my private and professional life. I will also continue to be outspoken about the critical needs of battered women's programs throughout the state of Minnesota.

The MCBW staff is setting up site visits to meet with all of the member programs in the coming year. I will be visiting with some of you, too, and I am so excited to see my colleagues and meet new advocates and staff from programs across the state. Keep up your wonderful work. I look forward to seeing as many of you in person that time allows.

I have been trying to balance my work with all the personal stresses of commuting, apartment searching, and moving to St. Paul. Soon, however, the transition will be made, and I will be as established resident of St. Paul and a "seasoned" MCBW employee.

I hope that the next fiscal year will bring many good changes for us in the movement to end domestic violence. I for one will certainly do my best to make that a possibility. Let me know your concerns, frustrations, and successes, as we need your voices and support in order to do the work that needs to be accomplished at MCBW. I am very happy to be a part of such an incredible movement for social change and social justice. I hope to see everyone at the Statewide Conference November 6, 7, and 8th. (Just a little reminder.) We'll talk more then, and party too!

## Learning Our Work, Loving Our Work: the MCBW Advocacy Training

One of the many challenges for new battered women's advocates is the huge amount of knowledge necessary to be an effective advocate. For experienced advocates, the challenge is often to keep one's inspiration and energy high while working long hours at a very difficult job.

The MCBW Advocacy Training, entitled *Learning Our Work, Loving Our Work*, addressed those two related challenges with training sessions for both new and experienced domestic violence advocates.

Advocates from all over Minnesota gathered at the William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul for the two-day workshop. Training sessions, given by MCBW staff members and battered women's pro-

gram advocates and staff members, covered "What is a Movement?" and "Isms," children's issues and minor battered women, a "What is Advocacy?" panel discussion, legal advocacy, chemical dependency and battered women, cultural awareness, LGBT battering and homophobia, domestic violence in rural areas, and domestic abuse vs. domestic assault.

Not only did advocates learn a lot in the sessions but many reported enjoying the opportunity to meet and network with their fellow advocates from all around the state.

If you missed the training, don't worry! MCBW will hold another Advocacy Training December 5-6, 2002. Call Lonna Stevens at 651-646-6177 with any questions.

## Program Update: WATCH

*Minneapolis, MN*

WATCH is a court monitoring and research group that focuses on cases of domestic violence, sexual assault, and child abuse and neglect in Hennepin County.

WATCH released a report on judicial demeanor and response in misdemeanor domestic violence cases in Minneapolis last year and is beginning to spot, monitor, and report on the handling of these types of cases in Hennepin County's suburban courts.

WATCH is also applying for grants to provide training and technical assistance to individuals and groups in Greater Minnesota interested in establishing court monitoring programs for cases of domestic and sexual violence.

If you have questions about WATCH, please contact us at:

**WATCH**  
**608 2nd Ave S.**  
**Suite 1001**  
**Minneapolis, MN 55402-1917**

**Phone:** 612-341-2747  
**Fax:** 612-339-1171  
**Email:** [watch@watchmn.org](mailto:watch@watchmn.org)  
**Web:** [www.watchmn.org](http://www.watchmn.org)

## Do You Want to Make a Difference? Join the MCBW Board!

MCBW is actively searching for committed individuals who are dedicated to ending violence against women and children to join our Board of Directors. We are primarily seeking women of color and/or rural women. If you are interested in receiving a Board Application, please contact Pat Dunlavy of the Board Nominating Committee at 218-749-5054 or email her at [rwa@rangenet.com](mailto:rwa@rangenet.com).

## MCBW Board of Directors

### Officers:

<b>Chair</b>	<b>Tamara Buffalo</b> <i>Battered Women's Legal Advocacy Project Minneapolis</i>
<b>Vice-Chair</b>	<b>Sharonna Lee</b> <i>Battered Women's Justice Project Minneapolis</i>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Vickie McCollum</b> <i>Region IV Council on Domestic Violence Perham</i>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Nita Quinn</b> <i>Home Free Plymouth</i>

### Members:

<b>Cyndi Anderson</b> <i>Lakes Crisis Center Detroit Lakes</i>
<b>Pat Dunlavy</b> <i>Range Women's Advocates Virginia</i>
<b>Tamra Falk</b> <i>Project P.E.A.C.E. Brooklyn Center</i>
<b>Denise Gamache</b> <i>Battered Women's Justice Project Minneapolis</i>
<b>Deborah Galuk</b> <i>S&amp;G Consulting St. Louis Park</i>
<b>Ruth Hubbling</b> <i>Southwest Crisis Center Worthington</i>
<b>Marilyn Rossman</b> <i>Advocates for Family Peace Grand Rapids</i>
<b>Ida Sutherland</b> <i>Women's Resource Center Winona</i>
<b>Grace Vigilante</b> <i>Korean Family Crisis Advocacy Program Minneapolis</i>

## Don't Sacrifice the Safety of Women and Children: 2002 Violence Against Women Action Day

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assault speakers. Featured presenters were Ember Reichgott Junge, former Minnesota Senate Majority Leader, and MCBW/MCASA lobbyist Peg Larsen. After the training, members went to the Capitol to meet with their legislators. Many advocates received positive reactions from their legislators.



*Staff and supporters from the Northwoods Coalition for Battered Women in Bemidji at the Violence Against Women Action Day Rally.*

The rally at the Capitol on March 1st began with a message of support from Sheila Wellstone, long-time advocate for battered women. Other featured speakers were State Senator Julie Sabo (D—Minneapolis), Senator Becky Lourey (D—Kerrick), Connie Sponsor of the Battered Women's Justice Project, MCASA Executive Director Tammie Larsen, and MCBW Executive Director Karmit Bulman. Deborah Galuk, sister of 2001 femicide victim Darcy Galuk, spoke movingly about her sister's murder by her former partner and the need for greater resources for battered women.

Lonna Stevens, Program Coordinator at MCBW, emceed the rally. It was a family affair at the Violence Against Women Action Day Rally, since Lonna's 10 year-old daughter, Shiana Stevens-Heck, closed the rally by drumming a song of the Tlingit tribe of Alaska as a tribute to the women and children who died as a result of domestic violence.

During the rally, two advocates from Houston County Women's Resources in Hokah recited the names, ages, hometowns, and dates of death of the 33 women and 10 children in Minnesota who were murdered as a result of domestic violence in 2001. While the names were being read, volunteers laid roses on the table by the podium as a memorial to

the murdered women and children.

In the Capitol Great Hall, the 2001 Clothesline Project was unveiled and displayed for the rally attendees. The Clothesline project is a display of t-shirts, specially decorated by domestic violence advocates and friends and family members of victims, to commemorate the women and children who were murdered in the state as a result of domestic violence. The room was nearly silent as people circled the 43 t-shirts that represented the terrible toll of domestic violence.

In the Capitol Rotunda, the Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault hung a long strand of yarn with over 6000 pieces of string tied to it to remember the reported cases of sexual assault in our state in 2001, which represent only 10% of the actual assaults committed.

Violence Against Women Action Day concluded with a joint MCBW and MCASA press conference to alert the public to the state's drastic funding cuts to battered women's programs. Senator Jane Ranum (D—Minneapolis) spoke on behalf of battered women's and sexual assault programs, saying "Where are our priorities? Why isn't the safety of women and children at the top of our list?"

Please join the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women next year at the Capitol to let our voices be heard against domestic and sexual violence!



*MCBW Program Coordinator Lonna Stevens and her daughter, Shiana Stevens-Heck, before the Capitol Rally began. To the left is the Tlingit drum Shiana*

## Abused Women and Children Are Not Protected by Marriage: A Response to the Minneapolis Star-Tribune

*Karmit Bulman, Executive Director*

In an April 24th commentary in the *Minneapolis Star Tribune*, which can be found online at <http://www.startribune.com/stories/562/2252498.html>, David Reinhard reaches the ill-informed conclusion that there's no place like the traditional home and no structure like that of marriage for protecting women and children from a b u s e .

Reinhard uses the ultra-conservative Heritage Foundation study released recently, entitled "Marriage: The Safest Place for Women and Children," and uses select data from the U.S. Department of Justice's National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) and concludes, "The institution that most strongly protects mothers and children from domestic abuse and violent crime is marriage."

The Heritage Foundation study and Reinhard's conclusions are misleading and dangerous. Responsible lawmakers, law enforcement officers, judges, those who work with victims of domestic abuse, and the women and children who have been battered know these conclusions to be untrue.

While the Heritage Foundation paper claims to be a fresh analysis, it reaches conclusions about marriage's capacity for reducing domestic violence that are not fully supported by the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS). One reason is that the NCVS presents the annual rates of domestic violence for women in four categories: married, divorced, separated, and never married. The Heritage Foundation "study" uses NCVS statistics to divide women into only two categories: "never married" and "ever married," with the latter combining married, divorced, and separated women. Based on this division, the report finds that the "never married" women have higher annual rates of domestic violence than the "ever married" women.

However, the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Statistics 2001 report "Intimate Partner Violence and Age of Victim, 1993-99" looks at the same data and reaches different conclusions. "Intimate Partner Violence" finds that, while the annual rate of domestic violence for never married women was higher than that of married women, it was lower than that of divorced or separated women. In fact,

separated women experienced "significantly higher" annual rates of domestic violence than women in the other categories. "Intimate Partner Violence" does find that married women "reported experiencing intimate partner violence at rates lower than women in other marital categories," but cautions against interpreting any link between marriage and domestic violence.

"Caution is warranted in interpreting intimate partner violence and marital status in the NCVS because marital status may be related to a respondent's willingness or ability to disclose violence by an intimate partner," says "Intimate Partner Violence" in a section titled, "Special Considerations When Examining Marital Status and Intimate Partner Violence." The section continues, "A married woman may not view, may not wish to view, or may be unable to report the behavior of her partner as violent or criminal. That same woman, if separated or divorced, may view or may be able to report the same behavior as violent."

Domestic violence is a problem of epidemic proportions in our country. It can affect all women, regardless of their marital status. Nearly one-third of American women report being physically abused by a husband or intimate partner at some point in their lives, according to a 1998 Commonwealth Fund survey. The most recent Bureau of Justice Statistics Report shows that married women are more likely to be killed by their intimate partners than are unmarried women.

There is no evidence that marriage keeps women or children safe or stops domestic violence. Separation or divorce is the time an abused woman is in the greatest danger of being killed. Marriage does not protect her from abuse. Leaving the marriage places her in even greater danger. One could argue that the safest arrangement is for women to never marry in the first place.

Reasonable people will reject the conclusions in David Reinhard's commentary and in the Heritage Study.

## From Where I Sit...

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ever been to one of Sandy's training sessions on working with children? Watch the passion, the knowledge, the good common sense, the empowerment and voice she gives to children's issues. Sandy and the four wonderful Community Specialists have been hard at work establishing protocols and advancing the vision to ensure safety for abused mothers and their children, particularly in rural areas. Please see page 11 of the MCBW Winter 2002 Newsletter for more information on what Sandy's working on.

**Working to Become a Unified Movement:** The last topic I will address is that of reclaiming a unified movement. The title of the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women's November 6-8<sup>th</sup>, 2002 Statewide Conference is *Many Voices, One Vision: Reclaiming Our Movement*. I do not take that title lightly. The Minnesota movement has many voices. We have many different viewpoints. We have diverse philosophical visions and underpinnings. These differences make us the rich, vibrant, and effective movement that we are. However, over time, we have allowed differences to divide us, diminishing our capacity to advocate effectively on behalf of battered women. We do have common ground. All of us who work in programs that serve battered women and their children stand in the common place of seeking an end to the domestic violence that hurts, degrades, im-

mobilizes, and too often kills women and children. If we have the will, we can build from this base, embracing honest debate and experimenting with different approaches that still align with the core principles of our movement: to promote the safety, autonomy, and restoration of battered women and their families, recognizing the differential impact of gender, race/ethnicity, sexual orientation, poverty, and citizenship status on people of underserved communities; and to create institutional and cultural change that prevents domestic violence and a societal intolerance of all forms of violence against women.

My personal vision is that we can and will work together as one movement. My pledge is to be as open, honest, and straightforward in my communication as I can be and to recognize and embrace the differences that drive the work we all do. I ask for us to reexamine the issues that have created divisions in the past, resolve those we can and recommit ourselves to building an active, diverse, and effective movement devoted to promoting the welfare of every battered woman in every community.

Ah, I wonder what the next eight months will bring? I look forward to meeting the challenges and experiencing the triumphs of the future.

## Welcome to the Newest MCBW Member Programs!

The MCBW Staff and Board of Directors would like to extend a hearty welcome to the newest member programs of the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women:

- **Centro Legal**, St. Paul, MN— *Supporting*
- **Communication Services for the Deaf of MN Domestic Violence Program**, St. Paul, MN— *Voting*
- **Listening Ear Crisis Center**, Alexandria, MN— *Voting*
- **Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless**, Minneapolis, MN—*Supporting*
- **Red Wing Area Coalition for Transitional Housing**, Red Wing, MN—*Voting*
- **Women of Nations**, St. Paul, MN—*Voting*

A complete list of MCBW member programs can be found on our web site at [www.mcbw.org/members.htm](http://www.mcbw.org/members.htm).

## 2002-2003 Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women Trainings and Events

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>May 2002</b></p> <p><b>15: Youth and Children's Advocacy Network Think Tank</b>, William Mitchell, St. Paul, 10 am-3 pm.</p> <p><b>17: Legal Advocacy for LGBT Communities</b>, William Mitchell, St. Paul, 10 am-4 pm.</p> <p><b>23: Gender Think Tank</b>, MCBW office, St. Paul, 9:30 am.</p> <p><b>24: Building Effective Media Strategies</b>, William Mitchell, St. Paul, 9 am-4 pm.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>June 2002</b></p> <p><b>20: Crisis Line Advocacy</b>, place and time to be announced.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>July 2002</b></p> <p><b>26: Older Battered Women Training</b>, place and time to be announced.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>August 2002</b></p> <p><b>15-16: New Laws Training</b>, place and time to be announced.</p> <p><b>22-23: New Laws Training</b>, place and time to be announced.</p> <p><b>29-30: New Laws Training</b>, place and time to be announced.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>September 2002</b></p> <p><b>12-13: New Laws Training</b>, place and time to be announced.</p> <p><b>19-20: New Laws Training</b>, place and time to be announced.</p> <p><b>26-27: New Laws Training</b>, place and time to be announced.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>October 2002</b></p> <p><b>4: Whose House Is It Training with Lydia Walker</b>, place and time to be announced.</p>

This calendar is subject to change. If you have questions about any of MCBW's trainings or events, or know of an event that conflicts with this calendar, please call us at 651-646-6177.

## 2002-2003 Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women Trainings and Events

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>November 2002</b></p> <p><b>4-6: MCBW 2002 Annual Statewide Conference</b>, Cragun's Resort, Brainerd.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>December 2002</b></p> <p><b>5-6: Advocacy Training</b>, place and time to be announced.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>January 2003</b></p> <p><b>17: Overview of Legal Issues Training</b>, place and time to be announced.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>March 2003</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>April 2003</b></p>

**This calendar is subject to change. If you have questions about any of MCBW's trainings or events, or know of an event that conflicts with this calendar, please call us at 651-646-6177.**

### The MCBW Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay, Transgender and Allies Network

*Lonna Stevens, Program Coordinator*

The Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay, Transgender, and Allies Network is underway with the updated manual to be completed by November 2002. We still need writers for the *Beyond the Hetero Model- A guide for Advocates on Lesbian, Bisexual, Transpeople, and Gay Domestic Violence*: we have various topics that need authors if you are interested in writing please call Lonna Stevens at 651-646-6177.

The LBGTA network is hosting a training **May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2002 from 10-4 pm in St. Paul at William Mitchell College of Law** on Legal Advocacy for LGBT folks. Liz Richards, J.D., of the Battered

Women's Legal Advocacy Project will be speaking on criminal interaction with police and prosecutors and family court interactions. Beth Barrett of Outfront Minnesota will be speaking on sexual identity and legal advocacy with transgender people. Please call Lonna Stevens at MCBW to register for this training.

## Program Update: Listening Ear Crisis Center

*Alexandria, MN*

We have made a lot of progress over the last year or so! Some of our triumphs:

**Peace Committee:** The Peace Committee has members of human resources departments of different companies in our area. This committee also includes the Police Chief and a staff member from LECC. The goals are to bring ongoing awareness of the seriousness of domestic abuse, what each person can do, and the resources available to help victims of abuse. The committee has resulted in making policy changes in the workplace to assist victims of domestic abuse.

**Domestic Violence Task Force:** We have been struggling to bring other agencies together to discuss issues in our community on domestic violence. Finally, we have come up with a plan to bring everyone together. We are a part of the Corrections Advisory Council and will bring DV issues to the table every other month. This meeting is a time when all of the agencies can work in collaboration. Agencies included in this are: the Alexandria Police Department, Douglas County Sheriff, the County Attorney's Office, probation, judges, schools, counseling agencies, public health, county commissioners, etc.

LECC is planning our yearly Law Enforcement Training to the 2nd year students at Alexandria

Technical College. This training involves speakers on domestic violence, sexual assault, and victim services. This is always a great success!

**The Criminal Justice Intervention Program** has been receiving a lot more attention recently and we have begun a system of tracking court cases of domestic assault.

Some of the challenges we are facing include:

- resources for children with urgent mental health issues pertaining to domestic violence and sexual assault;
- children who are independently looking for services to get out of abusive homes;
- housing for victims of DV;
- working with the County Attorney's office;
- access to churches and schools to educate.

If you have questions about our program, you can reach us at:

**Listening Ear Crisis Center**  
**P.O. Box 394**  
**Alexandria, MN 56308**  
**Voice: 320-763-6638**  
**Fax: 320-763-8839**  
**Email: [listenear@rea-alp.com](mailto:listenear@rea-alp.com)**

## Does Your Program Have a Web Site Yet?

*Danielle Kluz, Communications Coordinator*

In March, Katie and Cynthia from Northwoods Coalition for Battered Women in Bemidji traveled to MCBW in St. Paul to learn how to create their own web site for their program. We spent a Wednesday afternoon and Thursday morning going over the basics of web design, using a design program called Dreamweaver, and how to set up and maintain a site. We laughed a whole lot while doing it but a lot of learning and progress occurred. Katie and Cynthia are now hard at work building a site for the Northwoods Coalition.

Many women in crisis are now using the web to find battered women's programs and it's critical for our state programs to have web sites. All member programs are eligible to train with me on web design. It's easier than it looks! Programs can either learn

to use Dreamweaver, a very sophisticated design program (that does cost around \$300 for the software), or Netscape Composer, which is more limited in its uses but is free.

All web training takes place in St. Paul and is free for MCBW members. You should plan on spending a full day here for the training. If you need overnight accommodations, I can reserve you an inexpensive room at the Carondelet Center on the College of St. Catherine campus.

To set up a web training, please call me at 651-646-6177. Plan on reserving a training time at least a month ahead of time, especially in the summer when I will be traveling a lot. I can work with up to two people from one program.

## Many Voices, One Vision: Reclaiming Our Movement The 2002 MCBW Annual Statewide Conference

*A time to gather...*

*A time to learn...*

*A time to reclaim our movement!*

Get your date book out and mark down November 6-8, 2002. Brainerd, Minnesota is going to be the place to be for those days. Yes, the rumors are true. MCBW will be holding our Annual Statewide Conference at Cragun's Conference Resort and you are cordially invited to join us!

This year's theme is *Many Voices, One Vision: Reclaiming Our Movement*. The conference will focus on energizing and organizing the Minnesota movement to end violence against women and children. This will be a time when we engage in discussion on how to reclaim the battered women's movement in Minnesota— how to better engage ourselves in our work, how to mobilize the state to work to end domestic violence, and how to change systems that perpetuate domestic violence.

We will feature national and regional speakers, such as Deborah Tucker of the National Training Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence and Ellen Pence of Minnesota Program Development, Inc. There will be a special discussion panel of men working to end violence against women. And don't forget about all of the breakout sessions. There will be an opportunity to learn new methods of working with battered woman and children for everyone— those who have worked in the field for years and the brand-new advocate. Whatever you're interested in learning more about, there's bound to be a session for you. Some of the planned sessions are: the Women of Color Institute, Window Between Worlds (a creative art program for the healing of battered women and children), fundraising for your program, battered women defendants, working with deaf/hearing impaired battered women, LGBT battering, and developing protocols.

The 2002 MCBW Statewide Annual Conference will not only be a time for learning but a great chance to network, collaborate, and socialize with others working to end violence in Minnesota. There will be entertainment and social gatherings every night and plenty of time to just hang out and enjoy the great amenities of Cragun's Conference Resort.

The best part of the conference is that the conference fee (not including lodging/meals) is free to everyone who works for a MCBW member organization or is an individual member of MCBW. Non-members are more than welcome to attend but will pay a \$300 conference fee, as well as lodging and meals.

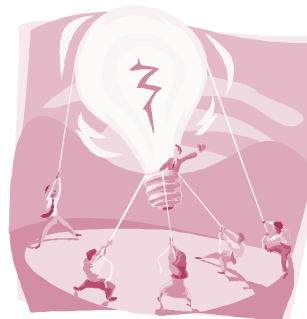
If you, or your organization, do/does not belong to MCBW but subscribes to our mission and would like to take advantage of this amenity of belonging to the coalition, please turn to page 10 for more information on how you can become a member.

The rate for 2 nights of lodging and 5 meals at Cragun's will be \$190 total per person in a shared double room. Persons who wish to stay in a single room will have to pay an extra rate. At the time of reserving your room at Cragun's you will have to make sure that you have a roommate who will be sharing your room.

We will be mailing conference registration packets in late June to MCBW members. Conference registration forms will be due back to the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women no later than August 31, 2002.

This conference will be an extraordinary occasion for those of us in the Minnesota battered women's movement to learn from each other, to inspire each other, to have fun, and to reclaim our movement. Please join us in Brainerd November 6 through 8!

If you have any questions about the 2002 MCBW Annual Statewide Conference, please call Danielle Kluz at 651-646-61277.



**Happy First Anniversary to the House of Peace Shelter!**

*Danielle Kluz, Communications Coordinator*



## The Women of Color and Native American Women Network

*Lonna Stevens, Program Coordinator*

The MCBW Women of Color and Native American Women Network is implementing institutes for change in the coming months. We are currently planning an upcoming meeting to dialogue about oppression and racism and women of color and law enforcement and prisons. It is becoming clear that women of color are continually fighting oppression and racism on a larger scale in the justice system. The disparities exist when we have women of color incarcerated at a much higher rate than white women around domestic violence. We will be collaborating with Mending the Sacred Hoop Technical Assistance from Duluth and other agencies in Minnesota with similar interests in these topics. If you would like to host this meeting at your site please call Lonna Stevens at MCBW.

Our February meeting was held in Duluth with Mending the Sacred Hoop and included dialogue on the recent ruling by Judge Weinstein in *Nicholson vs. Scoppetta*; it stated that ACS in New York violated the constitutional rights of battered women when removing their children simply because the mothers were victims of domestic violence. The ruling stated that “parents and children have a constitutional right not to be separated by the government unless the parent is unfit to care for the child...the evidence to date overwhelmingly demonstrates that the defendants have violated these constitutional

rights.”

This ruling is pertinent to many cultures of women of color whose cultural values and norms are in alignment with not separating families. The colonization and genocide of many indigenous cultures continues to be repeated with the child welfare system that does not allow us to be mothers to our children during this crucial time.

There is an appeal to *Nicholson vs. Scoppetta* and Jill Zucardy of Sanctuary for Families in New York will be asking for amicus briefs from domestic violence organizations in September of 2002.

Our next meeting is scheduled for **Friday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2002 at Advocates for Family Peace with host Faye Torvinen in Grand Rapids from 12-3 pm.** Our topic of discussion will be chemical dependency issues for women of color and how policies and procedures in programs and shelters may be barriers to safety. Please contact Lonna Stevens for directions or for carpooling information.

For more information on the MCBW Women of Color and Native American Women Network, please contact Lonna Stevens at 651-646-6177 or [lstevens@mcbw.org](mailto:lstevens@mcbw.org).

## Are You an MCBW Member? Join Us In Ending Violence Against Women and Children!

If you, or your organization, haven't already become a member of MCBW, we urge you to do so now. In this era of drastic funding cuts to domestic violence programs in Minnesota and increasing incidents of violence against women and children, now is the time to act in support of the programs and services MCBW provides to end domestic violence.

**There are three different kinds of membership available:**

**Voting member organizations:** This membership is open to battered women's programs in the state of Minnesota which are incorporated as a non-profit organization designed primarily to serve battered women and their children and which provide crisis intervention, advocacy, protective housing, referrals, peer support, and/or children's services. Programs that meet the above criteria but are a sub-group of a larger non-profit corporation which is not incorporated for such purposes may become voting members as long as the above criteria is met.

**Supportive non-voting organizations:** Organizations that pay dues and support and actively promote the mission statement of MCBW may join as supportive non-voting members.

**Supportive non-voting individuals:** Individuals who pay dues and support and actively promote the mission statement of MCBW may join as supportive non-voting individuals.

**Membership enables MCBW to:**

- Provide technical assistance to programs providing services to battered women and children.
- Provide regular informational mailings.
- Coordinate the Rural Violence Against Women Child Victimization Enforcement Project.
- Provide training on domestic violence topics statewide and nationally.
- Provide public policy and legislative advocacy to end domestic violence.
- Produce this newsletter and the MCBW web site.
- Coordinate the annual MCBW Statewide Conference.
- Serve as an informational clearinghouse— locally, statewide, and nationally .
- Maintain and display the Clothesline Project throughout the state to raise public awareness of violence against women and children
- Update and release the annual Femicide Report.
- Update and develop cutting-edge educational and training materials.
- Provide staff support to statewide networks such as the Women of Color and Native American Women Network, the Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, and Gay Network, the Gender Think Tank, the Youth and Children's Advocacy Network, and the Minnesota Network of Abuse in Later Life.
- Provide leadership for grassroots efforts to end violence against women and children.

Your new or continuing membership will allow the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women to continue this good work on the behalf of battered women and children.

If you have questions about MCBW membership, please call Danielle Kluz at 651-646-6177.

## MCBW Membership Application

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization or Individual Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Business phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Crisis Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Web site: \_\_\_\_\_

All voting and non-voting members must support and actively promote the mission statement of MCBW as indicated by a signed application and are encouraged to participate in coalition meetings and network activities.

### TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP REQUESTED:

\_\_\_\_ VOTING MEMBER ORGANIZATION (see page 10 for descriptions of types of membership)

\_\_\_\_ SUPPORTIVE NON-VOTING ORGANIZATION

\_\_\_\_ SUPPORTIVE NON-VOTING INDIVIDUAL

**A voting member must file with MCBW its current organizational documents. Please check and submit the following materials with your application.**

\_\_\_\_ Mission or philosophy statement

\_\_\_\_ Current Board of Directors list

\_\_\_\_ By-laws

\_\_\_\_ List/description of counties or area of service

### MEMBERSHIP FEES

The MCBW membership fee is based on the annual budget of member organizations or individual income. Each voting member organization is entitled to one vote. Voting organizations with multiple satellite offices will receive bi-weekly mailings and other member benefits for each satellite office for which an additional supportive non-voting membership application is filed.

#### ANNUAL BUDGET

Supportive Non-Voting Individual Member

\$ 0 – 49,999

\$50,000 – 149,000

\$150,000 – 299,000

\$300,000 – 499,000

\$500,000 and over

#### MEMBERSHIP FEE

\$75.00 minimum

\$75.00 minimum

\$125.00 minimum

\$175.00 minimum

\$225.00 minimum

\$275.00 minimum

**Enclosed is a check for \$** \_\_\_\_\_

(Please make check payable to *Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women*)

Member organizations and individuals agree to support and actively promote the mission statement of MCBW as indicated by the signature below:

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

## Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women

1821 University Avenue West,  
Suite S-112  
St. Paul, MN 55104

Voice/TDD: (651) 646-6177

Crisis Line: (651) 646-0994

Fax: (651) 646-1527

Email: [mcbw@mcbw.org](mailto:mcbw@mcbw.org)

Web: [www.mcbw.org](http://www.mcbw.org)



I want to help stop violence against women by supporting the mission of MCBW. Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution.

\$25     \$50     \$100     \$250     \$500     Other

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

As an MCBW contributor, I would like to receive updates about MCBW and domestic violence via email.

Yes     No

Please return the completed form with contribution to the address above. We thank you for your generous support of MCBW.