

Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women

SPECIAL EDITION: Technology Safety Matters for Battered Women

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A Wisconsin woman grew increasingly concerned as her ex-boyfriend seemed to turn up every place she went, frequently threatening and harassing her. She could not figure out how he always seemed to know where she was. Police found a global positioning system (GPS) device under the hood of her car, which made it possible for the man to track every place the woman went in her car.

After separating from his wife, a man in Michigan secretly installed a program, known as spyware, that allowed him to be able to read all of her e-mail, monitor her web surfing, and log every keystroke on her computer. The spyware would have been impossible for the woman to detect on her computer if the man hadn't sent her taunting e-mails that convinced her he had access to her computer. She called the police to have them examine her computer. The man pled guilty to eavesdropping and using a computer to commit a crime and received 2 years probation.

A woman in New England e-mailed a friend to ask for help in leaving her abusive husband. After she sent the message, she was careful to delete the e-mail from the "Sent" folder in her e-mail program but forgot to empty the e-mail from the "Deleted" folder. Her husband found her e-mail and murdered her.

Technology can be a great resource for battered women and advocates alike. The web allows a battered woman the ability to look

for resources from her home or workplace. It also allows battered women's programs to easily and inexpensively reach out to survivors of abuse, and potential donors and volunteers. Cordless phones and cell phones give advocates more flexibility in working with women and children. Advocate databases allow instant access to critical data.

Unfortunately, as battered women and advocates become more familiar with technology, so do abusers. Abusers are using technology such as GPS systems, spyware, police scanners, and more to track and control their victims. In addition, our society is using technology to collect and disseminate data, such as court and voter records on the Internet, and sensitive information in large databases such as the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). All of these systems are open to security risks for battered women and their children.

Safety planning is a critical component of the work we do as advocates with battered women and their children and it is essential that we educate ourselves about the benefits and potential risks of technology. In the next year, MCBW will be conducting ongoing trainings with our member programs on technology safety. Technology safety for battered women is a complicated subject that is always changing. If you have any questions about tech safety, please call Danielle Kluz at (651) 646-6177.

PLEASE NOTE:

Because much of the information in this newsletter is of a sensitive nature, please do not post any of the technology safety information in this issue anywhere on the Internet or distribute outside of your organization without MCBW's permission.

Thank you to the National Network to End Domestic Violence's Safety Net staff for bringing this issue to the forefront and for much of the information used in this issue.

Director's Update

Cyndi Cook, Executive Director

As you all know, this year's legislative session held great promise but ended in frustration on so many levels. The Senate and the House failed to reach an agreement on many of the larger issues before them, and adjourned without completing much of their work. This has a tremendous impact on battered women throughout the state, as not only did the Legislature fail to pass funding bills that included the reinstatement of crime victim services funding, but many other services and resources remained greatly diminished by the large funding cuts that occurred in the 2003 session. As we are all too aware, safety for many women and children often depends on the services and resources available to them. That safety must be strengthened in all communities, not weakened by a society that fails to support them.

The tenuous financial situation of many of our member programs was a key topic of discussion at the MCBW Board and Staff Strategic Planning Meeting held in May. We focused our efforts on determining the most important and critical functions that the Coalition serves for our member programs and for victims of domestic violence statewide. Key functions and activities that were identified included: information and resource clearinghouse/public awareness; public policy advocacy and legislation; training and

technical assistance; networking/membership building; and challenging systems and institutions. We identified some priorities in each area and discussed strategies for how best to target Coalition resources over the next three years to support and enhance the work of our member programs throughout the state.

Although the impact of the pending state budget cuts for FY05 have been made painfully clear, I am reminded every day that the strength, courage, and dedication of those involved in this movement does not rise or fall with the funding. We all know that the work we do is too important for that. The battered women's movement in the state of Minnesota continues to change the world in which we live and to make it a safer place for women and children, just as it has done for the past 30 years. At the same time, we know that the work of ending violence against women and children is not ours alone. It will take a community of women and men working together, fully committed to a safer, more peaceful world. As increasing numbers continue to join that effort each day, we call on those who represent us in our state's government to reflect that same commitment, and to do all in their power to support the effort to end violence against women.

The Battered Women's Legal Advocacy Project and the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women are pleased to announce the schedule for the

2004 New Laws Trainings

September 9-10: Carlton

September 13-14: Crookston

September 16-17: Fergus Falls

September 20-21: Princeton

September 23-24: Twin Cities

September 27-28: Windom

Topics at this two-day training will include: new federal, state and tribal laws; question and answer with BWLAP lawyers; the legislative process; emerging issues; housing issues; VAWA and visa issues; and get out the vote.

Registration materials coming SOON! If you have any questions, please call BWLAP at (612) 343-9842.

Cellular and Cordless Telephones: Convenience vs. Safety

Danielle Kluz, Communications Coordinator

In New England a few years ago, a group of battered women's advocates worked out of a courthouse. They frequently needed to call survivors to update them on their court cases and let them know about upcoming hearings. Because they had no office space at the courthouse, the advocates had to call women from a pay phone in a very public space. The advocates asked their state coalition for cell phones so that they could make more private calls and were granted their request.

A man who lived across the street from the courthouse owned a radio scanner. He overheard the calls the advocates made to survivors on their cell phones, which were older analog models. On hearing days, the neighbor would frequently take the abuser aside and offer to sell him information on the survivor's case against him. Needless to say, the abuser frequently took the man up on his offer. The advocates could not figure out how abusers kept showing up in court, knowing exactly what their partners were going to say. A batterer finally admitted to authorities that he'd bought information from the courthouse neighbor, but unfortunately, the neighbor could not be prosecuted as it did not violate state law to listen to something that was being broadcast. The advocates had to stop using the analog cell phones.

This true story illustrates the conflict between the convenience and the dangers of technology. Cell and cordless phones can make the jobs of advocates much easier to accomplish, but they can also have serious safety and confidentiality risks for battered women.

Cordless phones are the telephones commonly used in homes or offices that allow the speaker to move about the room/office/home while on the telephone. Their signals are carried through telephone lines, just as with corded phones. **Cellular/wireless** phones are the telephones that can be used just about anywhere—home, office, in the car, while shopping—as long as there is service available. They are basically extremely sophisticated radios and their signals are commonly carried through networks of base stations.

Calls made on **cordless phones** can easily be intercepted by a baby monitor or a radio scanner. Radio scanners are readily available, easy to use, and inexpensive. Cordless phones can be extremely useful to an advocate who has to do several things at once and still take crisis calls, but calls received on a cordless phone can be extremely insecure. Newer and more

expensive cordless phones, such as VTEC phones, are safer than the inexpensive models, but calls made on them can still be intercepted.

Consider the following for your program:

- Have corded phones available so that crisis calls or private/sensitive calls can be made/taken on them.
- If the advocate takes a crisis call on a cordless phone, consider switching to a corded phone right away.
- If a call must be made on a cordless phone, limit identifying information or other sensitive information.
- Ask survivors if they are using cordless phones. Discuss ways to limit call interception by using a corded phone at home/work/a friend's house, etc.
- Encourage supporters of your program to donate or purchase corded phones to give out to survivors.

Cellular/wireless phones are even more useful than cordless phones for the advocate. Advocates who must spend a lot of the time on the road, from office to courthouse and everywhere else in between, find cell phones an easy way to contact survivors and get business done when not in the office. However, there are safety risks to using cell phones, too.

There are two types of cell/wireless phones currently being used: analog and digital. **Analog** cell phones are the older form of cell phones and carry data through radio waves, just as cordless phones. Calls on analog phones are very easy to intercept. **Digital** cell calls are much more difficult to intercept but the technology available for doing so is becoming less expensive and easier to obtain. Also, phone company employees and law enforcement may be able to intercept digital cell phone calls. Digital phones will switch to analog function in an area without digital coverage, something common in rural communities.

Some things to consider about cell phones:

- Digital phone calls are more difficult to intercept than analog calls, but that is rapidly changing.
- Contact your local cell phone service provider(s) (especially if your program is in a rural area) to

(Continued on page 8)

The Promise Program

Kim Graham, Administrative Assistant

Hello to all of MCBW's member programs and supporters! My name is Kim Graham and I'm the new Administrative Assistant. I first came to the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women to do an internship through the Promise Program in St. Paul. I was hired as a full-time employee after my internship ended in May. If you call our office, my voice will most likely be the one you hear answer the phone.

The Promise Program began in 1973 as a career skills and personal development program for women seeking self-sufficiency. It was founded by the Union Gospel Mission with instructors from the St. Paul Technical Vocational Institute. In the fall of 1988, the administration and accreditation of the program changed to Crown College. The Promise Program is located at the Ober Community Center in the Summit-University neighborhood of St. Paul.

Women in the Promise Program enroll for a two semester program of college-level courses, followed by an 8-week internship to gain workplace skills and experience. The Promise Program provides a plan of education that integrates classroom studies with planned and supervised practical experience. The program believes that individual development is best achieved through combining classroom and field experience. Some of the career skills I obtained in my coursework were keyboarding, Microsoft Office applications, proofreading, filing, and business telephone skills. We also prepared for employment by working on resumes, cover letters, and mock interviewing.

The staff and faculty of the Promise Program were great. They truly wanted the best of success for their students and pushed us to do the best we could do and move into our new careers. I also enjoyed getting

to know the other women in the program as we all were different from one another but had so much in common as we went through the program.

After completing my coursework, I had to choose a place of business where I could do my internship. I selected MCBW for my internship because at one time in my life I was a battered woman and didn't know about all the programs that could help me. I wanted to intern at MCBW to help other women out of abusive situations. While interning at MCBW, I got to meet some of the most down-to-earth women, who are willing to fight for what they believe in for women of all colors and cultures. I also got to work on my administrative skills in a real world setting!

Just as I was completing my internship, I was offered the Administrative Assistant position at MCBW. It was exciting to graduate from the Promise Program, in front of my friends and family, and know I already had a great job lined up.

When I'm not at work, I enjoy spending time with my husband, Terrance, and my 3-year-old son, Rossitti. I also like playing all sorts of sports, fishing, cooking, and being outside as much as I can.

If your program would like to host an intern from the Promise Program, or you know of a woman who would be a good candidate for the program, you can call Carol Wickstrom, the program's director at (651) 224-3024. Financial aid is available to those who qualify. Or feel free to call me any time here at MCBW at (651) 646-6177 or e-mail me at kgraham@mcbw.org.

I very much look forward to meeting all of MCBW's members and supporters in the future!

SAVE THE DATE

*The Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women
Annual Meeting and Statewide Conference*

November 11-13, 2004

Ruttger's Bay Lake Lodge, Brainerd, MN

We can't wait to see you there!

Legislative Session Update

Lonna Stevens, Public Policy and Legislative Coordinator

The 2004 Legislative Session came to an end on May 16th, 2004 without a bonding or funding bill for the State of Minnesota and will likely be remembered as one the most unproductive sessions in recent history. More than 2,000 bills were heard during the session and just over 160 were signed into law by Governor Pawlenty. There has been much discussion about whether or not the House and Senate will reconvene for a Special Session. However, Governor Pawlenty, House Speaker Steve Swiggum, Minority Leader Senator Dean Johnson, and lawmakers were not able to agree on contentious issues, and fueled by election-year politics it is unlikely we will have a Special Session.



Waiting outside of Governor Pawlenty's office to sign H.F. 1944/S.F. 1797 into law. (L-R: Cyndi Cook, Becci Leonard, Vanessa, Delia Ruiz, Naly Yang, Kim Graham, Danielle Kluz, Lonna Stevens in front.)

Legislative organizing and mobilizing for the 2004 Session was resounding in that, for the first time in three years, crime victim services did not receive further funding cuts. More importantly, we were able to secure support for crime victim services funding in the House Judiciary Policy Omnibus Bill for \$532,000 and in the Senate State Government Budget Division for \$1.5 million for crime victim services and \$500,000 for sexual violence prevention. Unfortunately, without agreement among state leaders on issues to address in a special session, we will likely have to continue our mobilizing and organizing for the 2005 session to finally secure this critical funding.

Although the prospect for averting funding cuts to our member programs looks grim, there is some good news to report on the policy side. Before the session

ended on May 16th, 2004 Governor Pawlenty did sign two bills into State law that were identified as policy issues by our members programs and the MCBW Legislative Committee.

The first law, H.F. 1944/S.F. 1797, provides for an extension for an Order for Protection (OFP) for domestic violence victims when their abusers are about to be released from jail or prison. Previously, OFPs could only be extended for three reasons: violation of a past order, fear of physical harm, or actual acts of harassment or stalking. This bill was officially signed into law April 26, 2004 and became effective April 27th, 2004.

This bill would not have passed so quickly and easily through the House and Senate if it wasn't for the invaluable testimony of Vanessa, a survivor from Southwest Minnesota, who testified before the House Civil Law Committee in February about how she was not granted an OFP extension when her abuser was about to be released from jail. We are very grateful for the support for this bill given by Representative Steve Smith, Senator Don Betzold, government affairs consultants Joel Carlson and Jane Krentz, and Becci Leonard of Women's Rural Advocacy Program in Yellow Medicine County.



With Governor Pawlenty, Representative Smith, and Joel Carlson during the bill signing.

The second law, which was included in the Data Practices Omnibus Bill in the House and Senate, H.F. 2087/S.F. 1889, allows a victim of domestic violence, or her attorney, access to a police report upon request at no cost. The bill was officially signed into law May 30th, 2004 and became effective May 31st, 2004. This bill was passed in the House and Senate with the key testimony of Bev Balos of the Univer-

(Continued on page 6)

Legislative Session Update

Continued from page 5

sity of Minnesota Law School, and government affairs consultants Joel Carlson and Jane Krentz. We would like to thank Representative Steve Smith and Senator Don Betzold for their support and leadership on this policy item.

Along with our policy successes, it is important to keep in mind that there were also a few bills that if passed could have further harmed battered women and Minnesota families. A House bill that would have increased the \$50 MFIP cash deduction for families who receive MFIP and are living in subsidized housing to a \$200 cash deduction collapsed as the session ended; and also the Child Support Income Shares bill (please see the Legal Services Advocacy Project update below).

It is imperative to understand the significance of your organizing and mobilizing this session. Many of you tirelessly called, wrote, or visited your Representatives and Senators this session! When I met with legislators, they knew your names and programs, and it truly spoke to grassroots organizing. I want to encourage you to continue the crucial relationship-building with legislators, and to gear up for the House elections. Find out whether the House candidates

running in the upcoming elections support battered women's services in Minnesota. **And remember to VOTE on Tuesday, November 2nd, 2004!**

Legal Services Advocacy Project Legislative Update from Nancy Mischel:

Last year the House passed an income shares child support bill which would consider both parents' income in setting child support, rather than just that of the obligor's as under our current guidelines system. The Senate did not pass the income shares bill last year. The bill was heard again this year in the Judiciary Committee and passed with some amendments that have the net effect of reducing child support for custodial parents and their children. The bill was then sent to the Senate Finance Committee because it had fiscal implications. Due in large part to the opposition of Senator Linda Berglin, the bill did not receive a hearing in the Finance Committee. Unfortunately, the bill will definitely be back next year. Senator Betzold, who chairs the Judiciary Committee has said that he will author the bill next year if this year's author, Senator Neuville, decides not to sponsor the bill again.

The Women of Color and Native Women's Network

Naly Yang, Training and Program Coordinator

The network is back in action after a couple of months' hiatus! Initial meetings have focused on how to best determine and steer the direction of the network's activities in 2004-2005.

Here are some of the exciting new ideas we have brainstormed in the last few meetings:

- To continue with trainings at network meetings;
- To host a public policy awareness training on how and why women of color should be involved in the legislative process;
- To conduct Domestic Violence 101 trainings in the Hmong and Spanish languages;
- To create a Minnesota women of color resource directory; and
- To strengthen women of color leadership capacity

through networking, a sharing of resources, and creating a mentoring model for emerging new leaders.

The next network meeting is scheduled for **June 30, 2004 from 10:30-2:30 p.m.** here at MCBW, 1821 University Ave. West, Suite S-112, St. Paul. You are welcome to join the meeting via teleconference if you are outside of the Twin Cities area. All women of color and Native women are invited to join us in our new endeavors.

If you're interested in joining the network or have questions, give Naly a call at (651) 646-6177.

Your Program's Web Site: Minimizing Safety Risks

Danielle Kluz, Communications Coordinator

More than half of the battered women's programs in Minnesota have web sites. Web sites are a great way for programs to educate the general public about domestic abuse, to do grassroots organizing, to recruit volunteers and staff, and to raise funds. Program web sites are also an effective way to reach out to battered women by providing information about domestic violence in general and, specifically, about the services the program offers and how to reach the program.

We know that battered women are using the web to look for help. A one-year study of unsolicited e-mail sent to one national domestic violence program found that 35.8% of the e-mail they received was from survivors of domestic violence, sexual violence and stalking. Your program's web site can be an valuable way to let battered women know how you can help.

However, caution must be taken with our programs' web sites in terms of safety for the survivor. We know that there are many ways for an abuser to track a victim's computer use, including reading her e-mail and following where she goes on the web. A battered woman can be at great risk in visiting your web site or sending your program an e-mail.

There are several basic, but critically important, things your program can do to minimize the risk for battered women.

- In the past, many programs (including MCBW) provided web pages that described ways to "clear" online tracks. We now know that, with the advent of spyware and other monitoring devices, that this is not effective or safe advice.
- Your web site should, **on every single page**, alert survivors to the potential risk of computer use and urge them to use a "safer computer."

Example of the warning posted on every MCBW web site page:

SAFETY ALERT: Your abuser can monitor your use of your computer and the Internet. If you are in danger, please use a safer computer, call 911 or your local hotline, or call the National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-SAFE (7233). For more details, click

- The safety alert posted at the top of every page of your web site should lead to a technology safety page that explains, in greater detail, the risks of

using a computer to find help and the use of "safer computers."

Example of the MCBW tech safety page:

(www.mcbw.org/safe.htm)

1. **Computers create records in hundreds of ways of everything you do on the computer and on the Internet.**
2. **If you are in danger, please try to use a safer computer where someone abusive does not have direct access, or even remote (hacking) access.**
3. **It might be safer to use a computer in a public library, at a community technology center (CTC) www.ctcnet.org (national directory), at a trusted friend's house, or at an Internet café.**
4. **If you think your activities are being monitored, you are probably right. Abusive people are controlling and want to know your every move. You don't need to be a computer programmer or have special skills to monitor someone's computer activities - anyone can do it and there are many ways to monitor.**
5. **Computers can provide a lot of information about what you look at on the Internet, the emails you send, and other activities. It is not possible to delete or clear all computer "footprints."**
6. **If you think you may be monitored on your home computer, you might consider no home Internet use or "safer" Internet surfing.**

E-mail is not a safe or confidential way to talk to someone about the danger or abuse in your life; please call one of the below hotlines or MCBW at 651-646-6177 instead.

If you are in danger, please:

1. Call 911, or
2. Call the Day One Center at 1-866-223-1111, or
3. Call the National Domestic Violence Hotline at: 1-800-799-SAFE.

"Corded" phones are more private than cell phones or cordless phones.

- It is important that not too much information be

(Continued on page 8)

Your Program's Web Site: Minimizing Safety Risks

Continued from page 7

posted on your web site about tech safety. While we want to educate battered women about the potential risks of computer use, we also do not want to educate abusers, either.

- Your program should think about formulating a policy on how to safely address e-mail from survivors looking for help. We certainly don't want to put battered women in more risk by simply replying to an unsolicited e-mail for help with lots of details that could be dangerous for her if her abuser got hold of the e-mail. One idea is, on your web site, to encourage survivors to call your program, and if they do e-mail, to provide a safe telephone number (if they can) where you can contact them.
- Make sure your program's web site encourages survivors needing help to call you, rather than e-mail. E-mail is much riskier than telephone calls for survivors.
- If you can, remove all e-mail addresses from your web site, to reduce the risk for survivors. Otherwise, when a visitor simply clicks on the e-mail address link on your web site, a copy of that e-mail address and anything she sends will likely

be stored somewhere in her computer.

- A safer way to allow e-mail to be sent to your program is to have an e-mail web form on your site. If you have a e-mail web form, you can also ask survivors what is the safest way to contact them, telephone or e-mail.
- Make sure that names and contact information of staff members, survivors, volunteers, and/or board members are not posted on your program's web site without their express permission.

If you have any questions about your program's web site or e-mail usage related to safety risks for battered women, please feel free to contact Danielle Kluz at MCBW at (651) 646-6177.

Once again, thank you to the NNEDV Safety Net team for information used in this article and other articles in this newsletter. NNEDV is currently re-evaluating this particular material and MCBW will keep you updated on new information on this topic.

Cellular and Cordless Telephones: Convenience vs. Safety

Continued from page 3

ask if digital service is available in your service area.

- Ask a survivor if she is using an analog cell phone. If she is, encourage her, if possible, to switch to a digital phone.
- Advocates should be cautious about discussing sensitive data with or about survivors on an analog cellular phone. Whenever possible, crisis calls should not be taken on cell phones, especially if they are analog cell phones.
- If a survivor uses an analog cell phone, encourage her to get a digital phone. A less-expensive alternative for a newer phone is a pre-paid cell phone or a pay-as-you-go cell phone. It may also be possible to obtain a new digital phone with airtime for a battered woman from a phone donation program such as the Wireless Foundation (www.wirelessfoundation.org).
- The survivor should consider getting a new phone if her current phone is part of a family

plan and her abuser has access to her billing records.

- Remind survivors using digital cell phones about how their phones can go into analog function (which she may be able to tell on her phone's screen when the D turns into an A), especially in rural areas. Also remind them that some digital phones can simply stop working in rural areas without digital service.

The issue of cellular and cordless phones and safety for battered women is extremely complex and seems to be changing at an incredibly fast pace. If you have questions at any time about your program's use of cell and cordless phones, or the use of these phones by survivors, please call Danielle Kluz at (651) 646-6177. Stay tuned for more updates on this issue and trainings in the future.

Technology Safety Planning with Survivors: Tips to Discuss if Someone You Know is in Danger

The National Network to End Domestic Violence Safety Net

Technology can be very helpful to victims of domestic violence, sexual violence, and stalking. However, it is important to also consider how technology can be misused.

1. **Trust your instincts.** If you suspect the abusive person knows too much, it is possible that your phone, computer, e-mail, or other activities are being monitored. Abusers and stalkers can act in incredibly persistent and creative ways to maintain power and control.
2. **Plan for safety.** Navigating violence, abuse, and stalking is very difficult and dangerous. Advocates at the National Domestic Violence Hotline have been trained on technology issues, and can discuss options and help you in your safety planning. Local hotline advocates can also help you plan for safety. (*National DV Hotline: 1-800-799-7233 or TTY 800-787-3224*)
3. **Take precautions if you have a “techie” abuser.** If computers and technology are a profession or a hobby for the abuser/stalker, trust your instincts. If you think he/she may be monitoring or tracking you, talk to a hotline advocate or the police.
4. **Use a safer computer.** If anyone abusive has access to your computer, he/she might be monitoring your computer activities. Try to use a safer computer when you look for help, a new place to live, etc. It may be safest to use a computer at a trusted friend’s house (one where the abuser has *no* access to the computer), public library, community center, or Internet café.
5. **Create a new e-mail account.** If you suspect that anyone abusive can access your e-mail, consider creating an additional e-mail account on a safer computer. Do not create or check this new e-mail from a computer your abuser could access, in case it is monitored. Use an anonymous name, and account: (example: bluecat@email.com, not YourRealName@email.com) Look for free web based e-mail accounts, and do not provide detailed information about yourself when registering for a new account.
6. **Check your cell phone settings.** If you are using a cell phone provided by the abusive person, consider turning it off when not in use. Also many phones let you to “lock” the keys so a phone won’t automatically answer or call if it is bumped. When on, check the phone settings; if your phone has an optional location service, you may want to switch the location feature off/on via phone settings or by turning your phone on and off.
7. **Change passwords and PIN numbers.** Some abusers use victims’ email and other accounts to impersonate and cause harm. If anyone abusive knows or could guess your passwords, change them quickly and frequently. Think about changing the password on any password protected accounts - online banking, voice mail, etc.
8. **Minimize use of cordless phones or baby monitors.** If you don’t want others to overhear your conversations, turn baby monitors off when not in use and use a traditional corded phone for sensitive conversations.
9. **Use a donated or new cell phone.** When making or receiving private calls or arranging escape plans, try not to use a shared or family cell phone because cell phone billing records and phone logs might reveal your plans to an abuser. Contact your local hotline program to learn about donation programs that provide new cell phones and/or pre-paid phone cards to victims of abuse and stalking.
10. **Ask about your records and data.** Many court systems and government agencies are publishing records to the Internet. Ask agencies how they protect or publish your records and request that court, government, post office and others seal or restrict access to your files to protect your safety.
11. **Get a private mailbox and don’t give out your real address.** When asked by businesses, doctors, and others for your address, have a private mailbox address or a safer address to give them. Try to keep your true residential address out of national databases.
12. **Search for your name on the Internet.** Major search engines such as Google or Yahoo may have links to your contact information. Search for your name in quotation marks: “Full Name.” Check phone directory pages because unlisted numbers might be listed if you have given the number to anyone.

Community Solutions Fund Back in State of Minnesota Campaign

Community Solutions Fund, Minnesota's oldest and largest social justice federation, will again be a charitable giving option for Minnesota's 48,000 state employees. Satisfied with the actions taken by Department of Employee Relations Commissioner (DOER) Cal Ludeman to reverse his previous denial, Executive Director Marsha Frey stated that no legal action would be taken against the State of Minnesota at this time.

Community Solutions Fund was originally denied participation for the 2004 campaign by Commissioner Ludeman. The Commissioner's new interpretation of a 1983 state law claimed that groups engaged in advocacy activities did not meet the standards for participation in the state employee charitable giving campaign. Challenging the denial, attorneys for the Community Solutions Fund argued that the Commissioner had departed from a long-standing interpretation of state law and had operated outside of fundamental concepts of fairness and equal protection.

At a time when state leaders are calling on non-profit organizations to do more work with less funding, eliminating Community Solutions Fund from the state's workplace giving campaign would have been yet another blow to non-profit organizations already facing state budget cuts. Executive Director Marsha Frey stated, "Community Solutions Fund and our 47 member organizations serve a unique niche in the community. We play a vital leadership role by ad-

ressing the root causes of social problems. It is an integral part of our work in serving individuals in the community."

Since Community Solutions Fund joined the State of Minnesota's workplace giving campaign, state employees have donated over \$1.5 million to promoting social justice in Minnesota. "Clearly state employees value the services our member organizations provide to individuals and the community. They have spoken with their pocket books," Frey asserted.

A national leader in progressive philanthropy and workplace giving, Community Solutions Fund has earned a reputation for protecting and promoting sound public policy relating to non-profit charitable activities. Community Solutions Fund is a partner with other groups in the national fight against efforts to de-fund and curtail the activities of legitimate non-profit organizations that benefit the health and welfare of the community, including those that incorporate advocacy, research, and education with critical services.

"Community Solutions Fund is focused on our mission of achieving social justice and supporting the work of the non-profit community through philanthropy, through public policy and through practice. And, we will actively resist all efforts to limit the good and legal works of the charitable community." concluded Frey.

Supporting MCBW Through Community Solutions Fund: How Your Workplace Can Help

Community Solutions Fund is a collaboration of 47 of Minnesota's leading community self-help and activist organizations, serving as a central funder and resource developer for the Twin Cities social change community. Community Solutions Fund works in partnership with businesses to integrate their community commitment into their workplace giving drives, into their corporate volunteer involvement, and into specific cause marketing initiatives. Through Community Solutions Fund, employees have an opportunity to make a lasting difference.

Contributions to Community Solutions Fund are distributed to its member groups and collaborative projects that work to develop lasting solutions to persistent social problems. Since their first campaign in 1981, employees have pledged more than \$15 million dollars to Solutions Fund members and other donor-

designated charities.

The Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women has been a Community Solutions Fund member program since 1991. The funds we receive from CSF's workplace campaigns, unlike most government and private funding sources, are unrestricted.

Workplace donations through Community Solutions Fund make a huge difference for us at MCBW:

- An employee's donation of \$3 per pay period would allow MCBW to produce and print materials to train students at a St. Paul high school on teen dating violence.
- A \$5 per pay period donation would allow MCBW to offer scholarships to 2 domestic violence advocates in rural Minnesota to attend a training in

(Continued on page 11)

Thank You to Our AMAZING Donors

Thank you to the wonderful people, organizations, and businesses that donated to the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women from January 26 to June 24, 2004. Your cash and in-kind donations are very much appreciated by us. For more information on tax-deductible donations to the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women, please call Kim at (651) 646-6177. Please contact us if we failed to acknowledge you or your gift!

Carol Baldwin	Kay Kovach
Dana Bartocci	Mary Kay Cosmetics
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Roxanne Kavalosi	Julie Tilley
Kison, Clugg, Linder and Dittberner	Elizabeth Wefel
Barbara Klas	Janet Kay Wiig
Kowalski's Market Grand Avenue	Lisa Wilde

Welcome to our newest member programs!

The Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women is pleased to introduce the member programs who recently have joined the Coalition :

- **Committee Against Domestic Abuse, Mankato**
- **Jewish Domestic Abuse Collaborative, St. Paul**
- **Migrant Health Service Hispanic Battered Women and Children's Program, Crookston**
- **Minnesota Network on Abuse in Later Life, Roseville**
- **Women's Advocates, St. Paul**

If your program is interested in MCBW membership, please call Danielle Kluz at (651) 646-6177 or for more info on membership, check out our web site at www.mcbw.org.

Supporting MCBW Through Community Solutions Fund

Continued from page 10

- St. Paul on grassroots organizing to end violence against women.
- A \$10 per pay period donation would allow MCBW to send the Clothesline Project to 6 community groups, faith communities, and schools in the state.

One of the best ways you can help the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women and Community Solutions Fund is to start a Solutions Fund campaign at your workplace. If your employer conducts a campaign but the Solutions Fund is not offered as a choice, Commu-

nity Solutions Fund can be included as an option alongside United Way and any other charities that may be represented. If your employer does not have a workplace giving campaign, they can work with your business to initiate a charitable campaign that would be suitable for your working environment.

If you are interested in how your workplace can contribute to MCBW and other social justice organizations, call Community Solutions Fund at (651) 647-0440 or check out their web site at www.solutionsfund.org.

Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women

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

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(800) 289-6177
Crisis Line: (651) 646-0994
Fax: (651) 646-1527
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Web: www.mcbw.org

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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: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

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

We thank you for your generous support of MCBW.