

Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women

Full Circle Back to Social Change: Preventing Domestic Violence

Cyndi Cook, Executive Director

In recent years there has been an increased effort to approach ending violence against women as a public health issue. As a result, funding has been made available, particularly on a federal level, for the development of tools and projects that address the “primary prevention” of domestic and sexual violence within a public health framework. For example, dedicated prevention funding from the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) enabled the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Injury and Violence Prevention Center to develop a prevention framework addressing sexual violence. The CDC more recently has brought this analysis to domestic violence. The battered women’s movement has a unique opportunity to examine and learn from the prevention programming developed by public health and sexual violence organizations.

As MCBW begins to explore the models being

utilized in these efforts, I have been encouraged to note that the public health definition of “primary prevention” is actually very closely linked to much of the work of the battered women’s movement over the last three decades. As we engage our members in a critical analysis of this “new approach,” it seems particularly important to acknowledge that from the early days of the movement we have tried not only to understand but also to *change* the underlying conditions that lead to and support violence against women, and thereby have promoted strategies to change those social norms across the full spectrum of family, community, and institutional life.

As Gayle Stringer stated in her recent article, “Full Circle: Social Change to Individual Interventions... and Back,” “prevention of sexual and domestic violence today is based on much the same philosophy as at the inception of the movement; the work has come full circle back to social change.” According to Stringer, the early days of the movement were deeply grounded in the importance of looking beyond specific incidents of violence to discover and deal with the underlying social conditions that supported them. Early activists looked to the societal values that created a general tolerance for sexual and domestic violence. They worked to address and change those values, and through their efforts, domestic and sexual violence not only became more openly discussed in our society, but real changes also began to take place in laws and institutions.

Stringer goes on to describe that, predictably, as community awareness on these issues grew, so too did the demand for individual services. Because this need overwhelmed the existing resources, many advocacy programs were forced to shift their focus to providing emergency services for victims, and too

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Students from the Minnesota African Women’s Association AGILE group at Choose Respect Teen Summit/Girls Rock! The Capitol, a February 2007 event to build leadership among youth to prevent violence against women and girls

Full Circle Back to Social Change

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often did not have the resources to do the larger social change work they knew was so important. Recognizing that there can never be enough emergency services if we also are not working to change the societal values and institutions that support the violence, advocates have begun to re-examine and embrace activism and social change as central tenets to the work. As a result, local and national advocates have worked to gain the resources necessary to provide for a balance between emergency services and broader systems and social change efforts that seek to stop the violence before it starts.

Early activists also recognized that social change would be most effective and lasting through alliances with other community members, and they mobilized to bring communities together to end violence against women. As described by Dr. Ellen Pence in *Coordinated Community Response to Domestic Violence: Lessons from Duluth and Beyond*, lessons learned over the years included “basing our frame of reference on the experience of those who are battered, taking up the complexities and not covering up the relationship of the violence to the social realities of a society steeped in class, gender, and race inequities.” As we have long recognized, the personal is political and the political is personal.

As you will see on page 7, there are many new initiatives and projects being developed as increased resources for prevention efforts become available. While the terms currently used may be new or different from those that have evolved in the battered women’s movement, much of the work is the same. You will note a ring of familiarity as you look at the work of the Prevention Institute (www.preventioninstitute.org), for example. Their model is closely linked to much of what the battered women’s movement has been engaged in from the beginning—e.g. changing the social norms and institutional support for power and dominance that allow violence against women to go unchecked.

In a review of resources currently available, it is important to recognize that many of the public health tools were developed to be applied to a variety of health-related topics. These models can certainly be effective when applied to ending violence against women, but we need to be thoughtful about ensuring that they are applied with an understanding of the underlying systems of power and control that foster domestic violence. If we fail to do this, it will be all too easy to develop prevention strategies that attempt to end battering by increasing victims’ self-esteem or addressing abusers’ anger or feelings of powerlessness rather

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What Is the Difference Between Primary Prevention and Outreach Education?

The Michigan Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence defines primary prevention as: “Reducing the incidence of violence against women by changing the societal norms, practices and behaviors that support the oppression of women.”

According to Brad Perry, MA, of the Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance, the typical goal of *outreach education* is to make people aware of the scope and impact of violence against women and how to seek help for victims. *Primary prevention* efforts seek to impact individual knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors that correspond to the root causes of violence against women.

“Primary prevention efforts empower people as agents to change this world,” states Perry.

Prevention in Action: The Choose Respect Teen Leadership Summit/Girls Rock! The Capitol Event

Danielle Kluz, Public Awareness and Prevention Coordinator

Sixty high school and middle school students gathered in St. Paul on February 27-28, 2007 for the groundbreaking Choose Respect Teen Leadership Summit to End Dating Violence and Sexual Assault/Girls Rock! The Capitol event, co-sponsored by the Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault, the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women, and the Minnesota Women's Consortium. It was the first time youth gathered from all over Minnesota to build their leadership skills in preventing dating violence and sexual assault.

Recent research by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) shows adolescents who report being physically hurt by a partner in the past year are more likely to report binge drinking, suicide attempts, physical fighting, and current sexual activity. According to the United States Bureau of Justice, women ages 16 to 24 experience the highest per capita rates of intimate partner violence—nearly 20 per 1000 women. Sexual assault also disproportionately affects young people. According to a United States Department of Justice report, 61% of all sexual assault victims are younger than 18.

In 2006, MCBW, MNCASA, and 21 of their member programs collaborated with the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on the Choose Respect initiative to help adolescents, ages 11 to 14 years old, form healthy relationships. The



Minnesota Lynx player Shona Thorburn with Teen Summit/Girls Rock! The Capitol participants



The Teens Against Dating Abuse Group train their peers on creating school-based prevention groups

effort focused on preventing teen dating violence and sexual assault by encouraging teens to engage in positive relationship patterns and intervene when they witness abusive behaviors.

It is critical for youth to become *leaders* in their communities in ending violence against women. The Choose Respect Teen Leadership Summit was developed to address this need.

The Choose Respect Teen Leadership Summit, held on February 27, 2007, provided an opportunity for teens to learn more about dating violence and sexual assault, learn to work with their peers to prevent violence, and learn how to influence policies and legislation on these issues. Four high school students from the Teens Against Dating Abuse program in Mille Lacs County presented a workshop on creating a school-based prevention group, based on their own experiences with their school group. In addition, Rep. Ken Tschumper of La Crescent made a surprise appearance during an interactive “how to talk to your legislators” exercise and gave the youth his feedback on their messaging and presentations.

The Choose Respect Teen Leadership Summit was generously underwritten by Verizon Wireless and the Minnesota Lynx. MCBW and MNCASA are very appreciative of their support and of their

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Prevention in Action

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commitment to ending teen dating violence and sexual assault. Minnesota Lynx player Shona Thorburn appeared at the Teen Summit to greet the youth and offer her support of their efforts.

On February 28th, the youth broadened their leadership skills at Girls Rock! The Capitol. The day was an opportunity to learn how to make their voices heard at the State Capitol on dating violence and sexual assault prevention.

At Girls Rock! The Capitol, teens attended workshops, met with their legislators, attended the Violence Against Women Action Day Rally at the Capitol Rotunda, and participated in a mock Senate hearing. Vicki Nelson of Range Women's Advocates in Virginia was impressed by the energy of the youth at the Violence Against Women Action Day Rally. "It felt good to see our future in action, and I hope that their involvement becomes more active as time goes on."

Dawn Rutt of Alexandra House in Blaine is hopeful that the effects of the Choose Respect Teen Summit/Girls Rock! The Capitol will be lasting with her youth group. "My group was able to share with others what they were doing...and take back ideas from the other students. The Teen Summit gave them new and different tools and resources to share the message about preventing dating violence and sexual assault with other youth."

The young people who attended the event learned the importance of such leadership-building opportunities. One teen participant said, after the event, "It gave me a lot of ideas on how to create my own prevention group at school. I hope more schools can join us next year." "I learned



verizonwireless



Teens present stuffed animals to remember victims of child abuse during the 2007 Violence Against Women Action Day Rally

that young women have more power to make change that we think we do," said another student.

There is much more work to be done to prevent violence against women and girls. The national Choose Respect initiative demonstrates an emphasis on behavioral and attitudinal change in youth and primarily addresses prevention on the individual and relationship levels of the ecological model of prevention (please see page 6 for more information). It has yet to fully address challenging our society as a whole in ending the oppression that causes dating violence, domestic violence, and sexual assault.

To the existing Choose Respect initiative, MCBW has added its own efforts to build the leadership of teens to create their own school-based prevention groups and influence their local and statewide decision-makers. These are important steps towards prevention of domestic violence and sexual assault; however, violence against women and girls will end only when we can also address the root causes that allow such violence to flourish in our society. The Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women plans to use our work with the Choose Respect Initiative in the last eighteen months as a building block for developing the critical social change that must occur before violence against women can truly end.

The Path to Prevention: MCBW to Develop Statewide Prevention Plan

Through our work to end violence against all women and children, it has been a top priority for MCBW to prevent future harm for all Minnesotans. It is not enough to promote justice and provide safety for individual battered women and their children; we must address the root causes of battering and work to change our societal norms so that we can stop the violence before it ever happens.

For the past several years, MCBW has been engaged in a number of initiatives geared towards prevention of teen dating violence. In 2005, MCBW launched the Let's Talk About public awareness campaign to prevent teen dating violence among youth of color and immigrant/refugee youth in the Twin Cities. (For more information, please see the Let's Talk About campaign web site at www.letstalkforteens.com.)

In 2006, MCBW, the Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault, and 21 of our member programs collaborated on the Centers for Disease Control's Choose Respect initiative to end teen dating violence and sexual assault. (Please see page 3 for more information.) We know that our member programs want to actively engage in prevention work, but often lack the resources to do so. Choose Respect provided strategies and tools that allowed members to work with their local youth.

In addition, while we know that it is important to educate youth on teen dating violence and sexual assault issues, it is also critical to nurture the leadership of youth to work in their schools and communities. The Choose Respect Teen Leadership Summit/Girls Rock! The Capitol event held in February 2007 provided an excellent opportunity for youth to begin to develop some of those important leadership skills.

As we move forward MCBW will be developing a prevention plan that engages communities and systems throughout Minnesota so that we can promote a shared understanding of why domestic violence occurs in our society and a shared commitment to changing the beliefs, attitudes, and institutions that foster battering. While this kind of effort to deal with the root causes of domestic violence is often defined as "primary prevention," based on a public health model, we are also mindful

that this is work that has been done throughout the history of the battered women's movement. It will be critical that the plan we develop and implement takes into account not only what we have learned through some of our more recent projects, but also the vast knowledge and experience that has been developed by advocates working in the battered women's movement over the past thirty years.

It is for this reason that the MCBW prevention initiative in the next year will focus on gathering information about the successful efforts of our member programs. MCBW will also be collecting and evaluating prevention resources from community partners such as the Minnesota Department of Health, schools and universities, and health systems. Additionally, we will be researching prevention modules and best practices on a national level, including surveying other state coalitions on their current prevention strategies and the successes and challenges they've experienced in developing effective prevention initiatives.

From the outcomes of our research of national and state prevention initiatives, MCBW will assess "The State of Prevention in Minnesota." With further feedback from our membership, we will determine the current gaps and needs in the efforts of our member programs to engage in effective and lasting prevention efforts. From this, we will develop a two-year statewide prevention plan that builds and enhances the capacity of our member programs to increase prevention work in their communities.

We encourage the active participation of our members and partners in shaping our upcoming prevention plan—stay tuned for future opportunities!



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than getting at the root causes of the violence. While the psychological and emotional impact on individuals is undeniable, the underlying cause of the systemic, controlling behavior we define as battering is societal and only change on a broad societal level will end this violence.

Preventing violence against women is a goal we all share. The battered women's movement has been working toward systems and societal change for decades, using tools that were developed out of the experiences of battered women and based in a social change ideology intent on dismantling the root causes of battering. It is no small thing that the public health field is now joining these efforts, though the language used to describe the work may be different.

As we move forward, we will need to promote respectful dialogue about the terms and definitions used in each field and the common linkages in our work. We will best be able to develop an inclusive statewide plan and target valuable and limited resources toward the most effective prevention strategies if we understand our history, our differences, and our common goal: to end violence against women.

We encourage you to review the resources listed below and page 7 and to provide MCBW with feedback on their usefulness. We are specifically looking for feedback related to their effectiveness as resources for engaging in domestic violence prevention strategies that are grounded in an understanding of the root causes of domestic violence and the day-to-day lived experiences of those who are battered.

Prevention Definitions and Models:

From Lee, David et al. "Sexual Violence Prevention." *The Prevention Researcher*, 14(2007):15-20.

Primary prevention: Activities that take place before violence has occurred to prevent initial perpetration or victimization.

Secondary Prevention: Immediate responses after violence has occurred to deal with the short-term consequences

Tertiary Prevention: Long-term responses after violence has occurred to deal with the lasting consequences of violence and offender treatment interventions

The two models most commonly applied to sexual violence prevention by those in the public health field:

Ecological Model of Prevention: Explains violence and identifies potential prevention strategies based on 4 levels:

- **Individual** - Person's knowledge, attitudes, behavior, history, demographics, biology
- **Relationship** - Influence of parents, siblings, peers, intimate partners
- **Community** - Norms, customs, people's experiences with local institutions such as schools, workplaces, places of worship, criminal justice agencies, etc.
- **Societal** - Inequalities, oppressions, organized belief systems, relevant public policies (or lack thereof)

The Spectrum of Prevention: Six complementary levels designed to support developing comprehensive prevention efforts:

1. Strengthening individual knowledge and skills
2. Promoting community education
3. Educating providers
4. Fostering coalitions and networks
5. Changing organizational practices
6. Influencing policies and legislation

Resources:

Stringer, Gayle M (2007). "Full Circle: Social Change to Individual Interventions...and Back." *Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance Revolution*, 1(2007):3-6

Shepard, Melanie F. and Pence, Ellen L. *Coordinating Community Responses to Domestic Violence: Lessons from Duluth and Beyond* (Thousand Oaks: Sage Series on Violence Against Women, 1999)

Learn More About Preventing Violence Against Women

There are a number of excellent resources on prevention that space does not permit us to reprint in full in this newsletter. We urge you to learn more about prevention by accessing these resources online.

Reports and Papers on Prevention:

Creating Safe Environments: Violence Prevention Strategies and Programs

Patti Culross, Larry Cohen, Ashby Wolfe, and Joanne Ruby (2006)

www.preventioninstitute.org/CreatingSafeEnvironments

An overview of promising primary violence prevention initiatives across the nation.

Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

David A. Wolfe and Peter G. Jaffe (2003)

http://new.vawnet.org/Assoc_Files_VAWnet/AR_Prevention.pdf

Summarizes the development of domestic violence and sexual assault prevention initiatives, identifying trends and promising developments.

Teen Dating Violence: A Review of Risk Factors and Prevention Efforts

Maura O'Keefe (2005)

www.vawnet.org/DomesticViolence/Research/VAWnetDocs/AR_TeenDatingViolence.pdf

A review of the dating violence literature with research on the effectiveness of teen dating violence prevention.

The Social Norms Approach to Violence Prevention—Alan J. Berkowitz (2003)

www.vawnet.org/DomesticViolence/PreventionAndEducation/Approaches/SocialNorms.php

Describes the social norms approach to preventing violence against women, seeking to engage men as allies.

Online Resources:

Minnesota Department of Health Injury and Violence Prevention Unit

www.health.state.mn.us/injury/index.cfm

Includes information on the Minnesota Sexual Violence Prevention Network, as well as many helpful resources.

Prevention Connection

www.preventconnect.org

A national online project to advance primary prevention of violence against women, including resources, opportunities for web conferences, and an e-mail discussion list for prevention educators.

Prevention Institute

www.preventioninstitute.org

A national center dedicated to improving community well-being by building momentum for effective primary prevention. Site includes training materials and articles.

Family Violence Prevention Fund Toolkit for Working with Men and Boys

<http://toolkit.endabuse.org/Home>

A toolkit designed to help advocates work with men and boys to prevent gender-based violence.

MCBW Welcomes Alicia Nichols to Our Staff

Please join us in welcoming **Alicia Nichols, LSW** to our staff as our new Membership and Training Coordinator. Alicia comes to us with a broad range of experience from her work at the Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault, where she provided technical assistance and support to member programs and coordinated trainings, statewide meetings, and community organizing efforts. She also has experience working with youth, providing crisis intervention, co-facilitating groups, and managing the development of individual action plans. In addition, Alicia brings to us her skills in providing direct services and crisis intervention for the medical and legal needs of survivors, and skills in preparing and implementing outreach education and trainings on resources for women of color.

Alicia will be responsible for the further development and implementation of our comprehensive membership plans, will provide technical assistance and support to Coalition members to enhance their ability to serve their communities, and will facilitate networking opportunities between members and others. Alicia will also assist in increasing and enhancing overall training opportunities for advocates and system practitioners.

We encourage you to call Alicia at (651) 646-6177, extension 26, to introduce yourself!

Preventing Future Harm: MCBW Releases *The 2006 Minnesota Femicide Report*

The Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women (MCBW) released *The 2006 Minnesota Femicide Report* at a press conference on February 7, 2007. The report documents the number of women and children murdered in 2006 as a result of domestic violence and child abuse.

According to the report:

- **At least 20 women** were murdered by an intimate partner or a family member.
- **At least 12 children** under the age of 18 were murdered by a family member or a caregiver.
- **At least 1 friend** was murdered in a domestic violence-related situation.
- **At least 29 children were left motherless** by the murders of their mothers.

For the report, the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women analyzed the 17 cases (of 20 total domestic violence murders) where women were murdered by intimate partners in 2006 and found red flags for batterer lethality, including:

- **The victim's attempts to leave the abuser:** In 8 of 17 (47%) intimate partner femicides, the victim was separated or was attempting to separate from the batterer at the time of her murder.
- **Threats to kill the victim:** Threats by the abuser to kill the victim are among the most reliable indicators of lethality, and are the most often overlooked by the criminal and civil justice system. In 6 of the 17 intimate partner femicides (35%), family and friends of the victim reported escalating violence on the part of the perpetrator and explicit threats to kill the victim.
- **The perpetrator's access to firearms:** 11 of 17 (65%) intimate partner femicides were committed with firearms. 6 of the 8 (75%) perpetrators who committed suicide after these femicides used firearms.
- **The perpetrator's history of violence:** In 11 of the 17 (65%) intimate partner femicides, the perpetrator was known to have abused the murder victim or a prior victim, and in 7 of the 17 intimate partner femicides (41%), there had been either prior involvement of law



Tony Hallin of Mille Lacs County's Teens Against Dating Abuse calls for increased teen dating violence prevention efforts

enforcement or applications for an Order for Protection.

Based on its research, the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women made recommendations for preventing future harm for battered women:

- **Assess batterer lethality at every opportunity:** Every time battered women or abusers encounter the criminal justice system, the civil or family court, or an advocacy program, an effort should be made to assess potential lethality.
- **Demand the resources to hold batterers accountable:** Assessing for lethality will have minimal impact unless an investment is made in the whole spectrum of public safety systems.
- **Examine batterer access to firearms:** Access to a lethal weapon by a dangerous perpetrator increases the risk of domestic homicide.

Carla Ferrucci, Director of Public Policy and Systems Change at MCBW, stated, "While the responsibility for these murders rests with the perpetrators alone, opportunities for meaningful intervention in many of these cases were missed. To prevent future harm to battered women, we must examine the reasons why our systems failed to protect those victims."

Vicki Seliger Swenson also spoke at the press conference. On September 22, 2006, her sister, Teri

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2007 Violence Against Women Action Day at the Capitol: Invest in a Violence-Free Minnesota

The theme for 2007's Action Day was "Invest in a Violence-Free Minnesota," as concerned citizens urged their legislators to invest in funding for victim service programs. The event was co-sponsored by the Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault, the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women, the Minnesota Indian Women's Sexual Assault Coalition, and the Minnesota Network on Abuse in Later Life.



Presenting a stuffed animal to honor one of 2006's victims of child abuse

Rosanne St. Sauver of Houston County Women's Resources in Hokah described why it was important for her to come to Violence Against Women Action Day every year: "For inspiration to get through another year, to be an active part of the battered women's movement, and to unify my voice with others to resonate our message throughout the Capitol."

On the evening of February 27th, advocates and survivors attended the Action Day Legislative Training. The training featured a panel on grassroots organizing, an overview of the four sponsors' policy agendas, and an interactive practice lobbying exercise. "It was valuable to hear about the specific legislation for which we were advocating," said Erik Thorsell, a board member of Domestic Abuse Project in Minneapolis.

On the morning of February 28th, participants visited their local legislators to continue to build

relationships and educate them on the issues battered women and sexual assault survivors face in their communities. "[Our legislators] wanted to hear about the need for increased investment in services for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault," said Connie Moore of Alexandra House in Blaine.

Citizens from all over Minnesota didn't let an impending snowstorm stop them from gathering by the hundreds at the noon Violence Against Women Action Day Rally at the Capitol. The energy of the crowd was heightened by the attendance of young people from all over the state, including the sixty teens at the Capitol for the Choose Respect Teen Leadership Summit/Girls Rock! The Capitol event. "It was wonderful to see all of the youth at the rally, to experience their energy, and hear their messages. It is so important that we encourage and support the participation of youth in the work to end domestic violence. They are our hope for a safer and healthier future for communities and families," said Moore.

At the rally, legislators expressed their support for investing in a violence-free Minnesota, including Rep. Steve Smith, Rep. Michael Paymar, and Sen. Mary Olson. Rep. Tony Sertich presented a resolution in memory of the late Jo Sullivan,

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Action Day Emcee Dresden Jones of MNCASA greets the crowd in the Capitol Rotunda

2006 Femicide Report Released

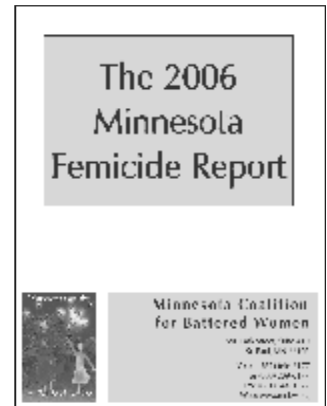
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Lee, was murdered by her ex-boyfriend, Steven Van Keuren. Lee's boyfriend, Tim Hawkinson, was also murdered by Van Keuren. Seliger Swenson and her husband are now raising Lee's four children.

Tony Hallin, a senior at Princeton High School and a founding member of the Teens Against Dating Abuse (T.A.D.A.) group, discussed the need for greater efforts to prevent dating violence. "Let's invest in prevention efforts that build the leadership of youth, such as groups like T.A.D.A. Every young person in this state deserves to live a life free of dating violence."

The press conference closed with Ferrucci asserting, "2006's domestic homicide victims had hopes and dreams similar to those that you and I have.

They wanted to live their lives, but they never had the chance...We want to make it clear that every person living in Minnesota is responsible for preventing domestic violence. We will end domestic violence only if we all work together to invest in a violence-free Minnesota."



The 2006 Minnesota Femicide Report is available for download at www.mcbw.org/femicide.htm.

2007 Violence Against Women Action Day

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co-founder of Range Women's Advocates in Virginia. "We appreciated having Jo remembered. She was very special to us," said Vicki Nelson of Range Women's Advocates. The crowd was moved by a memorial to the dedicated advocates who passed away in the last year.

Tony Hallin of the Teens Against Domestic Abuse group in Mille Lacs County urged all Minnesotans to prioritize the prevention of teen dating violence and sexual assault. Shelly Kramer, a survivor of sexual assault by a massage therapist, spoke to the need for appropriate penalties in such cases. Joy Friedman of Breaking Free discussed providing safety for prostituted women. Vicki Seliger Swenson, whose sister, Teri Lee, was murdered by her ex-boyfriend in 2006, spoke about improving the response to battered women.

The rally closed with a memorial to the women and children murdered in 2006 as a result of domestic violence and child abuse. As the names of the victims were read out loud by Ramsey County Attorney Susan Gaertner and Miss Minnesota International Becky Ringen, supporters presented a rose for each of the woman. The child victims were likewise remembered with stuffed animals offered by the Choose Respect/Girls Rock teens. A moment of silence followed, honoring the lives and spirits



Representatives of the Women's Rural Advocacy Project in southwest Minnesota meet with Sen. Dennis Frederickson

lost to us all.

Following the memorial, Lonna Stevens of the Sheila Wellstone Institute stirred the crowd with a call to continue to work for the safety of Minnesota's women and children in honor of Sheila Wellstone, who dedicated her life to ending domestic violence and sexual assault.

Thank You to Our Contributing Partners!

Thank you to the wonderful people, organizations, and businesses that have generously donated to the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women. Your generosity in the form of cash and in-kind donations is very much appreciated. With *your* partnership, MCBW can continue to work to promote justice, provide safety, and prevent future harm for all battered women and their children.

In respect for donor privacy, individual donor names will no longer be printed in our newsletter.

For more information on tax-deductible donations to the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women, please call Deb Foster at (651) 646-6177, ext. 13 or e-mail her at dfoster@mcbw.org.

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A Special Thank You from MCBW

Thank you to all of our members, friends, and supporters for making May 10th's MCBW fundraiser, *An Evening of Light: The Radiance of Unity*, a big success!

A special thank you to our sponsors for their support of MCBW's work to end violence against women and children:

Event Sponsor: Verizon Wireless

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We thank you for your generous support of MCBW!